





## **Cognitive abilities**

Mechanical aptitude and spatial ability testing. Multi-aptitude test batteries. Information processing tests. The assessment of creativity. Individual and organizational level intervention methods.



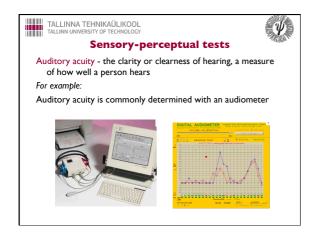


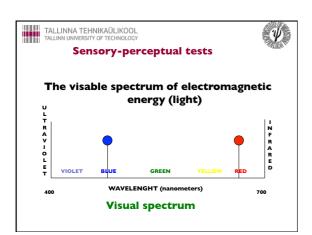
## Testing special abilities

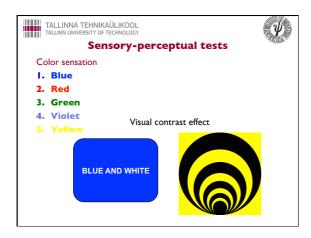
#### Origins of vocational testing

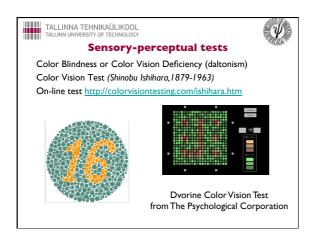
During the economy depression years of the 1930s, when matters related to employment (or rather unemployment) became of great concern, research programs at the University of Minnesota resulted in construction of a series of special abilities tests for use in vocational counseling and in employee selection and placement. From these programs came not only numerous single-ability measures, but also batteries of tests

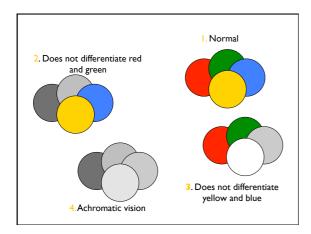


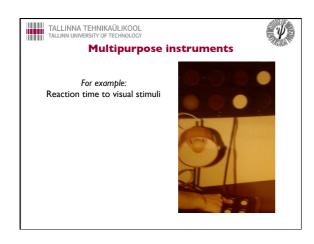














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## **Tests for psychomotor abilities**

Tests for psychomotor abilities attempt to measure the depth and nature of particular strengths and weaknesses in subject or job related areas

Typically these tests involve high level cognitive processing, are tasks which require some coordination of visual perception and motor performance. Some of these tests measures of the speed of performance, some of accuracy or of the quality of psychomotor performance

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#### Tests for psychomotor abilities

Fleishman (1972) identified 11 different psychomotor skills which could be tested:

- ✓ arm-hand steadiness
- $\checkmark$  control precision
- ✓ finger dexterity
- ✓ manual dexterity
- ✓ multilimb coordination
- ✓ rate control
- ✓ reaction time
- √ response orientation
- ✓ speed of arm movement
- $\checkmark$  wrist-finger speed





## Tests for psychomotor abilities

Fleishman also noted that the reliabilities for psycho-motor tests was typically lower than reliabilities associated with other tests of special abilities: The psychomotor tests he reviewed had average reliabilities ranging from 0.7 up to 0.88

One possible reason for this reduced reliability is that practice effects are very strong on psychomotor tests

Predictive validity of psychomotor tests is poor, partially due to the influence of practice on the test scores



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## Tests for psychomotor abilities

√ Large manual movements

Stromberg Dexterity Test (SDT): is a fast, objective means of measuring basic manual dexterity for positions such as laundry worker, punch press operator, machine molder, assembler, or welder

The SDT was developed as an aid in choosing workers for jobs which require speed and accuracy of arm and hand movements. The original model was constructed in 1945 and further research led in 1947, to the present model. The box containing the SDT materials is used for the administration of the test as well as for carrying and storing the test materials. When opened, it occupies approximately two by four feet of table space





#### Tests for psychomotor abilities

For example: Stromberg Dexterity Test (SDT)







## Tests for psychomotor abilities

- ✓ Large manual movements
- Minnesota Manual Dexterity Test

For example: Minnesota Manual Dexterity Test







#### **Tests for psychomotor abilities**

- ✓Small Manual Tests
- -Hand Tool Dexterity Test or Purdue Pegboard: is a dexterity test to aid in the selection of employees for industrial jobs such as assembly, packing, operation of certain machines, and other manual jobs. It measures dexterity for two types of activity: one involving gross movements of hands, fingers, and arms, and the other involving primarily what might be called "fingertip" dexterity
- Five separate scores can be obtained with the Purdue Pegboard: (1) right hand; (2) left hand; (3) both hands; (4) right plus left plus both hands (R+L+B); and (5) assembly





#### **Tests for psychomotor abilities**

The Purdue Pegboard was standardized after extensive experimentation in numerous plants involving the testing of several thousand employees in a wide variety of industrial jobs. Dexterity tests, in both pegboard and other forms, have been in use for some time. The pegboard is equipped with pins, collars, and washers, which are located in four cups at the top of the board.

