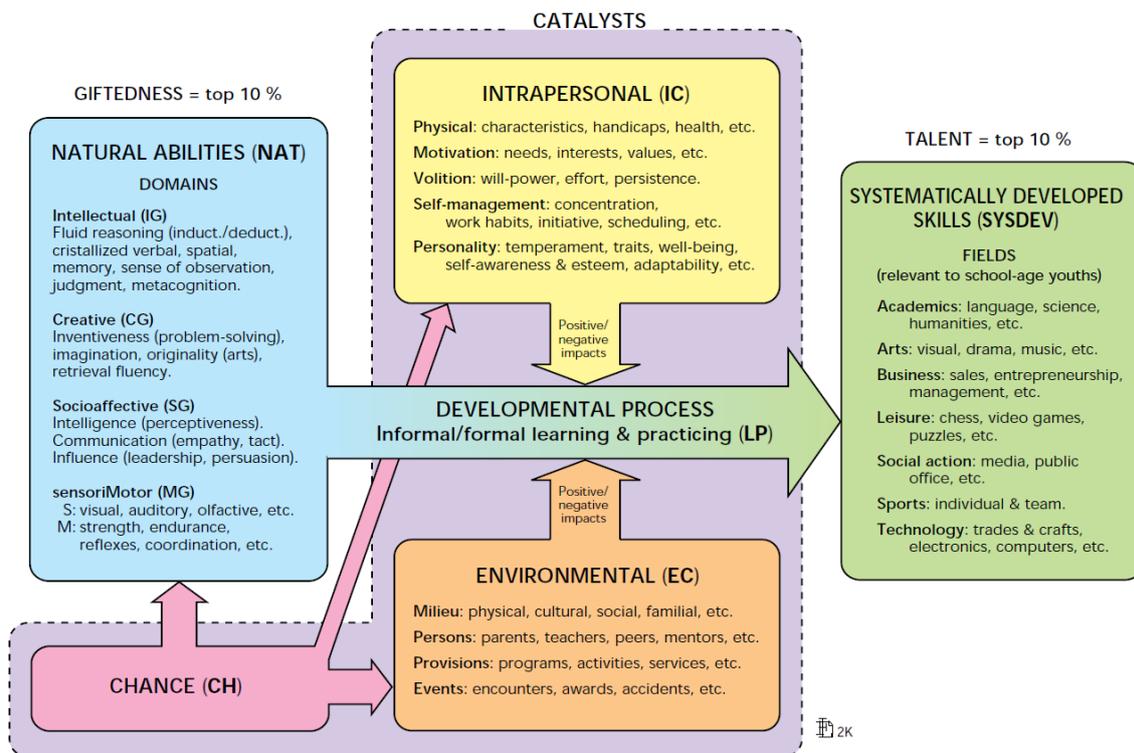


## Understanding Giftedness and Talent

The definition and the connection between giftedness and talent are described clearly through François Gagné's Differentiated Model of Giftedness and Talent. This model is popularly used in Australia.

This document aims to unpack Gagne's model to enhance understanding of Giftedness and Talent.

### Gagne's Differentiated Model of Giftedness and Talent



Gagne differentiates clearly between **gifts** which are natural abilities and **talents** which are systematically developed from gifts. Gagne thinks that all talents are developed from natural abilities through learning and influenced by inner and outer catalysts.

Gagne lists four domains of natural ability or gifts which according to him are mostly genetically determined:

- Intellectual abilities. These include reasoning, memory, sense of observation, judgment and meta cognition
- Creative abilities. These include inventiveness, imagination, originality and fluency
- Socio affective abilities. These include perceptiveness, communication and influence

- Sensory motor abilities. These include the senses, strength, endurance, coordination etc.

Looking at the field of talent on the right hand side Gagne thinks the following fields are relevant for school aged learners:

- Academics
- Arts
- Business
- Leisure
- Social affection
- Sports
- Technology

Developmental process refers to the learning process whether they are informal such as a child learning its first language or formal like learning at school. Gagne thinks without the learning process and practice, gifts don't turn into talents.

Catalysts are factors that influence the developmental process positively or negatively.

There are two types of catalysts: Interpersonal and environmental. Interpersonal catalysts are

- Physical characteristics such as health
- Motivation and volition
- Self-management and
- Personality

Gagne names four groups of environmental influences on the development of talents.

- Culture and family
- Persons
- Provisions (school programs)
- Events

He identifies one factor that influences the catalysts and the gifts which is **Chance**. Chance determines through the recombination of parental genes, which type of giftedness a child possess and to what extent.

Gagne proposes that about 10% of students will reach the threshold of ability which is giftedness or achievement which is talent to be considered in this group. This is a broad definition and it follows that there are levels of giftedness.

### Reference

Gagne's Differentiated model of Giftedness and Talent (online). Retrieved from the World Wide Web on 29 Sept 2015 from [http://www.gigers.com/matthias/gifted/gagne\\_dmgt.html](http://www.gigers.com/matthias/gifted/gagne_dmgt.html)