Lucid Exact FAQ

Can Lucid Exact be used to assess students over the age of 24 years 11 months?

The initial version of Exact was standardised for ages up to 24 years 11 months; however, there are occasions when students older than this age need to be assessed for exam access arrangements. Examination of the research literature on studies of adult literacy across the western world shows that reading, spelling and handwriting skills are fairly stable over the age range 25 to 45 (see references below). Therefore it is reasonable to assume that norms for Exact word recognition, reading comprehension accuracy and speed, spelling and handwriting are unlikely to differ significantly during that time, and hence the norms for age 24 may be used for students in the 25 to 45 age range. When using Exact for students aged 25-45 you should enter their data of birth as normal so that the report will show their correct chronological age. The test will automatically apply norms for age 24, but these will still be valid across the 25-45 age range. On the JCQ form you should enter the test ceiling as ‘45:11’ and, if necessary, you should cite this FAQ answer as evidence that you are using the test appropriately.

The exception to this rule is when assessing typing speed in adults age 25+. Normative assessment of typing speed in adults aged 25 and over presents particular psychometric challenges because of significant effects of cohort (i.e. most younger adults are able to type while most older adults cannot) and experience (i.e. most adults who have to use computers in their jobs can type much better than others), and also because this skill is changing very rapidly in the population as use of computers increases dramatically. Consequently norms for typing speed of adults aged 25+ will inevitably be subject to large confidence limits, which would affect their reliability when making decisions about eligibility for access arrangements in examinations. When making decisions about whether use of a words processor in examinations would be appropriate for adults aged 25+, assessors are therefore advised to rely more on their professional judgement about the typing competence of the individual than on normative test results for typing speed, for which Lucid Exact can only be certified up to age 24 years 11 months at the present time. However, Lucid Exact test results for typing speed will provide a useful comparison between the skills of any adult age 25+ and the typical adult in their early 20s.

References


Department for Employment and Learning (NI) (2010) *Study to identify how 'literacy’ levels have developed over time. Final report*. Oxford Economics, Belfast.
