

Instructions for Scoring the Assessment Questionnaire (AQ)

The Assessment Questionnaire (AQ) is a 48-item measure of a client's satisfaction with an assessment experience. It was developed through a combination of rational, factor-analytic, and item-analytic techniques. There are four first-order factors described by the items:

Factor 1-New Self-Awareness/Understanding (13 items)

Items 1(-), 5, 9, 13, 17, 21, 25, 29, 33, 37, 41, 45, 48

High scorers felt that they have learned things about themselves from the assessment and that this information will be useful to them in the future.

Low scorers do not feel that they have gained new awareness from the assessment.

Factor 2-Positive Accurate Mirroring (12 items)

Items 2, 6, 10, 14, 18, 22, 26, 30, 34, 38, 42, 46

High scorers feel that their self views were verified during the assessment and report that they feel proud, special, secure, and important as a result of the assessment.

Low scorers do not feel confirmed by the assessment nor more secure as a result of it.

Factor 3-Positive Relationship with the Examiner (12 items)

Items 3, 7, 11, 15, 19, 23, 27, 31, 35, 39, 43, 47

High scorers report strong mutually positive feelings between themselves and the examiner.

Low scorers report few positive or even negative feelings about the examiner.

Factor 4-Negative Feelings about the Assessment (11 items)

Items 4, 8, 12, 16, 20, 24, 28, 32, 36, 40, 44

High scorers report feeling hurt, judged, and exposed by the assessment.

Low scorers report little or no discomfort with the assessment procedures and few or negative feelings about the assessment.

SCORING

To compute scores for each of these scales, reverse item #1 (so that 5=1, 4=2), then add the items in a scale together and divide by the number of items in the scale. This will yield item scale scores between 1 and 5.

In addition to the four first-order factors, there is a higher-order factor (derived from the correlations of the four-item scale scores). This General Satisfaction scale is computed as follows:

$$GS = (.17) \text{ Factor } 1z + (.39) \text{ Factor } 2z + (.37) \text{ Factor } 3z - (.17) \text{ Factor } 4z$$

where

$$\text{Factor } 1z = \frac{\text{Client's score on Factor 1} - \bar{X} \text{ Factor 1}}{\text{SD on Factor 1}}$$

$$\text{Factor } 2z = \frac{\text{Client's score on Factor 2} - \bar{X} \text{ Factor 2}}{\text{SD on Factor 2}}$$

etc.

At this point, until larger normative samples are collected, we recommend that local means and standard deviations be used to compute local z-scores.

Alpha coefficients for the four factors of the AQ, were computed on a sample of 128 undergraduate psychology students after a brief assessment. They were:

Factor 1	.89
Factor 2	.87
Factor 3	.87
Factor 4	.85

When studying assessment *feedback* sessions in particular, the wording on the AQ may be changed, replacing “assessment” with “feedback session.” For example:

Item 17 “The assessment made me think about myself.”
“The feedback session made me think about myself.”

January 1998

Addendum to Scoring Instructions for the Assessment Questionnaire

Further development research with the AQ has shown that a total item score correlates extremely highly with the General Satisfaction factor score. Because of the ease of computing the total score, some users may prefer this to the factor score.

To compute the Total Satisfaction Score, reverse item #1 (so that 5=1, 4=2, etc.) and reverse all the items on Subscale 4 (Negative Feelings). Sum the item ratings and divide by 48 for a score between 1 and 5, where 1=very dissatisfied and 5=very satisfied. .

Also, we have decided to distribute norms from our Center for use in comparison with local norms from other clinics. Obviously, in the absence of local norms, you may also use our norms to z-score or T-score your data. If you do this, it is important to remember that your z- or T-scores reference your client's satisfaction against those of a large sample of clients (N= 300) assessed by our staff at the Center for Therapeutic Assessment. Incidentally, our clients tend to be quite satisfied with their assessments, so you may find that it is rare to achieve T-scores much above 55.

AQ Norms from the Center for Therapeutic Assessment

<u>Subscale</u>	<u>Mean</u>	<u>Standard Deviation</u>
New self-awareness	3.8	1.1
Positive-mirroring	3.5	1.5
Positive Relationship	3.9	.9
Negative Feelings	1.7	1.8
Total Satisfaction	3.6	1.1

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An Excel program is now available for scoring the AQ. It may be obtained from Steve Finn at <sefinn@mail.utexas.edu>.

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Translations of the AQ into Japanese, Swedish, and Italian are now available from Steve Finn.