

Psychological Assessment of the President in our Constitutional Representative Democracy

This test is based 100% on a test which came into use in 1996. The first two paragraphs explain the why and how of the test.

Our government couldn't or wouldn't force former president Trump to submit to a mental examination, and it's unlikely anyone else can or will force this upon him. Nearly all psychological professionals honor their "Goldwater Rule" and won't comment publicly on public figures without conducting a personal examination of the person in question. This decision is admirable but forces them to default on sharing their observations and concerns regarding the former president's mental state. It's now up to us, the citizens of America.

Maintain objectivity – complete entire first page before moving on to page two. Rate anyone, equally applicable to all.

Rate each criterion 1-12 as follows: 0 = Item does not apply; 1 = Item applies somewhat; 2 = Item definitely applies.

Don't read ahead. Keep a running total of the points, maximum of 24 points. Discussion of the ratings is on page two.

- 1. Glib and Superficial:** Smooth talking, never shy, rarely stuck for something to say and will say anything. *Can Include:* Shallow presentation, difficult to believe. Displays of emotions do not appear genuine. Portrays self in a good light. Tells unlikely stories; has convincing explanations for behavior. Alters statements when challenged. Uses technical language and jargon, often inappropriately. Engaging interpersonally and in conversation.
- 2. Grandiose Sense of Self-Worth:** Highly opinionated, enormously egocentric, arrogant & self-superior; boasts & brags about everything. *Can Include:* Abilities and self-worth are inflated. Self-assured and opinionated. Exaggerates status and reputation. Considers adverse circumstances as result of bad luck. Sees self as victim of the system. Little concern for the future.
- 3. Deceitful and manipulative:** Stunning ability to lie, even when likely to be caught; lies can be cunning, sly, or manipulative; callously cheats & cons for gain. *Can Include:* Manipulates without concern for others. Distorts the truth. Deceives with self-assurance and no anxiety. Fraud artist or con man. Enjoys deceiving others.
- 4. Lacks Remorse:** Unfazed, dispassionate & unempathetic; disdainful about suffering they cause their victims, saying they deserved it. *Can Include:* No capacity for guilt; no conscience. Verbalizes remorse insincerely. Little emotion in regard to actions. Does not appreciate impact of their behavior on others. Concerned more with their own suffering than others.
- 5. Shallow Affect, Callousness and Lack of Empathy:** Emotional poverty & very shallow feelings despite ability to fake friendliness; contemptuous, indifferent & tactless. *Can Include:* Cold and callous. Indifferent to others' feelings or concerns. Does not appreciate emotional consequences of actions. Expressed emotions are shallow & unstable. Inconsistent verbal & nonverbal emotional expressions.
- 6. Failure to Accept Responsibility for Own Actions:** It's never their fault. Uses denials of responsibility to manipulate and blame others. *Can Include:* Rationalizes; downplays significance of acts. Minimizes the effects of own behavior on others. Projects blame onto others. Maintains innocence or minimizes involvement in crime. Claims framed or victimized; claims amnesia or blackouts.
- 7. Impulsive:** Unpremeditated behavior; can't resist temptation or delay gratification; reckless; may brag of their cons. *Can Include:* "Spur of the moment;" little consideration of consequences. Frequently change jobs, school, relationships or residence. Drifter, nomadic lifestyle. Easily bored; problems with sustained attention. Likes activities that are exciting, risky, and challenging.
- 8. Poor Behavioral Controls:** Sudden outbursts of annoyance, irritation, aggression, anger, temper, verbal abuse & hasty action. *Can Include:* Easily angered or frustrated, especially when drinking. Often verbally abusive. Often physically abusive (breaks objects; hurts people). Abuse may be sudden and unprovoked. Outbursts are often short-lived.
- 9. Parasitic Lifestyle, Lack of Realistic Long-Term Goals:** Intentionally manipulates & exploits; avoids earning an honest living; big plans often unexecuted. *Can Include:* No realistic long-term plans and commitments. Lives "day-to-day," not thinking of future. Relied excessively on family etc. for financial support. Poor academic and employment records. May describe far-fetched plans or schemes.
- 10. Irresponsible:** Repeatedly fails to: honor commitments or obligations, arrive on time or at all, pay bills, honor contracts, etc. *Can Include:* Causes hardship to others and puts them at risk. Unreliable as spouse or parent. Job performance is inadequate. Untrustworthy with money; defaulting and not paying.
- 11. Adolescent Antisocial Behavior:** Criminal, manipulative, aggressive, callous; cruel to animals & siblings, lies, steals, cheats, vandalizes, bullies. *Can Include:* Conduct problems at home and school. Trouble with the law as youth/minor. Antisocial activities were varied and frequent.
- 12. Adult Antisocial Behavior:** Takes pride in successful & diverse crimes; often violates technical laws. *Can Include:* Disregards rules; legal problems as an adult. Charged or convicted of criminal offenses. Antisocial activities were varied and frequent.

This psychological assessment has a maximum of 24 points.

