

The Characteristics of Gifted Students

The following are the general cognitive and behavioural characteristics of gifted students. Gifted students do not necessarily have all of the below-mentioned characteristics. There may also be considerable variation in the features manifested. In general, gifted students:

1. are discerning observers
2. are apt at learning and applying new knowledge.
3. can comprehend and synthesize complicated concepts..
4. have a strong repository of general knowledge.
5. are prominent in collecting and processing an extensive amount of information.
6. are able to handle and construct abstractions..
7. are able to generate many alternative means to solve complicated problems.
8. are skilful in organization and categorization...
9. possess intense curiosity about innovative things.
10. have numerous imaginative and ingenious ideas..
11. sustain their interest in a specific topic or subject.
12. are interested in social issues, such as politics, religion and morality.
13. are firm in justice.
14. hold their own views and refuse to follow suit unreasonably.
15. have high expectations of themselves and strive for perfection.
16. prefer to have elder companions.
17. have a variety of interests and hobbies.

According to Howard Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences, apart from the above-mentioned characteristics, human beings possess at least eight types of intelligence, including linguistic intelligence, logical and mathematical intelligence, interpersonal intelligence, intra-personal intelligence, musical intelligence, spatial intelligence, bodily-kinesthetic intelligence, and naturalist intelligence. Gifted students may possess one or more potentials. The behaviour listed below may help us identify gifted students in terms of different intelligences.

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| 1. <i>Linguistic intelligence</i> | Like to talk , have a strong repertoire of vocabulary, and have rich content in speech. |
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- Expressive**, can precisely express **themselves**
 Convincing and eloquent
Show intense curiosity and highly inquisitive.
 Interested in reading
 Good at writing stories
Demonstrate a keen sense of humor
2. **Logical and mathematical intelligence**
 Interested in mathematical games.
 Proficient in mental arithmetic and precise in computation.
 Loves intelligent games, such as chess.
 Interested in scientific issues.
 Proactively explores causal relationship, patterns and logical relationships.
3. **Interpersonal intelligence**
 Demonstrates leadership.
 Behave in a more mature way than their peer.
 sensitive to the emotion, thought, motivation and behaviour of others.
 sociable and have many friends.
 Able to influence others' opinion.
 Confident in getting along with people of different ages.
4. **Intra-personal intelligence**
 Understands others' views and comments.
 Aware of his/her own interests and hobbies.
 Aware of his/her own strengths and weaknesses.
 Good at expressing his/her own feelings.
 With a habit of reflecting his/her daily life and writing diary.
5. **Musical intelligence**
 Loves listening to music.
 Loves singing with a melodious voice.
 Memorizes rhythm quickly.
 Recognizes tones and spots errors in tone quickly.
 Masters the skill of playing musical instruments easily.
 Able to perform body movements in the rhythm of music.
6. **Spatial intelligence**
 Loves visual games, such as jigsaw puzzles and mazes.

Loves painting.
Appreciates beautiful things.
Good at making models, especially three-dimensional models.
Easily finds ways out in strange places.
Easily visualizes scenes in a bird's-eye view
Easily retrieves and verbalizes visual images.

7. ***Bodily-kinesthetic intelligence*** Good at imitating movements by others.
Excel in one or more sports.
Energetic and active, have attention spans.
Prefers learning through activity.
have responsive muscular tissue.
Prefers using body language, such as gestures and physical movements.

8. ***Naturalist intelligence*** Loves to collect ecology-related information.
Interested in keeping animals and plants.
Interested in exploring geographic environment.
Interested in rural life or life in fishing villages.
Loves travelling and enjoying natural landscapes.