

NVR - how do I improve??

What is it and why does it feature so heavily in exams?

Non-verbal reasoning tests how well a child can solve problems using pictures, shapes and patterns instead of words or numbers. It measures logical thinking, pattern recognition and spatial awareness.

Students don't need strong vocabulary for NVR because the questions are visual. Typically boys and "maths" children prefer this aspect of the test. In order to understand how to help your child, you need to understand what NVR actually is.

To become excellent at NVR, first ensure your child has access to NVR questions. Familiarity is key. There are numerous books - Bond, CGP, Scholfield and Simms - which support NVR. Little and often is the best way - do not sit down for hours on end to practise! Until you are in the "Exam Practice" phase of your exam journey, take time to ensure your child understands the process.

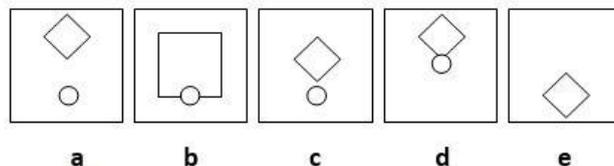
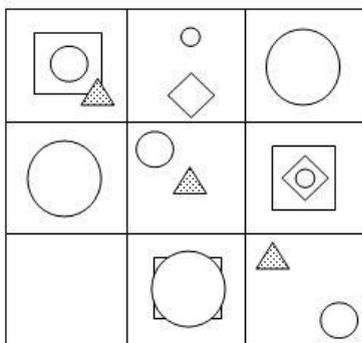
There are various online tools which also support NVR such as BOFA, ATOM and Bondonline. ATOM in particular, have a very useful selection of prompt sheets to help you understand the questions and techniques required.

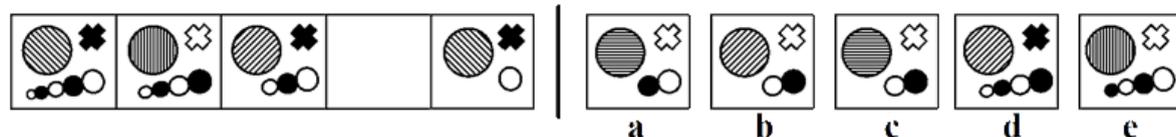
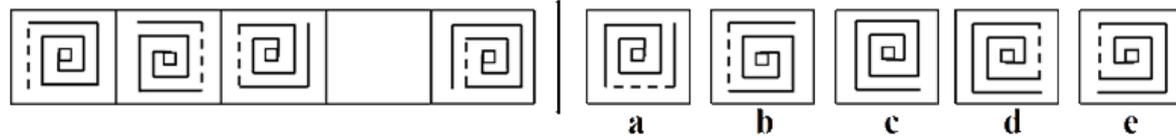
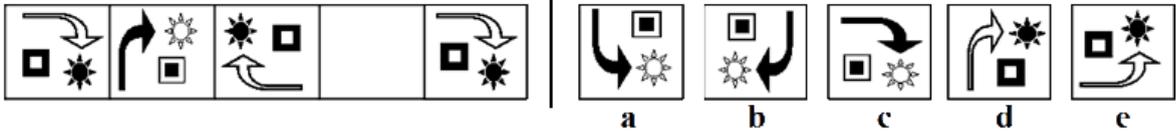
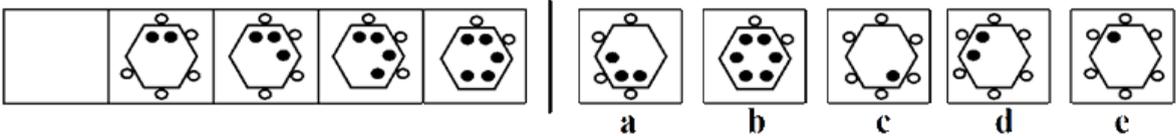
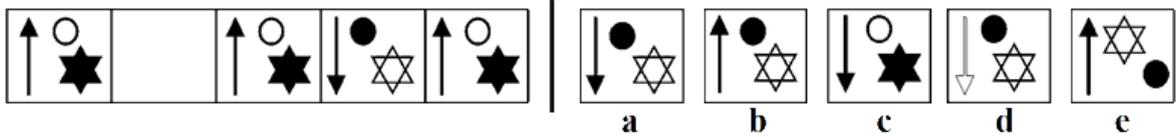
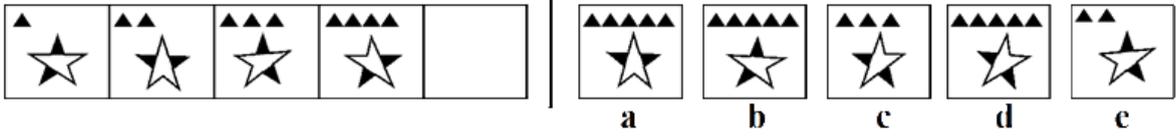
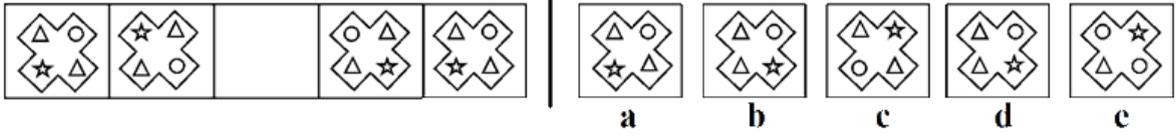
Common types of NVR questions

