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Abstract

Autism spectrum disorders (ASD) are characterized by two major symptom groups: restricted interests and repetitive behaviors (RIRB) and social symptoms such as deficits in social interaction and difficulty interpreting non-verbal communication. Research has shown a link between ASD and compulsive Internet use (CIU), suggesting that the Internet provides compensation for the deficits associated with ASD. In this study, 15 adolescents with ASD and their parents as well as 24 control families filled out questionnaires measuring CIU, social symptoms of ASD and RIRB. Adolescents with ASD did not report higher CIU when compared to the control group, although there was a slight trend for higher CIU in the ASD group. Parents in the ASD group did not report higher CIU for their child as well. The current study found no clear link between either RIRB or social symptoms and CIU. These results do not support the suggestion that individuals with ASD use the Internet to compensate for either social deficits or non-social personality traits. Future research should aim for a larger sample size and examine specific reasons for Internet use in individuals with ASD, as it seems likely that ASD predisposes individuals to show CIU. This could aid the identification of online coping strategies for dealing with ASD.

Keywords: Compulsive Internet Use; autism; RIRB; social symptoms

1. Introduction

In recent years the Internet has become a central tool for the majority of people in developed countries, utilized to carry out daily activities, such as communicating with others or acquiring information (Khang, Kim, & Kim, 2013; Odacı & Çırkıkcı, 2014). Although the Internet brings about facilitation and advantages in many ways, it is also becoming more and more excessively used by many people all over the world without a specific reason or goal (Odacı & Çırkıkcı, 2014). This behavior is generally seen as negative and research has shown that it poses psychological and physical problems, similar to other addiction disorders (Arişoy, 2009; Park et al., 2013).

Research has also shown that people with heightened autistic traits may be more likely to show compulsive Internet use (Finkenauer, Pollmann, Begeer, & Kerkhof, 2012; Romano, Osborne, Truzoli, & Reed, 2013; Romano, Truzoli, Osborne, & Reed, 2014). Regarding people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), two studies have been conducted. MacMullin, Lunsky and Weiss (2016) found that children with ASD show higher levels of compulsive Internet use than their neurotypical peers. Shane-Simpson, Brooks, Obeid, Denton and Gillespie-Lynch (2016), however, failed to replicate this finding in College students.

1.1. Compulsive Internet use: a definition

Compulsive Internet use (CIU) is most commonly described as an addiction, as its name implicates impulse-control deficits (Meerkerk, van den Eijnden, Vermulst, & Garretsen, 2009; Muusses, Finkenauer, Kerkhof, & Billedo, 2014; van Rooij, Schoenmakers, van de Eijnden, & van de Mheen, 2010). However, this behavior was found not to be related to the Internet as a whole but rather to particular activities on the Internet (Meerkerk et al., 2009; Shen & Williams, 2011). The American Psychiatric Association (2013) has taken this into account and consequently lists both Internet gaming and Internet gambling as distinct disorders in the DSM-5. In this article, the term “CIU” will be used following the manner of Meerkerk et al. (2009), who identified five dimensions: loss of control;

preoccupation (mental and behavioral); withdrawal symptoms; coping or mood modification; and conflict (inter- and intrapersonal).

1.2. Compulsive Internet use and autistic traits

Although there is emerging evidence that people with autistic traits in the general population are more susceptible to CIU (Finkenauer et al., 2012; Romano et al., 2013, 2014), only one recent study examined the underlying causes. Shane-Simpson et al. (2016) sampled U.S. American psychology students ($N=597$) in regard to autistic traits and CIU. They used the Social Responsiveness Scale (SRS; Constantino & Gruber, 2012) to find out whether social or non-social symptoms, the latter being restricted interests and repetitive behaviors (RIRB), are responsible for the relation between autistic traits and CIU. For measuring CIU, they used the Compulsive Internet Use Scale (CIUS; Meerkerk et al., 2009). They found only RIRB to be significantly linked to CIU.

1.3. Compulsive Internet use and Autism Spectrum Disorder

There exist only two studies which examined the relation between ASD and CIU (MacMullin et al., 2016; Shane-Simpson et al., 2016). MacMullin et al. (2016) tested an online sample of parents of children with ($n=139$) and without ASD ($n=172$) (age range: 6-21, $M=12$). Parents had to answer all questions in regard to their child. Parents of autistic children were recruited from autism organizations using a flier that explained potential risks and benefits of computer use, while parents of the control group were recruited from a registry of paid survey takers. MacMullin et al. (2016) asked for frequency, length and impact of the child's electronics use, as well as the kinds of activities that the electronics were used for. They also used the CIUS (Meerkerk et al., 2009) to determine CIU. Parents of children with ASD reported that their child spent more time online and showed higher levels of CIU compared with the reports of parents of neurotypical children. They also felt that their child's use of electronics had a more negative impact on the child's life and that social functions of the Internet were

learned to a lesser degree and at a later age. However, MacMullin et al. (2016) did not find any differences in the reported frequency of social Internet use between the two groups. The authors concluded that youth and young adults suffering from ASD might be more prone to suffer negative impacts of Internet use due to social and non-social deficits occurring in ASD.

Based on the aforementioned study, Shane-Simpson et al. (2016) conducted a two-study experiment where they first examined the influence of social symptoms and RIRB on the relation between autistic traits and CIU, as described earlier. The second study aimed to examine whether the associations between autistic traits and CIU replicate among college students suffering from ASD. They matched 33 students (age range: 18-37, M=21) suffering from ASD with a control group in terms of age, gender, ethnicity and the self-esteem score acquired from the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (Rosenberg, 1965). In addition to the Rosenberg scale, students were administered a demographic questionnaire, the adult version of the SRS (SRS-A; Constantino & Gruber, 2012), as well as the CIUS (Meerkerk et al., 2009). All questionnaires were administered online via SurveyMonkey. Contrarily to MacMullin et al. (2016), the authors found no difference in CIU between the ASD and the control group. Students with ASD scored only marginally higher in RIRB and neither RIRB nor social symptoms predicted CIU significantly. However, there was a trend between RIRB and CIU, as well as between social symptoms and CIU.

Possible reasons for the differing results of these two studies include differences in sample size, recruitment strategy, informants, and age. Compared to Shane-Simpson et al. (2016), MacMullin et al. (2016) had a larger (n=139 vs. n=33) and younger ASD sample (M=12 vs. M=21), used parent-report (vs. self-report) and used different recruitment strategies for parents of children with ASD than for those of children without ASD. Shane-Simpson et al. (2016) on the other hand used a matched control group in regard to gender, ethnicity, age and self-esteem score. Both studies administered the questionnaires online, which might pose a bias, because the variable of interest is CIU. The goal of the current study is to combine the strengths of both of the aforementioned studies in order to clarify the

relationship between ASD and CIU on the one hand and the relationship between RIRB, social symptoms and CIU on the other hand.

1.4. Functions of Internet use

1.4.1. The social compensation hypothesis

The social compensation hypothesis postulates that the Internet makes it possible for people with offline social difficulties to compensate for these difficulties (Kraut et al., 2002). People suffering from ASD often face social isolation (Howlin, Goode, Hutton, & Rutter, 2004) and have described the Internet as a place where they can have interactions with other people on an equal level (Benford, 2008). They have also reported utilizing social network sites, such as Facebook, in order to get in touch with other people (Burke, Kraut, & Williams, 2010; Mazurek, 2013).

1.4.2. The focused interests hypothesis

While the social compensation hypothesis focuses only on the influence of social behavior on Internet use, there is also research suggesting that people with ASD use the Internet predominantly for non-social purposes (Mazurek, Shattuck, Wagner, & Cooper, 2012; Mazurek & Wenstrup, 2013) and enjoy social network sites less than people without ASD (Gillespie-Lynch, Kapp, Shane-Simpson, Smith, & Hutman, 2014). Since RIRB is a diagnostic criteria for ASD in the DSM-5 (APA, 2013) and studies have found a correlation between RIRB and CIU in people with heightened autistic traits (Shane-Simpson et al., 2016), it is plausible that people with ASD use the Internet mainly for non-social purposes, such as engaging in specific interests.

1.5. The current study

The current study aimed to examine CIU in children with ASD compared to their neurotypical peers. Furthermore, it aimed to identify possible reasons for CIU or Internet use in general. Due to

recent research linking RIRB to CIU in people with heightened autistic traits (Shane-Simpson et al., 2016), as well as research suggesting that people with ASD are particularly drawn to non-social uses of the Internet (Mazurek et al., 2012; Mazurek & Wenstrup, 2013), children with ASD were expected to show higher CIU than their healthy peers. CIU was expected to be linked to both RIRB and social symptoms, but more strongly so to RIRB.

1.5.1. Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were generated from the goals of the current study:

H1₁: Children with ASD show higher CIU than children in the control group.

H0₁: There is no difference in CIU between the two groups.

H1₂: CIU in children with ASD is correlated with RIRB.

H0₂: CIU in children with ASD is not correlated with RIRB.

H1₃: CIU in children with ASD is correlated with social symptoms.

H0₃: CIU in children with ASD is not correlated with social symptoms.

If there is a correlation between CIU and autistic symptoms in children with ASD,

H1₄: RIRB predict CIU more accurately than social symptoms.

H0₄: RIRB does not predict CIU more accurately than social symptoms.

