SD4

Short Dark Tetrad (SD4)

The Short Dark Tetrad (SD4) is a brief questionnaire assessing the four so-called Dark Tetrad personality traits: narcissism, Machiavellianism, psychopathy, and sadism. It aims to provide a profile of these dimensions in adults, in the general population as well as in clinical or research settings.

Number of questions	28 questions
Estimated duration	5 minutes
Language	English
Original name	Short Dark Tetrad
Target audience	Adults
Authors	Daniel N. Jones, Delroy L. Paulhus (2020)
Category	General

Preview of the 28 questions

It's not wise to let people know your secrets.

Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly agree

Whatever it takes, you must get the important people on your side.

Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly agree

Avoid direct conflict with others because they may be useful in the future.

Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly agree

Keep a low profile if you want to get your way.

Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly agree

Manipulating the situation takes planning.

Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly agree

Scoring & interpretation

Each item is rated on a Likert-type scale (generally 1 to 5), yielding a global score for each dimension of the Dark Tetrad (narcissism, Machiavellianism, psychopathy, sadism). Cutoffs can be used to identify high levels on each dimension.