

Structural Summary Guide

Summarized from

The Rorschach: A Comprehensive System (Vols. 1 & 2, 3rd & 2nd eds, resp.)

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INTERPRETIVE STRATEGY

There are 11 key variables to examine. These are presented in order of priority. If any one variable is positive, the clusters should be examined in the order indicated.¹

| | |
|----------------|--|
| SCZI > 3 | IDEATION --> MEDIATION --> PROCESSING --> CONTROLS --> AFFECT --> SELF PERCEPTION --> INTERPERSONAL PERCEPTION |
| DEPI > 5 | AFFECT --> CONTROLS --> SELF PERCEPTION --> INTERPERSONAL PERCEPTION --> PROCESSING --> MEDIATION --> IDEATION |
| D < ADJ D | CONTROLS --> SITUATIONAL STRESS --> (identify next key variable or tertiary variable) |
| CDI > 0 | CONTROLS --> AFFECT --> SELF PERCEPTION --> INTERPERSONAL PERCEPTION --> PROCESSING --> MEDIATION --> IDEATION |
| ADJ D IS < 0 | CONTROLS --> (identify next key variable or tertiary variable) |
| LAMBDA > .99 | PROCESSING --> MEDIATION --> IDEATION --> CONTROLS --> AFFECT --> SELF PERCEPTION --> INTERPERSONAL PERCEPTION |
| REFLECTION > 0 | SELF PERCEPTION --> INTERPERSONAL PERCEPTION --> CONTROLS (identify next key variable or tertiary variable) |
| EB is INTROV | IDEATION --> PROCESSING --> MEDIATION --> CONTROLS --> AFFECT --> SELF PERCEPTION --> INTERPERSONAL PERCEPTION |
| EB is EXTRATEN | AFFECT --> SELF PERCEPTION --> INTERPERSONAL PERCEPTION --> CONTROLS --> PROCESSING --> MEDIATION --> IDEATION |
| p > a + 1 | IDEATION --> PROCESSING --> MEDIATION --> CONTROLS --> SELF PERCEPTION --> INTERPERSONAL PERCEPTION --> AFFECT |
| HVI POSITIVE | IDEATION --> PROCESSING --> MEDIATION --> CONTROLS --> SELF PERCEPTION --> INTERPERSONAL PERCEPTION --> AFFECT |

¹. Detailed illustrations of these procedures are provided in Exner (1991). Interpret the first key variable that is significant by examining the clusters in the order indicated. Then proceed to the next significant variable.

If none of the 11 key variables are positive, move onto the following tertiary variables. It should be noted that these variables do not have much predictive power: ²

OBS POSITIV PROCESSING --> MEDIATION --> IDEATION --> CONTROLS --> AFFECT --> SELF PERCEPTION --> INTERPERSONAL PERCEPTION

DEPI = 5 AFFECT --> CONTROLS --> SELF PERCEPTION --> INTERPERSONAL PERCEPTION --> PROCESSING --> MEDIATION --> IDEATION

EA > 12 CONTROLS --> IDEATION --> PROCESSING --> MEDIATION --> AFFECT --> SELF PERCEPTION --> INTERPERSONAL PERCEPTION

M- > 0, or IDEATION --> MEDIATION --> PROCESSING --> CONTROLS
Mp > Ma, or --> AFFECT --> SELF PERCEPTION --> INTERPERSONAL
SUM6 > 5 PERCEPTION

SUM SHAD > FM+M AFFECT --> CONTROLS --> SELF PERCEPTION
or CF+C > FC+1 --> INTERPERSONAL PERCEPTION --> PROCESSING
or afr < .46 --> MEDIATION --> IDEATION

X-%>20%, or PROCESSING --> MEDIATION --> IDEATION --> CONTROLS -->
Zd > +3.0 or AFFECT --> SELF PERCEPTION --> INTERPERSONAL
< -3.0 PERCEPTION

3(r)+(2)/R < .33 PERSONAL PERCEPTION --> INTERPERSONAL PERCEPTION -->
AFFECT --> CONTROLS --> PROCESSING --> MEDIATION --> IDEATION

MOR > 2, or PERSONAL PERCEPTION --> INTERPERSONAL PERCEPTION -->
AG > 2 CONTROLS --> IDEATION --> PROCESSING --> MEDIATION --> AFFECT

T = 0 or > 1 PERSONAL PERCEPTION --> INTERPERSONAL PERCEPTION --> AFFECT -->
CONTROLS --> PROCESSING --> MEDIATION --> IDEATION

². Detailed illustrations of these procedures are provided in Exner (1991). Interpret the first key variable that is significant by examining the clusters in the order indicated. Then proceed to the next significant variable.

