

Critical Evaluation of a Standardized Test

Select a standardized test at the grade (age) level of your choice and obtain a copy of the test, the manual, and other accessory material from the Learning Resources Library (Poe 400). Once you have selected a test notify Dr. Nietfeld of your choice **before** writing your review. Study the test materials and then write your evaluation using the following test evaluation outline. Be brief and include only the most essential information. The entire review should be no longer than 7 pages (space and a half) with one-inch margins. Some of the types of tests you might consider:

1. Achievement test battery.
2. Achievement test in a specific content area.
3. Reading test (readiness, diagnostic, or survey type).
4. Scholastic aptitude test or multiaptitude test.
5. Test in a special area (art, music, creativity).

Evaluation Outline:

TEST EVALUATION FORM

1. General Information (2pts.)

Test title
Author(s)
Publisher
Copyright date(s)
For grades (ages)
Test Forms

2. Purposes of the Test (3pts.)

- Provide clear & specific description of purpose

3. Dimensions/Constructs the Test is Purported to Measure (5pts.)

- Describe all important dimensions (e.g., NEO = Neuroticism, Extraversion, Openness, Conscientiousness, & Agreeableness)

4. Description of Items (10pts.)

- How are the items arranged? Format? How do you solve them or answer them?

5. Test Norms (10pts.)

- Describe the norm group(s) including dates, demographics, and quality of norming process.

6. Interpretation of Scores (5pts.)

- How do you compute scores? How do you interpret scores?

7. Reliability (10pts.)

- What indexes of reliability are relevant? What evidence is/is not reported? How convincing is the argument for sound reliability?

8. Validity (10pts.)

- What indexes of validity are relevant? What evidence is/is not reported? How convincing is the argument for sound validity?

9. Practical Features (5pts.)

Administration (group, individual, or self-administered? Timed? Directions?)

Scoring (Hand-scored? Machine-scored?)

Adequacy of Test Manuals (Is everything explained or covered that should be?)

10. Desirable Features (5pts.)

- Describe test's strengths, provide specific examples

11. Undesirable Features (5pts.)

- Describe test's weaknesses, provide specific examples

12. Overall Evaluation (5pts.)

- Overall conclusions, general thoughts, Would you use this test?