Ability Profiles

In the tables below, you will find lists of characteristics, relative strengths, and instructional notes for each of the three ability profiles. These inform instructional decisions made in the toolkit and are color-coded for ease of recognition.

Q+

Characteristics, Relative Strengths, Instruction

- Exhibit abstract thinking at an early age
- Score higher than expected on math and language (skilled at pattern recognition)
- Computation
- *Identify patterns and reason with abstraction*
- *Computer skills* (organizing data, creating graphs, using computational logic in robotics)
- *Strong grammar knowledge*
- Enjoy math puzzles and challenges
- Present math solutions or data interpretations verbally
- Collaborative projects (using statistics, exploring evidence and claims)
- Provide opportunities for these students to contribute at high levels to group projects that require math skills

Possible Challenges

- May struggle with divergent thinking tasks or open-ended questions
- May not be particularly expressive in writing, sound almost robotic
- May not be enticed to debate about characters, opinions, or anything that isn't factual
- May not respond well to hypothetical situations
- May not enjoy tasks of a creative domain variety, preferring to solve problems that have correct and justifiable answers
- May not enjoy interdisciplinary tasks

Ability Profiles

V+

Characteristics, Relative Strengths, Instruction

- Strong in all academic areas except math computation
- Perform well when asked to write or discuss ideas
- Good memories for arbitrary sequences (sounds, letters, words, and events)
- Excels in spelling; knowledge of syntax and grammar; learning other languages; and remembering dialogue, prose, and poetry
- Challenge with special "higher demand" reading/writing assignments
- *Use verbal reasoning in math*
- *Restate and explain math expressions*
- *Explain errors in incorrect answers*
- Easier to memorize formulas than build more abstract conceptual systems (abstract leads to transferring math knowledge to unfamiliar domains)

Possible Challenges

- May struggle with calculations and math computation
- May feel frustrated by questions with a single correct answer
- May not enjoy concrete problem solving
- May not respond well to limitations/requirements
- May not succeed in offering details or facts to support contentions

Ability Profiles

NV+

Characteristics, Relative Strengths, Instruction

- Good at reasoning with spatial representations
- Effectively solve new problems
- Excel at drawing and sculpting (visual arts)
- Prefer visual mental models (with connecting concepts)
- Graphics and maps
- Concrete application
- Prefer detailed illustrations for unfamiliar content
- Metaphors, analogies, and real-world examples to connect unfamiliar, abstract concepts to familiar objects and experiences
- *Create drawings when solving math problems*
- Concept maps for note taking
- *Create mental models during reading*
- Hands-on learning, physical application for problem solving
- *Descriptive (rather than narrative prose) for teaching writing, illustrate scene*
- Skilled in visual arts

Possible Challenges

- May find frustration with highly analytical tasks that do not incorporate open-ended thinking
- May struggle with structured notes or note taking, outlining
- May feel challenged by creative writing or open prompts
- May not learn well by reading alone
- Spelling and verbal fluency are challenging

Note: Items in bold italics are crossover skills that lend to interdisciplinary strengths and applications.