2. Methods

2.1. Participants

Families in the ASD group were recruited from four institutions in Germany. Families in the control group were recruited from one German school as well as through friends and family. The

recruitment process ran from November 2016 to July 2017. Only families, where parents and child lived in the same home were included. We defined “father” as the closest male reference person to the child, not necessarily the biological father. Every participant was informed about the goal of the study and the anonymity of the data through the title page of each questionnaire and gave informed consent upon completing the survey. Every family received €30 upon completing the questionnaires. A total of 40 families participated in the study ($N = 15$ with a child with ASD; $N = 25$ control). One child in the ASD group did not fill out the questionnaire. The children’s age ranged from 11 to 18 in the ASD group ($M = 14.64$; $SD = 2.13$) and from 11 to 19 in the control group ($M = 14.25$; $SD = 2.38$). Most of the children were male in both the ASD group ($N = 12$ male) and the control group ($N = 17$ male). For a detailed description of the sample’s demographics, see table 1.

2.1.1. Matching and selection process

ASD and control group were matched using the following variables: age of child, gender of child, predicted SPM score of child, education and income of parents. As described in table 1, age of child and predicted SPM score were almost identical across the two groups. Education and income of parents were compared across the two groups using a Mann-Whitney-U-test. There were no significant group differences between mothers and fathers. The slight over-representation of male children in the ASD group (80.0 % compared to 70.8 % in the control group) was accepted in favor of not losing data.

In accordance with general praxis, an IQ below 70 was set as an exclusion criterion. One family of the control group was excluded from the study, because the child scored an IQ below 70. All the other children met the minimum IQ requirements (norms taken from Horn, 2009; see also chapter 2.2.1). The final sample consisted of $N = 39$ families with $n = 15$ families in the ASD group and $n = 24$ families in the control group.

Table 1

Demographics of the Samples

	<u>ASD group (n = 15)</u>	<u>control group (n = 24)</u>
gender of child	male = 12 (80.0 %)	male = 17 (70.8 %)
age of child	M = 14.64 (SD = 2.13; range 11-18)	M = 14.25 (SD = 2.38; range 11-19)
age of mother	M = 46.40 (SD = 4.09; range 39-55)	M = 46.5 (SD = 5.16; range 38-55)
age of father	M = 50.87 (SD = 5.81; range 42-66)	M = 49.08 (SD = 6.88; range 40-72)
biological father	yes = 14 (93.3 %)	yes = 23 (95.8 %)
education of mother	no graduation from school = 0 Hauptschule = 1 (6.7 %) Realschule = 5 (33.3 %) Abitur = 1 (6.7 %) university degree = 8 (53.3 %)	no graduation from school = 0 Hauptschule = 1 (4.2 %) Realschule = 5 (20.8 %) Abitur = 6 (25.0 %) university degree = 12 (50.0 %)
education of father	no graduation from school = 0 Hauptschule = 3 (20.0 %) Realschule = 1 (6.7 %) Abitur = 1 (6.7 %) university degree = 10 (66.7 %)	no graduation from school = 1 (4.2 %) Hauptschule = 2 (8.3 %) Realschule = 5 (20.8 %) Abitur = 3 (12.5 %) university degree = 13 (54.2 %)
income of mother	< €1000 = 10 (66.7 %) €1000-2000 = 4 (26.7 %) €2000-3000 = 1 (6.7 %) €3000-4000 = 0 €4000-5000 = 0 > €5000 = 0	< €1000 = 8 (33.3 %) €1000-2000 = 9 (37.5 %) €2000-3000 = 4 (16.7 %) €3000-4000 = 0 €4000-5000 = 1 (4.2 %) > €5000 = 1 (4.2 %)
income of father	< €1000 = 1 (6.7 %) €1000-2000 = 2 (13.3 %) €2000-3000 = 3 (20.0 %) €3000-4000 = 0 €4000-5000 = 4 (26.7 %) > €5000 = 4 (26.7 %)	< €1000 = 0 €1000-2000 = 2 (8.3 %) €2000-3000 = 7 (29.2 %) €3000-4000 = 0 €4000-5000 = 7 (29.2 %) > €5000 = 8 (33.3 %)
predicted RSPM	M = 47.50 (SD = 8.48; range 26.79-56.25)	M = 47.51 (SD = 7.80; range 26.32-56.25)

Note: ASD = autism spectrum disorder; M = mean; SD = standard deviation; Hauptschule = lowest level secondary school in Germany; Realschule = mid-level secondary school in Germany; Abitur = graduation from highest secondary school form in Germany, required for university application; predicted RSPM = predicted 60-item Raven's Standard Progressive Matrices score.

2.2. Measures

Parents and children received different questionnaires. The children's questionnaire consisted of a demographic questionnaire, the short version of the Raven's Standard Progressive Matrices test (RSPM; Bilker et al., 2012), a survey assessing Internet skills and use (adaptation from MacMullin et al., 2016), and the Compulsive Internet Use Scale (CIUS; Meerkerk et al., 2009). The parents' questionnaire consisted of a demographic questionnaire and the following parent-report scales, which parents were required to answer in regard to their child: the same survey assessing Internet skills and use that was used in the children's questionnaire with a few additional questions aimed to assess problematic consequences of the child's Internet use, the CIUS (Meerkerk et al., 2009), the adolescent version of the Autism Quotient (AQ; Baron-Cohen, Hoekstra, Knickmeyer, & Wheelwright, 2006), and the Repetitive Behaviour Questionnaire 2 (RBQ-2; Leekam et al., 2007). The questionnaires for mothers and fathers were identical, except that fathers had to state if they were the biological father or not. Questionnaires were given in paper-pencil format instead of online format to prevent bias, regarding the nature of the hypotheses.

2.2.1. Raven's Standard Progressive Matrices test

The Raven's Standard Progressive Matrices test (Horn, 2009) consists of a set of incomplete matrices, which the child has to complete. The correct missing piece for each matrix has to be picked from six to eight options underneath the matrix through the application of logical rules. The 9-item version of the RSPM was developed by Bilker et al. (2012) from the full 60-item RSPM. The score from the 9-item version is used to predict the 60-item score, which can then be used to provide a measure of intelligence. The predicted scores from the 9-item version showed a strong correlation of $>.98$ with the actual 60-item score. The short version (form A) was used in the current study to provide a measure of intelligence. An IQ of <70 was set as an exclusion criterion for the study and children were compared to the German norm sample taken from Horn (2009). The 9-item RSPM (form

A) showed good internal consistency (Cronbach's $\alpha = .80$) in the validation study (Bilker et al., 2012).

In the current sample, the internal consistency was slightly lower (Cronbach's $\alpha = .75$; table 2).

2.2.2. The Compulsive Internet Use Scale

The Compulsive Internet Use Scale (CIUS; Meerkerk et al., 2009) was developed based on the DSM-IV criteria for behavioral addiction. It consists of 14 items, which assess five dimensions of CIU, namely loss of control, mental and behavioral preoccupation, withdrawal symptoms, coping or mood modification, and inter- and intrapersonal conflict. Answers are given on a five point Likert-scale ranging from "never" to "very often". The CIUS had high internal consistency (Cronbach's $\alpha = .89$) as well as construct validity in the original validation study (Meerkerk et al., 2009). Cronbach's α was $>.89$ for all three questionnaires in the current study (table 2).

2.2.3. The Autism Quotient

The adolescent version of the Autism Quotient (AQ; Baron-Cohen et al., 2006) was used to assess autistic symptoms through parent-report. It consists of 50 questions and assesses five symptom areas, each one through 10 questions: social skill, attention switching, attention to detail, communication, and imagination. Answers are given on a four-point Likert scale ranging from "definitely agree" to "definitely disagree". Cronbach's α was .79 for the AQ as a whole, and above .70 for all five subscales, except for "attention to detail" ($\alpha = .66$). Internal consistency was good for the AQ as a whole in the current sample (see table 2). The subscales "social skill" and "communication" were used as measures for social symptoms of ASD in the current study, high scores reflecting poor social skill and poor communication abilities respectively. After analysis of the internal consistency of the subscales, items 1 and 15 of the social skill subscale were removed from the analysis, taking Cronbach's α from .33 to .81 and from .50 to .85 for mothers and fathers respectively.

Table 2

Description of the Scales Used in the Questionnaire

	RSPM	CIUS	AQ	AQ social	AQ comm.	RBQ-2
Item count	9 matrices	14 items	50 items	8 items*	10 items	20 items
Cronbach's α	.75/---	.90/.93/.95	--/.91/.91	--/.81/.85	--/.88/.86	--/.90/.91
c/m/f (reference)	(.80)	(.89)	(.79)	(.88**)	(.82)	(.86)

Note: RSPM = Raven's Standard Progressive Matrices test (short version form A); CIUS = Compulsive Internet Use Scale; AQ = Autism Quotient adolescent version; AQ social = social skill subscale; AQ comm. = communication subscale; RBQ-2 = Repetitive Behaviour Questionnaire 2; c = child; m = mother; f = father.

*items 1 and 15 were removed

**including all 10 items

2.2.4. The Repetitive Behaviour Questionnaire 2

The Repetitive Behaviour Questionnaire 2 (RBQ-2; Leekam et al., 2007) was used as a measure of the non-social symptoms of autism, namely restricted interests and repetitive behaviors (RIRB). The RBQ-2 consists of 20 items which can be summarized into two factors: repetitive sensory and motor behaviors (RSM), and insistence on sameness (IS). Cronbach's α showed high internal consistency for the RBQ-2 as a whole ($\alpha = .86$), as well as for the two factors (RSM $\alpha = .79$; IS $\alpha = .83$) (Lidstone et al., 2013). For the current study, the complete RBQ-2 score was used as a measure of RIRB. Internal consistency was good for the RBQ-2 as a whole (see table 2) and for the two subscales.

2.3. Statistical analysis

Because homogeneity of variances did not apply for the self-report CIUS, a Mann-Whitney-U-test was carried out to test for differences in CIU between the two groups. Data from the parent-report CIUS of both mothers and fathers met the criteria for parametric testing. In addition to the U-test, two t-tests for independent samples were carried out to test for differences in the CIU rating between the two groups for mothers and fathers respectively.

