Wechsler Individual Achievement Test - 3rd Ed.
(WIAT-III)

A Primer

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A Word on the Presenter

- Licensed psychologist
- Background in school & clinical psychology
- Specializations include:
  - Dyslexia / Learning Disability Testing
  - Neuropsychological Evaluations
  - Evaluations of Behavioral and Emotional Problems
  - Workshops to parents, teachers, & students on academic and emotional growth
- Evaluations help answer questions such as:
  - What is the problem? What is causing it? What can be done to help?
- Facebook page: “Dr. Edward M. Petrosky”
- www.toolsforstudents.info

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Overall, I think the WIAT-III is a significant improvement from the WIAT-II, including the addition of a measure of oral reading fluency and shorter administration time for many subtests.
The following is an excerpt from my WIAT-III school-staff in-service training workshop.

Enjoy!

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Important Preface

This presentation is meant to be a helpful aid in gaining an overview of the WIAT-III, but is not a substitute for reading the test manual.
Components of Reading

Decoding

Comprehension

Fluency

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Reading
Readiness Skills

Cognitive abilities necessary for decoding

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Reading Readiness

Early Reading Skills subtest

- Items require the student to:
  - Identify letters and letter sounds
  - Identify and produce rhyming words
  - Segment words – identifying beginning and ending sounds
  - Blend sounds
  - Identify consonant blends
  - Do a small amount of basic sight word recognition
Reading Decoding

Determining what a word is
Reading Decoding Skills

- **Word Reading Subtest**
  - Student reads individual words
  - **Assesses**
    - Overall decoding skills
    - Natural decoding rate

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Reading Decoding Skills

Pseudoword Decoding Subtest:

- Student reads individual nonsense words
- Assesses phonics skills
  - Because the words are made up the student has never seen them before and thus cannot rely on memorization to decode them. Therefore, assess phonics skill
  - Natural decoding rate (of unfamiliar words)

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Reading Fluency

The accuracy, rate, ease, and rhythm with which a person reads.
Reading Fluency

Oral Reading Fluency subtest
  - Student reads two passages aloud and answers a question about each passage

Assesses
  - Speed
  - Accuracy
  - Rhythm (Qualitatively)

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Reading Comprehension

Understanding what one reads
Reading Comprehension

Reading Comprehension subtest

- Student reads passages and then answers questions about them.
- Passage remains visible while questions are being read.
- Much shorter administration time than the same subtest on the WIAT-2!

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Components of Writing

Writing

Spelling

Written Expression

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Spelling

Spelling subtest

- Student spells dictated words

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Written Expression

Alphabet Writing Fluency Subtest

- Student writes down letters of the alphabet as fast as he or she can.
Written Expression

- Sentence Composition subtest
  - Sentence Combining portion
    - Student is to take two or more separate sentences and write one good sentence that means the same thing.
Written Expression

Sentence Composition subtest
  Sentence Building portion
    Student is to write a sentence using a target word

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Written Expression

Essay Composition subtest

Student is to write an essay about his or her favorite game, including 3 reasons why
Components of Math

Math

- Calculation
- Reasoning
- Fluency

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Mathematical Calculation

Conducting mathematical computations

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Mathematical Calculation

Numerical Operations subtest

- Student solves math problems, ranging from addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, to geometry and algebra.
Mathematical Reasoning

The ability to identify what a problem is asking for and to select and successfully implement the correct solution.

Ability to apply math to real-world, practical problems.
Mathematical Reasoning

Math Problem Solving subtest

Student solves math word problems, involving areas such as the basic operations, time, money, and interpreting graphs.

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Mathematical Fluency

The speed and automaticity with which a student can perform basic mathematical calculations.
Mathematical Fluency

- Math Fluency - Addition subtest
- Math Fluency – Subtraction subtest
- Math Fluency – Multiplication subtest

Student solves as many simple problems as s/he can in each of the respective areas in 1 minute (per subtest).

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Components of Oral Language

Oral Language

Oral Expression  Listening Comprehension

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Listening Comprehension

The ability to understand spoken language. Receptive language.
Listening Comprehension

- Listening Comprehension subtest
  - Receptive Vocabulary portion
    - Student listens to single words and points to the picture that matches the word.
Listening Comprehension

Listening Comprehension subtest

- Oral Discourse portion
  - Student listens to a CD of spoken sentences and answers questions about what s/he heard. Includes dialogue and advertisement like narratives.
  - Return to a portion that was on original WIAT-II
    - More closely matches real life listening comprehension tasks
    - CD recording increases reliability of findings
    - Includes speech as naturally spoken (e.g. a child with imperfect articulation)

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Oral Expression

The ability to produce spoken language. Expressive language.

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Oral Expression

Oral Expression subtest

Expressive Vocabulary portion

Student looks at a picture, listens to a definition, and the states the word that matches the picture and definition.

For the WIAT-2 this was on the Listening Comprehension subtest
Oral Expression

Oral Expression subtest

- Oral Word Fluency portion
  - Student names as many objects from certain categories as s/he can in 60 seconds (a hypothetical example of which would be naming as many hobbies as one can in a minute).
  - Category selection an improvement from WIAT-2; on WIAT-2 one of the categories was frequently misunderstood by students.

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Oral Expression

Oral Expression subtest

- Sentence Repetition portion
  - Student listens to the examiner state a sentence and has to repeat it back verbatim.
Thank you very much!

If your school or organization would like a comprehensive training on administering, scoring, and interpreting the WIAT-III please call 718-357-0444

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