Frequently Asked Questions

1. Which tests should be used at which grade levels?

Typical student ages are used to describe the various levels of the Iowa and CogAT tests. Use the chart below to determine the correct level for each grade level. **The K5 Level 5/6 booklets are now called Level 6.** (Note that many grade levels use the same version of the practice tests.)

Grade Level	Iowa	Iowa Practice	CogAT	CogAT Practice
K5	Level 5/6	Level 5/6	Level 5/6	Level 5/6
1st	Level 7	Level 7/8	Level 7	Level 7
2nd	Level 8	Level 7/8	Level 8	Level 8
3rd	Level 9	Level 9/10/11	Level 9	Level 9
4th	Level 10	Level 9/10/11	Level 10	Level 10
5th	Level 11	Level 9/10/11	Level 11	Level 11
6th	Level 12	Level 12/13/14	Level 12	Level 12
7th	Level 13	Level 12/13/14	Level 13/14	NA
8th	Level 14	Level 12/13/14	Level 13/14	NA
9th	Level 15	Level 15/16/17/18	Level 15/16	NA
10th	Level 16	Level 15/16/17/18	Level 15/16	NA
11th	Level 17/18	Level 15/16/17/18	Level 17/18	NA
12th	Level 17/18	Level 15/16/17/18	Level 17/18	NA

2. I've noticed that there are different forms for both the Iowa and the CogAT tests. How do I know which test form to use?

The AACS testing program uses only the Iowa Assessment **Form E** and the CogAT **Form 7**.

3. What are the two administration modes that are available for schools?

Two test administration options are available for AACS schools. Most schools will continue to use the paper and pencil administration mode used in the past. This is the recommended mode for our schools. Online testing, however, is available for schools that meet certain qualifications (an added fee and special training is required). Refer to the AACS website for further information.

4. Who do I call if I have questions? AACS? Riverside?

Please direct all questions about the AACS testing program to the AACS office in Tennessee. Riverside is the test publisher of the Iowa and the CogAT, but the AACS office is best equipped to handle your questions about the specifics of the AACS testing program.

For All Questions Contact
Gary Peltier
Officer for Assessment and Business Operations
AACS National Office
testing@aacs.org
(423) 629-4280

5. How often should my school administer the Iowa and CogAT tests?

AACS leadership strongly recommends that schools administer the Iowa and the CogAT tests to all grade levels each spring beginning with kindergarten students. It is important to remember that the Iowa tests are designed to monitor student growth using a continuous, research-based, vertical scale to accurately measure academic growth from kindergarten through high school. If testing occurs only every other or every third year, the overall testing program will not be as useful for measuring student growth.

6. Where do I order testing materials?

All orders must be made through the AACS office. Please note that phone orders cannot be accepted. Do not call Riverside to place orders for the AACS testing program. AACS prices are discounted 15%–20% from Riverside catalog prices.

7. Can I order the exact number of tests that I need?

Yes, single copies of the Iowa and the CogAT tests can be ordered. Overall costs can be lowered, however, by ordering test booklets in groups of 5 or 25. Schools should order extra copies of test materials in case enrollment increases by the time that testing begins.

8. Is there an AACS testing window?

Yes, AACS schools test in the spring. The specific dates are in the 5-year calendar on the AACS website and in the AACS Directory. The testing window typically lasts for six weeks.

9. Where do I send my tests for scoring?

Send all materials to the AACS office for scoring. The AACS scoring center staff has been specially trained to handle all aspects of the scoring process. Tests should **not** be sent to Riverside.

10. Where are the test results for my students stored? Are they in a secure location?

AACS scanners securely transmit information obtained from the answer documents to the Riverside servers. Riverside uses state-of-the-art procedures to protect all testing data. No electronic student files are kept at the AACS office. Used consumable test booklets and used answer documents will be temporarily stored by the AACS and then will be shredded by a professional shredding vendor.

11. In the past we have always ordered the basic scoring package for our students. Should we plan to do that again?

Not necessarily. One of the numerous outstanding features of the AACS testing program is the use of the DataManager website that is available to all schools without any additional cost. Student answers are scanned by AACS scanners and securely transmitted to the servers at Riverside where the data is downloaded to the DataManager website. School leaders can use their secure login information to access the student test results and to print reports. While basic printed reports may be ordered directly from the AACS, schools can also print their own reports directly from DataManager. See sample reports on the AACS website.

12. My school used to be a part of the AACS, but we are not current members. Can we still be a part of the program?

Due to the specific terms of our contract with Riverside, only current members of AACS may test in the AACS testing program.

13. I've noticed that there are three versions, or batteries, of the Iowa test. Which one do I use?

The AACS testing program uses the complete battery. The complete battery includes all test subsections. The core battery and the survey batteries do not contain all test subsections. The AACS order form reflects this policy. Iowa tests ordered from AACS will all be the complete battery tests.

