OVERVIEW OF SOI APPLICATIONS

The Structure of Intellect model of human intelligence is a perfect match for education. The Structure of Intellect is a typological model of human intelligence – typological means classification – so, the model categorizes intellectual abilities into 90 different types.

These 90 abilities are easily understood – you do not need to be a statistician to understand what they mean and how they relate to learning.

Once the classification of the intellectual abilities is understood, it is relatively easy to see which abilities are necessary to learn a given instructional objective, or, conversely, which abilities are most likely not available to the student when there are learning difficulties.

TESTING

At SOI Systems, we have used the model to develop tests of those abilities most related to school learning. We then use those tests to diagnose student learning problems.

TRAINING

We also use the model to guide our development of abilities training materials. Those materials are designed to focus on just one ability at a time. That way the training will not be confounded by exercising more than one ability at a time.

This is like body building – the exercises are designed to build one set of muscles at a time. This approach also distinguishes SOI training from "games" – games always use many abilities at once, so they are not particularly good at developing abilities.

SOI is the mental weight room where you build your intellectual muscles; then you can go out and use those muscles to play the game of learning.

GIFTED EDUCATION

SOI is also used in gifted education in two ways:

1. the SOI tests are often used as one component in the selection process for participation

2. the SOI training materials are often used as part of the gifted curriculum, because many academically gifted students have concentrated on school abilities to the exclusion of abilities that are important after school graduation – most notably, evaluation, creativity, and figural content

Developing these abilities proved useful in the application of classroom learning.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

The Structure of Intellect model is also useful in providing classroom materials to insure that students develop learning abilities in advance of a curriculum that will require those abilities for mastery – a sort of "preventive learning" where learning abilities themselves become part of the curriculum as a means of maximizing student success.

In summary, SOI relates to learning in many ways, because learning, fundamentally, is applying the appropriate intellectual abilities to the task at hand.