

The Cognitive Dissonance Test Provides Indices of Cognitive Dissonance, Honesty, and Giftedness of Prisoners

Russell N. Cassel, Ed.D., ABPP, FASP
The Cassel Research Institute,
1362 Santa Cruz Court,
Chula Vista, California 91910-7114

Second Force Psychology is the only theory under which programs for Prison Inmates and Neuropsychiatric Patients are presently planned (Cassel, 2001, & 2003). It is the theory underlying psychoanalysis throughout the health care facilities of the world today (Taylor, 1992). It derives directly from the early work of Sigmund Freud in the 1880s, where “free association” is used to reveal areas and nature of “hurts” lying deep in the unconscious that serves to demobilize one’s full capacity for work or play.. In Freudian theory when one becomes aware of the specific location and nature of such hurts, they are able to reconcile them in a reasoning and logical manner; often with the assistance of a professional.

Free Association

In psychoanalysis “free association” was the technique used to reveal such unconscious hurts; it involved having patients talk freely about anything that comes to their mind, and with no questions being asked except for clarification of statements. The theory being that “hurt” areas would receive priority attention, and could be identified in that manner. In December, 1949 the New York Times did a survey to identify the 10 greatest contributions to society during the first half of the 20th century, from 1900 to 1950-from the Victorian to the Atomic Age, and the “free association” concept used by Freud in Psychoanalysis was considered to be the greatest contribution for that period of time. It was Leon Festinger of Stanford University (1957) who introduced the concept of “Cognitive Dissonance” to describe the nature of the “hurts” Freud described that typically lie deep in the unconscious of individuals.

The Cognitive Dissonance Test

The Cognitive Dissonance Test (DISS) by Cassel and Chow (2002) is based on the Festinger theory and is designed to substitute for the introductory portion of psychoanalysis through “free association.” It is comprised of 200 true/false items in two major sections of the test: (1) Internal and Personal, and (2) External and Impersonal. Each of the two sections has 4 part scores with 25 true/false items.

The DISS test is planned as a substitute for the “free association” portion of psychoanalysis, and to identify the “hurt” areas that lie deep in the unconscious. The 8 part scores seek to cover the major areas of one’s life space, and are used to identify the functional nature of such hurts.

Part I. Internal & Personal:

1. Home – HOM
2. Emotional – EMO
3. Moral – MOR
4. Health - HEA

Part I Total – IPTOT

Part II. External & Impersonal:

5. School – SCH
6. Social - SOC
- 7.Survival – SUR
8. Racial – RAC

Part II Total – EITOT

DISS Total Score – DISTOT

Confluence Score - CON

Test Within a Test

The Confluence Score in the DISS test makes use of 42 of the 200 test items that are scored separately by the computer for this purpose. It includes 21 pairs of items where half of those items are opposites, and the other half lack agreement in varying degrees. If an individual scores one of the items in a pair (+), and fails to score the second item in that pair in the opposite direction (-), the test data is contrary to fact. The Confluence Score serves as a firm validating index of the test data received; so that all CON scores of 13 or greater invalidates the test results given. When such data is included in the data analysis the reliability of the 8 part scores drop to unacceptable levels. This validation process represents a major break-through in test construction in recent years.

In order to fully understand the significance of CON scores of 13 or greater, it is necessary to determine two things: (1) Is subject literate in the English language, and (2) Does subject have English literacy at the eighth grade level of understanding?

Meaningful CON Score

When Satisfactory English and Reading Literacy is Established the CON score takes on new and important meaning. Under these conditions three important indices are revealed:

1. A CON score (Confluence means agreement with self) of 13 or higher reveals dishonesty, and lack of creditability of Test Taker.
2. A CON score of 4 or lower clearly depicts an individual with unusually high intellectual talents-likely gifted (This means in the 25 minute exercise, the individual remembers clearly the 42 situations where h/she made decisions, and that they are in agreement with each other).
3. Finally, the scores on the DISS test only have value when the CON score is less than 13, and when the CON score is 13 or higher, the other test data has no value whatsoever.

Statistical Evaluation

The data in Table 1 below is taken from the DISS Test Manual and displays correlations of the CON score in relation other data. For all part scores on the DISS test, the correlations are positive; this suggests that the part scores are measuring negative dynamics. Every one of the CON scores in Table 1 are statistically significant at the 0.001 level of confidence or better; it is a viable index for whatever it is measuring. The CON score is measuring whatever any one of the DISS scores is measuring, and is measuring it very reliably.

Table 1
Pearson Correlations of DISS Scores
(N=2212)

Variable	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
AGE	1000												
GENDER	-196	1000											
HOM	-179	149	1000										
INN	-177	102	529	1000									
PER	-213	081	456	691	1000								
HEA	-143	043	497	594	718	1000							
IPTOT	-215	111	768	817	856	849	1000						
SCH	-140	220	531	496	468	511	612	1000					
SOC	-201	162	513	608	633	606	715	556	1000				
SUR	-180	174	467	564	621	640	694	541	654	1000			
RAC	-270	166	547	569	555	516	666	566	635	630	1000		
EITOT	-239	220	607	664	680	675	798	787	847	840	845	1000	
DISTOT	-234	166	733	781	803	803	949	738	810	801	796	925	1000

* $r = 0.062$ sig 05 level, and 0.081 sig. 01 level

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