**Intelligence vs. Knowledge Testing**

Raven’s Progressive Matrices is a **nonverbal intelligence test** that measures abstract reasoning and problem-solving ability. Test-takers are shown a series of geometric or visual patterns with one piece missing. They must select the correct piece from multiple choices to complete the pattern. The tasks gradually increase in difficulty, requiring higher-level reasoning as the test progresses.

**Strengths:**

* Considered *culture-fair* because it does not rely on language, vocabulary, or formal education.
* Focuses on **fluid intelligence** (the ability to reason and solve novel problems), making it useful across different populations.
* Quick to administer and widely validated, making it popular in research and psychological assessments.

**Weaknesses:**

* Narrow in scope: it mainly assesses abstract reasoning but ignores other important aspects of intelligence, such as creativity, social understanding, or emotional intelligence.
* Performance can still be influenced by test-taking strategies, anxiety, or prior exposure to similar puzzles.
* Does not provide information about *practical knowledge or applied skills*, limiting its value in academic or workplace settings.