

DISCUSSION OF AIR FORCE MENTAL TESTS

Recd 10 Jan 52

Types of mental level test scores that may appear on an airman's Form 20 and their interpretation are as follows:

1. The traditional "old" Army General Classification Tests (AGCT or GCT). This score will appear usually as follows in item 16:

FORM & DATE	GRADE & SCORE
1a, 1 Jan 42	II 120
3b, 1 Jun 44	III 95

Old entries of this type may differ, but they will generally have the identifying letters, "AGCT" or "GCT", or at least, the Form No., 1a, 1b, 3a, 3b, etc. This is the type of mental level score we all refer to when we speak of "class" or "Group" I, II, III, or IV. These classes and scores are related as follows:

- I equals 130 or more
- II equals 110-130
- III equals 90-110
- IV equals 70-90

This is the same system that has been in general use since 1941, except that for a period in the middle 1940's, Class IV was defined to include individuals down to 60 GCT. This system continued in Air Force use until 1 January 1949.

2. The Airman Classification Battery (ACB). In January 1949, the Air Force introduced the ACB. This battery consists of several tests. It is designed to measure aptitudes. It is scored so as to give 8 aptitude indexes, each of which ranges from a low of 1 to a high of 9. The indexes indicated the field in which an airman may best be trained or utilized. Each index is the result of scores on a group of tests. Each group of tests is called a cluster. One of the 8 aptitude indexes may be converted and used in place of a GCT score. It is known as the Technician Specialty Aptitude Cluster Number VI. The aptitude indexes appear in item 18 of the Form 20 in single digits. The Technician Specialty Index converts to a GCT equivalent as follows:

<u>GCT STANDARD SCORE</u>	<u>TECH SPEC APT INDEX</u>
125 plus	9
120-124	8
115-119	7
110-114	6
100-109	5
90-99	4
85-89	3
75-84	2
	1

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This system does not provide exactly the same breakdown as that discussed in 1, above. It does not have a direct relationship to the I to V mental class groupings, but it can be used for most purposes where a GCT score must be available. None of the other aptitude indexes can, at present, be translated into standard type score.

3. The Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT). In January, 1950, the three services adopted the AFQT for recruiting and induction purposes. This test replaced the "R" forms of the General Classification Test, none of which will be used for GCT purposes. The AFQT appears on the Form 20 as follows:

AFQT-1 80-II

The above score of 80 is a percentile score showing how the individual ranks with the rest of the population. It is NOT a standard type score. However, it may be converted to a standard score according to the following table:

<u>Percentile</u>	<u>GCT</u>
93	130
81	120
64	110
49	100
31	90
21	80
13	70
7	60

The Roman numeral II following the percentile score of 80 indicates the mental class or level as explained in paragraph 1.

NOTE: If you are scoring the AFQT, you will be concerned with a change in the method of converting from raw score to percentile or converted score, which was introduced in July 1950. However, this is explained in the Manual, Armed Forces Qualification Test, DD Form 267. The change in scoring has no bearing on the method of converting from the score on the Form 20 to a standard score.

4. The Airmen Qualification Examination (AQE). Because of the length of the tests, and the difficulty of administering and scoring the ACB, the Air Force developed the shorter AQE. This test was introduced in August 1950. It is used at all Air Force Bases for airmen who have not had the ACB, or who do not have an old score on their Form 20 for the GCT, the Mech Aptitude, and the Clerical Aptitude Test.

This test is a short ACB. It produces a GCT type score, a Mech aptitude score, and a Clerical aptitude score. These scores appear on the Form 20 as follows:

AQE Tech Sp	8	122
AQE Cler	7	115
AQE Mech	5	100

The single digit score above is an "index" figure, which is the same scoring method as used on the complete ACB. However, classification and assignment personnel should be concerned mainly with the right hand column which is the conversion to the familiar GCT type standard score.

The important thing to remember is that, for most all purposes in classification, assignment, and personnel utilization, you will be looking for a standard type GCT score. Enlistment requirements, job descriptions, school entrance minima, and other normal Air Force uses of mental test scores are usually expressed in this standard score terminology. Technical training school entrance requirements are expressed in the training prospectus both in the standard score, and in the ACB aptitude index figures.