

Additional Guidance on the use of the Academic Achievement Battery (AAB)

The AAB is a large battery of tests which can be purchased as a complete test or in parts. The following guidance may assist assessors if they are considering purchasing and using this test.

Test	ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT BATTERY – AAB
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Publisher and date published	PAR www.parinc.com 2014
What it tests	<p>Basic Reading (Reading Foundation Skills, Letter Reading / Word Reading, Reading Fluency)</p> <p>Reading Comprehension (Words and Sentences, Passages)</p> <p>Listening Comprehension (Words and Sentences, Passages)</p> <p>Expressive Communication (Oral Fluency, Oral Expression, Oral Production)</p> <p>Written Expression (Pre-Writing Skills, Spelling (Letter Writing and Word Writing), Written Composition)</p> <p>Mathematical Calculation Parts 1 and 2</p> <p>Mathematical Reasoning</p> <p>15 sub-tests give 7 seven composite scores, which combine to create an eighth score, a total achievement composite: the Academic Achievement Battery Composite</p> <p>The sub-tests listed above in bold are not administered to adults.</p>
Date of standardisation	2013 - 4
Age range	4 - 85 years
Cost	<p>The AAB is available from a variety of test distributors in the UK , including Ann Arbor and Hogrefe. Whole kit currently £427.00 inc VAT from Ann Arbor, £422 from Hogrefe. A shortened screening version (letter/word reading, spelling, written composition and mathematical calculation) is available as a separate kit (£153 Ann Arbor, £155 Hogrefe), and from some distributors you can buy each part of the battery (manual, stimulus book 1, stimulus book 2, screening response form, each of the forms, stimulus card) separately. However, assessors will need a good knowledge of the whole battery to decide which items to buy.</p>

Advantages of the AAB:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is open to specialist assessors • The word reading and spelling sub-tests have been more recently standardised than the WRAT4 or WIATIIUK equivalents. • The reading fluency sub-test, although it uses a US culturally specific topic for adults, is accessible and may prove useful. • There is useful comparative information relating to the typical performances of 4 clinical sub-groups compared to the general population, including a Specific Learning Disability (SpLD) sub-group.
Disadvantages:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tests of Written Expression do not include a measure of writing speed. • The Oral Expression subtest contains some US conventions in speech which UK examinees might find confusing. e.g. 'Tell them how to fix this sentence.' • Some of the tests (in particular the tests of Oral Expression, Oral Production and Written Composition) may not be appropriate for an H.E. setting. • As with most tests which originate in the US, there are frequent Americanisms and culturally specific references which could potentially invalidate the scoring on some sub-tests. This is a particular problem in the Mathematical Calculation subtest, where symbols and tasks not commonly used in the UK maths curriculum are present, e.g. the manual calculation of logarithms. Understanding of both Imperial and metric weights and measures is required in the mathematical calculation and mathematical reasoning tests. • Some tests are heavily dependent upon other skills which are not being measured or may not measure the skill intended. For example, the Words and Sentences Listening Comprehension subtest primarily tests vocabulary knowledge rather than listening comprehension. The Oral Expression sub-test places a burden on working memory. The Reading Comprehension Passages subtest, which requires the person tested to insert punctuation in a passage of text, could be completed by someone with a knowledge of sentence construction but without full understanding of the meaning of the sentences in passages used. • To administer the full test within the context of a full diagnostic assessment would take at least an hour and a half, and, since some tests are not timed, could take much longer, depending on the speed of response of the person tested.