

IDENTIFICATION QUICK CHECKLIST



Gifted students are not always high achievers. Identification can be difficult as sometimes students hide their abilities to fit in, their exceptional skills could lie in another domain or a learning difficulty could mask their true capabilities.

This brief checklist can help you to identify certain traits of giftedness. For each trait, assign a score from 1 (strongly agree) to 6 (strongly disagree). If you would like further information about identification, please get in touch with the Head Office team via admin@theheadoffice.org.nz. We would love to help.



VOCABULARY & SENSE OF HUMOUR

Unusually advanced language skills for his/her age, often avid readers, comfortable with complex reading material, advanced sense of humour, picks up subtleties that others don't notice
Notes:



CURIOSITY, MEMORY & KNOWLEDGE

Asks endless and insightful questions; unusually focused when interested; advanced recall of facts; points out connections, uses, manipulates and adapts information
Notes:



SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL SKILLS

Empathetic, reads body language well; sensitive to others' feelings; often relates better to older children or adults; can be easily frustrated by behaviour of others; prefers working alone vs in a team
Notes:



INTENSE INTERESTS & JOY OF LEARNING

Quickly grasps new concepts and makes connections using deep thinking; is passionate, shows unwavering attention sometimes to the point of stubbornness; sits patiently when reading or listening to books
Notes:



SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

Leadership abilities; heightened sense of justice; Manaakitanga (giving mana to people thus maintaining your own); Kaitiakitanga (guardianship of knowledge, environment and resources); Rangatiratanga (leadership that inspires unity)
Notes:



CREATIVITY

Rich imagination, out-of-the box thinker, sees novel ways of solving problems, makes connections between concepts to create new solutions; enjoys drawing, building, creating.
(Use the Torrance Test to capture creative thinking.)
Notes:



TORRANCE TEST

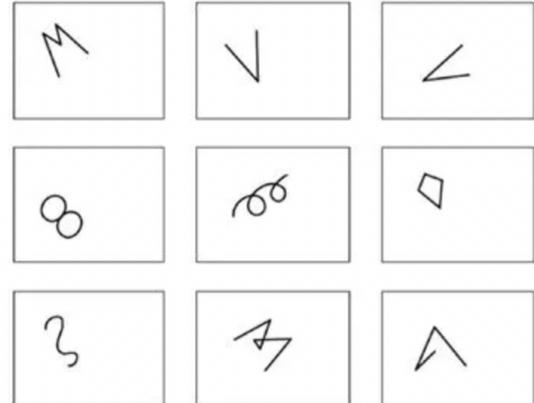
This test is widely used to capture creative thinking abilities in verbal and figural tests. Feel free to use the sample questions & images below to work with students.



TORRANCE TEST SAMPLE TASK ONE

Explain to the student: "Let's do some drawing. Here are some squares with shapes drawn inside of them. When I say 'start,' take your pencil and try to make each shape into something else. You can do whatever you want with these. You can make them funny or beautiful. You can add words. You can use more than one at a time – whatever you want. There is no right or wrong here."

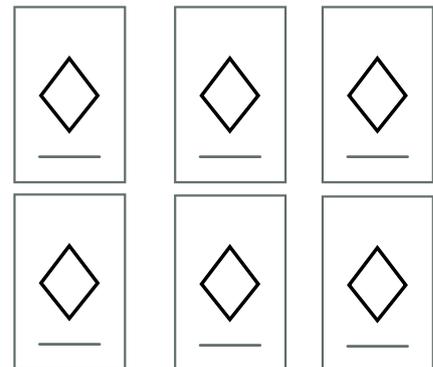
Encourage the student to find a title for each drawing. Give 10 minutes for this exercise.



TORRANCE TEST SAMPLE TASK TWO

Explain: 'Add detail to the shapes and to make pictures out of them. Make the diamond part of any picture you make. Try to think of pictures that no one else will think of. Add details to tell complete stories and give each picture a title.'

Give 5 minutes for this exercise.



TORRANCE TEST SAMPLE TASK THREE

Ask what is happening in this picture.
Ask how did this happen?
Then ask, what will happen next?

Encourage the student to think of an answer that no one else will think of.



TORRANCE TEST SAMPLE TASK FOUR

Have the student generate as many answers as possible. Ask: 'How many uses can you think of for a plastic straw?'

TORRANCE TEST SAMPLE TASK FIVE

Ask the student: 'Just suppose you could transport yourself from place to place with just a wink of your eye or by twitching your nose. What might be some things that could happen as a result?'

or

Ask 'Just suppose you could be invisible for a day. What problems might that create? What would the benefits of being invisible be?'