**British Ability Scales**

The British Ability Scales (BAS), first published in 1979, are a set of twenty three tests designed to measure an even wider diversity of mental abilities than are the Wechsler scales. The BAS yields visual IQ, verbal IQ and general IQ scores. It can be used with children and adolescents up to 17 or 18 years of age. Its subtests can be classified according to the following six mental processes: speed of information processing, reasoning, spatial imagery, perceptual matching, short-term memory, and retrieval and application of knowledge. Speed of information processing, which is supposed to underlie performance on all other subtests, is the most unusual component of the BAS. Its presence reflects the influence of modern information-processing approaches to intelligence. The various subtests of the BAS, like those of the Wechsler scales, each correlate significantly with each of the others, and general IQ scores derived from the BAS correlate quite highly with independent measures of scholastic and academic attainment (Elliott, 1983). Correlations between general IQ and school tests of mathematical attainment range from 0.62 to 0 .81 for children of different ages. Correlations between general IQ and tests of reading attainment range from 0.67 to 0.72. Lastly, correlations between the British Ability Scales' general IQ and '0' level (now GCSE) grades in various subjects range from 0.24 (English literature) to 0.63 337 (mathematics). These correlations suggest once again that different measures of intellectual performance tend to be related and that there is a general intellectual ability underlying IQ test scores.