For example: Hand Tool Dexterity Test or Purdue Pegboard







## Tests for psychomotor abilities

These tests called perceptual-motor, sensory-motor, visualmotor or psychomotor tests or hand-eye coordination tests

For example:

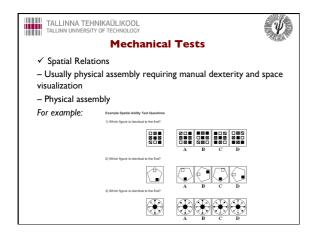
Reaction time to numeric stimuli

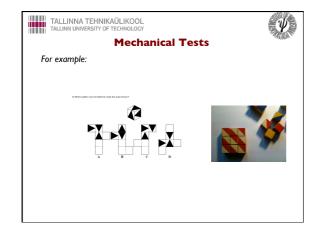


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## Mechanical Tests

- $\checkmark$  Paper and pencil
- Bennett Mechanical Comprehension Test: Mechanical Aptitude tests are part of the selection process in a large array of jobs such: aircraft technician, auto mechanic, fire-fighter and more The tests offered below will be especially effective in preparation for the Bennett Mechanical Comprehension test (BMCT)
   <a href="http://www.aptitude-test.com/mechanical-aptitude.html">http://www.aptitude-test.com/mechanical-aptitude.html</a>

For example: Typical Bennett Item







- Mechanical Tests

  ✓ Paper and pencil
- Bennett Mechanical Comprehension Test: is validated for use in many occupations, including: Automotive Mechanic, Engineer, Installation, Maintenance/Repair, Industrial/Technical Sales Representative, Skilled Tradesperson (e.g., Electrician, Welder, Carpenter), Transportation Trades/Equipment Operators (e.g. Truck Driver), Mechanical Trades, Automotive and Aircraft Mechanic



 $\checkmark$  Paper and pencil



- Minnesota Paper Formboard Test (Rensis Likert and W. H. Quasha)

The test consists of five figures and one of the figures displayed in disarranged parts. The subject has to decide which of the figures displays the pieces joined together

Measure aspects of mechanical ability requiring the capacity to visualize and manipulate objects in space  $% \left( \frac{1}{2}\right) =\left( \frac{1}{2}\right) \left( \frac{1}{2}$ 

For example:

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This assessment is  $^{\stackrel{\frown}{\otimes}}$   $^{\stackrel{\frown}{\otimes}}$  etermining which applicants have the aptitude for jobs requiring creativity and visualization skills, such as: designer, draftsman, electrician, engineer, technician



## **Clerical Ability**

- ✓ Minnesota Clerical Test (D. M. Andrew, D. G. Paterson, and H. P. Longstaff)
- 200 pairs of numbers and 200 pairs of names

Measure elements of perceptual speed and accuracy required when performing various clerical activities

For secretarial, clerical positions

 $\underline{\text{http://www.mdusd.org/personnel/Pages/ClericalSampleTest.aspx}}$ 

For example: Number and Letter Scramble 1. G-N-9-8-D-7-C-5

Your answer:

D-8-C-5-M-7

N-5-D-9-7-C

C-M-7-4-G-8

6-D-G-N-9-5 none of these



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#### **Clerical Ability**

Clerical Abilities Battery (7 tests a' 5-20 min; easy to administer and interpret, measure clerical speed, accuracy, and ability)

- I. Filing
- 2. Copying Information
- 3. Comparing Information
- 4. Using Tables
- 5. Proofreading
- 6. Basic Math Skills
- 7. Numerical Reasoning





## **Multiple Aptitude Test Batteries**

Individual tests have different norm groups

Test batteries standardized on one norm group





#### **Differential Aptitude Test (DAT)**

Designed to be used on school situations

Time: 3 hours

- Verbal Reasoning
- Numerical Ability
- Abstract Reasoning
- Space Relations
- Clerical Speed
- Mechanical Reasoning
- Language Usage

Good reliabilities,  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{OK}}$  for a cademic use, limited vocational use, significant gender differences





## General Aptitude Test Battery (GATB)

Designed for industrial application

Developed by the government and available through state agencies

Content: eight paper and pencil tests and four apparatus tests Occupational Aptitude Pattern (OAP)

- Relevant to 60 job families



#### **General Aptitude Test Battery (GATB)**

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The GATB is used extensively in vocational counseling, rehabilitation, and occupational selection settings

The GATB profile of occupational aptitudes can be used to determine appropriate career and/or training paths

The GATB measures nine distinct aptitudes using 12 separate tests (eight pencil and paper tests, and four performance tests):

- G General Learning Ability
- V Verbal Aptitude
- N Numerical Aptitude
- S Spatial Aptitude
- P Form Perception
- Q Clerical Perception
- K Motor Co-ordination
- F Finger Dexterity
- M Manual Dexterity



## General Aptitude Test Battery (GATB)

Minimum Qualifications to Purchase the GATB: M.A. Psychology or M.Ed. with at least 3 courses in testing and related subjects such as statistics, individual different OR successfully completed an approved GATB training course AND (in either case) a member of an organization with a code of ethics covering assessment practices



## Recommendations for further reading

Teichmann, M. (2009). Human Factors Engineering. Digital teaching Tool No 2. Sensation and Perception <a href="http://www.enop.ee/tpi/digiope/hfe/hfe2.htm">http://www.enop.ee/tpi/digiope/hfe/hfe2.htm</a>

Teichmann, M. (2009). Human Factors Engineering. Digital teaching Tool No 3. Attention and Memory http://www.enop.ee/tpi/digiope/hfe/hfe3.htm

Teichmann, M. (2009). Human Factors Engineering. Digital teaching Tool No 4. Emotions http://www.enop.ee/tpi/digiope/hfe4.htm

Hersen, M. (2004). Comprehensive Handbook of Psychological Assessment: Industrial and organizational psychology, Section one: Cognitive ability, pp. 21-74, John Wiley and Sons Inc.

Creative Organizational Design (tests)

http://www.creativeorgdesign.com/index.htm

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