VALIDITY

| | | |
|--------|-------------------------|---|
| R | 17 - 27 22.67 (4.23) | <p>Low: defensiveness or resistance; may indicate intellectual limitations, neurological impairment, or depression.</p> <p>R < 14: profile probably invalid especially if L > .85</p> <p>10 < R < 12 profile possibly uninteruptable.</p> |
| Lambda | 30-35% .58 (.26) | <p>Hi = > 1.2 (adults); 1.5 (children > 7 y.o.).</p> <p>Low R, Hi lambda--questionable validity.</p> <p>Low: trouble producing delays necessary for pure F resp. May demonstrate unfulfilled needs, conflicts, emotions. Does not use resources effectively. Over involvement with stimuli.</p> <p>Low Lambda, High Zd: orientation to accomplishment via a desire to avoid errors or failures.</p> <p>Low Lambda, X+% & P are normal: control, flexibility, psychological sturdiness.</p> <p>Hi: defensiveness. Possible anti or asocial (will probably have low X+% and P). May demonstrate overly simplistic and economical approach to environment.</p> |

CONTROLS, COPING STYLE

Controls cluster comprises seven basic variables plus frequencies for the six scores that contribute to eb and es. Seven variables: EB, EA, eb, es, D, AdjD, CDI. If D < AdjD, CDI > 3, or AdjD is negative, there is clear suggestion that some control problems appear to exist.

| | | |
|---------|--------------|--|
| D, AdjD | | <p>expect D=AdjD. When AdjD < D indicative of Situationally related stress. Need to look at D and AdjD</p> |
| D | 12.89 (3.54) | <p>Expresses situational control, current capacity for control.</p> <p>If D=0, there are sufficient resources available for the individual to initiate and direct behavior in meaningful ways. Has sufficient resources to form and direct behavior. There are adequate tolerances for day to day stresses.</p> <p>< 0: impulsive in thinking, affect and or behavior. Minimal stress tolerance. more limited in available resources as contrasted to the demands made on client. May be in situation of stimulus overload. Situations require behaviors for which they are not capable. Lives characterized by chaos. If prone to internalization, may experience bouts of anxiety, apprehension, helplessness, tension, or depression.</p> <p>-1: vulnerable in ambiguous situations. vulnerability increases as EA decreases relative to mean.</p> |

< -1: vulnerability increases regardless of EA. Look at: Pure C (impulsiveness in affect) m, formless m (impaired ideational controls because of overload).

> 0: signifies greater capability for control and greater tolerance for stress. Does not imply that coping mechanisms are healthy.

| | | |
|--------|--|---|
| Adj D | 0.20 (0.87) | <p>Expresses typical type of control.</p> <p>m & Y variables (FY, YF, Y) are unstable. Seen as reactive to situational stress. Y may, at times, represent some type of anxiety. If D is higher than Adj D, indicates presence of situational stress; reduction of the overload state would be an early goal of treatment.</p> <p>When AdjD > 0 more sturdy tolerance for stress. Less likely to experience problems in control despite what CDI says.</p> |
| EA | 8.83 (2.18) ³ | <p>M & Sum C are related to use of resources, deliberately initiated psychological behaviors. If M = 0 and SumC > 3.0 indicates flooded by affect, probably effects thinking. If M > 2 and SumC = 0 indicates substantial effort at containing affect.</p> <p>If EA is in average range, expect AdjD=0. If EA is in average range and AdjD>0 expect lower es and AdjD may be misleading.</p> <p>If EA is lower than average an AdjD=0 can be misleading.</p> |
| EB | | Neither side should be zero. |
| es | 8.20 (2.98) 4 - 13 | <p>crude index that relates to impinging or demanding stimulus experiences.</p> <p>es > EA probable need for defensiveness; indicates stress level. If es > average AdjD <u>may</u> underestimate capacity for stress tolerance. If es < average AdjD <u>may</u> overestimate capacity for stress tolerance.</p> <p>Review variables not situational stress related (FM, C', T, V)</p> |
| eb | | FM & m relate to mental activity that is provoked but not necessarily directed by demand stimuli. eb organized to provide information about the experiences of stimulus demand. Left side should be > than right side. |
| FM & m | 3.5 FM 3.70 (1.19) m 1.12 (0.85) | FM increases under diminished states of consciousness (alcohol). Relates to unmet need states. Unprovoked mental activity that happens when not focusing on a coping issue. Processes less controlled or |

³. Data presented as such refer to mean and standard deviation, as reported in Exner (1993) pg 259 - 262. Data for all variables can be found in Exner (1991--Vol 2, 2nd ed) pp 33-95 as well as in the Rorschach Workbook. N. B. the distribution of scores do not follow normal curve statistics.

directed. Indication of your body's communication with the mind.

FM > M: defenses include: intellectualization, rationalization, regression, substitution.

May be related to stress or needs. Poor impulse control. m: unprompted especially from the outside. Relates to real experiences either past or present; situational stress.

Left side of eb indication of mental activity prompted by demand experience.

