

Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI)

The PAI is a clinical inventory of personality and psychopathology for adults. This self-report tool provides a structured exploration of emotional, cognitive, and behavioral symptoms, interpersonal functioning, certain clinical risk factors, and variables relevant to treatment. It is widely used in clinical psychology, forensic evaluation, and research for screening, diagnostic support, formulating clinical hypotheses, and guiding treatment. Its validity scales also make it possible to evaluate response consistency and to identify an overly favorable, overly unfavorable, or unreliable profile presentation.

Number of questions	344 questions
Estimated duration	50 minutes
Language	English
Original name	Personality Assessment Inventory
Target audience	Adults
Authors	Leslie C. Morey (1991)
Category	General

Scoring & interpretation

Each item is rated on 4 response levels, usually scored from 0 to 3. Raw scores are summed by scale and then converted into T-scores based on adult norms. Interpretation begins with the validity scales in order to assess consistency, infrequent responding, and any tendency to minimize or exaggerate difficulties. If the protocol is interpretable, the analysis then covers the 11 clinical scales, the 5 treatment consideration scales, the 2 interpersonal scales, the subscales, and the critical items. High T-scores indicate a greater likelihood of clinically significant difficulties, with particular attention paid to marked elevations, often around 70 and above depending on the scale and context.

Usage

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