

Group Reading Scales – test user services

The developers of the Group Reading Scales offer the following services to users of the tests. We aim to provide the services as described free of charge, although we will need to confirm this when you contact us. Unless you have special non-routine requirements (eg volume postage or large-scale data entry or substantive additional consultancy), there would not normally be any costs for our services.

Email us at grs@edu-test.uk.com to tell us your requirements and find out how we can help!

New user transition service

If you currently use another reading test annually for monitoring and screening and are considering adopting **GRS**, we can help you to ensure continuity between the old test and **GRS**.

More details ...

You will need to test some pupils with both tests. From their results we will be able to tell you, in precise statistical terms, to what extent **GRS** can be regarded as a directly comparable measure of reading to replace your existing test.

We are confident the results will be reassuring to you, and to others who might be concerned about any loss of continuity by adopting **GRS** as your new test:

- If you are currently using a sentence-completion test, we are sure the degree of comparability between the tests will prove to be extremely high.
- If you are using some other form of reading test, we would still expect there to be a substantial overlap in what the two tests measure, to the extent that continuity would be maintained with previous years when you adopt **GRS**.

What may well be different are the overall standards and norms for the two tests: **GRS** will reflect much more recent national standards in reading than your existing test. We will supply you with a conversion table to convert **GRS** scores into equivalent levels of your previous test. This will incorporate an appropriate adjustment factor to take account of differences in overall standards between the two tests. You will thus have a means of making backward reference from **GRS** to previous years' results.

If the number of pupils to be tested will be small (less than 100), it may be advisable for them all to take both **GRS** and your previous test. In larger groups it would be sufficient for only a randomly selected sub-sample of pupils to take both tests. For example, in a cohort group of 300 pupils it would normally be sufficient for a cross-section of about 60 pupils to take both tests.

You will need to provide us with the results for the pupils who took both tests in a suitable file format. It will not be necessary to identify pupils by name, and you can provide their answers either question by question or as raw score totals for each test.

Please contact us to discuss the details further.

Local standardisation, norms and conversion tables

We can provide you with **GRS** standardised scores and reading age tables based on the results of your own pupils. As well as reflecting local standards, these norms will take account of the exact time of year of testing.

More details ...

If you are engaged in testing large numbers of pupils in a number of schools or areas, you may well find it useful to have conversion tables which reflect local standards and the particular characteristics of the pupils you are testing. Such standardised score conversion tables will reflect your own local standards, which could be higher or lower than the national levels. They will also be specific to the actual time of year at which your pupils were tested.

Your local standardised score tables will adjust for the effects of chronological age more accurately than is possible in the generic, published **GRS** conversion tables. This is an important consideration which is often overlooked: the adjustment for age in the published tables is an aggregate value which is subject to an unavoidable degree of variability. It is quite likely that this is not the best possible fit to your own pupils. This can only be achieved by constructing conversion tables based on the test results of the actual pupils who were tested.

The requirements for carrying out the necessary analysis for you are fairly simple: all we require to construct the conversion tables is a file giving pupils' chronological age (in years and completed months) at time of testing and their total test score. If you prefer to provide your results in a less summary form (eg date of birth, date of testing and question-by-question responses), this is equally suitable.

Please contact us to discuss further details.

Individual pupil results

If you have specific requirements that cannot be met by the **GRS** Scorer/Profiler CD-ROM, we can provide bespoke reports for each pupil, grouped by school or class as you require.

More details ...

As well as pupil-level results, we can give summary statistics for major groups, by gender, class membership, schools, etc, as required. To take advantage of this service you will need to prepare results in a standard file format (eg text file, database or spreadsheet). This

should include a suitable pupil identification number, and data to indicate class or school, gender, etc, as well as birth and test dates plus responses to the test questions.

Alternative scales

GRS gives age-adjusted standardised scores, percentiles and reading ages (plus NC levels) as the default modes of scaling. However, should you require results in other formats (eg stanines, Rasch ability scaling) these are readily available.

More details ...

There are many alternative ways of scaling test performance apart from standardised scores and reading ages. You may wish to have these alternative scales included in one or more of the above services. We can also provide such scores as a free-standing service.

Email us at grs@edu-test.uk.com to tell us your requirements and find out how we can help!