Left side of eb always expected to be higher than right (if not may indicate severe depression).

| | | |
|---------|---------------|---|
| Shading | 3.39 (2.15) : | <p>C', T, V, Y. All relate to impinging or irritating affects. Y unstable. T, V very stable, C' moderately stable.</p> <p>Significant if > 5 or > than left side of eb. These indicate presence of distress.</p> <p>C': Dysphoric affect trapped inside you.</p> <p>FC': Affect is trapped but has some cognitive envelope.</p> <p>C'F: Cognitive envelope is poor.</p> |
| | 1.03 [0.58] | <p>T: relates to cautious sensitivity, willingness to be more open with environment.</p> <p>T = 0: "neutralized" affect and dependency needs. lower in motivation for treatment, more guarded, more concerned with personal space.</p> <p>T > 1: greater need for closeness; chronically lonely.</p> <p>T > 3: Has there been a recent loss?</p> |
| | 0.57 [1.00] | <p>Y: relates to helplessness, loss of control, and concerns about being unable to respond effectively. Influenced greatly by situation. Degree of F relates to awareness of source of helplessness.</p> |
| | 1.53 [1.25] | <p>C': relates to form of affective constraint, more present in depression. Constrained painful affect trapped in you.</p> <p>FC': restraint is cognitively controlled.</p> |
| | 0.26 [0.58] | <p>Vista: responses correlated with successful suicides. Indication of pain, discomfort resulting from self inspection, specifically from perceived negative features of self. Degree of F relates to the amount of cognitive form or shape to the pain.</p> |
| FD | 1.16 [0.87] | <p>present more in introversives. related to delay and/or internalization. Dispassionate introspection. Occurs most</p> |

frequently in records of non-patients. Absence of FD in adult or adolescent may suggest avoidance of self-awareness and self examination.

DOMINANT PERSONALITY STYLES

Lambda 0.58 (0.26)

Crude index of extent subject is psychologically willing to become involved in new stimulus field.

Low: More involved than customary (because of processing style, or increased frequency of psychological demands). Can indicate (1) difficulty identifying economical ways of handling task--look for indications of turmoil (2) if S is achievement orientated and views task as test of coping skills, can lead to a sacrifice of economy for success (look for control, flexibility, adaptability, X+% & Pop in normal range, increased # Zf, W, DQ+; Zd is normal), (3) Need to avoid error or failure (increased Zd-->3.0) invests more effort than necessary in organizing stimulus field.

Conclusions are more robust if $R > 14$.

High: above .99, preferred style is to reduce stimulus situation to most easily managed levels, oversimplify complex stimulus demands.

Introtensive Extratensive
EB M:Sum C
2-6:2-6

High M: introversiveness: manner in which individual's resources are used, no behavioral correlates implied. Uses fewer operations to solve problems. uses inner life for basic gratification. Delay formulation of decisions or initiating behaviors. Keeps feelings peripheral, prefers logic, avoids trial and error.

C > M by 2

Hi C: Extratensive. Prone to use interactions between self and world as gratification of basic needs. Manifests affect to world more frequently than introversives. Prefer to delay decisions. Merges thinking & feeling. Greater tolerance for ambiguity. Influenced by external feedback inherent in trial and error. If use 2 point cut off to discriminate, direction seems stable for adult.

C = M

Ambitent: least consistent and efficient in behavior patterns. More vulnerable to difficulty in coping situations than introversive or extratensive. Fails to develop a consistent preference or style of behavior.

EBPer

Significant if ≥ 2.5 . Style is pervasive. Tends to be manifest in almost all problem solving or coping tasks, decreased level of flexibility, decreased ability to adapt to new situations.

Fr + rF > 0

Presence of dominating element in self concept. In adults: inflated sense of personal worth that tends to dominate perceptions of world. Leads to development of motives for status. If status achieved low probability of pathology. failure to achieve status leads to frustration, negativism, elaborate

systems for personal defense (rationalization, externalization, denial).

p > a + 1

will assume more passive (not necessarily more submissive) role in relationships, avoids responsibility for decision making, less apt to search out new solutions to problems or initiate new behaviors. "cooperative M's": orientation toward socially effective behaviors.

M positively correlated with abstract thinking. Possible index of creativity. Involves elements of reasoning, imagination, and higher form of conceptualization. Contingent on a form of delay from yielding to more spontaneous response (Form response).

HVI

Increased energy to maintain state of preparedness, hyper alert, negative mistrustful attitude toward world, difficulty with close relationships.

COGNITIVE TRIAD: INFORMATION PROCESSING, COGNITIVE MEDIATION, IDEATION

PROCESSING

1) Processing effort & motivation: L, OBS, HVI, Zf, W:D:Dd, W:M

2) Quality & efficiency of processing: DQ, Zd, PSV, Sequencing

Also look at location sequences for patterns.

Hi L, +OBS or HVI, Zd > 3.0:

Invests more energy than is necessary

Lambda 0.58 (0.26)

L > 1.0 tendency to narrow or simplify stimuli perceived as complex or ambiguous. < 0.31 = more involved with stimulus than would be expected.

OBS

If +: tendency to be perfectionistic, overly preoccupied with details, indecisive, difficulty in expressing emotions. Often above average Zf & Zd > 3.0. Influenced by need to be correct (over elaboration, lots of POP). If there is high complexity or time demands processing could become loose, chaotic.