14. Can home school students participate in the AACS testing program?

Member AACS schools may test home school students under the following terms and conditions:

1. Testing must be conducted at the member school so that all test materials remain under the supervision of the member school.

2. Answer documents from home school students must be scored with the member school's students as an excluded group. (This is done by filling in the "Z" bubble in the "Office Use Only" section on the student answer sheet. See Appendix B of the *2020 AACS Achievement Testing Program Guide*.)

3. Testing must be conducted under the supervision of teachers at the member school and all procedures required by the testing manual must be followed.

Member AACS home school groups or cooperatives may test their students under the following terms and conditions:

1. The home school group or cooperative must have an AACS-approved testing coordinator.

2. The testing coordinator must complete the *Test Purchaser Qualification Form* and submit it for approval to the AACS office.

3. Testing sessions must occur in a school or church building or in a school association office and cannot occur in a private residence.

4. Standard test security protocols and manual instructions must be followed.

15. Can calculators be used on any parts of the Iowa or the CogAT?

Yes, calculators may be used under the following guidelines:

- Calculators **can** be used only in third grade (Level 9) and above.

- Calculators **can** be used only for the mathematics test.

- Calculators **cannot** be used for the mathematics computation test.

- Calculators **cannot** be used on any of the CogAT tests.

16. Can students use any kind of calculator on the mathematics test?

There are some limits. Calculator use is optional; but, if desired, students can use non-programmable scientific calculators on the mathematics tests beginning in third grade. It should be noted that there is no statistical or scoring advantage gained by using calculators. The following types of calculators will **not** be permitted:

- Calculators with graphing capabilities

- Calculators which use paper tape or printers.

- Hand-held computers, pocket organizers, or laptop computers.

- Programmable calculators.

17. Are the Iowa tests timed? How many test questions are there at each grade level?

Yes, there are time limits for most of the sections on the Iowa test. Please note the charts in Appendix A of the *2020 AACS Achievement Testing Program Guide* for the details and for the number of test questions. Time limits **must** be followed and are not suggestions.

18. What is DataManager? Does it cost extra to use?

DataManager is the free online platform that participating schools can use to manage their assessment program, interpret results, and print reports. Soon after test documents are scanned, the results are available online at the secure DataManager website. Numerous reports and other resources can be printed using DataManager. Data is persistent, and school staff can access student and class data for many years. Because the data is persistent, longitudinal tracking and reports can be easily produced and can be an extremely useful guide for school administrators and teachers.

19. What materials do I need to have ready when administering the tests to my students?

For the paper and pencil test administration option, the following chart outlines the materials needed at each grade level.

Needed Materials	Level 5/6 K5	Level 7 1st	Level 8 2nd	Level 9 3rd	Levels 10–14 4th–8th	Levels 15–17/18 9th–12th
Directions for Administration [1]	x	x	x	x	x	x
Test Booklet[2]	x	x	x	x	x	x
Separate answer document[3]				x	x	x
Sharpened #2 pencils with erasers	x	x	x	x	x	x
Place marker (optional)[4]	x					
Scratch paper[5]	x	x	x	x	x	x
Calculator (optional)[6]				x	x	x
Timing device	x	x	x	x	x	x

20. Is the CogAT an I.Q. test?

No. Neither the CogAT nor the OLSAT used by many of our schools in the past are I.Q. tests. Intelligence tests cover a much broader spectrum of abilities, are usually administered in an individual setting, and produce a score that does not usually change much from year to year. The CogAT more narrowly measures learned reasoning abilities that are most directly related to academic success in school. Most educators recognize the ability to reason as the most central cognitive ability. Because reasoning abilities can be developed through a challenging academic curriculum, it is not uncommon to see CogAT scores increase as the student matures. The CogAT is a widely recognized, group-administered assessment of a student's reasoning abilities. It is an excellent assessment for comparing ability (CogAT) to achievement (Iowa).

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[1] *Directions for Administration* (DFA) can be downloaded at no cost from the DataManager website.

[2] One test booklet must be provided for each student. In addition, the test administrator should have one copy for illustration purposes while giving test instructions.

[3] Students in kindergarten through second grade will use consumable test booklets. Beginning in third grade students will use reusable test booklets. Answer documents will be needed beginning in third grade.

[4] A place marker is simply a teacher-constructed 2- by 4-inch piece of cardboard or construction paper used by students taking Level 5/6 to help them focus on one item at a time within the test booklet. No special place marker needs to be ordered from the AACS.

[5] If necessary, plain scratch paper may be used with any Level 5/6 test. For Levels 7 and 8, each student may have one sheet of scratch paper for use during Part 2 of the mathematics test and another sheet for use during the computation test. For Levels 9–17/18 scratch paper can be used for all test sections. Do **not** return scratch paper to the AACS.

[6] Calculators may be used beginning in third grade for the mathematics test **only** (but not for the computation test).