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The Validity of a Pencil and Paper Version of the O'Connor Block Test

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Abstract

The senior author has previously shown that the O'Connor Block Test requires at least four time-limit trials of two minutes each to obtain a reliability of .80. A total of six trials are required to bring the reliability up to .85. If the number of subjects to be tested is large this procedure requires a large amount of the examiner's time and somewhat limits the usefulness of the test.

A pencil and paper version of this test was developed using photographs of the actual blocks showing typical problems in the actual block assembly. The examinee is shown five blocks in each of forty test items and is asked to choose the block that would fit in the indicated position in an assembly of from two to eight blocks in each of the forty items in the test.

The purpose of the present study is to determine whether or not this test measures the same ability as the actual assembly of the blocks. Fifty men and women students at Iowa State College were used as subjects and preliminary tests of validity will be presented. The validity was found to be about .40 using actual block assembly as the criterian.

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