

<p style="text-align: center;">STEC Guidance</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE TEST OF RETRIEVAL EFFICIENCY (TORE)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">September 2025</p>	
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Publisher:	Real Group Limited/Dyslexia Action
Date of standardisation:	2023-2024
Age range:	13:00 to 18:11
Access level:	Individuals with Level 7 qualification (information from Dyslexia Action website)
Cost	£234.00

According to the manual, the TORE assesses: *‘the speed at which an individual is able to respond to a visual stimulus, retrieve information from long-term memory accurately and rapidly, and then record an answer.’*

The manual states that it helps to identify individuals who: *‘have difficulty processing information by speed.’*

The manual gives a comprehensive rationale for the relationship between literacy skills and speed of retrieval which is informed by reference to peer reviewed published sources.

The test can be used with individuals or with a small group. Administration time is 10 to 15 minutes.

The test consists of two subtests:

- **After (A).** Test takers are shown a page of cells. Each cell contains a randomly generated number between 2 and 21. The test taker has to write the number that follows each number in the cell. Test takers are timed for 45 seconds.
- **Before (B).** This is identical to after, except that in this subtest the test taker has to write the number that preceded the one in the cell.

Each subtest is timed for 45 seconds.

There are no parallel forms.

Scores calculated are standard scores. A standard score is obtained for each subtest (A and B). The two scores can then be used to produce a TORE composite. Page 24 of the manual gives SEMs to facilitate calculation of 95% confidence intervals.

Strengths:

- Group administration;
- Quick to administer;
- Very clear administration instructions for test user;
- Very clear instructions for test taker;
- Sound rationale related to literacy;
- Fills a gap in assessments, particularly for examination access arrangements (possible replacement for SDMT);
- Reliability and validity data are acceptable;
- Standardised on UK population that reflects ethnic and socioeconomic diversity. Suitable for EAL pupils; and
- Can be used as part of a diagnostic assessment to contribute data to the Cognitive Presentation (speed of processing and retrieval) section.

Points to consider:

- Assessors should be aware that the test involves some motor skills since the responses are written. The test authors do specifically mention the possible impact of motor skills (page 16 of the manual), stating that: '*there is no marked impact of motor function on this task.*' However, it is suggested that assessors consider suitability where the test taker has a known motor function difficulty, diagnostic label (such as dyspraxia) or medical condition (such as cerebral palsy);
- The rationale for the test is comprehensive and robust. Assessors should be aware that the manual does not have a separate interpretation section. Careful consideration should be given to the results obtained, in the context of their contribution to the diagnostic decision and to more general hypotheses about the test taker's retrieval skills; and
- Assessors might consider drawing up an answer sheet to make scoring quick and accurate.