I. TESTING FOR INTELLIGENCE

A. A Brief History of Intelligence Tests

1. **Intelligence**: Personal attributes that center around skill at information processing, problem solving, and adapting to new or changing environments.

2. **Mental Age**: A score corresponding to the age level of the most-advanced items a child could answer correctly on Alfred Binet’s first intelligence test.

3. **Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scale**: A test for determining a person’s intelligence quotient, or IQ.

4. Binet assumed that reasoning, thinking, and problem solving all depend on intelligence, so he looked for tasks that would highlight differences in children’s ability to do these things. His test included tasks such as unwrapping a piece of candy, repeating numbers or sentences from memory, and identifying familiar objects.

5. **Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scale**: A test for determining a person’s intelligence quotient, or IQ.

B. Intelligence Tests Today

1. Today’s revised editions of the Wechsler tests and the Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scale are the most widely used, individually administered intelligence tests.

2. The Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale contains fifteen subtests that include items such as remembering a series of digits, solving arithmetic problems, defining vocabulary words, understanding and answering general-knowledge questions, assembling blocks, solving visual puzzles, and completing unfinished pictures.

3. The WISC-IV is made up of ten standard and five supplemental subtests, grouped into four clusters.

   a) The perceptual reasoning cluster includes tasks, such as those shown here, that involve assembling blocks, solving mazes, and reasoning about pictures.

   b) Tests in the verbal comprehension cluster require defining words, explaining the meaning of sentences, and identifying similarities between words.