Table 3

Results of the Mean Differences in CIU Between Groups

<u>CIUS score</u>	<u>ASD group</u>	<u>control group</u>	<u>results ($\alpha = .05$)</u>
child	M = 41.10 (SD = 14.62)	M = 30.38 (SD = 7.87)	p = .106 ¹ ; (d = 0.55)
mother	M = 40.70 (SD = 11.77)	M = 33.21 (SD = 10.18)	p = .136 ² ; (d = 0.53)
father	M = 39.60 (SD = 12.99)	M = 33.50 (SD = 11.97)	p = .148 ² ; (d = 0.48)

Note: ASD = autism spectrum disorder; CIUS = Compulsive Internet Use Scale; M = mean; SD = standard deviation; d = Cohen's d; ¹Mann-Whitney-U-test. ²t-test.

The RBQ-2 and some subscales of the AQ did not show homogeneity of variances. Non-parametric analysis procedures were used in order to examine the relationship between CIU and RIRB as well as social symptoms. Spearman's correlations were computed between the CIUS, RBQ-2 and AQ subscale scores (see table 4).

All statistical computations were done using IBM SPSS Version 22.

3. Results

The U-test revealed no significant difference in self-reported CIU between children with ASD and children in the control group (p = .106; $\alpha = .05$). The t-tests found no difference in CIU between the two groups regarding both mothers' (p = .136; $\alpha = .05$) and fathers' reports (p = .148; $\alpha = .05$) (see table 3).

Spearman's correlations revealed a significant relationship between children's and fathers' CIUS scores (p = .049; $\alpha = .05$; d = 1.34) as well as between fathers' CIUS and AQ social skill scores (p = .028; $\alpha = .05$; d = 1.45). There were no significant correlations between children's CIUS scores and parents' RBQ-2 and AQ scores.

Further analysis revealed a significant correlation between the CIUS score and daily time spent using social networks for both the children's (p = .009; $\alpha = .05$; d = 1.79) as well as the fathers' CIUS scores (p = .008; $\alpha = .05$; d = 1.95) (table 4), although a U-test found no difference in daily time spent between the two groups (p = .662; $\alpha = .05$). As table 5 shows, the only significant difference between the two groups regarding frequency of Internet activities was that children of the control group

Table 4

Spearman's Correlations Between CIUS, RBQ-2 and AQ Social Skill and Communication Subscales in the ASD Group

	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
1. CIUS child	.409	.556*	-.203	.339	.263	.525	.194	.289	.667 ⁺
2. CIUS mother	-	.485	.420	-.009	.157	.133	.045	.143	.504
3. CIUS father	-	.297	.492	.477	.586*	.287	.132	.699 ⁺	
4. RBQ-2 mother		-	.518	.530	.043	-.168	-.045	-.191	
5. RBQ-2 father			-	.588	.343	.058	.355	.181	
6. AQ social mother				-	.355	.208	.394	.235	
7. AQ social father					-	.304	.657 ⁺	.253	
8. AQ comm. mother						-	.442	.058	
9. AQ comm. father							-	-.037	
10. Social networking								-	

Note: CIUS = Compulsive Internet Use Scale; RBQ-2 = Repetitive Behaviours Questionnaire 2; AQ social = social skill subscale of the Autism Quotient; AQ comm. = communication subscale of the AQ; social networking = daily time spent in online social networks (child report).

⁺p≤.01

*p≤.05.

described a more frequent use of email ($p = .037$; $\alpha = .05$; $d = 0.71$). Regarding daily duration of Internet activities, children in the ASD group reported spending more time surfing the Internet ($p = .037$; $\alpha = .05$; $d = 0.72$), using a search engine ($p = .018$; $\alpha = .05$; $d = 0.83$), and watching videos ($p = .034$; $\alpha = .05$; $d = 0.73$), compared to children in the control group (table 5). A U-test showed that RBQ-2 and AQ subscale scores were significantly higher in the ASD group (table 6).

Table 5

Differences in frequency and duration of Internet activities (U-test)

Internet activity	frequency	duration
surf the Internet	p = .846	p = .037*; d = 0.72
use a search engine	p = .361	p = .018*; d = 0.83
watch videos	p = .171	p = .034*; d = 0.73
create a website	p = 1	p = 1
download music	p = .665	p = .643
social networking	p = .152	p = .315
send and receive emails	p = .037*; d = 0.71	p = .622

Note: refers to self-report.

*significant correlation at $\alpha = .05$.

Table 6

Results of the Mean Differences in RBQ-2 and AQ Scores of Mothers Between Groups (U-test)

	<u>ASD group</u>	<u>control group</u>	<u>results ($\alpha = .05$)</u>
RBQ-2	M = 36.40 (SD = 7.33)	M = 24.22 (SD = 3.72)	p < .001; $d = 2.10$
<u>AQ subscale</u>			
social skill	M = 5.73 (SD = 1.16)	M = 1.25 (SD = 1.22)	p < .001; $d = 2.95$
attention to detail	M = 5.47 (SD = 1.81)	M = 3.46 (SD = 0.93)	p < .001; $d = 1.29$
attention switching	M = 7.67 (SD = 1.99)	M = 2.00 (SD = 1.53)	p < .001; $d = 2.69$
communication	M = 7.93 (SD = 1.75)	M = 1.83 (SD = 1.55)	p < .001; $d = 2.82$
imagination	M = 5.33 (SD = 2.02)	M = 2.92 (SD = 1.95)	p = .001; $d = 1.17$

Note: ASD = autism spectrum disorder; RBQ-2 = Repetitive Behaviour Questionnaire 2; AQ = Autism Quotient; M = mean; SD = standard deviation; d = Cohen's d.

4. Discussion

4.1 General discussion

The current study found no difference in CIU between the ASD and control group when comparing both self-report as well as parent-report CIUS scores. This is in line with Shane-Simpson et al. (2016), who found no difference in self-report CIUS scores between young adults with and without ASD. The results of MacMullin et al. (2016), who found that mothers of children with ASD reported the CIU of their children higher than those of neurotypical children, could not be replicated. The current study was the first to examine CIU through both self- and parent-report, thus enabling a comparison between the two. The results support the validity of the CIUS as a parent-report scale, at least for individuals with ASD. Although there was a trend indicating that CIU was slightly higher in the ASD group, the results do not support the hypothesis that ASD predisposes adolescents to show CIU.

When asked if their child's Internet use caused problems, either in the past or present, the answers of both mothers and fathers did not differ significantly between the two groups, as a U-test revealed. This is in line with the parents' similar CIUS scores between the groups and suggests that CIU does not specifically cause problems in individuals with ASD.

Prior research measured both RIRB and social symptoms in young adults with ASD through

the Social Responsiveness Scale-A (SRS-A; Constantino & Gruber, 2012) (Shane-Simpson et al., 2016). The current study measured RIRB through the RBQ-2 and social symptoms through the social skill and communication subscales of the AQ, all of these scales being parent-report scales. The age group of the sample ruled out the possibility of using self-report scales to measure RIRB and social symptoms, because there are no validated self-report scales yet available for this age group. Regarding the comparability of the current study and that of Shane-Simpson et al. (2016), it must therefore be noted that RIRB and social symptoms were measured in a different way. However, RBQ-2 and AQ scores differed significantly and with very high effect sizes between the ASD and the control group. This is a logical consequence of the diagnostic criteria for ASD, mainly RIRB and social deficits, both of which being the central variables measured by the two scales. These results support the validity of the scales as measures for RIRB and social symptoms.

The current study did not find a link between either CIU and RIRB or CIU and social symptoms in adolescents with ASD. There were no correlations regarding both mothers' and fathers' AQ social skill scores as well as AQ communication scores. A Wilcoxon-test for dependent samples revealed no difference in AQ social skill scores between mothers and fathers of the ASD group ($p = .142$; $\alpha = .05$). In the light of these results it is not feasible to make any assumptions concerning the reasons for CIU in individuals with ASD. These results support neither the focused interests hypothesis nor the social compensation hypothesis. Furthermore, children with ASD were found to visit social networking sites just as frequently as their neurotypical peers. This finding also questions the social compensation hypothesis.

4.2 Limitations and prospects for future research

The small sample size limits the statistical power of this study. There was an over-representation of male participants in the ASD group over the control group. This might have influenced the results, but regarding the already low statistical power of the study, further exclusion of

participants would probably not have yielded more valuable results, even if the two groups would have been more evenly matched.

The social skill subscale of the AQ showed low internal consistency in the sample, when all ten items were analyzed. While this was resolved through the elimination of two items, it leads to the question whether or not the eight-item scale measured the same social skill dimension as the original version. The informative value of the subscale was likely limited.

First and foremost, future research should aim for a larger sample size, while also examining CIU and autistic symptoms through both self- and parent-report. The current study found a trend for higher CIU in individuals with ASD, which may not have been significant because of the small sample size and consequently the low statistical power ($\beta = .74$ for comparing CIUS child-report scores, much lower for parent-reports). Future research should aim to examine concrete reasons for Internet use in individuals with ASD, as it seems like individuals with ASD tend to show higher CIU. This could lead to a deeper understanding of the mechanisms behind CIU in individuals with ASD. It is possible that the Internet presents an important tool for coping with the symptoms associated with ASD, while not causing any specific problems. Future research should therefore aim to validate this assumption with the goal to clearly identify possible online coping strategies for individuals with ASD. The current study examined individuals with the broad diagnosis of ASD. It will ultimately be necessary to differentiate between the different forms of ASD, such as Asperger's and atypical autism, in order to gain a more specific understanding of the mechanisms that cause CIU in these individuals.