HVI

If +: alertness, guarded, mistrustful of environment. If pathology present, could come out as paranoid features, increased concern for detail, chaotic & inefficient processing.

PSV 0.05 [0.22]

Cognitive Inflexibility

severe neurological impairments. Typically of mechanistic variety (Between card).

Most PSV are within card: failure of cognitive shifting, cognitive inflexibility or rigidity re: informational processing or decision making.

= 1 non-significant

= 2 review other confirmatory tests.

Between Card: not cognitive rigidity but preoccupation.

Zf, W:D:Dd, W:M

Examine together

Zf 40 - 50%R
11.81 (2.59)

Provides indication as to extent to which subject approached the task, using cognitive tactics that typically are more demanding than some other mediational approaches. High Lambda will also have low Zf. Reflects the amount of energy used in organizing the world.

Low: intellectual limitation, reluctance to tackle the complexity of stimulus field.

Hi: intellectual striving, need to deal with stimulus field in careful and precise manner.

D 12.89 (3.54)

D response is compatible with natural orientation of most subjects to accomplish the task efficiently and economically. D is the easiest part of the blot to see.

Low D: Working harder than they have to.

Hi D: Taking the easy way out.

Dd 0 < Dd < 3
1.23 [1.70]

Occur less frequently than W or D. More than 3 is unusual.

Hi Dd (& Zf < 13): Preference to deal with less complex, more easily managed stimulus field. May indicate feeling uncomfortable with decision making capabilities. Can also be elevated by hi S response (indicates negative attitude toward test or environment. Look for confirmation, particularly in Affect section). Correlates positively with obsessiveness.

0 < Dd < 3 average range, positive sign indicating initiative and capacity to back way temporarily. Examine Dd with movement carefully for indications of impairments to ideational process.

W:D 1:1.2-1.8

If R < 17, likely that W >= D. If record is average length, D is always expected to exceed W. If D > W by 2:1, signals overemphasis on being economical, pulling back from more demanding efforts required to form W response. If W > D indicates sacrificing economy for some other purpose or not using resources in efficient manner.

Hi D+: relates to concern about precision, possibly reflecting perfectionistic attitude.

W:M 70% fall between
1.5:1 and 2.5:1

If both W and M are within normal limits, forget this ratio.

Functions as index of aspiration; ratio of ability to achievement. Hi W: investment of more effort than may be

necessary for task. If resources are considerable, over-selection of W may have modest psychological cost.

Introtensives: expect more M than extratensives
Ambitents: expect more M than ex. but less than int.

All 3 should have about same W.

If $I > 1.5:1$; $A > 2.2:1$; $E > 3:1$: striving to accomplish more than is reasonable. Especially if low frequency of DQ+. If occurs in every day behaviors there is an increased probability of failing to achieve goals leading to frustration.

If $I < 0.5:1$; $A \& E < 1:1$: Very cautious, possibly overly conservative in defining objectives for achievement. May not be true if Zf & DQ+ are \geq mean.

W 8.55 (1.94)

Crude index of motivation. Need to assess in conjunction with DQ.

Motivation

If any 2 are +: $Z_f > \text{mean}$ or $W > D + D_d$ or $W:M >$ than what you would expect from EB > Motivated

If any 2 are +: $Z_f < \text{mean}$ or $W < .5(D + D_d)$ or $W:M <$ what expected > conservative motivation. Tendency to withdraw from social competitiveness (negative self-image?). Look at self perception cluster.

QUALITY OR EFFICIENCY OF PROCESSING

DQ + 7.31 (2.16)
o 13.64 (3.46)
v 1.30 [1.26]

Reflects degree of synthesis involved in activity. Higher distribution of DQ+: found among brighter and psychologically more complex subject. Also increases with age.

V/+ 0.41 [0.66]

DQv: children or intellectually limited or neurologically impaired subject. Concrete, overly simplistic and diffuse form of cognitive functioning.

DQ-: perceptual inaccuracy.

DQv/+: least frequent. more so in children and adolescents than adults. In adults, suggests that orientation toward more sophisticated cognitive level is somehow aborted by problems that are apparently related to form commitment.

DQo: cognitive economy. conservative but committed to processing effort.

If Zf is hi, frequency of DQ+, DQv/+ are expected to be at least average. If not, effort is present but cognitive activity is less sophisticated or complex than would be expected. If DQ+ is substantial, not only working hard but with complex & sophisticated effort.

