Name _____

Date _____

ACTIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

2.2 HEMISPHERIC PREFERENCE

In recent years there has been increased speculation about brain localization and cerebral hemispheric dominance. Rudolph Wagner and Kelly Wells (1985) developed the following inventory to assess neurobehavioral left/right dominance. [From A refined neurobehavioral inventory of hemispheric preference. *Journal of Clinical Psychology, 41*, 671-676. Copyright © 1985. Reprinted with permission of John Wiley & Sons, Inc.]

Instructions: Read the statements carefully. There are 12 statements with four items each. Place a cross mark (X) in the appropriate bracket in front of each item you select. Mark **one item** only under each of the 12 statements. Choose the activity you **prefer** even though it does not necessarily mean that you have the **ability** to do it. If you are undecided, make a decision anyway by guessing.

1. ( ) a. Major in logic
   ( ) b. Write a letter
   ( ) c. Fix things at home
   ( ) d. Major in art

2. ( ) a. Be a movie critic
   ( ) b. Learn new words
   ( ) c. Improve your skills in a game
   ( ) d. Create a new toy

3. ( ) a. Improve your strategy in a game
   ( ) b. Remember people's names
   ( ) c. Engage in sports
   ( ) d. Play an instrument by ear

4. ( ) a. Review a book
   ( ) b. Write for a magazine
   ( ) c. Build new shelves at home
   ( ) d. Draw a landscape or seascape

5. ( ) a. Analyze market trends
   ( ) b. Write a movie script
   ( ) c. Do carpentry work
   ( ) d. Imagine a new play

6. ( ) a. Analyze management practices
   ( ) b. Locate words in a dictionary
   ( ) c. Put jigsaw puzzles together
   ( ) d. Paint in oil

7. ( ) a. Be in charge of computer programming
   ( ) b. Study word origins and meaning
   ( ) c. Putter in the yard
   ( ) d. Invent a new gadget

8. ( ) a. Analyze production cost
   ( ) b. Describe a new product in words
   ( ) c. Sell a new product on the market
   ( ) d. Draw a picture of a new product

9. ( ) a. Explain the logic of a theory
   ( ) b. Be a copy writer for ads
   ( ) c. Work with wood and clay
   ( ) d. Invent a story

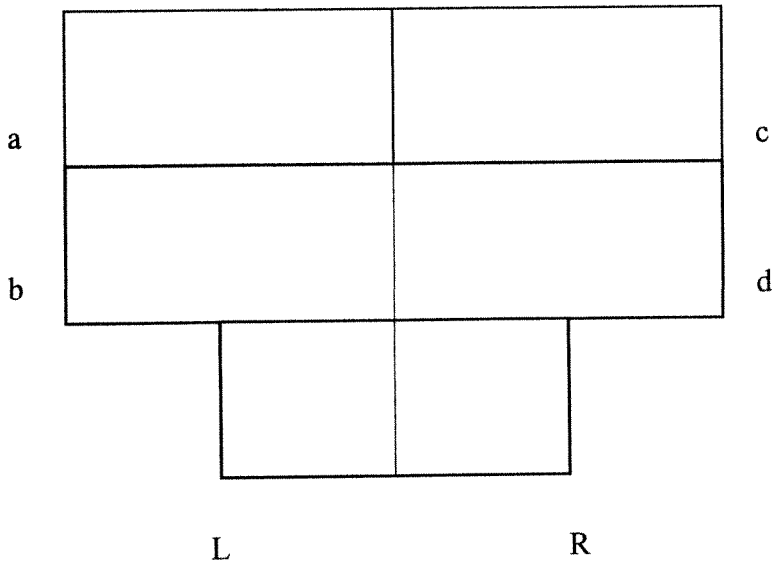
10. ( ) a. Be a comparison shopper
    ( ) b. Read about famous men and women
    ( ) c. Run a traffic control tower
    ( ) d. Mold with clay and putty

11. ( ) a. Analyze your budget
    ( ) b. Study literature
    ( ) c. Visualize and rearrange furniture
    ( ) d. Be an artist

12. ( ) a. Plan a trip and make a budget
    ( ) b. Write a novel
    ( ) c. Build a house or shack
    ( ) d. Make crafts your hobby

Quadrant Analysis

Scoring: Add the number of responses for each of the four categories (a, b, c, and d) and enter them into the quadrants below.



The four cells of the quadrant are (a) Left (Logical); (b) Left (Verbal); (c) Right (Manipulative-Spatial); and (d) Right (Creative). To obtain the left and right scores, add (a) and (b) for Left and (c) and (d) for Right hemispheric preferences. Wagner and Wells note that a difference of *at least* 3 points between L and R is needed to show a significant difference between L and R. Otherwise, the score is considered Balanced.

Wagner and Wells reported some success in predicting the hemispheric preferences of such criterion groups as senior college students in a Logic class [Left, Logic (a)], creative writers [Left, Verbal (b) and Right, Creative (d)], vocational-technical high school teachers [Right, Manipulative (c)], nurses [Right, Manipulative (c)], and visual artists (painters) [Right, Creative (d)]. They were less successful in using the L/R dichotomy in their predictions, and suggested that this division may be too crude. The quadrant analysis, while requiring further research, may provide useful information for vocational guidance.

What are your current academic interests (major)?

What would you consider your academic strengths? Weaknesses?

How might the results of this inventory help you in vocational planning?

Reference

Wagner, R. F., & Wells, K. A. (1985). A refined neurobehavioral inventory of hemispheric preference. *Journal of Clinical Psychology, 41*, 671–676.