4.3 Concluding remarks

In conclusion, it seems likely that autistic symptoms or characteristics contribute to CIU in individuals with ASD. In theory, it probably has to do with either RIRB, social symptoms, or both, as these are the main characteristics of ASD. In reality, however, the circumstances of CIU in individuals with ASD are not as easily identified. However, CIU does not seem to cause problems in these

individuals. It remains to be seen whether theories such as the social compensation hypothesis and the focused interests hypothesis will ultimately be supported by research. Nonetheless, current research provides hope for individuals with ASD in the form of new ways of coping, to be found in the most significant technological development of our time, the Internet.

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List of abbreviations

AQ	Autism Quotient
ASD	Autism spectrum disorder
CIU	Compulsive Internet use
CIUS	Compulsive Internet Use Scale
DSM-5	The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders 5
RBQ-2	Repetitive Behaviour Questionnaire 2
RIRB	Restricted interests and repetitive behavior
RSPM	Raven's Standard Progressive Matrices

Appendix

A. Abstract (German)

Autismus Spektrum Störungen (ASD) sind hauptsächlich durch zwei Symptomgruppen gekennzeichnet: eingeschränkte Interessen und wiederholende Verhaltensmuster (RIRB) und soziale Symptome wie Defizite in sozialen Interaktionen oder Schwierigkeiten bei der Interpretation non-verbaler Kommunikation. Aktuelle Forschung zeigt einen Zusammenhang zwischen ASD und zwanghaftem Internetgebrauch (CIU). Dies liefert Hinweise darauf, dass das Internet Personen mit ASD eine Möglichkeit bietet, die der Störung assoziierten Defizite zu kompensieren. Die aktuelle Studie untersuchte 15 Jugendliche mit ASD und deren Eltern sowie 24 Kontrollfamilien anhand von Fragebögen hinsichtlich CIU, RIRB und sozialen Symptomen. Jugendliche mit ASD schrieben sich selbst nicht mehr CIU zu, als Jugendliche in der Kontrollgruppe, jedoch war ein Trend für höheres CIU in der ASD Gruppe erkennbar. Auch Eltern von Jugendlichen mit ASD schrieben ihren Kindern nicht mehr CIU zu, verglichen mit Eltern der Kontrollgruppe. Es war kein eindeutiger Zusammenhang zwischen CIU und RIRB bzw. sozialen Symptomen erkennbar. Diese Ergebnisse lassen nicht darauf schließen, dass Jugendliche mit ASD das Internet benutzen, um Defizite im sozialen oder nicht-sozialen Bereich zu kompensieren. Zukünftige Forschung sollte eine größere Stichprobengröße zum Ziel haben und konkrete Gründe für Internetgebrauch bei Jugendlichen mit ASD untersuchen, da es plausibel scheint, dass ASD Jugendliche zu CIU prädisponiert. Dies könnte dabei helfen, Strategien zu identifizieren, das Internet als Coping-Instrument im Rahmen von ASD zu benutzen.

Schlagworte: Compulsive Internet Use; Autismus; RIRB; soziale Symptome

B1. Consent form (child)

Lieber Studienteilnehmer/ liebe Studienteilnehmerin,

wir sind Studenten von der Universität Wien. Für unsere Abschlussarbeit wollen wir mehr über Familien wie deine herausfinden. Auf lange Sicht soll das helfen, dass sie noch besser unterstützt werden.

Auf den folgenden Seiten wirst du verschiedene Fragen finden. Zu jeder Frage gibt es verschiedene Antwortmöglichkeiten zum Ankreuzen. Bitte kreuze jeweils eine der Antwortmöglichkeiten pro Frage an. Manchmal sollst du auch einfach nur eine Zahl eintragen. Bitte lass keine der Fragen aus, sondern beantworte alle.

Wir vermuten, dass du etwa 30 Minuten brauchen wirst. Wir danken dir sehr, dass du teilnimmst!

Wichtig ist, dass es keine "falschen" und "richtigen" Antworten gibt. Bitte antworte einfach so, wie es sich für dich richtig anfühlt.

Deine Antworten sind dabei völlig anonym. Sie werden nur für diese Studie verwendet. Außerdem ist die Teilnahme vollkommen freiwillig. Du kannst also jederzeit entscheiden, nicht an der Studie teilzunehmen.

Bitte suche für das Ausfüllen des Fragebogens einen Ort auf, wo du nicht gestört wirst. Versuche erst einmal, den Fragebogen alleine auszufüllen. Falls es dir schwer fällt, kannst du aber gerne deine Eltern um Unterstützung fragen.

Bitte gib den Bogen in den vorgesehenen Umschlag. Deine Eltern werden sich kümmern, dass er uns erreicht.

Falls du Fragen, Problemen oder Anmerkungen hast kannst du entweder deine Eltern fragen oder uns jederzeit gerne unter der Emailadresse studie2016@gmx.net oder der Telefonnummer 0176/43261719 erreichen (Anruf, SMS, Whatsapp, Telegramm).

Anbei findest du einen Zettel, den du behalten darfst. Über diesen Zettel kannst du im Sommer alle Ergebnisse dieser Studie erfahren.

Wir danken dir nochmal sehr herzlich, dass du mitmachst!

B2. Consent form (parents)

Sehr geehrte Studienteilnehmer/in,

im Rahmen der Abschlussarbeit unseres Studiums versuchen wir mehr über das Leben der Familien von Jugendlichen mit Autismus-Spektrum-Störungen herauszufinden. Forschung dieser Art soll langfristig helfen, das Leben von allen betroffenen Familien zu verbessern.

Neu an unserer Studie ist, dass wir gleichzeitig Ihr Kind und beide Eltern des Kindes befragen wollen. Deshalb ist uns wichtig, dass alle drei Personen den Fragebogen vollständig ausfüllen (ihr Kind mit Autismus-Spektrum-Störung, der Vater und die Mutter des Kindes).

Uns ist bewusst, dass dieser Fragebogen für Sie drei interessant sein, aber auch Mühe bedeuten kann. Er wird etwa 30 Minuten Ihrer Zeit in Anspruch nehmen. Wir danken Ihnen persönlich für die Zeit, die sie investieren!

Das Ausfüllen des Bogens ist dabei vollkommen anonym. Ihre Daten werden vertraulich und nur für diese Studie verwendet. Die Teilnahme erfolgt vollkommen freiwillig. Sie können daher jederzeit entscheiden, aus der Studie auszusteigen.

Bitte suchen Sie für das Ausfüllen des Fragebogens einen Ort auf, wo Sie nicht gestört werden. Falls Sie dies wünschen, bitte reden Sie mit dem Vater/ der Mutter des Jugendlichen erst über den Inhalt des Fragebogens, nachdem Sie ihn ausgefüllt haben, damit Sie sich nicht gegenseitig beeinflussen.

Sollte ihr Kind Hilfe benötigen beim Ausfüllen, können Sie es gerne unterstützen. Einzige Ausnahme sind die Muster, die ihr Kind zuordnen soll. Falls ihr Kind hier keine "Lösung" findet, bitte helfen Sie dem Kind nicht, die aus ihrer Sicht "richtige" Lösung zu finden.

Wichtig ist, dass es keine "falschen" und "richtigen" Antworten gibt - bitte antworten Sie einfach so, wie es Ihnen am Zutreffendsten erscheint.

Bitte geben Sie die ausgefüllten Bögen in den vorgefertigten Umschlag. Sie können diesen Umschlag entweder 1. an Ihre Kontaktperson zurückgeben.

Falls es Fragen, Probleme oder Anmerkungen Ihrerseits gibt können Sie uns gerne jederzeit unter der Emailadresse studie2016@gmx.net oder der Telefonnummer 0176/43261719 erreichen (Anruf, SMS, Whatsapp, Telegramm).

Anbei finden Sie zudem einen Zettel, den Sie behalten dürfen und aufbewahren sollen. Über diesen Zettel können Sie etwa im Sommer des kommenden Jahres alle Ergebnisse dieser Studie erfahren.

Wir danken Ihnen nochmals sehr herzlich!

C1. Demographic questionnaire (child)

Ein paar Angaben zu dir:

Dein Alter	Ich bin _____ Jahre alt.
Dein Geschlecht	<input type="radio"/> weiblich <input type="radio"/> männlich
Aktuelle Schulklasse	Ich gehe in die _____ te Klasse.
Staatsangehörigkeit	<input type="radio"/> deutsch <input type="radio"/> andere: _____

C2. Demographic questionnaire (parents)

Angaben zu Ihrer Person:

Ihr Alter	_____ Jahre
Ihr Geschlecht	<input type="radio"/> weiblich <input type="radio"/> männlich
Ihre Staatszugehörigkeit	<input type="radio"/> deutsch <input type="radio"/> andere: _____
Ihr höchster akademischer Abschluss	<input type="radio"/> ohne Abschluss <input type="radio"/> Hauptschule <input type="radio"/> Realschule <input type="radio"/> Abitur <input type="radio"/> Studium
Ihr monatliches Einkommen	<input type="radio"/> unter 1000 € <input type="radio"/> 1000-2000 € <input type="radio"/> 2000-3000 € <input type="radio"/> 4000-5000€ <input type="radio"/> mehr als 5000 €
Ihr Beziehungsstatus	<input type="radio"/> ledig <input type="radio"/> verheiratet <input type="radio"/> geschieden <input type="radio"/> verwitwet <input type="radio"/> _____

Befinden Sie sich mit dem Vater (der Mutter*) des Kindes noch in einer Partnerschaft?	<input type="radio"/> ja <input type="radio"/> nein
---	--

Angaben zu Ihrem Kind:

