

Cognitive-Style Quiz

Choose the one sentence that is more true. Do not leave any blanks.

1. A) It's fun to take risks.
B) I have fun without taking risks.
2. A) I look for new ways to do old jobs.
B) When one way works well, I don't change it.
3. A) I begin many jobs that I never finish.
B) I finish a job before starting a new one.
4. A) I'm not very imaginative in my work.
B) I use my imagination in everything I do.
5. A) I can analyze what is going to happen next.
B) I can sense what is going to happen next.
6. A) I try to find the one best way to solve a problem.
B) I try to find different answers to problems.
7. A) My thinking is like pictures going through my head.
B) My thinking is like words going through my head.
8. A) I agree with new ideas before other people do.
B) I question new ideas more than other people do.
9. A) Other people don't understand how I organize things.
B) Other people think I organize well.
10. A) I have good self-discipline.
B) I usually act on my feelings.
11. A) I plan time for doing my work.
B) I don't think about the time when I work.
12. A) With a hard decision, I choose what I know is right.
B) With a hard decision, I choose what I feel is right.
13. A) I do easy things first and important things later.
B) I do the important things first and the easy things later.
14. A) Sometimes in a new situation, I have too many ideas.
B) Sometimes in a new situation, I don't have any ideas.
15. A) I have to have a lot of change and variety in my life.
B) I have to have an orderly and well-planned life.
16. A) I know I'm right, because I have good reasons.
B) I know I'm right, even without good reasons.
17. A) I spread my work evenly over the time I have.
B) I prefer to do my work at the last minute.
18. A) I keep everything in a particular place.
B) Where I keep things depends on what I'm doing.
19. A) I have to make my own plans.
B) I can follow anyone's plans.
20. A) I am a very flexible and unpredictable person.
B) I am a consistent and stable person.
21. A) With a new task, I want to find my own way of doing it.
B) With a new task, I want to be told the best way to it.

To Score

1. Give yourself one point for each time you answered "A" for questions: 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21.
2. Give yourself one point for each time you answered "B" for questions: 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18.
3. Add all points. Totals imply:
 - 0-4: strong left brain
 - 5-8: moderate left brain
 - 9-13: middle brain
 - 14-16: moderate right brain
 - 17-21: strong right brain

What the results mean

The Left-Brain Teacher

Teachers with left-brain strengths generally prefer to teach using lecture and discussion. To incorporate sequence, they put outlines on the board or overhead, and they like to adhere to prepared time schedules. They give problems to the students to solve independently. Teachers with left-brain preferences assign more research and writing than their right-brain peers. A reasonably quiet, structured classroom is preferred. The classroom tends to be clean, with items in their place.

The Left-Brain Student

Left-brain students prefer to work alone. They like to read independently and incorporate research into their papers. They favor a quiet classroom without a lot of distraction.

The Right-Brain Teacher

Teachers with right-brain strengths generally prefer to use hands-on activities over a lecture format. In concert with the right-brain preference of seeing the whole picture, these teachers incorporate more art, manipulatives, visuals, and music into their lessons. They tend to embrace Howard Gardner's multiple intelligences. They like to assign more group projects and activities, and prefer a busy, active, noisy classroom environment. The classroom of a strong right-brain teacher will typically have materials and books scattered all over.

The Right-Brain Student

Right-brain students prefer to work in groups. They like to do art projects, industrial arts electives in middle school, and graphic design. They would prefer to design and make a mobile rather than write "another tedious term paper."