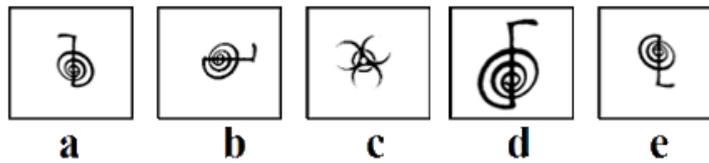
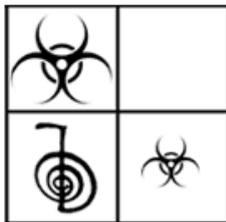
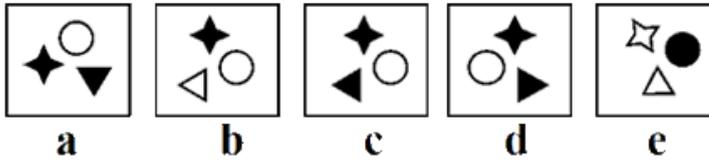
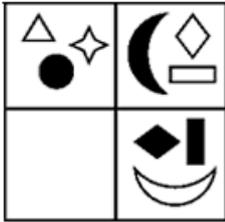
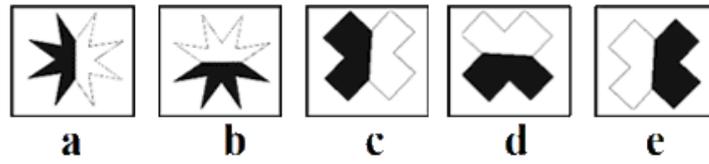
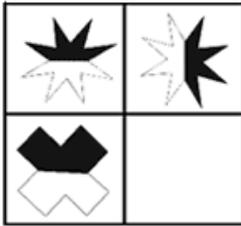
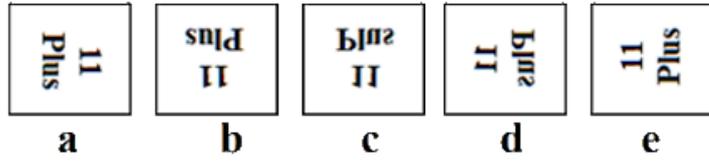
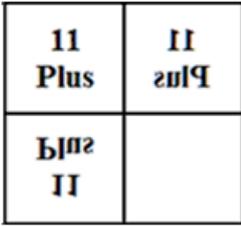
In addition to the cube nets, NVR also covers:

- 1) Find the missing shape - this can be presented in different formats - but essentially the same skill is being tested.
- 2) Can you spot the pattern?

These questions are often presented in the following formats:



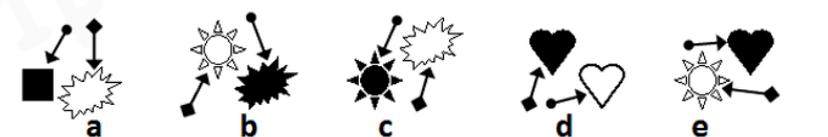
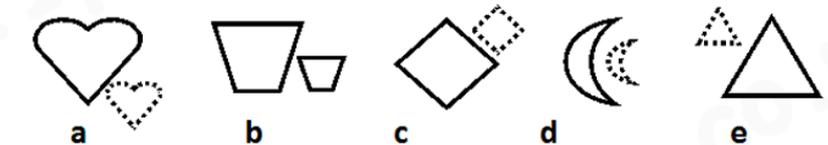
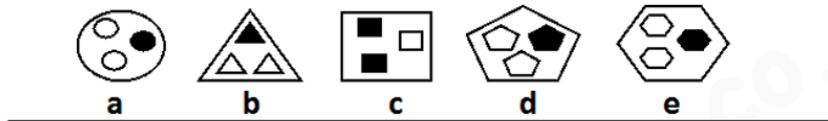




3) Another type of question is “Odd one out” - which picture or pattern doesn’t belong. These differences can be very subtle. Several shapes are shown and you must find the one that is different.