0-2 – Typical score for those lacking the condition

13-17 – Subject has a middle level of this condition

6-12 – Subject has a low level of this condition

18-24 – Subject has this condition at a high level

Sources and Discussion

You have just used the twelve criteria of the *Psychopathy Checklist - Screening Version (PCL:SV)*, created in 1996 by Robert Hare, PhD. *PCL:SV* was developed to supplement Hare's earlier and longer *Psychopathy Checklist - Revised (PCL-R)* created to detect psychopaths in prison populations. *PCL:SV* can be used by people lacking training in using the full checklist and is used for psychiatric evaluations and personnel selection. It is considered a reliable indicator of psychopathy and it indicates when a full evaluation using *PCL-R* would be useful. The criteria titles and general descriptions on page one are condensations from *PCL-R*, *PCL:SV*, and sources 1, 2, 4 & 6 listed below. The "Can Include" items are the *PCL:SV* subcriteria as given in source 7. Anyone receiving a middle or high rating of psychopathy should be avoided. Walk away quickly and don't look back. They are the archetypal "toxic personality."

Approximately one percent of Americans – over three million people – are high-level psychopaths. Additionally, approximately nine percent are middle or low level psychopaths. Contrary to depictions in headlines and fiction, 99% of psychopaths are non-violent. They are, however, callous, unfeeling, selfish, superficial, manipulative and without conscience. They may not be physically dangerous, but they are societally disruptive and often cause enormous misery to those around them. If you found President Trump to have a middle or high level of psychopathy, consider the danger this represents to America and to other nations and peoples. Act accordingly.

Psychopaths are similar to those of us with one or more diminished physical senses such as vision, hearing, smell or taste. But psychopaths have diminished or absent emotional senses of empathy and fear; often other emotions are diminished as well. Psychopathy is a *spectrum disorder*, not an all-or-none disorder, and the loss of empathetic/emotional senses varies between individuals. This spectrum of severity is reflected in the rating scale.

All psychopaths are narcissists, but not all narcissists are psychopaths. Some professionals now use the term "malignant narcissist" rather than "psychopath," at least in part because the latter term has become widely misunderstood and abused. "Malignant narcissist" emphasizes a probable spectrum of behavioral toxicity as narcissism grades into psychopathy.

Studies have shown that in psychopaths the brain region known as the *amygdala* and its connections to and from the *prefrontal cortex*, the *hypothalamus* and other brain regions function differently than in non-psychopaths. Just as the deaf or blind ought not take up certain careers and activities – respectively music teaching and driving instructor, for example – there are occupations that psychopaths ought not follow. Politics is near the top of the list of such occupations. The world has repeatedly seen the disasters which ensue when psychopaths hold the reins of government. Psychopaths do not belong in politics. We must enact laws to ensure rigorous testing of all political incumbents and future candidates. Psychopaths can pursue other occupations and not be a danger to themselves or others.

Sources:

1. Babiak, Paul & Hare, Robert D. PhD. *Snakes In Suits: When Psychopaths Go to Work*. 2006; New York: Regan Books.
2. Hare, Robert D., PhD. *Without Conscience: The Disturbing World of the Psychopaths Among Us*. 1993; New York: Guilford Press.
3. Wilson, Edward O. *The Social Conquest of Earth*. 2012; New York: Liveright Publishing Corp. / W. W. Norton & Co.

Articles On-Line:

4. Cooke, David J., Michie, Christine, Hart, Stephen David & Hare, Robert. (1999). Evaluating the Screening Version of the Hare Psychopathy Checklist-Revised (PCL-SV): An Item Response Theory Analysis. *Psychological Assessment*, Vol. II, No. 1, 3-13. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/232570257_Evaluating_the_Screening_Version_of_the_Hare_Psychopathy_Checklist-Revised_PCL_SV_An_Item_Response_Theory_Analysis
5. Gao, Y., Glenn, A.L., Schug, R.A., Yang, Y., Raine, A.(2009). The Neurobiology of psychopathy: A neurodevelopmental perspective. *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*, 54(12), 813-823. http://www.antonioacasella.eu/dnlaw/GAO_2009.pdf
6. McDermott, David. Decision-Making-Confidence.com. Notes on the Robert Hare Psychopathy Checklist – Revised. <https://www.decision-making-confidence.com/hare-psychopathy-checklist.html>
7. Rogers, R., Salekin, R. T., Hill, C., Sewell, K. W., Murdock, M. E., & Neumann, C. S. (2000). The Psychopathy Checklist-Screening Version: An Examination of Criteria and Subcriteria in Three Forensic Samples. *Assessment*, 7(1), 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.1177/107319110000700101>
[The "subcriteria in this paper is the source for the "Can Include" items in each criteria in the assessment.]
For free download: Google "hare psychopathy checklist screening version sub criteria definitions", then select item titled: "The Psychopathy Checklist-Screening Version: -Rogers-"
8. Sonne, James W. H. & Gash, Don M. (19 April 2018). Psychopathy to Altruism: Neurobiology of the Selfish-Selfless Spectrum. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 19 April 2018. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2018.00575>