Alter des Kindes	_____ Jahre
Geschlecht des Kindes	<input type="radio"/> weiblich <input type="radio"/> männlich
Aktuelle SchulkLASSE	_____ te Klasse
Staatszugehörigkeit	<input type="radio"/> deutsch <input type="radio"/> andere: _____
Ihre Beziehung zum Kind	<input type="radio"/> Mutter (Vater*) <input type="radio"/> andere: _____
Sind Sie der biologische Vater des Kindes?*	<input type="radio"/> ja <input type="radio"/> nein

*specific to the fathers' questionnaire

D.1 Frequency and duration of Internet use (self-report)

Wie häufig hast du die folgenden Aktivitäten im letzten Monat ausgeführt?

	weniger als 1 Mal im Monat	1-2 Mal pro Monat	3-4 Mal pro Monat	1-2 Mal pro Woche	3-4 Mal pro Woche	5-6 Mal pro Woche	täglich
Im Internet surfen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Eine Suchmaschine be- nutzen (z.B. Google)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Videos schauen (z.B. Youtube)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Eine Webseite erstellen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Musik herunterladen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Soziale Netzwerke besu- chen (z.B. Facebook)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Emails senden und empfangen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Wie häufig hast du die folgenden Aktivitäten im letzten Monat ausgeführt?

	weniger als 1 Mal im Monat	1-2 Mal pro Monat	3-4 Mal pro Monat	1-2 Mal pro Woche	3-4 Mal pro Woche	5-6 Mal pro Woche	täglich
Im Internet surfen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Eine Suchmaschine be- nutzen (z.B. Google)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Videos schauen (z.B. Youtube)	<input type="radio"/>						
Eine Webseite erstellen	<input type="radio"/>						
Musik herunterladen	<input type="radio"/>						
Soziale Netzwerke besuchen (z.B. Facebook)	<input type="radio"/>						
Emails senden und empfangen	<input type="radio"/>						

D.2 Frequency, duration and problems of Internet use (parent-report)

Wie häufig hat Ihr Kind die folgenden Aktivitäten im letzten Monat ausgeführt?

	weniger als 1 Mal im Monat	1-2 Mal pro Monat	3-4 Mal pro Monat	1-2 Mal pro Woche	3-4 Mal pro Woche	5-6 Mal pro Woche	täglich
Im Internet surfen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Eine Suchmaschine be- nutzen (z.B. Google)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Videos schauen (z.B. Youtube)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Eine Webseite erstellen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Musik herunterladen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Soziale Netzwerke besu- chen (z.B. Facebook)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Emails senden und empfangen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Wie häufig hat Ihr Kind die folgenden Aktivitäten im letzten Monat ausgeführt?

	weniger als 1 Mal im Monat	1-2 Mal pro Monat	3-4 Mal pro Monat	1-2 Mal pro Woche	3-4 Mal pro Woche	5-6 Mal pro Woche	täglich
Im Internet surfen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Eine Suchmaschine be- nutzen (z.B. Google)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Videos schauen (z.B. Youtube)	<input type="radio"/>						
Eine Webseite erstellen	<input type="radio"/>						
Musik herunterladen	<input type="radio"/>						
Soziale Netzwerke besuchen (z.B. Facebook)	<input type="radio"/>						
Emails senden und empfangen	<input type="radio"/>						

<i>Verursacht das Internetverhalten Ihres Kindes zur Zeit Probleme irgendeiner Art?</i>	<input type="radio"/> Ja <input type="radio"/> Nein
---	---

Falls ja, wählen Sie bitte die zutreffende Antwort/ die zutreffenden Antworten aus:

<i>Beeinträchtigt das soziale Leben des Kindes</i>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Beeinträchtigt die Bildung des Kindes</i>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Beeinträchtigt das Familienleben</i>	<input type="radio"/>

<i>Hat das Internetverhalten Ihres Kindes früher Probleme irgendeiner Art verursacht, die zur Zeit jedoch nicht mehr bestehen?</i>	<input type="radio"/> Ja <input type="radio"/> Nein
--	---

Falls ja, wählen Sie bitte die zutreffende Antwort/ die zutreffenden Antworten aus:

<i>Beeinträchtigte das soziale Leben des Kindes</i>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Beeinträchtigte die Bildung des Kindes</i>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Beeinträchtigte das Familienleben</i>	<input type="radio"/>

E. Scales

E.1 CIUS (self-report)

	nie	selten	manch-mal	häufig	sehr häufig
Wie häufig findest du es schwierig, mit dem Internetgebrauch aufzuhören, wenn du online bist?	<input type="radio"/>				
Wie häufig setzt du deinen Internetgebrauch fort, obwohl du eigentlich aufhören wolltest?	<input type="radio"/>				
Wie häufig sagen dir andere Menschen (z.B. Partner, Kinder, Eltern, Freunde), dass du das Internet weniger nutzen solltest?	<input type="radio"/>				
Wie häufig bevorzugst du das Internet, statt Zeit mit anderen zu verbringen (z.B. Partner, Kinder, Eltern, Freunde)?	<input type="radio"/>				
Wie häufig schlafst du zu wenig wegen des Internets?	<input type="radio"/>				
Wie häufig denkst du an das Internet, auch wenn du gerade nicht online bist?	<input type="radio"/>				
Wie oft freust du dich bereits auf deine nächste Internetsitzung?	<input type="radio"/>				
Wie häufig denkst du darüber nach, dass du weniger Zeit im Internet verbringen solltest?	<input type="radio"/>				
Wie häufig hast du erfolglos versucht, weniger Zeit im Internet zu verbringen?	<input type="radio"/>				
Wie häufig erledigst du deine Aufgaben zuhause hastig, damit du früher ins Internet kannst?	<input type="radio"/>				
Wie häufig vernachlässigst du deine Alltagsverpflichtungen (Arbeit, Schule, Familienleben), weil du lieber ins Internet gehst?	<input type="radio"/>				
Wie häufig gehst du ins Internet, wenn du dich niedergeschlagen fühlst?	<input type="radio"/>				

	nie	selten	manch-mal	häufig	sehr häufig
Wie häufig nutzt du das Internet, um deinen Sorgen zu entkommen oder um dich von einer negativen Stimmung zu entlasten?	o	o	o	o	o
Wie häufig fühlst du dich unruhig, frustriert oder gereizt, wenn du das Internet nicht nutzen kannst?	o	o	o	o	o

E.2 CIUS (parent-report)

	nie	selten	manch-mal	häufig	sehr häufig
Wie häufig findet sie/er es schwierig, mit dem Internetgebrauch aufzuhören, wenn sie/er online ist?	<input type="radio"/>				
Wie häufig setzt sie/er den Internetgebrauch fort, obwohl sie/er eigentlich aufhören wollte?	<input type="radio"/>				
Wie häufig sagen ihr/ihm andere Menschen (z.B. Partner, Kinder, Eltern, Freunde), dass sie/er das Internet weniger nutzen sollte?	<input type="radio"/>				
Wie häufig bevorzugt sie/er das Internet, statt Zeit mit anderen zu verbringen (z.B. Partner, Kinder, Eltern, Freunde)?	<input type="radio"/>				
Wie häufig schläft sie/er zu wenig wegen des Internets?	<input type="radio"/>				
Wie häufig denkt sie/er an das Internet, auch wenn sie/er gerade nicht online ist?	<input type="radio"/>				
Wie oft freut sie/er sich bereits auf die nächste Internetsitzung?	<input type="radio"/>				
Wie häufig denkt sie/er darüber nach, dass sie/er weniger Zeit im Internet verbringen sollte?	<input type="radio"/>				
Wie häufig hat sie/er erfolglos versucht, weniger Zeit im Internet zu verbringen?	<input type="radio"/>				
Wie häufig erledigt sie/er ihre/seine Aufgaben zu-hause hastig, damit sie/er früher ins Internet kann?	<input type="radio"/>				
Wie häufig vernachlässigt sie/er ihre/seine Alltags-verpflichtungen (Arbeit, Schule, Familienleben), weil sie/er lieber ins Internet geht?	<input type="radio"/>				
Wie häufig geht sie/er ins Internet, wenn sie/er sich niedergeschlagen fühlt?	<input type="radio"/>				

	nie	selten	manch-mal	häufig	sehr häufig
Wie häufig nutzt sie/er das Internet, um ihren/seinen Sorgen zu entkommen oder um sich von einer negativen Stimmung zu entlasten?	<input type="radio"/>				
Wie häufig fühlt sie/er sich unruhig, frustriert oder gereizt, wenn sie/er das Internet nicht nutzen kann?	<input type="radio"/>				

