



Introduction to LASS 11-15

LASS 11-15 is a suite of eight tests, each with a specific purpose. You can administer some or all of the tests for a learner to complete, depending on the purposes of the assessment and the teacher’s knowledge of the learner’s difficulties. If nothing is known about a learner, we recommend administering all tests except Single Word Reading. If the Sentence Reading result is low, then we recommend administering Single Word Reading. If the teacher already has useful information (e.g. reading and spelling attainment), it should be adequate to concentrate on the other assessment components.

Testing Sessions

Many teachers find that three or four tests are sufficient in any one continuous session. However, this may vary according to the concentration level of the student and other factors. Some students in this age range (11-15) are quite capable of completing all tests in a single session. The tests can be taken in any order.

As far as possible, teachers should avoid giving specific feedback to learners during a test. Rather than specific feedback, general encouragement should be given. This encouragement should refer to task completion rather than task accuracy and ideally be equally provided to all students. Unless it is absolutely necessary, prompting during the actual tests should be avoided.

Test	Skill tested	Category	Type	Description
Mobile	Memory	Diagnostic	Progressive	Working memory digit span task. Recall between 2 and 9 digits in the correct order.
Cave				Visuo-spatial memory task. Recall which objects appeared in which location.
Nonwords	Phonic decoding and processing			Phonic decoding task. A non-word is shown on screen. Select the correct matching sound from a choice.
Segments				Phonological processing task. What would each real word sound like with part of the word removed?
Single word reading	Literacy			Attainment
Spelling		A picture is displayed, a word is read and then put into context of a sentence. Spell the word.		
Sentence reading		Cloze reading – a sentence is accompanied by a picture. Select the missing word from a choice.		
Reasoning	Logical reasoning	Ability	Adaptive	A 3x3 matrix puzzle is shown missing one item. Select the correct item from a choice to complete the pattern.



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Progressive vs Adaptive tests

Adaptive tests respond to the ability of the student, whereas progressive tests have a static question ('item') bank which remains the same for every student.

In each of the three adaptive tests in LASS, the assessment first gives the student a series of 'probe' items to determine the range of optimal item sensitivity for that student. These are followed by a test items starting in the range of optimal item sensitivity and increasing in difficulty until the student's current attainment or ability level has been met. The assessment will also regress to easier items should it transpire that the result of the probe items has overestimated the student's approximate ability or current attainment level.