Abstract Reasoning
General

- A Visual Test:
  - a series of five diagrams containing shapes and symbols
  - you have to select the diagram that completes the series

- Assesses your ability to:
  - think flexibly and resolve new problems
  - draw inferences and understand the relationship between various concepts

- Does not require prior knowledge but does require practice!

- Time pressure: You have just one minute per question. Make sure to answer all of them!
Abstract Reasoning Method

• There are many ways to approach the abstract reasoning test and no single right way.
• The following three step approach - involving, inventory, rule finding and elimination – may be helpful for some people.

**Step 1: Observe**

• It’s important to take a systematic approach to the abstract reasoning test.
• Start by briefly analyzing the sequence and identify what kind of elements (component figures) it has. Look out for:
  • number of elements
  • shapes: circle, squares, etc
  • colours of the shapes and/or alternation of colours
  • relative dimension: «big square», «small square», etc.
  • meaningful symbols: arrows etc.
  • direction of the movement: left to right, bottom-up, etc.
Abstract Reasoning Method

Step 2: Find the Rule(s)

- The next step is to establish what is happening to the elements.
- Several rules may apply in a single sequence. Concentrate on finding them one by one.
- The range of potential rules which can apply in these tests is wide. Some of the key ones relate to:
  - elements move in clockwise and anticlockwise rotation
  - mirroring of elements
  - movement of elements along vertical, horizontal or diagonal lines
  - movement of elements to different degrees (45, 90, 135, 180 etc)
  - color / size alternation: elements change from black to white or large to small
  - visual arithmetic: number of elements changes through sequence
- However, these are only a selection of potential rules. The best way to become familiar with others is through practice!
Abstract Reasoning Method

Step 3: Predict the Result & Eliminate

• Before looking at the possible answers, try to generate the correct answer yourself, based on the rule or rules you’ve identified. If you’ve found a match (and only one), mark that, and move on – time is precious.
• Otherwise, work through the answer options one by one, using your rule(s), and try to ‘disqualify’ options as incorrect, hopefully leaving you with only one option – the right answer!
• Keep an eye on time always – you have only one minute per question. Try not to run over it. If your time is elapsing, take an educated guess at the answer and move on!
Colour / Size Alteration Example

From the options available, please choose which diagram would come next in the series. Then click on your selection below.
Movement of Degrees

Example

[3] From the options available, please choose which diagram would come next in the series. Then click on your selection below.
Linear Series Example

It’s also worth keeping in mind that a rule can apply linearly or alternately – i.e. to every image or to every second image.

From the options available, please choose which diagram would come next in the series. Then click on your selection below.

A B C D E
Alternate Series Example

From the options available, please choose which diagram would come next in the series. Then click on your selection below.
Abstract Reasoning
Reference Documents

- EPSO official Sample Tests (French, English, German)
- Hudson practice tests and exercises
- ORSEU (Free & Paid Practice Tests)
- EUtraining.eu (Free & Paid Practice Tests)
- EUphorum.org (Free & Paid Practice Tests)
- Psychometric Success (Free & Paid Tests)