

Reynolds Intellectual Assessment Scales, Second Edition (RIAS-2) Guidance on using the battery within a diagnostic assessment for SpLDs. December 2023

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Publisher:	PAR
Date of Standardisation:	2013-2014
Age Range:	3 – 93:11 (* who can understand the directions for the subtests and who are able to formulate the necessary responses)
Access:	User is expected to have adequate training and experience in psychological or educational assessment.
Sample Size:	2,154
Cost:	Around £900

Test Content: what tests does it include and what do they measure/evaluate?

Overview:

RIAS-2 is an individually administered test of intelligence with co-normed supplemental measures of memory and processing speed. There are 8 subtests that contribute to 5 Indexes:

Verbal Intelligence Index:

Guess What: examinees are given a set of 2-4 clues and asked to deduce the object or concept being described. *'This subtest measures verbal reasoning in combination with vocabulary, language development and overall fund of available information.'*

Verbal Reasoning: examinees listen to a propositional statement that essentially forms a verbal analogy and are asked to respond with one or two words that complete the idea or proposition. *'This subtest measures verbal-analytical reasoning ability but with fewer vocabulary and general knowledge demands than Guess What.'*

These tests can be used to examine verbal reasoning.

Nonverbal Intelligence Index:

Odd-Item Out: examinees are presented with a picture card containing 5 to 7 pictures or drawings and asked to designate which one does not belong or go with the others. *‘This subtest measures nonverbal reasoning skills but will also require the use of spatial ability, visual imagery, and other nonverbal skills on various items. It is a form of reverse nonverbal analogy.’*

What’s Missing: examinees are shown a picture with some key element or logically consistent component missing and are asked to identify the missing essential element. *‘This subtest measures nonverbal reasoning wherein the examinee must conceptualise the picture, analyse its Gestalt, and deduce what essential element is missing.’*

These tests can be used to examine nonverbal/fluid reasoning.

The **Verbal Intelligence Index and the Nonverbal Intelligence Index** can be combined to produce a **Composite Intelligence Index**.

Composite Memory Index:

Verbal Memory: depending upon the examinees age, a series of sentences or brief stories are read aloud by the examiner and then recalled by the examinee. *‘This task assesses the ability to encode, store briefly, and recall verbal material in a meaningful context where associations are clear and evident.’*

Nonverbal Memory: this visual memory subtest contains a series of items in which a stimulus picture is presented for 5 seconds, following which an array of pictures is presented. The examinee must identify the target picture from the new array of 6 pictures. *‘It assesses the ability to encode, store, and recognise pictorial stimuli that are both concrete and abstract or without meaningful referents.’*

These tests can provide additional information about memory but tests of short-term and working memory will still need to be administered.

Speeded Processing Index: provides a summary estimate of processing speed primarily involving both decision speed and reaction time while minimising the effects of fine motor speed.

Speeded Naming Task: examinees are asked to name pictures of common objects presented in a grid format, and must recognise them quickly, access their name and speak it aloud to the examiner.

Speeded Picture Search: examinees are asked to find 3 target pictures within a large array of pictures as quickly as they can.

These tests can provide further information about an individual’s processing speed but phonological processing tests will still need to be administered. These timed tests may also be useful for access arrangements.

The test can be administered remotely *“using minimally modified test materials and your videoconferencing platform. Visit the [RIAS-2 Remote](#) product page to order. “*

Administration time:

- Administration of the 4 verbal and nonverbal subtests takes approximately 20-25 minutes.
- Administration of the 2 Memory subtests takes 10-15 minutes.
- Administration of the 2 Speeded Processing subtests takes 5 – 10 minutes.

Kit consists of:

- Professional Manual
- Fast Guide
- 4 Stimulus books for Odd-Item Out, What's Missing, Nonverbal Memory and Speeded Naming Task
- Record Forms
- Response Form (Speeded Picture Search)
- Screening Test Record Forms
- Carrying Case

The battery provides T scores for subtests, standard scores for Index scores, percentiles, 90 and 95% confidence intervals for Index scores and SEMs. The examiner thus needs to know how to convert T scores to 'standard scores' and have a conversion table.

ISSUES TO CONSIDER:

- Some Americanisms but comparable with other tests
- Some pictures can be a little ambiguous
- There is only one record form, no alternative forms are available.
- The test was published in 2015 based on a standardisation carried out in 2013-14
- The Verbal Intelligence Index subtests draw on general knowledge. The Verbal Reasoning subtest is similar to the WRIT Verbal Analogies subtest.
- The Guess What subtest also draws on general knowledge and some of the questions are lengthy, but each item can be repeated once. The manual goes on to give further guidance about the answers:

"Many of the subtest items allow for a broader range of acceptable responses that are at least equivalent and, in many instances, more sophisticated than the original response itself. An examinee might give a response that neither matches the correct response printed on the Record Form nor appears in this manual as an acceptable alternate response, yet the examinee's response is a more sophisticated response that reveals advanced knowledge of the item content. . . [Some examples of alternatives are given in the manual] Such responses should be accepted ...Examiners may wish to consult a dictionary, an encyclopaedia, or other reference materials as needed to decide on the proper scoring of unusual responses." (p29)

- The memory subtests do not include a digit or letter span test. Additional memory tests would need to be administered from another battery.
- There are no tests of phonological awareness, phonological memory or rapid naming.
- Like the WRIT, the term 'ability' should be used when describing the verbal, nonverbal and Composite indexes
- Knowledge is needed of how to convert T scores to standard scores

STRENGTHS:

- The Manual is clearly laid out.
- There is a Fast Guide which gives clear instructions about the administration of the test, including information about the importance of the testing environment and the physical and emotional state of the examinee.
- There are clear instructions for the administration of each test, including start points, basal levels, reverse rules, end criteria, materials to use and information about scoring.
- Clear guidance is provided in the full manual as to how to interpret the scores, with examples of completed record sheets. The manual emphasises the higher reliability of Index scores, stating that "when subtest scores are interpreted, the examiner must provide a compelling logical analysis to support the interpretation." (p54)
- Easy to administer and score. Scoring is done using the manual. There is no online scoring.
- Instructions are clear and easy to follow.
- Similar to the WRIT in that there are 2 verbal and 2 nonverbal tests to produce a verbal and nonverbal ability, as well as a composite ability score.
- There are 2 additional tests of memory (verbal and nonverbal).
- There are 2 additional tests of Speed of Processing. These could be used to provide evidence for Examination Access Arrangements.
- Priced at around £900 (including VAT) this battery is not as expensive as other alternatives, but it is also less comprehensive than some others.
- No online scoring.
- A screening version of RIAS-2 is also available: RIST 2 (Reynolds Intellectual Screening Test 2). This consists of the subtests of Guess What and Odd-Item Out and can produce a single composite score. However, the screening version should not be used in a diagnostic assessment.
- Rigorously standardised