

# Compare Tests

Many times I am asked about tests and testing. Here are some helpful pieces of information that should answer most of those questions. Since most of my testing clientele is in VA, this information is written particularly with them in mind. Check your state homeschool laws to be sure about the requirements where you live.

The VA law says that registered homeschoolers must be tested or assessed for progress for that school year. Your child may be tested in a group, tested privately using a standardized test, or your child may be evaluated. Testing may be done any time in the spring or summer as long as the results are turned in to the appropriate school system by Aug. 1 each year. Be sure to allow enough time for the tests to be ordered, administered, and the results to be returned to you and then to the school system (at least 8 weeks). The type of test is to be determined by the parent, not the public schools.

If you do not live in Virginia, you can find out what your State's law is at [HSLDA](#).

Be careful about the test norms. Different distributors offer different norm dates.

**\*\*\*The following are not offered by The Testing Lady\*\*\***

## **The Iowa Test of Basic Skills – (ITBS)**

The Iowa Test of Basic Skills is a solid test. It is a timed “bubble” test and takes 2-3 days to administer. This test can be given to grades K-12. Form E is the newest normed test (2017). The popular Form A is getting old. Either one can be coupled with a cognitive test called the CogAT. The CogAT can be ordered through BJU or Seton Home Study. BJU is also offering the Iowa with or without the CogAT as an online test.

## **California Achievement Test or TerraNova**

The CAT-6/TerraNova is a solid test but the norms are getting old. It is a timed “bubble” test and is becoming popular. The Complete Battery takes about 6 hours which should be divided into 2-3 days and can be administered to grades K-12. There is also a survey version of the test which can be administered in one setting but the norms are VERY old.

## **The Stanford Achievement Test – (SAT – not to be confused with the Scholastic Achievement Test)**

The Stanford 10 is the newest Stanford Test. This test now has new norms (2018) and will be tougher to score well because more private schools were used in the new norms. In the past it was mostly public school scores that were used for norming. It is still an untimed test.

## **Other**

There are many other “bubble” tests that may be used to test academic achievement. They may be given as a group test or given individually. Virginia is now accepting the ACT's, SAT's, and CLT's (college entrance exams) as end of year testing. Only approved testers may offer these tests. Go to [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) or [www.cltexam.com](http://www.cltexam.com) for more information.

**\*\*\*The following ARE offered by The Testing Lady\*\*\***

### **Woodcock Johnson Tests of Achievement IV**

This test is an excellent test which is very popular in the public schools to test for gifted as well as for diagnosing learning disabilities. This test can start as low as the student needs to start and can go as high as they can go. The Language Arts sections tend to be a little harder than the previous edition of the WJ, but it is still a very fair test. The sections of this test that we administer are not timed. Percentiles, stanines and grade equivalents will be provided. We allot about 2 hours to administer this test.

### **Academic Achievement Battery (AAB)**

This test is wonderful for students who have difficulty with reading because we can also administer subtests for listening and oral expression. (Students who have a difficult time reading are often excellent listeners – contrary to what their parents may think about their listening skills!) Be aware that the math computation subtest is timed. Percentiles, stanines and grade equivalents will be provided. We allot about 2 hours to administer this test.

### **Wide Range Achievement Test 5 (WRAT-5)**

The WRAT is a short and sweet but very accurate test that covers only reading, spelling and mathematics. Percentiles, stanines and grade equivalents will be provided. We allot about 1 hour for this test.

### **Brigance**

The Brigance is best used by struggling learners because the test is broken down into smaller stepping stones. Like the Woodcock, this test is set up to start as low as the student needs to start and go as high as they can go. Unlike the WJ, the Brigance does not provide percentile ranks, stanines, or grade equivalents. But like an evaluation, we can compare from year to year progress that is being made. We will allot about 2 hours for this test.

We can help a parent make their own SEP (Student Education Plan) based on the suggested objectives given in this test. (There is a separate cost for us to write out the objectives for the SEP.)

**\*\*Parents, please be sure that YOU send test results to the appropriate school system by the state's deadline. This is your responsibility. I do not send your results to any school system.\*\***