

Information for Candidates, Universities and Test Centres



The situation

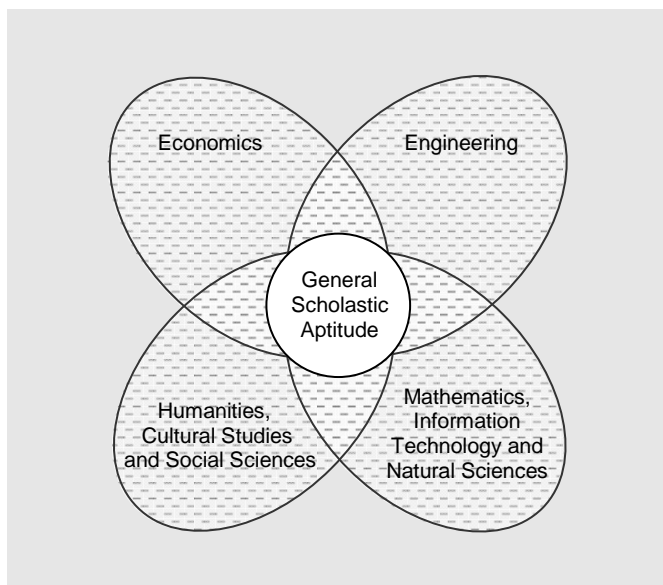
- German universities noticed a sharp increase in the number of foreign students in recent years.
- The success rate of foreign students is on average significantly lower than that of German students.
- Due to their diversity, foreign school certificates can not be compared easily which makes a qualitative selection of foreign study applicants rather difficult.
- There is a need for new qualitative selection instruments in order to identify those applicants who have the necessary intellectual qualifications for the area of studies they are applying for.

What is a scholastic aptitude test?

A scholastic aptitude test is standardised test procedure which measures intellectual abilities required for successful academic studies.

- General scholastic aptitude tests measure intellectual abilities which are important for all academic courses of study.
- Subject-specific aptitude tests measure abilities which are required for particular courses or areas of study.

Model of TestAS



The TestAS consists of a Core Test, comprising subtests relevant for all areas of study, and subject-specific tests for particular areas of study:

- Engineering
- Economics
- Humanities, Cultural Studies and Social Sciences
- Mathematics, Information Technology and Natural Sciences

What are the required characteristics of selection tests?

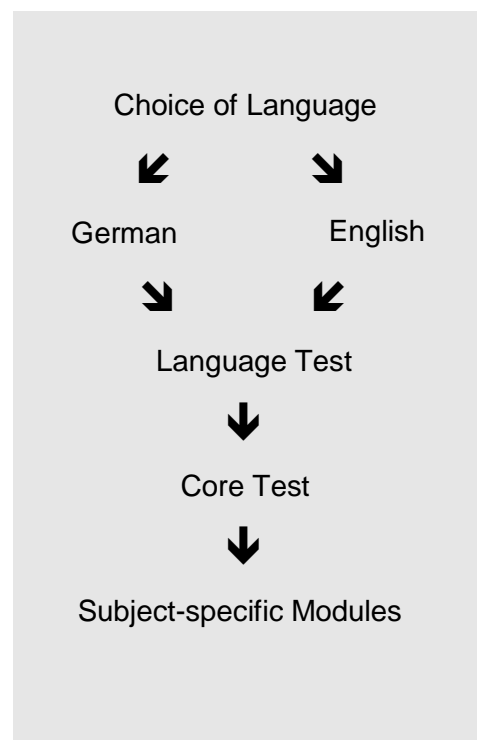
- Objectivity – independence of the person of the test supervisor or the evaluator
- Reliability – precision of measurements
- Prognostic validity – power of prediction concerning successful studies
- Low possibility of distortion, cannot easily be trained for
- Economical and fast test administration
- Test questions are regenerative
- Especially for worldwide tests: Fault-proof and translatable items

The TestAS complies with these demands:

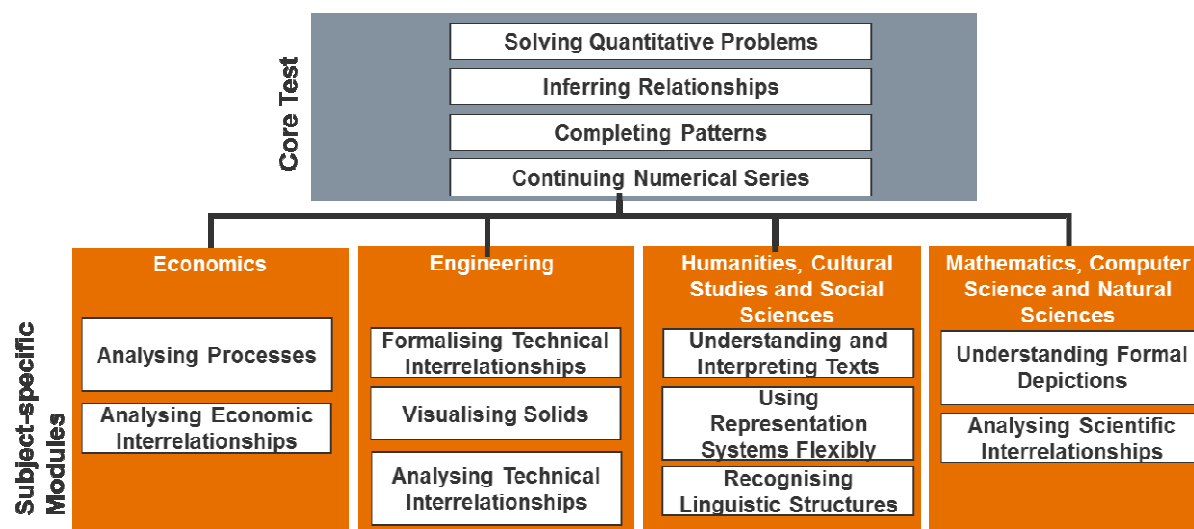
- It is based on an objective procedure and is very reliable.
- Scholastic aptitude tests such as TestAS exhibit the highest prognostic validity, i.e. they allow a prediction of successful university studies.
- It cannot be distorted – as opposed to interest, motivation and general personality tests.
- In contrast to knowledge tests, it cannot be trained for in a short period.
- Its development is costly, but its administration and evaluation is economical.

Administration of TestAS

- TestAS is intended for study applicants from non-EU-countries applying for undergraduate studies in Germany.
- TestAS can be taken in certified test centres of the TestDaF-Institute in the applicants' home country or in Germany.
- TestAS is offered in German and English.
- TestAS starts with a short online language test ("onScreen") which measures to what extent the linguistic requirements for the scholastic aptitude test are met by the applicant.
- The language test is followed by the Core Test (general scholastic aptitude test) and the subject-specific modules to test the individual cognitive abilities required for academic studies.
- The participating universities decide on their own in which way they want to use the test results for selection and admission of students. They also decide how to combine the results with other criteria and how to weight them.



TestAS in detail



TestAS is offered by the Gesellschaft für Akademische Studienvorbereitung und Testentwicklung e. V. (GAST= Society for Academic Study Preparation and Test Development).

The TestAS items are developed by ITB Consulting, Bonn. TestAS is executed worldwide by TestDaF-Institut, Bochum.

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