E.3 AQ

	Trifft vollständig zu	Trifft etwas zu	Trifft kaum zu	Trifft überhaupt nicht zu
Sie/er macht lieber Dinge alleine als mit anderen.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sie/er zieht es vor, Dinge immer und immer wieder auf eine bestimmte Weise und wiederholt zu tun.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wenn sie/er versucht, sich etwas vorzustellen, macht sie/er sich meistens ein inneres Bild in ihrer Vorstellung.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sie/er versinkt oft in Dinge so stark, dass sie/er alles andere ganz aus den Augen verliert.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sie/er bemerkt öfters ganz leise Geräusche, ohne dass andere diese bemerken.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ihr/ihm fallen regelmäßig Autokennzeichen oder andere derartige Informationen auf.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sie/er findet es schwierig, Regeln für ein freundliches Miteinander zu verstehen.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wenn sie/er eine Geschichte liest/ vorgelesen bekommt, kann sie sich leicht vorstellen, wie die unterschiedlichen Personen der Geschichte aussehen könnten.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Sie/er ist fasziniert von Jahreszahlen und an welchen Datum etwas passiert ist.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In einer sozialen Situation kann sie/er leicht den Gesprächen mehrerer Personen gleichzeitig folgen.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Trifft vollständig zu	Trifft etwas zu	Trifft kaum zu	Trifft überhaupt nicht zu
Sie/er findet sich in sozialen Situationen leicht zurecht.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sie/er neigt dazu, Dinge und Details zu bemerken, die andere nicht bemerken.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sie/er würde lieber in die Bücherei als zu einer Geburtstagsparty gehen.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Es fällt ihr/ihm leicht, phantasievolle Geschichten zu erfinden.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sie/er fühlt sich mehr zu Dingen als zu Personen hingezogen.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sie/er neigt dazu, sehr starke Interessen zu haben und gerät völlig aus der Fassung, wenn sie diesen nicht nachgehen kann.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sie/er hat Spaß an „small talk“.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Sie/er lässt andere oft nicht zu Wort kommen, wenn sie/er redet.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sie/er ist fasziniert von Zahlen.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wenn sie/er eine Geschichte liest, findet es sie/er es schwierig, die Absichten und Gefühle der anderen Personen herauszu finden und sich in diese hineinzuversetzen.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sie /er hat keinen Spaß an Phantasiegeschichten.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sie/er findet es schwierig, neue Freunde zu gewinnen.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ihr/ihm fallen ständig Muster in Dingen auf.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sie/er geht lieber ins Kino als ins Museum.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Es stört sie/ihn nicht, wenn ihre/seine tägliche Routine unterbrochen wird.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Es fällt ihr/ihm schwer, ein Gespräch am Laufen zu halten.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Trifft vollständig zu	Trifft etwas zu	Trifft kaum zu	Trifft überhaupt nicht zu
Es fällt ihr/ihm leicht, „zwischen den Zeilen zu lesen“.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Sie/er konzentriert sich gewöhnlich mehr auf das ganze Bild als auch die kleinen Details.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sie/er kann sich Telefonnummern sehr gut merken.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Meistens bemerkt sie/er kleine Änderungen einer Situation oder in dem Erscheinungsbild einer Person <u>nicht</u> .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sie/er bemerkt es, wenn derjenige, der ihr zuhört, beginnt sich zu langweilen.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sie/er findet es einfach, mehr als eine Sache gleichzeitig zu machen.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wenn sie/er telefoniert, bemerkt sie/er oft nicht, wenn sie/er an der Reihe ist zu sprechen.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Es macht ihr/ihm Spaß, Dinge spontan zu tun.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sie/er hat Schwierigkeiten, die Pointe eines Witzes zu verstehen.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sie/er findet es leicht einzuschätzen, was jemand fühlt oder denkt, wenn sie demjenigen ins Gesicht schaut.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Es fällt ihr/ihm leicht, nach einer Unterbrechung wieder zu der vorhergehenden Tätigkeit zurückzukehren.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Sie/er kann gut mit jemandem einfach so plaudern.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Leute sagen ihr/ihm oft, dass sie immer wieder aus das selbe Thema zurückkommt.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In der Vorschule hat es ihr/im Spaß gemacht, „so tun als ob“-Spiele zu spielen mit anderen Kindern.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Trifft vollständig zu	Trifft etwas zu	Trifft kaum zu	Trifft überhaupt nicht zu
Sie/er sammelt gerne Informationen über Gruppen oder Kategorie von Dingen (z. B. Automarken, Vögel, Züge, Pflanzen etc.).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sie/er findet es schwierig, sich vorzustellen, wie es wäre, jemand anders zu sein.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sie plant gerne und genau Unternehmungen im Voraus.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sie/er hat Spaß an sozialen Situationen und Ereignissen.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sie/er hat Schwierigkeiten, die Absichten anderer Menschen abzuschätzen.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Neue Situationen machen ihr/ihm Angst.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Ihr/ihm macht es Spaß, neue Leute kennen zu lernen.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sie/er ist sehr diplomatisch.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sie/er kann sich die Geburtsdaten verschiedener Menschen einfach merken.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ihr/ihm fällt es leicht mit anderen Kindern zu spielen, bei dem man „so tun muss als ob“.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

E.4 RBQ-2

Wie häufig...	nie oder fast nie	Ein Mal oder mehr täglich	15 Mal oder mehr täglich (oder mind. 1 Mal pro Stunde)	30 Mal oder mehr täglich (oder 2 Mal pro Stunde)
...arrangiert Ihr Kind Spielsachen oder andere Gegenstände in Reihen oder Mustern?	o	o	o	o
...spielt Ihr Kind wiederholt mit Spielsachen oder anderen Gegenständen herum? (z.B. kreiseln lassen, drehen, schlagen, klopfen, verdrehen, schnippen)	o	o	o	o
...dreht sich Ihr Kind wiederholt im Kreis herum?	o	o	o	o
Wie häufig...	nie oder fast nie	Ein Mal oder mehr täglich	15 Mal oder mehr täglich (oder mind. 1 Mal pro Stunde)	30 Mal oder mehr täglich (oder 2 Mal pro Stunde)
...schaukelt Ihr Kind nach hinten und vorne, oder von Seite zu Seite, während es sitzt oder steht?	o	o	o	o
...geht Ihr Kind auf und ab oder macht wiederholende Bewegungen? (z.B. hin und zurück durch den Raum laufen, den selben Weg im Garten laufen)	o	o	o	o

<i>...zeigt Ihr Kind wiederholende Bewegungen der Hände oder Finger? (z.B. schlagen, winken, schnippsen)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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	nie oder fast nie	schwach oder gelegentlich	deutlich oder auffällig (häufig?)
<i>Ist Ihr Kind fasziniert von bestimmten Dingen? (z.B. Züge, Straßenschilder)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Schaut Ihr Kind sich Dinge gerne aus bestimmten oder ungewöhnlichen Winkeln an?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Hat Ihr Kind besonderes Interesse am Geruch von Menschen oder Dingen?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Hat Ihr Kind besonderes Interesse am Fühlen von verschiedenen Oberflächen?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Hat Ihr Kind besondere Dinge, die es gerne mit sich herumträgt? (z.B. Teddy, Decke, Buch, Stock)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<i>Sammelt oder hortet Ihr Kind Gegenstände irgendeiner Art?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	nie oder fast nie	schwach oder gelegentlich (wirkt sich nicht auf andere aus)	deutlich oder häufig (wirkt sich regelmäßig auf andere aus)
Besteht Ihr Kind darauf, dass Dinge zu Hause gleich bleiben? (z.B. dass Möbel an der selben Stelle bleiben, Dinge an bestimmten Orten liegen, oder in bestimmten Mustern angeordnet sind)	O	O	O
Bringen kleine Änderungen an Dingen Ihr Kind aus der Fassung? (z.B. Flecken auf der Kleidung, kleine Kratzer auf Spielsachen)	O	O	O
Besteht Ihr Kind darauf, dass Teile der täglichen Routine gleich bleiben?	O	O	O
Besteht Ihr Kind darauf, Dinge auf eine bestimmte Art und Weise zu tun, oder Dinge zu wiederholen, bis sie „genau richtig“ sind?	O	O	O

	nie oder fast nie	schwach oder gelegentlich (falls nötig akzeptiert es Alternativen)	deutlich oder auffällig (häufig?) (akzeptiert keine Alternativen)
Hört Ihr Kind dieselbe Musik, spielt dasselbe Spiel, schaut dasselbe Video oder liest dasselbe Buch immer wieder?	O	O	O
Besteht Ihr Kind darauf, immer dieselbe Kleidung zu tragen oder weigert es sich, neue Kleidung zu tragen?	O	O	O

<i>Besteht Ihr Kind darauf, immer dasselbe oder eine sehr kleine Auswahl an Nahrungsmitteln zu jeder Mahlzeit zu essen?</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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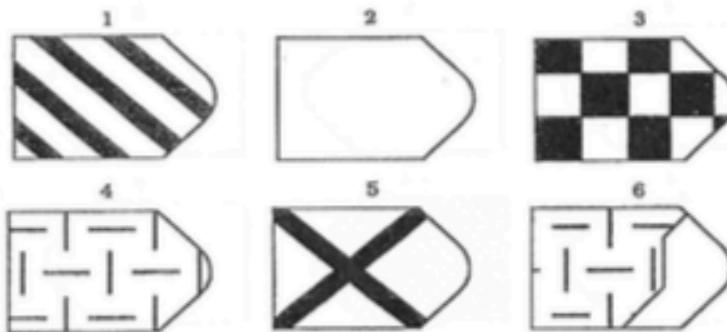
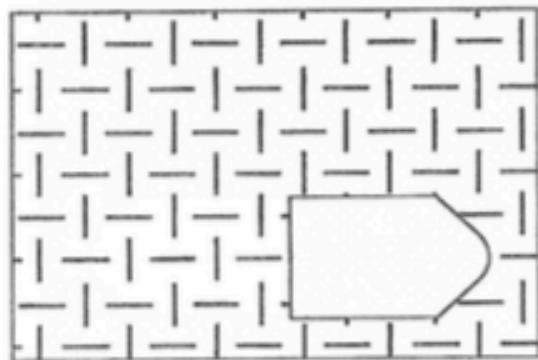
Welche Art von Aktivität wird Ihr Kind wählen, wenn es sich selbst beschäftigen muss?

Eine Reihe verschiedener Aktivitäten, die es sich selbst aussucht.	<input type="radio"/>
Einige verschiedene Aktivitäten, jedoch in der Regel die gleichen.	<input type="radio"/>
Fast immer eine von wenigen beschränkten, eintönigen Aktivitäten.	<input type="radio"/>

E.5 RSPM

Zu Beginn sollst du ein paar Aufgaben lösen.