N.B. Complexity could also come from lack of reality base.

| | | |
|------------|----------------------------|---|
| Zd | -3.0 to 3.0 0.72 (3.06) | <p>provides data related to efficiency involved in processing stimuli.</p> <p>Low: Under incorporative. negligent in processing information, probability that some responses will be formulated before stimulus field is fully mediated--jumping to conclusions. Appears to be liability.</p> <p>High: Overincorporative. approach each new stimulus field with caution and thoroughness. Becomes liability when perceived time to complete task is insufficient.</p> |
| PSV | 0.05 [0.22] | <p>Cognitive Inflexibility</p> <p>severe neurological impairments. Typically of mechanistic variety (Between card).</p> <p>Most PSV are within card: failure of cognitive shifting, cognitive inflexibility or rigidity re: informational processing or decision making.</p> <p>= 1 non-significant</p> <p>= 2 review other confirmatory tests.</p> <p>Between Card: not cognitive rigidity but preoccupation.</p> |
| CONFAB | 0.00 (0.00) | <p>More rare than PSV. some of more important cognitive controls fail or are lacking.</p> |
| Sequencing | | <p>Is approach to processing consistent (use of W, D, Dd)</p> |

MEDIATION (second of cognitive triad)

Describes the extent to which subject is orientated toward making conventional or acceptable responses (versus idiosyncratic). N.B. either conventional or idiosyncratic could be asset or liability.

POP, X+%, L, OBS, F+%, Xu%, X-%, S-%, CONFAB, FQ(+,o,u,-). Look at L & OBS first.

| | |
|---|--|
| L | <p>High: tendency to oversimplify. If also low X+%, hi Xu%, substantial X-%>common to Schizophrenia</p> <p>> 1.0: increased potential for behaviors that do not coincide with social demands or expectations.</p> <p>If X+% < 70 but F+% >=70 > when oversimplification is not invoked or fails, subject is prone to translate stimulus in less conventional ways.</p> <p>> 1.0 & X+% >= 70 & F+% < 70 > possibility that subject assumes unconventional or oversimplification approach in mediation (especially when F+% < 60).</p> |
|---|--|

| | | | |
|------|-----------------------|------|--|
| OBS | | | High: tendency toward perfectionism and excessive preoccupation with details. Cautious in translating stimulus field. Influenced by need to be correct or conventional. If +, expect mediational variables to be \geq mean, POP, X+% tend to be $>$ mean. If these expectations not met, style has become counter productive because of excessive effort to refine or reorganize details. Tends to create interference in mediation. |
| | | | Chaotic mediational process would be primary treatment goal. |
| P | 5 - 8 | mean | median |
| | 6.89 (1.39) | | mode |
| | non pat. adult | 7- | 7 |
| | Sz | 5 | 4 |
| | Depr | 5+ | 6 |
| | | | 5 |
| | | | Has finite limit of 13. Reflects willingness and ability to see and report the commonplace. |
| | | | Low: inability or unwillingness to deliver that which may be the most obvious answer. Not necessarily poor reality testing. High: if Lambda high (>1.5) may reflect effort to economize. If Lambda not high, High P = orientation toward more simplistic and correct. Possible commitment to conventionality. Will probably have high X+% too (if low, consider antisocial) |
| FQx+ | 0.90 (0.92) | | Look for over-elaborated use of form. Can be function of intelligence or perfectionistic or obsessive style. |
| X+% | 70-89% 0.79 (0.08) | | Reflects ability to see the world as others see it. Includes psychological operations other than simply perception. |
| | | | Compare to F+% (just what is seen) Does not discriminate well between patient and non-patient. Mean non-patient 78%. Mean patient is less but non-significant unless seriously disturbed. |
| | | | $> 89\%$: unusual commitment to conventionality. excessive preoccupation with social acceptability. Can lead to sacrifice of individuality. |
| | | | $< 70\%$: (& F+% in hi L) orientated toward making more unconventional translation of stimulus. Can expect less conventional behavior especially if POP $<$ avg (not necessarily antisocial). If hi L, orientation toward maintaining distance and coping with environment that is perceived as threatening, demanding and ungiving. |
| | | | If X+% low because of : C, C', T, Y $>$ affective states probably interfering with mediational process. If because of formless M responses: problem with ideational impulse control that is interfering with mediation. |

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|--|
| F+% | 0.71 (0.17) | measure of perceptual accuracy. Varies as function of intellect and affect. |
| | 80% (non-pat.) | discriminates patient and non-patient. Hi: > 90% subject may be overly conventional in translating stimulus inputs and possibly sacrificing individuality to do so. Low: < 70% may signify that subject translates stimulus field in atypical ways. Can be caused by: perceptual mediational distortion, over commitment to individuality, or failure in modulating affective experiences. Need to look at X-%, FQx, and FQf too. < 60%: sign of serious psychopathology, marked intellectual limitations, or brain dysfunction. N.B. Conclusions are probably weak if Pure F < 10 <u>or</u> L > 1.0. |
| FQnone | .09 [0.33] | Evaluate in considering X+%. No form responses can reduce X+%. |
| Xu% | 7-20% 0.14 (0.07) | > 20% cause for concern. Subject is overly idiosyncratic or individualistic which could be problem when environment is less tolerant of "deviation." Functions as a way of taking distance from the world. |
| FQxu | 3.25 (1.77) | Hi: feel less committed to conventionality. If environment makes few demands for conformity, consequences of low X+% may be negligible. |
| X-% | 0.07 (0.05) | Violations of reality--perceptual-mediational distortion. Increased frequency in Sz. Very difficulty to fake. If you see the world differently you will interact with the world in unexpected ways. High: > 15% indicates difficulty in translating perceptual inputs appropriately or correctly. Try to distinguish if impairment is specific or diffuse. Especially significant if X+% < 70%. > 25% probability of impairment is substantial. Look for content consistency. Whenever minus responses occur consider in context of sequencing; 65% X-% responses include An or Xy (distortion in how subject perceives body---possible Hypochondriasis). If in answers involving chromatic cards may indicate problems in emotional control--emotions bother the person, gets them stirred up. |
| S-% | 0.08 [0.23] | Loads on SCZI. Affective influence on mediational distortions. > 40% & >= 3 (-) responses--strong sets created by negativism or oppositionality; anger contribute to mediational distortion. Anger probably plays role in the distortions. |
| Sequence of Scores | | Do minus responses occur more frequently in certain cards as compared to others? If early in protocol, may indicate resistance to testing. Are they associated with S: negativistic |

