

About LASS 8-11

LASS 8-11 is a fully digitised multifunction assessment system for use with students in the age range 8 years 0 months to 11 years 11 months.

LASS 8-11 comprises the following nine subtests:

- Sentence reading
- Spelling
- Non-verbal reasoning
- Verbal reasoning
- Auditory sequential memory (**Mobile phone**)
- Visual memory (**Sea creatures**)
- Phonic skills (**Funny words / Non-words**)
- Phonological processing (**Word chopping / Segments**)
- Single word reading

The full suite of nine core digitised subtests takes about 45 minutes, on average, to administer. Most of the subtests are adaptive tests — that is, the computer automatically adjusts the difficulty of the items to suit the ability level of the student. This means that assessment is faster and more efficient, and also prevents students becoming bored by items which are too easy or frustrated by items that are too difficult.

LASS 8-11 enables teachers to:

- obtain a reasonable estimate of the student's intelligence
- assess the student's attainments in reading and spelling and identify students who are under-performing in these areas
- measure discrepancies between actual literacy attainment and expected literacy attainment based on intelligence
- identify underlying problems in memory or phonological processing skills that could be the cause of under-performance in literacy
- identify students with dyslexia (specific learning difficulty)
- monitor development in reading and spelling on a regular basis
- assess improvements in memory, phonological and phonic decoding skills brought about by appropriate training or intervention.

Dr Joanna Horne is a Chartered Psychologist and Chartered Scientist, and has worked on the development of computerised educational assessments for 25 years. For much of this time she was employed as a Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Hull, teaching research methods and statistics, educational psychology and educational testing, and carrying out research, primarily within the educational psychology field. Joanna has published widely in peer-reviewed journals and presented research findings at national and international conferences. She is also a Test Reviewer for the British Psychological Society's Psychological Testing Centre and is the Educational Editor of 'Assessment and Development Matters'. Joanna is now a freelance consultant psychologist working in test development and psychometrics, and educational and psychological research.