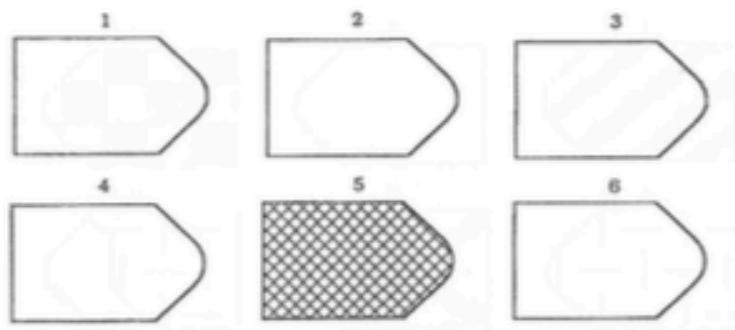
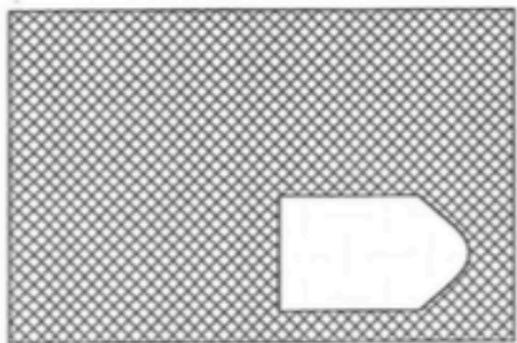
Welches Blättchen müsste man einsetzen, um das Muster richtig zu ergänzen?



Die richtige Antwort hier ist Blättchen 4.

Am Anfang sind die Muster einfacher, nach und nach werden sie schwieriger.

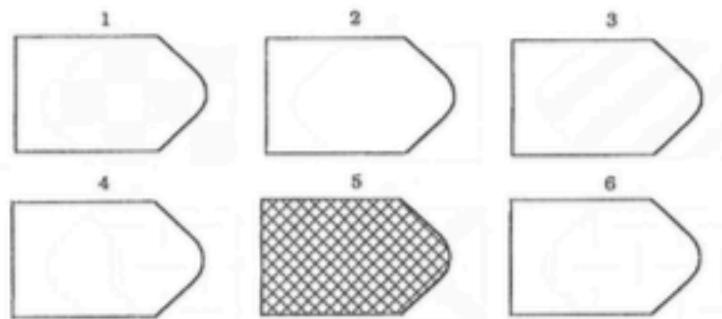
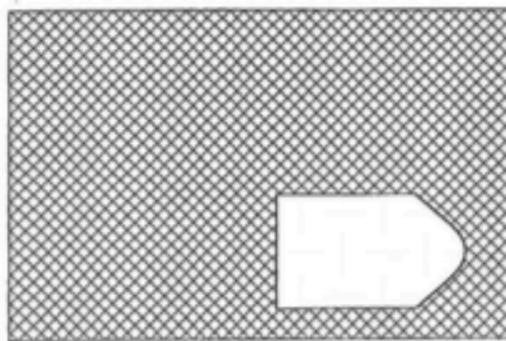
Welches der 6 Muster passt hier am besten hinein? Kreuze die richtige Zahl an.



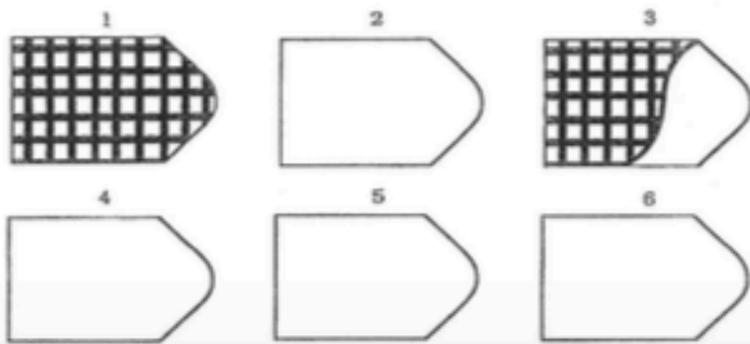
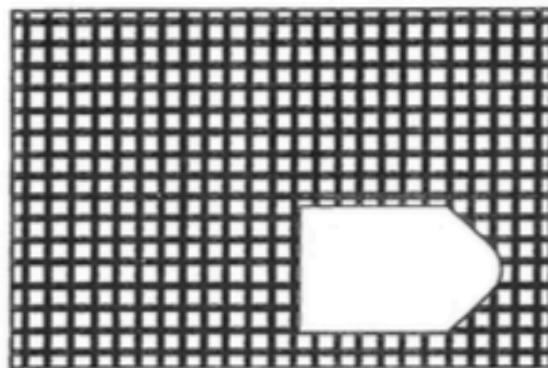
Hier wäre es richtig 5 anzukreuzen.

(Falls du das Rätsel noch nicht verstanden hast, kannst du deine Eltern fragen. Es ist aber wichtig, dass du die Rätsel ab dann ohne die Hilfe deiner Eltern machst.)

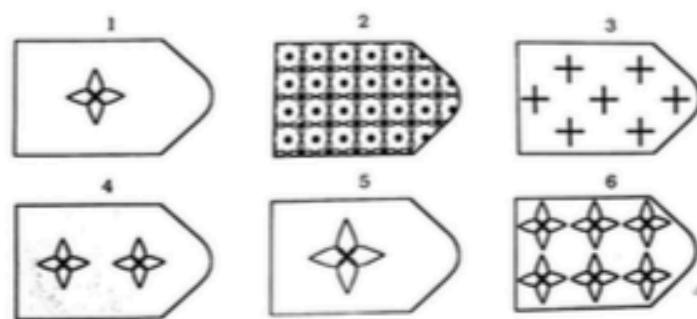
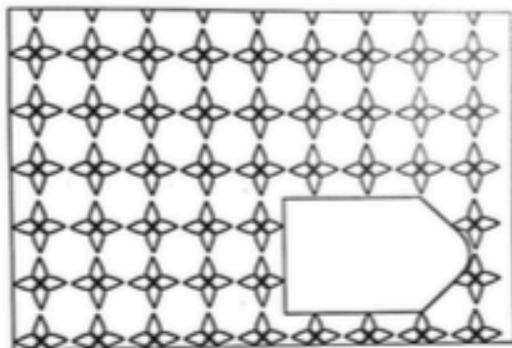
Nun bist du dran! Kreuze bei jeder Aufgabe das Blättchen an, das am besten passt.



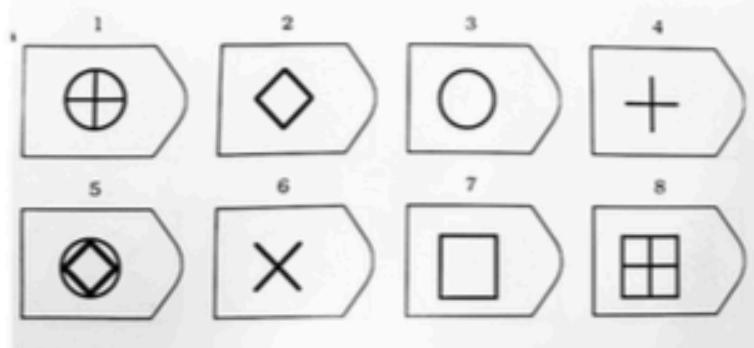
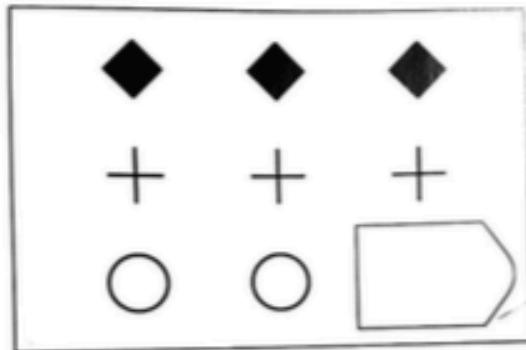
Aufgabe 2:



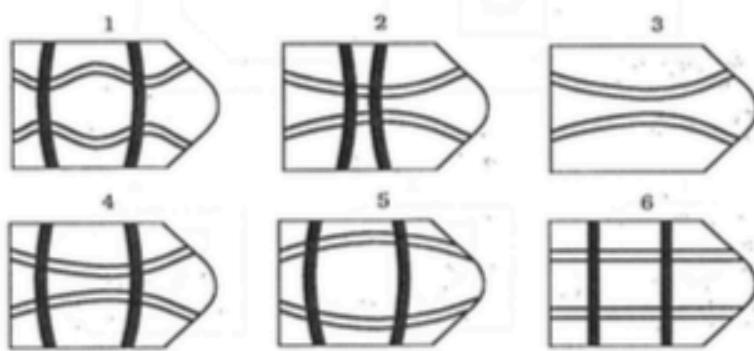
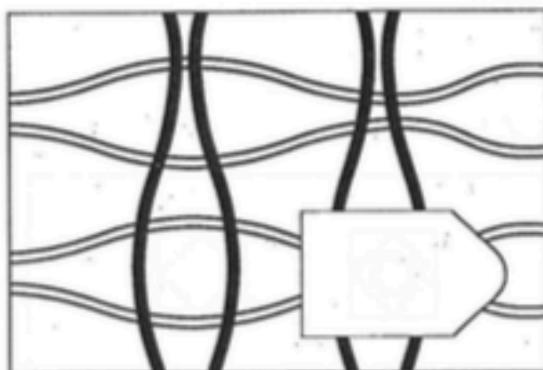
Aufgabe 3:



