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MANUAL

FOR

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Sentence Completion Test (SCT)

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Introduction

In the Sentence Completion Test the subject is asked to complete a sentence of which the first word or words are given. The tester encourages the subject to write the responses as quick as possible, though the quickness of response is encouraged, there is no attempt to measure speed of reaction. The response tends to provide information that the subject is willing to give, not that which he cannot help giving. Analysis is usually more similar to that used with the Thematic Apperception Test to Word Association Method. As in other projective devices, it is assumed that the subject reflects his own wishes, desires, fears and attitudes in the sentences he composes, but this method differs in the subject's production does not depend so much upon his interpretation of the standard stimulus as upon what he is able and willing to write under the test conditions.

In contrast to the usual objective tests, the sentence completion method has the distinct advantage of providing freedom of response instead of forcing the subject to answer 'Yes' or 'No' or '?'. He can respond to the stimulus as he wants. In addition, the nature of the test is somewhat designed and it is less clear to the subject, what constitute 'good' or 'bad' answer. He cannot manipulate the answers.

Sentence beginnings vary. It may start from third person such as 'He', 'She' or the use of common names such as Mary, James, personal pronoun is also frequently used in relation to verbs, e. g. I like, I wish, I think; neutral stimuli in which no pronouns are used are also presented. The sentence beginnings may be highly structured such as "The most fun we had last summer....." or highly unstructured such as, in the sentence beginning "Sometimes....."

In a recent study Sacks constructed two forms of the Sentence Completion Test in order to compare the value of items stated in the first person with items stated in the third person. Six of seven psychologists participating in the rating found the form of the test employing the first person to be superior. Generally sentences starting from first person or with the situation in which the subject feels his own, involvement, he reveals his inner feelings.

In this test most of the sentences are starting with first person or situation is kept in such a way that his personal involvement is necessary. He expresses his own feeling, liking, attitude etc.

Objectives

The objective of this test is to measure certain personality traits. An attempt has been made to measure three personality characteristics through the responses of the subjects. These traits are (1) Sociability, (2) Self Confidence and (3) Ambitious. All the sentences are so framed that they lead to reveal the positive or negative aspect related to one of the traits.

Administration

There is no special training required for a person administering the test. It is easily administered in a group of 30 students like other objective tests.

Instruction

In the Sentence Completion Test the instructions are simple. The subjects are to be told that it is a simple sentence completion test. In this test incomplete sentence are given, and they have to complete the incomplete sentences as quickly

as possible with the first thought that comes in their mind. They are expected to write the sentences that carry full meaning. There is no time limit in this test, but the subjects should be asked to complete the test as quickly as they can. No sentence is to be left incomplete.

Scoring

Every sentence can be placed into the following three categories :

1. Positive : That shows the positive aspect of one of the traits. — Award 2 Marks
2. Negative : That shows negative aspect of one of the traits. — Awards 1 Marks
3. Neutral : That shows neither positive nor negative aspect traits. — Award 0 Marks

All the marks should be added traitwise as well as of total test.

Explanation

All the sentences are kept in such a way that either they reveal the Positive or negative aspect of any one of the given traits. There is possibility of such responses which may not reveal either positive or negative aspect of the trait. Such responses may be classified as neutral responses :

भीड़ भाड़ मुझे—अच्छी लगती है (सकारात्मक)

— अच्छी नहीं लगती है । (नकारात्मक)

मेरे परिवार में सब मुझसे—प्रसन्न रहते हैं । (सकारात्मक)

—नाराज रहते हैं । (नकारात्मक)

Sample

This test has been standardized on a sample of 1150 students drawn from schools and colleges of M. P., 450 girls and 700 boys are included in the sample by stratified random sampling method. The age range is 14 to 19 years.

(6)

Reliability

Method	Sociability	Self Confidence	Ambitious	Total
Split Half	.72	.69	.73	.62
Test-Retest	.76	.71	.68	.67

Validity

The validation criterion used for this test is the correlation of the test rating scores of only 10 per cent of the sample by the teachers.

The coefficient of correlations are as below :

1. Sociability	-.66
2. Self Confidence	-.73
3. Ambitious	-.69

Statistical Values

Traits	Mean	S. D.
Sociability	23.13	4.13
Self-confidence	29.65	5.28
Ambitious	22.72	4.61
Total	79.20	13.35

(7)

Number of Statements Indicating the Trait

Sociability	Selfconfidence	Ambitious
1	2	5
3	8	6
4	9	13
7	16	14
10	17	15
11	18	19
12	21	20
23	22	24
28	25	26
29	27	30
31	38	33
32	39	35
34	40	37
36	41	43
48	42	47
	44	
	45	
	46	
	49	
	50	
=15	=20	=15

Interpretation of Raw Scores

Classification	Sociability	Self-Confidence	Ambitious	Total
Very High	28 and above	36 and above	28 and above	90 and above
High	25-27	32-35	25-27	82-89
Average	22-24	28-31	22-24	74-81
Low	19-21	24-27	19-21	66-73
Very Low	Below and 18	Below and 23	Below and 18	Below and 65