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AD Competitions 2014

Abstract Reasoning



Abstract Reasoning General

- A Visual Test:
 - a series of five diagrams containing shapes and symbols
 - you have to select the diagram that completes the series
- Assesses your ability to:
 - think flexibly and resolve new problems
 - draw inferences and understand the relationship between various concepts
- Does not require prior knowledge but does require practice!
- Time pressure: You have just one minute per question. Make sure to answer all of them!

Abstract Reasoning Method

- There are many ways to approach the abstract reasoning test and no single right way.
- The following three step approach - involving, inventory, rule finding and elimination – may be helpful for some people.

Step 1: Observe

- It's important to take a systematic approach to the abstract reasoning test.
- Start by briefly analyzing the sequence and identify what kind of elements (component figures) it has. Look out for:
 - number of elements
 - shapes: circle, squares, etc
 - colours of the shapes and/or alternation of colours
 - relative dimension : « big square », « small square », etc.
 - meaningful symbols: arrows etc.
 - direction of the movement : left to right, bottom-up, etc.

Abstract Reasoning Method

Step 2: Find the Rule(s)

- The next step is to establish what is happening to the elements.
- Several rules may apply in a single sequence. Concentrate on finding them one by one.
- The range of potential rules which can apply in these tests is wide. Some of the key ones relate to:
 - elements move in clockwise and anticlockwise rotation
 - mirroring of elements
 - movement of elements along vertical, horizontal or diagonal lines
 - movement of elements to different degrees (45,90,135,180 etc)
 - color / size alternation: elements change from black to white or large to small
 - visual arithmetic: number of elements changes through sequence
- However, these are only a selection of potential rules. The best way to become familiar with others is through practice!

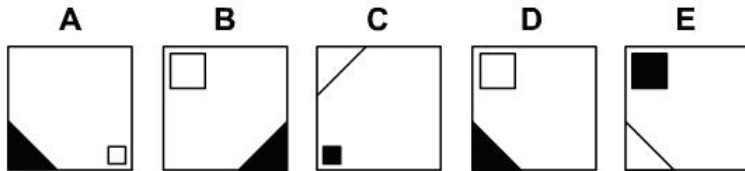
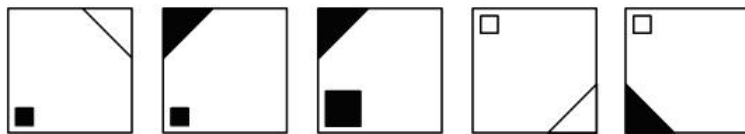
Abstract Reasoning Method

Step 3: Predict the Result & Eliminate

- Before looking at the possible answers, try to generate the correct answer yourself, based on the rule or rules you've identified. If you've found a match (and only one), mark that, and move on – time is precious.
- Otherwise, work through the answer options one by one, using your rule(s), and try to 'disqualify' options as incorrect, hopefully leaving you with only one option – the right answer!
- Keep an eye on time always – you have only one minute per question. Try not to run over it. If your time is elapsing, take an educated guess at the answer and move on!

Colour / Size Alteration Example

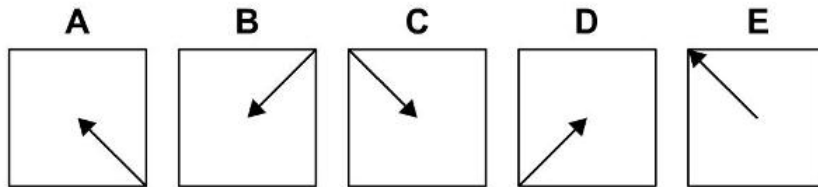
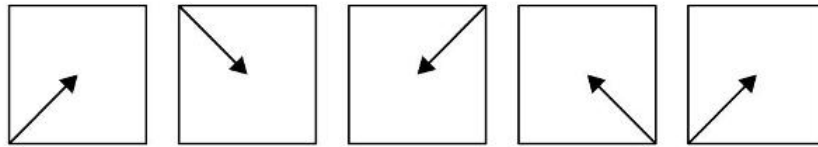
[#8] From the options available, please choose which diagram would come next in the series. Then click on your selection below.



- A
- B
- C
- D
- E

Movement of Degrees Example

[#3] From the options available, please choose which diagram would come next in the series. Then click on your selection below.



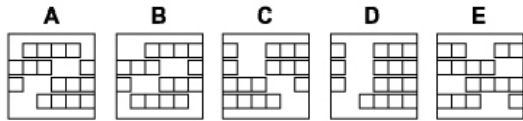
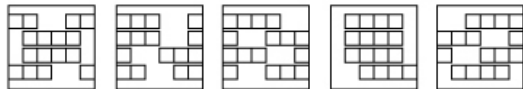
- A
- B
- C
- D
- E

Linear Series

Example

It's also worth keeping in mind that a rule can apply linearly or alternately – i.e. to every image or to every second image .

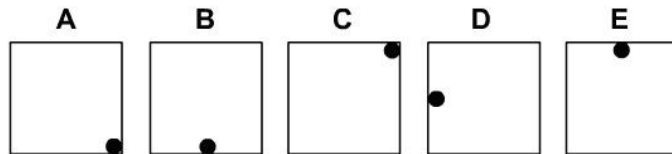
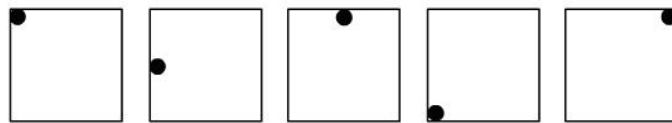
[#6] From the options available, please choose which diagram would come next in the series. Then click on your selection below.



- A
- B
- C
- D
- E

Alternate Series Example

[#2] From the options available, please choose which diagram would come next in the series. Then click on your selection below.



- A
- B
- C
- D
- E

Abstract Reasoning Reference Documents

- [EPSO official Sample Tests](#) (French, English, German)
- [Hudson practice tests and exercises](#)
- [ORSEU](#) (Free & Paid Practice Tests)
- [EUtraining.eu](#) (Free & Paid Practice Tests)
- [EUphorum.org](#) (Free & Paid Practice Tests)
- [Psychometric Success](#) (Free & Paid Tests)

Questions?

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