

6/13/2007

Description of Retrieval Fluency (Module 10):

The purpose of this module was to broaden the content domain currently assessed in the HRS to include “fluid intelligence.” The specific purpose was to see if we could achieve reasonably informative test scores by using a retrieval fluency task adapted from the Woodcock Johnson III test battery. A random sub-sample of HRS respondents was selected and asked to complete the Retrieval Fluency module after the standard HRS survey. Half of the sample for this module came from the sample that was selected to receive the number series module in 2004; the other half was selected randomly from the remaining sample of self-respondents in 2006.

Respondents were given a category and asked to name as many items in that category that they could think of within a 45-second time frame. Interviewers counted everything the respondent said, even if the answer was incorrect or a repeat response (i.e., said the same item twice), but the interviewers were asked to keep track of incorrect or repeated answers. Variables include the total number of items mentioned for each category, as well as indications of whether the interviewer may have recorded any incorrect items named, and if so, how many. This task was repeated two additional times with different categories (i.e., for a total of three distinct trials).