

**A
GUIDE
TO
UNDERSTANDING
D.A.T.s
RESULTS**



Differential Aptitude Test (D.A.T.s)

An aptitude test is an instrument used to measure an individual's ability to acquire, through future training, some specific set of skills. D.A.T.s covers several areas, is performed under strict conditions and is strictly timed. The test can be useful to help students:

- Choose among educational and career options based on strengths and weaknesses
- Help student understand why they do well or poorly in certain subjects
- Can suggest new career options not previously considered
- Change or raise educational and career aspirations

They cannot however, pinpoint one specific career or one specific subject that a student should pursue. Under no circumstances should the score be interpreted as final indisputable evidence of an individual's characteristics. They provide only one small part of information needed to help an individual make informed and realistic decisions and cannot be judged in isolation from other aspects of a person's character including interests, goals, personality, values, family and environmental influences. Other factors that can also influence an individual's scores are: a hearing, visual, or physical disability or a poor command of English, as well as poor health or fatigue or an emotional disturbance on the day. In addition, an individual can lose their place on the answer sheet, may not be interested in cooperating with the exercise, or indeed, may simply be in bad humour on the day. Finally, it needs to be remembered that an individual can have an aptitude for a particular area but have no interest in it, and conversely, may have a low aptitude in an area and an extreme interest or liking for it.



Percentile and Stanine

When a student takes a test the results produced are raw scores, these scores have very little meaning unless you know how this score relates to the total possible score. Therefore, percentiles and stanines are used to give meaning to these raw scores.

A percentile score indicates the percentage of candidates who fall below a particular raw score; for example if a student score falls at the 90th percentile, it means their score is better than 90% of the students upon which norms are based (not their fellow classmates), or they are in the top 10% of students.

Stanine scores are an alternative way of measuring a student's comparative ability in a particular area. Percentile scores can be used in conjunction with stanine scores as outlined.

Percentiles	Stanines	Rating
96-99	9	High
89-95	8	
77-88	7	
60-76	6	Average
41-59	5	
24-40	4	
12-23	3	Low
5-11	2	
1-4	1	

SUBJECT CHOICE AND APTITUDES

1) Verbal Reasoning: This test measures the ability to reason with words, to understand and use concepts expressed in words. This skill is important in academic courses, in jobs requiring written or oral communication and in jobs involving high levels of authority and responsibility.

- Business, Education, Social Science
- Marketing, Journalism, Psychology
- Law, Media, Human Resource Management
- Auctioneering, Librarian, Speech Therapy
- Public Relations, Advertising, Civil service
- Foreign Affairs, Author, Proof Reader
- Salesperson, Linguist, Politics
- Management, Science

Consider the following subjects: Languages, History, Geography, Business, Economics, LCVP.

2) Numerical Reasoning: This test measures the ability to perform mathematical reasoning tasks. This strength is generally important in school work especially for fields such as maths, chemistry, physics and engineering.

- Accountancy, Computer, Applications
- Laboratory Technician, Computer Science, Systems Analyst
- Market Research, Information Systems
- Engineering, Valuer
- Air Traffic Controller, Buyer
- Design, Auditor
- Tax Consultant, Actuary
- Insurance Broker, Statistician, Bank Official, Finance/ Investment

Consider the following subjects: Accounting, Applied Maths, Music, Engineering, Physics, Chemistry, Biology.

4) Abstract Reasoning: This test is a non-verbal, non-numerical measure of reasoning power. It tests the ability to see relationships among objects, patterns, diagrams or designs. This skill is useful in careers requiring the person to see relationships between objects in terms of their size, shape, position and quantity.

- Maths, Computers, Animation
- Design, Architecture, Mechanic
- Art, Construction, Photography
- Carpentry, Conservation, Law
- Forensic Scientist, Laboratory Technician

Consider the following subjects: Applied Maths, Art, Chemistry, Engineering, DCG, Construction.

5) Perceptual Speed & Accuracy: This test measures speed and accuracy in perceiving and marking simple letter and number combinations. Important in paper work in school, offices, laboratories, stores, warehouses and wherever records are made or filed or checked. Sometimes a low score on this test may indicate a great emphasis on accuracy rather than genuine lack of ability to work rapidly.

- Clerical Secretary
- Coding, Quality Control
- Market Research, Computer Programmer
- Banking, Personal Assistant
- Insurance, Researcher
- Proof Readers, Analysis of Scientific / Technical Data
- Assembly Work, Legal Executives

This is applicable to all subjects and is very useful when managing time in examinations.

6) Mechanical Reasoning: This test measures the ability to understand the basic mechanical principles of machinery, tools and motion and the laws of everyday physics. Students who do well in this test tend to find it easy to learn how to repair and operate complex devices.

- Mechanic, Electrician
- Carpentry, Machine Operative
- Machinery Engineer
- Construction Manager, Aircraft Engineer
- Quality Control, Maintenance Workers
- Marine Engineer, Assembly Workers

Consider the following subjects: Engineering, Construction, Physics, DCG.

7) Space Relations: This test measures the ability to visualise, to think in three dimensions or to picture mentally the size, shape and position of objects when shown only two dimensional pictures or pattern. This skill is vital in order to understand technical drawings.

- Architects, Fashion Design
- Architectural Technicians, Interior Design
- Engineers, Industrial Design
- Creative Artists Stage / Set Designers
- Photographers, Town Planner
- Hairdressers
- Designers, Jewellery Designers
- Surveyors, Technical Illustrator
- Animators

Consider the following subjects: Art, Engineering, Home Economics, Construction, Geography, DCG.

8) Spelling: This is an important skill in school and college work and in jobs requiring written reports.

- Public Relations, Business Executive
- Advertising Copy, Managerial Posts
- Media Editors
- Print Journalism, Script Writers
- Authors, Civil Service
- Librarians, Reviewers
- Media Researchers Proof Readers

Applicable to all subjects.

9) Language Usage (Grammar): This test measures how well one can distinguish between correct and improper grammar, punctuation and wording of sentences. This is an excellent predictor of high grades in most school and college courses.

- Teaching, Administration
- Civil Service, Secretary
- Public Relations, Politician
- Advertising, Librarian
- Script Writer, Editors
- Reviewer Writer
- Media / Presenter Journalist
- Researcher, Proof Reader

Consider the following subjects: Languages, History, Geography, Business, Economics, LCVP.

D.A.T's Scores

List your D.A.T's score below in order of merit – 1 being the best, 9 being the least. Consider these scores when making your subject choices.

RANK	CATEGORY	PERCENTILE	STANINE	RATING
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				

SAMPLE Subject Option Lines

This is NOT your actual subject choice form, this will be given to you at a later stage

Core Subjects: English, Irish, Maths

Pick **ONE** subject from each line- Put a tick next to the subject you would like to do and that you feel you would enjoy and have an aptitude for.

A .	French		Geography									
B .	Physics		Economics						History			
C .	Chemistry		Business						DCG		Art	
D .	Biology		Accounting						Geography		Engineering	