Kaufman Brief Intelligence Test, Second Edition (KBIT-2)

Publisher/Date:

Purpose:
- Brief, individually-administered, norm-referenced test of intelligence and general aptitude, for individuals ages 4-90. It can be used for a variety of screening purposes and assessing cognitive functioning when it is a secondary consideration.

Provides:
- An IQ composite score (KBIT-2 IQ Composite), comprised of tasks assessing verbal ability and nonverbal problem solving. The Verbal score is comprised of two tasks; one which assess receptive vocabulary/general knowledge (Verbal Knowledge) and the other assessing comprehension, reasoning, and vocabulary knowledge (Riddles). The Matrices subtest is the sole Nonverbal marker and assesses nonverbal conceptual reasoning and problem solving.

Standardization Issues:
- 2,120 individuals from 34 states and the District of Columbia, ages 4-90 years, who speak English and did not present with impairments that may affect cognitive processing. The normative sample attempted to match 2001 US Census Bureau statistics for educational status (adults), mothers' educational level, race and ethnicity. Geographic breakdown in the normative sample overrepresented the Southern region (44.2% vs. 36%) and underrepresented the Northeastern region (11.4% vs. 19.8%). 23 normative age-groups are included and they varied in size, with the largest at ages 5 through 10 (n=125) and the smallest at ages 16, 17, and 18 (n=75). Two separate item-bias studies were conducted and did result in elimination of several items.

Reliability and Validity Issues:
- Composite internal consistency reliabilities were quite good (.89 to .96) with reliabilities increasing with age. Verbal and Nonverbal internal coefficients were lower but still acceptable (Nonverbal internal coefficient at ages 4 & 5 was only .78, however). The Composite's test-retest reliability was .90 (over mean intervals between 22.5 to 30.8 days, and resulting in performance increases of about 4-points). Test-retest reliability for the Nonverbal scale at ages 4-12 years was only .73 (marginal). Validity studies yielded moderate-to-high correlations in terms of
construct- and concurrent-validity. Special-group studies supported predictable findings in populations which included gifted, cognitively-disabled, TBI, dementia, learning disability, speech-language impaired, and ADHD.

Additional Points:

- One of the stated purposes of the test is to serve as a screening measure for Gifted programs, however, the KBIT-2’s Gifted sample mean Composite IQ was only 115 (Verbal=114.5, Nonverbal=110.8), compared to the more commonly found means in the low-to-mid 120’s in other tests. Calculation of the KBIT-2’s Gifted mean was based on a rather small sample (n=95).

- The test offers the ability to give instructions and score responses in languages other than English (although the items themselves are always to be given in English). For convenience of Spanish-speaking examiners, each Matrices easel page presents administration instructions in both English and Spanish. Credit is to be given to individuals responding to items on the Riddles subtest if the examiner knows the word given to be the English-equivalent, and for examiner convenience, acceptable Spanish responses are given for items 9-48. Non-English speaking individuals were excluded from the normative sample which may make interpretation of the findings in these instances somewhat unclear.

- The interpretive framework for both scales refers to CHC-theory (with Verbal as Crystallized ability [Gc] and Nonverbal ability tapping Fluid Reasoning [Gf] and Visual Processing [Gv]), and from a Luria-perspective, the Nonverbal scale taps Simultaneous Processing and Planning Ability. However, no specific confirmatory factor-analytic studies were done supporting the CHC or neuropsychological interpretations. The manual discusses interpretation from these perspectives, which may require a deeper degree of training than what some of the stated possible users of the KBIT-2 (i.e., technicians, teachers, counselors, nurses, social workers, personnel directors, etc.) may possess.

- The Nonverbal scale may require some interpretive caution at young ages because of somewhat lower test-retest (.76 at ages 4-12) and internal consistency (.78 at ages 4 & 5) reliability coefficients.

- Correlation with other IQ tests appears good, with mean estimates of “overall ability” varying by 1-3 points between the KBIT-2 and WISC-IV.

- The test demonstrates good ranges with respect to floors, ceilings, and item-gradients.

- Nonverbal score correlations with WISC-IV PRI (.56) are low.