orientation toward environment? Presence of color: affect disorganizes them. Do minus responses have any similarities in content?

IDEATION (third of cognitive triad)

How translations of inputs become conceptualized and used.

| | |
|----------------|---|
| EB, EBPer | Introversive: prefers to consider all possible options. Prefers precise and uncomplicated logic. |
| | Extratensive: Merges thinking and feeling. Complex thinking marked by trial and error. |
| | Ambitent: potential inconsistencies in decision making. Tends to reverse decisions and have errors in judgment. |
| | Extremes of Introversive or Extratensives: inflexibilities leading to potential difficulties. |
| eb (left side) | High frequencies of FM, m, or FM+m indicate difficulties with concentration. |
| a:p | p > a+1: Passivity in response to world. relates to cognitive flexibility versus narrowness or constriction. As ratio increases, ideational sets become more fixed and difficult to alter. As ratio decreases: flexibility. |
| | a+p > 4 <u>and</u> one is no more than 2X other: non-sign. |
| | a+p > 4 <u>and</u> one is 2-3X other: ideational sets and values are relatively fixed and difficult to change. |
| | a+p > 4 <u>and</u> one is 3X other: inflexible, difficult to alter values or take on different perspectives. |
| $M^a:M^p$ | 2:1 |
| | If $M_p > M_a$ more likely to take flight into passive forms of fantasy as a defensive maneuver; less likely to initiate decisions or take action if others are likely to do so. More of liability for introvertsives and schizophrenics. |
| | if $M > 1$ <u>and</u> $M_p \geq M_a+1$: tendency to fantasize excessively. Substitutes fantasy for reality in times of stress. Breeds dependency on others because of <u>belief that others will solve problem if wait long enough.</u> |
| | $M_p \geq M_a+1$: fantasy is routine tactic for dealing with unpleasant situations. Avoids responsibility and decision making. Self imposed helplessness. |
| M | 3 - 10 resp |
| M- | 0.03 [0.19] |
| | 1: likelihood of marked thinking problem increased considerably. |
| | 2: unusual finding. |

2+: presence of active, disorientated, psychotic like thinking is practically certain.

If Mp- present, need to rule out delusions.

Mu 0.20 (0.45)

Idiographic, not necessarily peculiar form of ideation.

1-2: positive sign if M+ are also present.

Intellectualization Index

Ay + Art + 2(Ab)
1.56 (1.29)

>= 6: uses intellect as tactic to neutralize some impact of emotion. More common with extratensives. Naive form of denial--distorts true impact of situation. Disorganization at intense emotional experience. Attempt to convert affect into cognitions.

MOR 0.70 [0.82]

51% non-patient adults have at least one.

59-100% of non-patient children have at least 1.

younger children give more "flattened animal" to card VI.

> 3 Loads on Suicide; pessimistic set.

> 2 more pessimistic about future including treatment outcome.

Critical Special Scores & WSUM6

COGNITIVE DYSFUNCTION

DV1,INCOM1,DR1 DV2,FABCOM1,INCOM2,ALOG DR2,FABCOM2,CONTAM

MILD

SERIOUS

SEVERE

slippage. Level 1 should sound naive & immature as will some level 2. Level 2 and Alog often reveal preoccupations.

Look at M quality: M-, raise concern re: peculiarities in ideation. M- is still a coping mechanism, but one that others would probably not like. M->1 probability of cognitive problems increase. M->=2: disorientated, very strange thinking. Mp-: look for delusions. M none: extreme disconnection; totally detached; ineffective coping mechanism.

