Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale - 4th Edition

Mr. Client completed the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale, Fourth Edition (WAIS-IV). This is one of the most widely used and researched intelligence scales for adults. This instrument is comprised of a possible 15 subtests that together yield a Full-Scale IQ score (FSIQ). The WAIS-IV can also provide a Global Ability Index (GAI), a Cognitive Proficiency Index (CPI) and four factor indexes: the Verbal Comprehension Index (VCI), Perceptual Reasoning Index (PRI), Working Memory Index (WMI) and Processing Speed Index (PSI).

Mr. Client's full-scale IQ score (FSIQ) is not the best indication of his overall intellectual functioning because there was too much variability in his results on the four index scores that comprise the FSIQ. However, because Mr. Client's results on the Verbal Comprehension and Perceptual Reasoning Indexes were comparable, his overall cognitive abilities may be estimated by the General Ability Index. Mr. Client earned a GAI that placed him in the average range (55th percentile) as compared to other Canadian adults his age. A score at the 55th percentile signifies that 55% of adults his age scored equal or below his result.

Mr. Client earned a Cognitive Proficiency Index score (CPI) that placed him in the low average range (12th percentile). The CPI is an estimate of Mr. Client's proficiency at learning new information with the use of quick visual speed and good mental control. Strong proficiency aids in the acquisition of new learning because it reduces cognitive demands and liberates resources for tasks requiring deeper thinking. There is a significant difference between Mr. Client's scores on the GAI and CPI in a pattern sometimes seen in individuals with learning disabilities, traumatic brain injuries or other cognitive or neurological conditions. The magnitude of difference between his results on these two indexes is somewhat rare, as it is seen in less than 10% of the population.

The four indexes of the WAIS-IV provide for further analysis of Mr. Client's intellectual abilities. His highest performance came on the Perceptual Reasoning Index. The Perceptual Reasoning Index is a reflection of one's spatial organization, fluid reasoning, visual processing and general problem-solving for tasks that do not involve language or words. Mr. Client's perceptual reasoning abilities were assessed by tasks that required him to recreate pictured designs using blocks (63rd percentile), choose the missing piece of an incomplete visual matrix (63rd percentile), select puzzle pieces that would combine to reconstruct a puzzle (50th percentile), select weights to keep a scale balanced (37th percentile) and identify the important missing part in a picture (75th percentile). His overall results on the PRI placed him at the 63rd percentile, or in the average range. Although not considered a normative strength, Mr. Client's perceptual reasoning is considered stronger than his abilities in other areas and may be regarded as a noteworthy personal asset. In a real world context, perceptual reasoning skills are those required in "hands-on" tasks and occupations and Mr. Client's results suggest he would have average skills in this type of work.

Mr. Client's second highest score came on the Verbal Comprehension Index. The Verbal Comprehension Index is a measure of one's acquired knowledge and general understanding of language, language concepts and the ability to reason with language. Mr. Client's verbal comprehension abilities were assessed by tasks that required him to define words (37th percentile), find concrete and abstract
similarities between words (50th percentile), demonstrate a fund of general factual information (63rd percentile) and verbally elaborate social reasoning (50th percentile). His overall results on the VCI placed him at the 50th percentile, or in the average range. Although not considered a normative strength, Mr. Client's verbal comprehension is considered stronger than his abilities in other areas and may be regarded as a noteworthy personal asset. From a real world perspective, verbal comprehension abilities are typically associated with academic success and his score therefore predicts that Mr. Client would have an average scholastic experience barring any learning disability or other cognitive, neurological or psychological impairment.

Mr. Client's next highest score came on the Processing Speed Index. The Processing Speed Index is a reflection of one's ability to perform simple, clerical-type tasks quickly and accurately. Mr. Client's processing speed abilities were assessed by tasks that required him to identify the presence or absence of a target shape in a row of shapes (5th percentile), quickly find and copy symbols from a key (16th percentile) and scan and mark target shapes in a structured array (25th percentile). His overall results on the PSI placed him at the 14th percentile, or in the low average range. Although not a personal weakness, Mr. Client's processing speed is considered a weakness in comparison to other individuals his age in the normative population and it may limit aspects of his daily functioning. There is a significant difference between Mr. Client's scores on the PRI and PSI in a pattern sometimes seen in individuals with learning disabilities and/or psychological or neurological conditions that impact psychomotor speed and/or processing. The magnitude of difference between his results on these two dimensions is somewhat rare, as it is seen in less than 10% of the population. From a real world perspective, these results indicate that Mr. Client works at a slightly slower pace than the norm and a school or work environment would need to understand and accommodate this pattern of thinking. He would work well in a setting where there is routine and clear expectations of performance, and where he can learn at his own pace.

Mr. Client's lowest scores were demonstrated on the Working Memory Index. The Working Memory Index is a reflection of one's ability to apprehend and hold information in mind while simultaneously manipulating the information to produce a result. It requires a good non-distractible attention span for success. Mr. Client's working memory abilities were assessed by tasks that required him to repeat numbers forwards, backwards and in numerical order (16th percentile), rearrange a group of letters and numbers into sequence (25th percentile) and perform mathematical operations without the aid of paper and pencil (9th percentile). His overall results on the WMI placed him at the 9th percentile, or in the low average range. Mr. Client's working memory is considered a weakness in comparison to other individuals his age in the normative population. In addition, his ability in this area is lower than his abilities in other areas. Therefore, it is likely Mr. Client's working memory is a limitation in his daily functioning. There is a significant difference between Mr. Client's scores on the VCI and WMI in a pattern sometimes seen in individuals with learning disabilities and/or psychological or neurological conditions that impact attention and concentration. The magnitude of difference between his results on these two dimensions is rare, as it is seen in less than 5% of the population. Given that his scores on this index are below the norm, Mr. Client may benefit from learning strategies to aid his working memory.
In summary, Mr. Client's intellectual abilities are better explained by the General Ability Index than the full-scale IQ score because there was significant variability in his performance on the various subtests and indexes. The GAI estimates his cognitive abilities are somewhere in the average range. As such, given the optimum environment to capitalize on strengths and mitigate weaknesses, Mr. Client is likely to function at the average level on most tasks. His scores also reflect a discrepancy between the core areas of general intelligence (verbal and nonverbal reasoning skills) and the core areas of mental processing (working memory and processing speed) in a pattern sometimes evidenced in individuals with a learning disorder, brain injury or other cognitive or neurological disorder. Although not considered normative strengths, Mr. Client's verbal comprehension and perceptual reasoning are considered stronger than his abilities in other areas and may be regarded as noteworthy personal assets to his daily functioning. Although not a personal weakness for him, Mr. Client's processing speed is considered a significant weakness in comparison to other individuals his age. Mr. Client's working memory is considered a significant weakness in comparison to other individuals his age and the rest of his own profile and is likely a limitation in his daily functioning.