

Bilingual Verbal Ability Tests-Normative Update (BVAT-NU)

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FACTS IN BRIEF 

- Purpose:** To provide a measure of overall verbal ability for bilingual individuals
- Range:** 5.0 years to Adult
- Time:** 20–30 minutes
- Scores:** Standard scores, PR, AE, RPI, instructional and developmental ranges, CALP

have been translated into 18 languages: Arabic, Chinese (2 forms), French, German, Haitian-Creole, Hindi, Hmong, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Navajo, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, Vietnamese.

Administration

The examiner administers the three subtests in English first. Any item that was missed is then administered in the native language. If the person gets that item correct in the native language, it is added to the score for that subtest. The end result is a raw score that reflects the individual’s knowledge in both languages. That raw score is then converted to derived, normative scores. Each test record is designed for easy administration and scoring. English is included in each test record with blanks for the second language administration. Any item that could not be translated from English is blocked out for the second language administration. This design facilitates administration of items missed in English as well as combining results from both languages.

For the original BVAT (1998) there are eight different test records depending on the languages you wish to assess. Six languages (Spanish, Vietnamese, Japanese, Haitian-Creole, Italian, Portuguese) have their own unique test record. French and Russian share the same test record. Seven languages (Arabic, Chinese (both forms), German, Hindi, Korean, Polish, Turkish) share the same test record – these have exactly the same items that could not be translated from English. The BVAT-NU also offer two new languages: Hmong and Navajo.

Overview

The *Bilingual Verbal Ability Tests-Normative Update* (BVAT-NU) measure bilingual verbal ability, or the unique combination of cognitive/academic language abilities possessed by bilingual individuals in English and another language. The need for this test is based in the reality that bilingual persons know some things in one language, some things in the other language, and some things in both languages. Traditional procedures only allow the person’s ability to be measured in one language, usually the one considered to be dominant — examiners intuitively know that many individuals know “more” than they can show on these monolingual approaches.

The BVAT-NU use the same print materials as the original BVAT (1998), and the normative update provides year-2000 norms that can be used in conjunction with the *Woodcock-Johnson III Tests of Achievement*. The BVAT-NU can also be used in place of Tests 1 and 31 in the *WJ III Tests of Cognitive Abilities* to provide a general intellectual ability-bilingual (GIA-Bil) score.

If you already have the 1998 version of the BVAT, order the BVAT-NU update package (see below) to obtain software that contains the new norms plus the technical supplement for the BVAT-NU.

Purpose

The BVAT-NU provide a technically sound procedure for combining a person’s knowledge in English and their native language, thus yielding a better estimate of his/her verbal ability. It may be administered either by one examiner who is fluent in the individual’s two languages, or, alternatively, by a primary and ancillary examiner team when a bilingual examiner is not available (procedure is detailed in the manual).

The BVAT-NU can be used for a variety of purposes in bilingual education and clinical assessment: for entry and exit criteria in bilingual programs, to assess the academic potential of bilingual students through a comparison of his/her current level of English language proficiency to his/her bilingual verbal ability.

Content

The BVAT-NU consist of 3 subtests from the WJ-R Tests of Cognitive Ability: Picture Vocabulary, Oral Vocabulary, and Verbal Analogies that

Interpretation

The BVAT-NU provide an overall score (BVA) which can be used to determine an individual’s overall level of verbal ability. For comparative purposes, the BVAT-NU also provide a measure of English language proficiency. The BVAT-NU yield an aptitude measure that can be used in conjunction with the WJ-III Tests of Achievement. A Scoring and Reporting Program is included with each test kit. This automates all scoring procedures and provides a narrative report of the individual’s bilingual verbal ability, English language proficiency, and language use and exposure. When used with the *WJ-III Tests of Achievement*, the achievement test results are scored and aptitude/achievement discrepancies are calculated and interpreted. The program determines and explains whether any identified discrepancy is related to limitations of English language proficiency.

ITEM	PRICE	CODE
BVAT-NU Update Package (Windows only)	\$299.00	9-20960
BVAT-NU Update Package – Extends the print materials from the 1998 version of the BVAT (required), with new software on CD-ROM (Windows only) and a Technical Supplement.		
BVAT-NU Complete Kit based on English (Windows only)	\$1349.00	9-20965
Complete BVAT-NU Test Kit - Includes Test Easel Book with English Subtests, 18 Sets of tests – 1 of each language, Storage Container, Software, Manual, Test Records (25): 7 of the 7-language, 2 of the French/Russian, 11 Spanish, 1 each of all remaining.		

Call Nelson Education Customer Support for individual languages and components.