CLUSTER III: AFFECT, SELF & INTERPERSONAL PERCEPTIONS

DEPI, EB, EBPer, eb(right side), FC:CF+C ratio, Pure C, Affective Ratio, Space & Color Projection Frequencies, Blends

AFFECT

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| DEPI | <p>if 6 or 7: significant affective problems exist. Give consideration when evaluating other data.</p> <p>5: common among psych patients. Personality organization tends to give rise to frequent and intense experience of affective disruption.</p> |
| EB | <p>How affect impacts psychological functioning.</p> <p>extratensives: tends to mingle thinking and feeling, especially during problem solving and decision making. More prone to use and be influenced by emotion.</p> <p>introversive: prefers to keep feelings at periphery. Concerned with modulating displays of emotion.</p> <p>ambitent: emotions are inconsistent in impact on thinking, problem solving, and decision making.</p> |
| EBPer | Is style pervasive? |
| eb (right side) | <p>impact of irritating affects.</p> <p>Left side is expected to be greater than right.</p> <p>es > 11 <u>and</u> eb(left>right) <u>and</u> (T > 1 or C' > 2 or V > 0 or Y > 2): Hypothesize feeling of discomfort.</p> <p>Total value eb > 3 and right > left: distress or excess of affective irritation. look at variables on right side.</p> |
| FC:CF+C 1.5-2.5:1 | <p>FC: 4.09 (1.88); CF: 2.36 (1.27); C: 0.08 [0.28]</p> <p>Index of the extent to which emotional discharges are modulated. Most meaningful when examined in relation to EB and D scores. If either or both D scores are negative: capacity for control is limited. Capacity to modulate affect vulnerable to stress. Less cognitive effort required to identify colors than forms. Insertion of form suggests more cognitive control. Children give more CF+C responses than FC. Patient groups closer to children's responses (1:1+)</p> <p>[(CF+C)+1 < FC < 2(CF+C)] <u>and</u> Pure C = 0: controls emotional discharge as well as most adults.</p> <p>2(CF+C) < FC < 3(CF+C) <u>and</u> Pure C = 0: more stringent control than most people.</p> <p>FC > 3(CF+C) <u>and</u> C = 0: over controlling. Fearfulness or mistrust at intense affective displays.</p> <p>C = 1: control not consistent</p> <p>C > 2: Lack of control more frequent</p> <p>FC < (CF+C) < FC+2 <u>and</u> (C = 0 or 1) less stringent in modulating emotions than most adults.</p> |

CF+C >= FC+2 and C > 1: potentially serious modulation problems.

CF+C >= FC+3 and C = 0: modulates discharge less than most people. If C > 1 : laxness in display of emotion. Worry if introverted.

CF+C

Illustrates instances in which subject has been more prone to give way to affective stimulus and inject less cognitive modulation into translation of cognitive field.

High: emotional behaviors will be marked more often by characteristics of intensity or impulsivity (possible aggressiveness).

Pure C: any response may indicate lability.

Afr

0.69 (0.16)

Represents psychological receptiveness to emotionally provoking stimuli. How willing is subject to be around affect.

For child, low AFR = avoidance of emotional development. Reflects proneness to invest effort in cognitive processing of those stimuli and the level of processing becomes a form of response, which serves as a stimulus for other responses. Does not relate directly to affective control but can have indirect relationship.

High: subject regarded as affectively responsive. Reduced capacity to avoid affective stimulation.

Low: subject seen as affectively guarded or withdrawn from affective stimulation.

Introverts: mean = .62 (.13)

Extraverts: mean = .79 (.14)

Ambiverts: mean = .67 (.11)

Average Range: .50 - .80

Low AFR common in trauma victims.

CP (color projection)

relates to abuse of denial as tactic to deal with unwanted emotions.

If > 0 Subject denies presence of irritating or unpleasant stimuli by substituting a false positive emotional or emotional value to situation. Feels uncomfortable with negative feelings, frequently have problems modulating affect.

S

1-2 resp
1.47 [1.12]

Proportion of S gives some indication of the effort being devoted to defense of autonomy. Oppositional component to the defense. Most frequent S are on cards I & II. Less frequently on cards IV, V, VI, & VIII.

High proportion of S in: inpatient depressives, borderline PD, paranoid schizophrenics, adolescent conduct disorders, neurologically impaired children.

3 responses: significant but need to determine if this is trait like hostility or situational.

4+ and at least 1 after card I: very negative angry attitude toward environment. Trait like. Not necessarily displayed in behavior. loads positively on Suicide Constellation.

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|--|
| S-% | < 33% 0.08 [0.23] | Particularly in records that have more than 3 minus answers, reasonable to postulate that strong sets, created by negativism or anger, are contributing to mediational distortions. Important for treatment planning. |
| Blends Blends/R | 5.16 (1.93) 0.23 (0.09) | Measure of psychological complexity. Activity occurring in the formation and delivery of answer was more complex than might have been expected or required. Interpretation needs to be based on both quantity and substance. |

Absence in adult or adolescent: psychological narrowness or constriction. Less sensitive to oneself and environment. 8+ more complexity than is customary. Can be asset to functioning as it represents greater sensitivity to stimuli. If associated with low resources, subject may be overly processing and can be a burden.

I: 13-26% of R

E: 19-33%

A: 16-36%

Children and adolescents give fewer.