The difference might be due to:

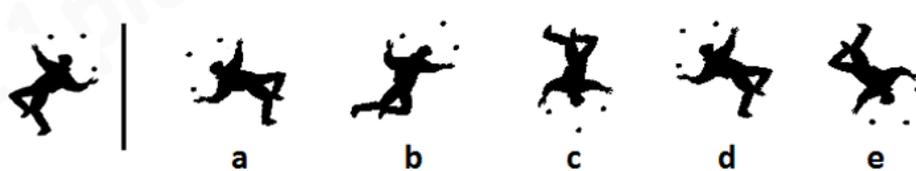
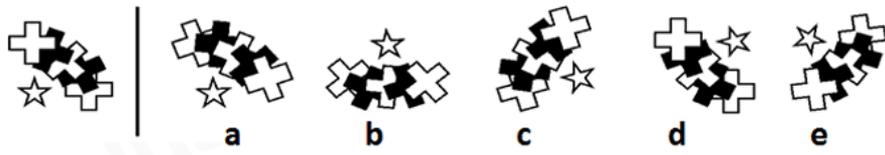
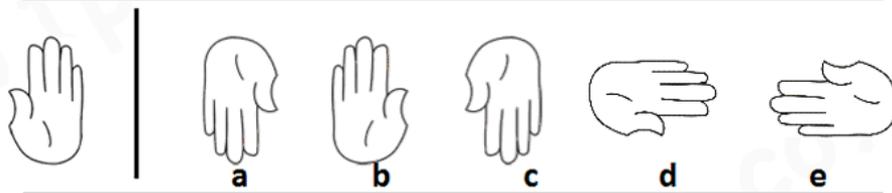
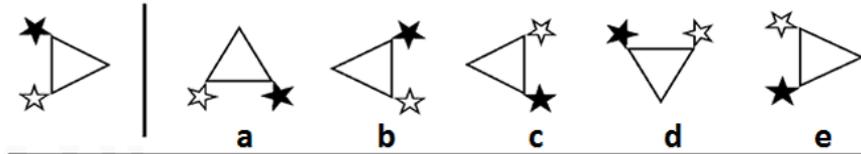
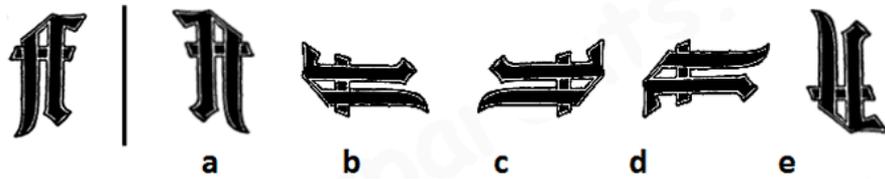
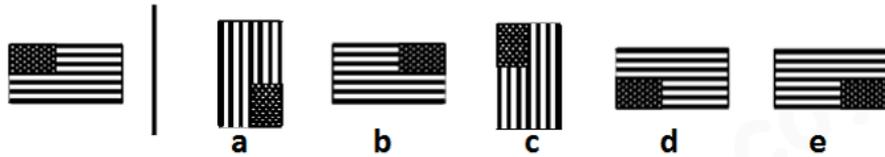
- rotation
- shading
- number of sides
- size or position



4) Shape rotation or reflection is another question type - this is where a shape has been rotated or reflected. Your child then needs to identify which shape is the same after being rotated or mirrored.

Skills used:

- visualising movement
- spatial thinking



Games

Games are a great way to develop observational, spatial and NVR skills. The games examples below are excellent and retail at approximately £10 each. Collect overtime and keep together in a box.

Chess is also an excellent way to develop your child's reasoning skills and the Chinese game Go is becoming increasingly popular in the UK. Go is an ancient Chinese strategy board game where two players compete on a 19×19 grid using black and white stones to control more territory.

All of these games are great for developing the thought process which is essential for NVR, through the use of questions like what will happen? Can I turn this? etc.

Playing games is part of your study - remember study doesn't just mean book work!

Games examples



