

Representativeness of YARC sample as demonstrated by comparison of scores on established, nationally standardised assessments

As part of the YARC standardisation project, pupils were administered GL Assessment's SINGLE WORD READING TEST (SWRT), one form of which is included in YARC Passage Reading as a benchmarking assessment to find the correct entry level for the passages. Other pupils were administered GL Assessment's BRITISH PICTURE VOCABULARY SCALE (BPVS), a standardised test of receptive vocabulary.

The results from these additional assessments are useful in further establishing the representativeness of the YARC sample.

For example, the data from SWRT (Table 1) show that from Y2 (P3) onwards the standard scores are more or less identical with those for YARC Passage Reading Accuracy. The SWRT is designed for pupils from age 6 so performance for Reception/Y1 (P1/2) pupils on SWRT is in the low average range because, unlike the YARC Passage Reading, the test is not designed for this age range and therefore is inaccessible to some very young pupils. The same is the case for SWRT and YARC Early Reading (Table 3).

The BPVS is a well-established assessment and the nationally standardised, UK edition was developed by the National Foundation for Educational Research. It is one of GL Assessment's most widely used products, particularly with young pupils in the age range of YARC Early Reading. Tables 4.1 and 4.2 show similar standard scores across all parts of YARC Early Reading and BPVS.

Table 1: YARC Passage Reading

Standard scores and Reading Ages for SWRT and YARC Accuracy
(Standard Deviation in parentheses)

		Chronological Age	SWRT Standard Scores	SWRT Reading Age	YARC Accuracy Standard Scores	YARC Accuracy Age Equivalent
Reception	Mean	5.05 (.03)	87.71 (16.84)	5.03 (.07)	101.51 (14.73)	5.08 (.10)
n=157	Range	5.00 - 6.02	69 - 129	4.11 - 7.09	66.54 - 145.00	5.02 - 8.09
Year 1	Mean	6.04 (.04)	96.77 (18.00)	6.03 (1.02)	99.48 (13.71)	6.08 (1.03)
n=197	Range	5.07 - 7.07	6 - 138	4.11 - 11.00	61.25 - 131.15	5.02 - 10.01
Year 2	Mean	7.04 (.04)	98.39 (16.23)	7.03 (1.04)	99.67 (13.06)	7.09 (1.05)
n=197	Range	6.08 - 8.04	69 - 139	4.11 - 13.06	73.75 - 125.38	5.10 - 11.02
Year 3	Mean	8.04 (.04)	97.90 (15.02)	8.05 (1.11)	98.25 (11.68)	8.06 (1.06)
n=197	Range	7.05 - 9.02	69 - 136	4.11 - 16.01	75.00 - 121.25	6.00 - 12.00
Year 4	Mean	9.04 (.04)	99.41 (13.58)	9.08 (2.02)	99.72 (12.59)	9.06 (1.09)
n=198	Range	8.06 - 10.06	69 - 138	4.11 - 16.01	74.09 - 127.50	6.08 - 12.07
Year 5	Mean	10.03 (.04)	100.85 (14.25)	10.10 (2.58)	100.40 (13.80)	10.03 (1.09)
n=194	Range	9.08 - 11.05	69 - 137	5.09 - 16.01	70.00 - 124.55	6.09 - 12.07
Year 6	Mean	11.03 (.04)	101.34 (14.76)	11.10 (2.88)	101.54 (14.57)	10.08 (1.09)
n=184	Range	10.08 - 11.10	69 - 135	5.06 - 16.01	71.36 - 139.55	7.03 - 12.07

NB: YARC Accuracy – composite score based on all passages (A and B) that were administered

Table 2: Correlations between SWRT Standard Scores and YARC Accuracy Standard Scores
 (Composite score based on all passages (A and B) that were given)

	n	r
Total Sample	1324	0.81
Reception/P1	157	0.74
Year 1/P2	197	0.89
Year 2/P3	197	0.89
Year 3/P4	197	0.88
Year 4/P5	198	0.85
Year 5/P6	194	0.83
Year 6/P7	184	0.82

Table 3: YARC Early Reading – children aged 5:00 – 7:11

		Chronological Age	SWRT Standard Score	SWRT Reading Age	Early Word Recognition Standard Score	Early Word Recognition Age Equivalent Score
Total Sample	Mean	6.05 (.10)	93.65 (17.70)	6.03 (1.04)	99.84 (15.05)	6.04 (.08)
n=521	Range	5.00 - 7.11	69 - 138	4.11 - 13.06	50.50 - 148.41	4.07 - 7.01
Reception	Mean	5.05 (.03)	86.17 (16.48)	5.03 (.07)	99.01 (14.73)	5.09 (.08)
n=156	Range	5.00 - 6.03	69 - 129	4.11 - 7.09	70.00 - 148.41	4.07 - 7.01
Year 1	Mean	6.04 (.04)	95.91 (17.89)	6.03 (1.02)	99.08 (15.98)	6.06 (0.06)
n=185	Range	5.08 - 7.07	69 - 138	4.11 - 11.00	50.50 - 135.22	4.07 - 7.01
Year 2	Mean	7.03 (.04)	98.38 (16.32)	7.03 (1.04)	101.80 (14.12)**	6.10 (.04)
n=176	Range	6.08 - 7.11	69 - 136	4.11 - 13.06	54.25 - 115.00	5.05 - 7.01*

* Age equivalent scores are below the chronological age range because of the ceiling effect of the test

Table 4: Sub-sample administered BPVS

Table 4.1: Reception (n = 64)

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Standard Deviation
Age in months	64	60	70	64.19	2.965
YARC Accuracy Standard Score	64	76	145	100.56	14.753
EWR Standard Score	64	70	125	97.57	13.942
Letter- sound (extended) Standard Score	64	71	128	98.77	12.622
Sound Deletion Standard Score	64	69	131	97.18	14.344
Sound Isolation Standard Score	64	58	129	98.62	12.718
Phonological composite Standard Score	64	59	123	98.08	12.324
BPVS Standard Score	64	62	130	99.00	12.650

Table 4.2: Year 1 (n = 89)

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Standard Deviation
Age in months	89	68	82	75.17	3.552
SWRT Standard Score	89	69	138	96.82	18.377
YARC Accuracy Standard Score	89	72	131	99.65	14.458
EWR Standard Score	89	59	135	99.47	15.514
Letter-sound (extended) Standard Score	89	75	124	98.86	12.552
Sound Deletion Standard Score	89	48	131	100.59	14.854
Sound Isolation Standard Score	89	48	127	98.59	15.678
Phonological composite Standard Score	89	36	136	99.17	15.649
BPVS Standard Score	89	67	128	100.96	12.801

Year 2 (n = 83)

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Standard Deviation
Age in months	83	80	93	86.35	3.416
SWRT Standard Score	83	69	130	101.02	16.361
YARC Accuracy Standard Score	83	78	125	101.45	12.718
EWR Standard Score	83	62	115	102.95	13.145
Letter-sound extend) Standard Score	83	62	117	101.01	13.778
Sound Deletion Standard Score	83	77	128	101.03	12.768
Sound Isolation Standard Score	83	58	118	99.56	14.070
Phonological composite Standard Score	83	72	131	99.48	12.669
BPVS Standard Score	83	65	123	101.51	13.061