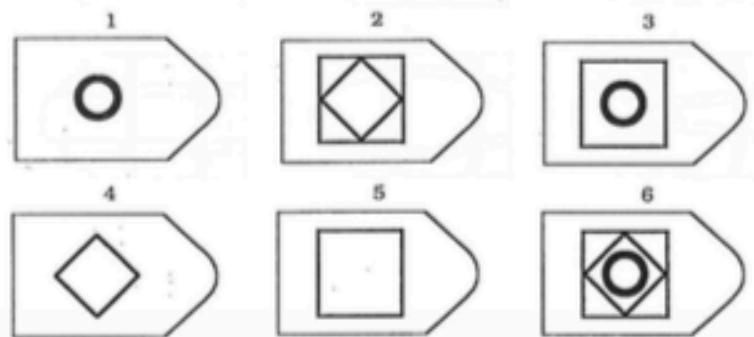
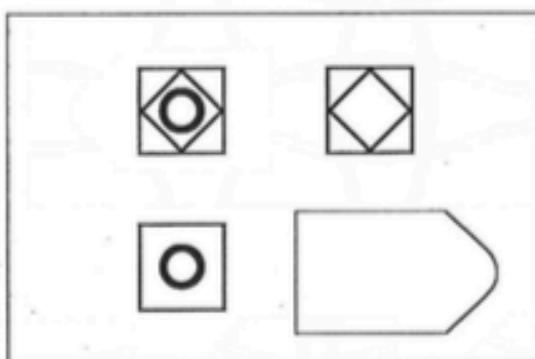
Aufgabe 4:



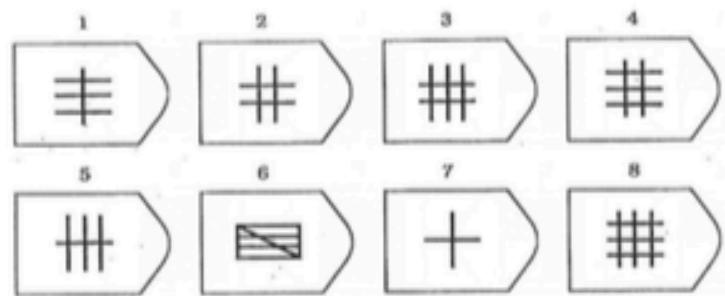
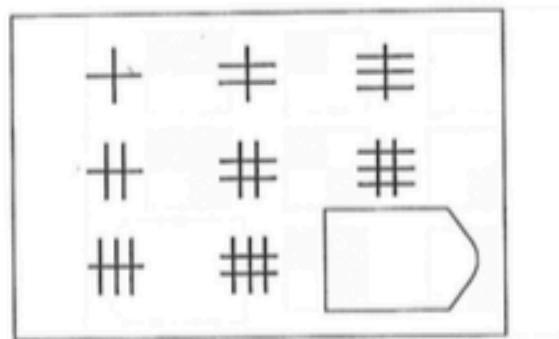
Aufgabe 5:



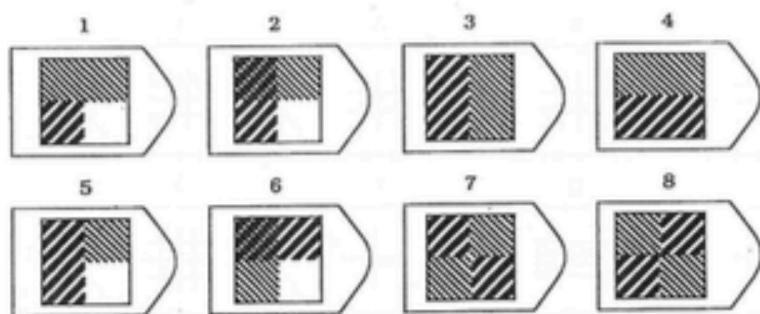
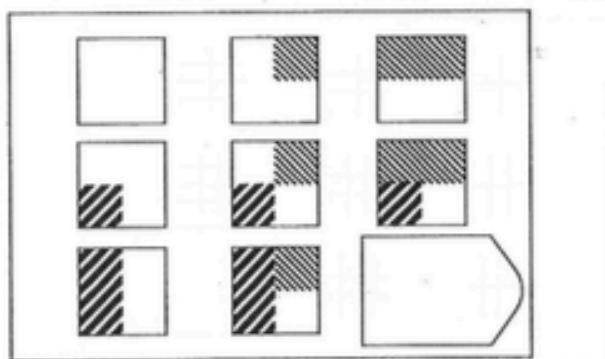
Aufgabe 6:



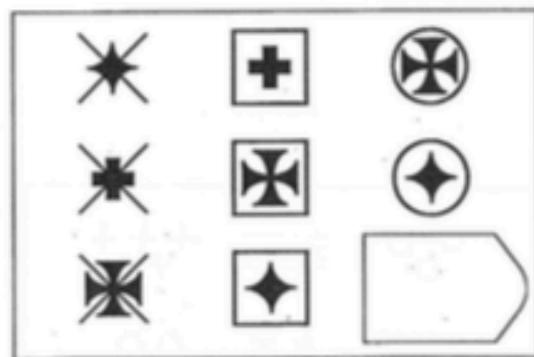
Aufgabe 7:



Aufgabe 8:

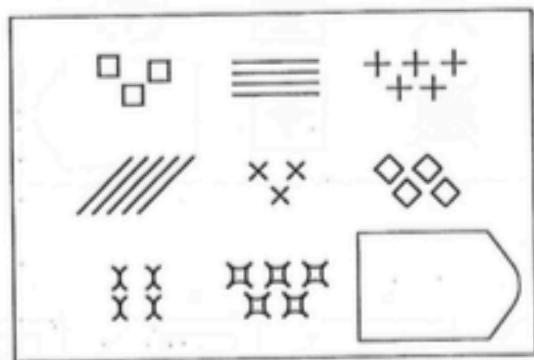


Aufgabe 9:



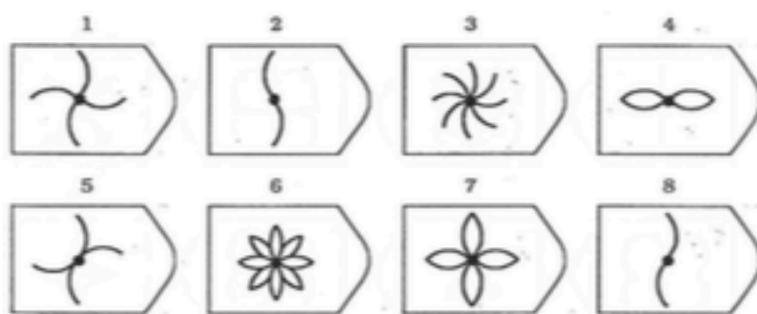
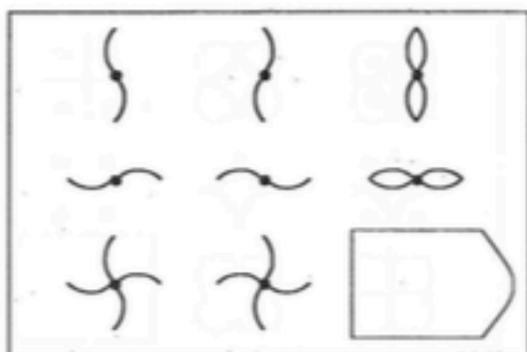
- 1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8
-
- Option 1: Black cross inside a square.
Option 2: Four-pointed star inside a circle.
Option 3: Four-pointed star inside a square.
Option 4: Plus sign inside a square.
Option 5: Plus sign inside a circle.
Option 6: Black cross inside a circle.
Option 7: Circle with a diagonal line.
Option 8: Black cross inside a circle.

Aufgabe 10:

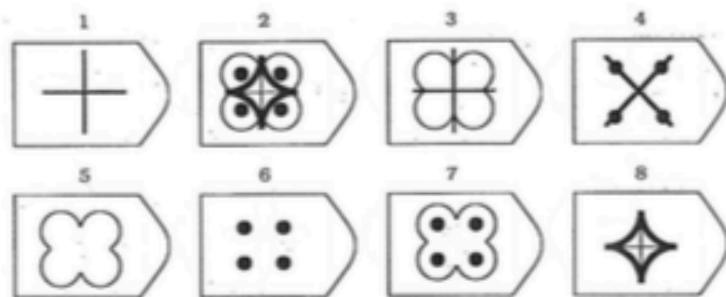
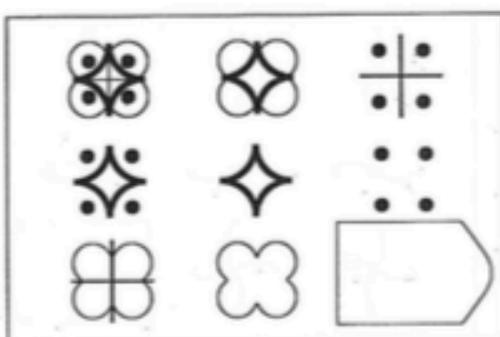


- 1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8
-
- Option 1: Three 'X' marks.
Option 2: Four double 'X' marks.
Option 3: A curved line.
Option 4: Three diamonds.
Option 5: Four horizontal lines.
Option 6: Three horizontal lines.
Option 7: Five vertical lines.
Option 8: Three horizontal lines.

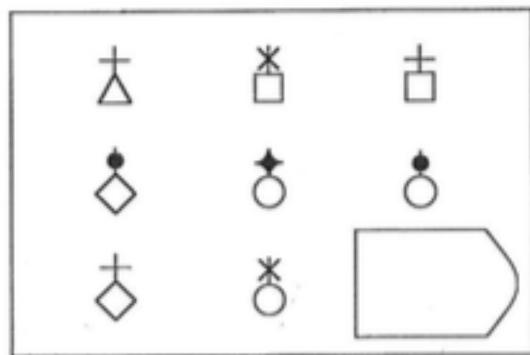
Aufgabe 11:



Aufgabe 12:



Aufgabe 13:



- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | | | |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| | | | |