

DATS RESULTS



Detailed Explanation of Your DAT Test Results

The results of your DATS test show how you did in the tests compared with other people similar to yourself. In looking at these results you need to focus on those areas in which you did best and try to capitalise on these as far as you can in your future education, training and job hunting. The sections below will give you more idea of what each of the individual DAT results mean and of how an understanding can help you in choosing a career you are suited to. However, your choice of career should not simply be based on what you are good at but also on what sort of work you enjoy.

What do the figures mean?

The figures do not represent a percentage but instead indicate the percentile into which you fall. Put simply:

"A score of 20 means you did better than or equal to 20% of boys your age in Ireland"

"A score of 80 means you did better than or equal to 80% of boys your age in Ireland" and so on.

Explain the different areas?

- **Verbal Reasoning**

An average score means you should feel fairly comfortable working with ideas expressed in verbal form. You will probably also be reasonably good at expressing yourself in words. Verbal reasoning ability is important for any work involving the communication of ideas or the interpretation of written material. It can also be important for many kinds of work, in which analytical thinking is required. Areas of work in which these abilities are required are professional jobs (e.g. lawyer, doctor, teacher), technological jobs (e.g. engineer, computer programmer), business (e.g. management, sales, marketing and advertising), scientific work and also many fields of

work in which communication is of primary importance (e.g. training, work involving the production of written material and administrative positions). It is also important to have fairly good verbal skills if you wish to undertake further training or study, especially in one of the more academic fields.

- **Numerical Reasoning**

Numerical ability is important for work in the technical professions such as science, engineering and architecture. It is also important for many jobs in business and finance (e.g. sales forecasting, banking, etc) and is very much needed for work in accounting. In the technical area, numerical ability is relevant to any sort of work in which calculations or precise measurements need to be made (for instance, surveying, joinery or laboratory work). It is also important for many clerical or administrative jobs (e.g. local government, accounts administration, etc.). Numerical ability is also needed for many courses of training and further study.

- **Abstract Reasoning**

The Abstract Reasoning test measures a person's ability to reason with abstract ideas. It is concerned with being able to perceive patterns among complex elements and to be able to see how those elements relate to each other. The ability to think in abstract terms is needed for work which involves seeing relationships between things: either in a logical sense or in a practical sense. It is therefore useful for fields such as computer programming and software design, mathematics, science and engineering. It can also be useful in areas such as technical maintenance, which involves understanding how parts of a machine or system relate to one another. Abstract reasoning is also important for working in the field of design, since design is often concerned with the expression of abstract ideas or themes. Finally, abstract reasoning can also be very important in management, especially at the higher levels where one needs to see how the different parts of a complex organisation fit together.

- **Perception, Speed and Accuracy**

This test measures the ability to work accurately with detail and at speed. Such an ability is important in many kinds of routine or detailed work (clerical work, data entry or coding, for instance) and is also quite important for scientific or technical work

where precision is required (e.g. computer programming or laboratory work).

Furthermore, this is an ability required in all work where attention to detail and quality are important (e.g. accountancy and some types of legal work).

- **Mechanical Reasoning**

The Mechanical Reasoning test measures the ability to understand the basic principles of machinery, of tools and of physical relationships between things. This ability is important for any sort of work involving the design, operation or repair of equipment and is also very important in the field of engineering and in some areas of product design. Examples of jobs in which mechanical ability is important are motor mechanic, gas fitter and repairer, industrial fitter, production engineer, civil engineer, aero-engineer, surveyor, electrician, carpenter, machine operator, product designer and builder.

- **Space Relations**

The Space Relations test assesses a person's ability to visualise objects in three dimensions. This ability is needed for any form of work in which it is important to be able to visualise objects and to understand how they relate to each other. Examples of jobs where good spatial abilities are required are architecture, design, technical drawing, dentistry, the fine arts, and also any type of technical or craft work which involves dealing with objects at a practical level. instance, in design work and many forms of technical work).

- **Spelling**

Spelling test measures your capability to recognize correct or incorrect spelled common English words. This differential aptitude test is used for English and writing courses.

- **Language Usage**

The ability to use language is important in any job in which communication, either written or verbal, is involved. Examples of areas in which good language skills are required are management, teaching, professional work (e.g. medicine, law, accountancy), work in the media (radio and television,

journalism) and clerical / administrative work. The last test in the DAT series, Language Usage, assesses this ability

- **Educational Aptitude**

The Educational Aptitude score is derived from a combination of your scores on the Verbal Reasoning and Numerical Reasoning tests and is taken as a general indication of your ability to learn in a traditional academic environment such as a school, college or university.

Summary of your results

In deciding on your future career, you should now concentrate on those ability areas in which you have achieved your best scores. Read through the relevant sections of this report and see which fields of work are associated with those areas. Explore further with your Teacher and Guidance Counsellor .

Remember:

DATS does not take into consideration all intelligences: Interpersonal, Intrapersonal, Social, Artistic, Musical or Kinesthetic .

We do not all fit into DATS!