Shading Blend
FT.FY, FV.FC', etc

Unusual responses. More common in depressives. If Y is factor, may be situational.

Color Shading Blend
0.46 [0.69]

{FC CF C} blended with {FC' C'F C' FT TF T FV VF V FY YF Y}
Correlates significantly with effective suicides. C', T, or V: chronic, confused by emotions, may experience and negate feelings at same time.

Experiences feelings intensely.

May have difficulty bringing closure to emotional situations.

SELF IMAGE AND INTERPERSONAL ATTITUDES

SELF IMAGE (view of one's self)

SELF ESTEEM (value of view of self when judged against external sources, establishment of personal worth in relation to others.)

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------|--|
| Fr+rF | | 0.08 [0.355] | Hi Fr, rF: Too much energy is going into who you think you "should" be. |
| 3r+(2)/R | .40 (.09) | | How much attention is paid to the self; self focus. Estimate of self-concern and possibly self esteem. |
| (2) | 8.68 (2.15) | | > .45 (or > 1 SD for children) more involved with self than others. Generally indicates positive estimate of self worth. May sometimes signal dissatisfaction with self. < .35 (or < 1 SD for children) negative estimate of personal worth, precursor to depression. If there are reflection responses and still low, serious conflicts regarding self image/value. Reflection responses: narcissistic like qualities that receives favorable judgment from others. |
| Vista & FD | | | |
| FD | 1.16 [.87] | | FD responses are generally positive unless high frequency. Suggestive of dispassionate introspection. |
| V | 0.26 [.58] | | V: indicates some irritating affective experience being produced by self reflection. FD > 2 or V > 0: some unusual self reflective behavior is occurring. |
| Human Content | | | To what extent is self image/esteem based on experience. |
| An+Xy | 0-2 | | Related to bodily concern. If no medical concern is evident, likely to be psychogenic and probably relates to overall conception of self. Relevant if >= 3. If Xy included, concern probably marked by more distressful feelings. |
| MOR | .70 [.82] | | Elevations: self image is conceptualized to include more negative and possibly damaged features than is commonplace. Orientation toward self and environment marked by pessimism. = 2: likely that some negative features are included in self concept. Look at content. If reflection response present probable conflict regarding self image/value >= 3: self image marked by negative characteristics (also present when depression is faked) Hi MOR, Low 3r+(2)/R, Hi S, Low X+%--> asocial behavior. |
| Minus Responses | | | Read through all for indications of projective material. |
| Movement Responses | | | read all for indications of projective material beginning with M then FM then m. |

INTERPERSONAL PERCEPTIONS

| | | |
|------|---|---|
| CDI | <p>4-5: probably less socially mature than might be expected. Experiences difficulties when interacting with environment.</p> <p>Interpersonal relations tend to be superficial, less easily sustained, often seen by others as distant, guarded, inept, or helpless.</p> <p>Histories often marked by social chaos and interpersonal dissatisfaction.</p> <p>Vulnerable to rejection. Probably uses considerably energy staying alert because of negative or mistrusting view of environment.</p> <p>Does not experience closeness and often becomes suspicious about gestures of others.</p> <p>If $p > a$ by 1 will generally assume passive (not necessarily submissive) social role.</p> <p>Fd response indicative of dependency behaviors. T = 0 experiences regarding needs for closeness dissimilar to other people. > 1 strong need for closeness.</p> <p>Human content: if = 0 marked lack of interest in and or detachment from people.</p> | |
| HVI | <p>Is there a tendency to be overly cautious and conservative in relationships.</p> | |
| a:p | <p>$p > a+1$: Passivity in response to world. Does individual assume a passive or active role in interpersonal relationships?</p> <p>Also relates to cognitive flexibility versus narrowness or constriction. As ratio increases, ideational sets become more fixed and difficult to alter.</p> <p>As ratio decreases: flexibility.</p> <p>$a+p > 4$ <u>and</u> a or $p = 0$: Lack of flexibility</p> <p>$a+p > 4$ <u>and</u> one is no more than 2X other: non-sign.</p> <p>$a+p > 4$ <u>and</u> one is 2-3X other: ideational sets and values are relatively fixed and difficult to change.</p> <p>$a+p > 4$ <u>and</u> one is 3X other: inflexible, difficult to alter values or take on different perspectives.</p> | |
| Food | 0.23 [0.50] | Fd response indicative of dependency behaviors. |
| T | 1.03 [0.58] | =0 more conservative in need for interpersonal contact. |

Concerned with personal space. Cautious in forming or maintaining close emotional ties.

>1 strong need for closeness.

Human Content

Absolute frequency in H responses indicates interest in people. Pure H vs. others: perception of people (including self) as based on real experiences or coming from imaginary conceptions.

Actual content: useful information as to how people (including self) are conceptualized. Absence signals marked lack of interest in, or detachment from people, probably pathological, probably related to problems in identity or self-image.

H, Hd, (H), (Hd)

Pure H 50-67%

3.40 (1.80)

As pure H increases, indicates that interests in resp and views of social environment are probably based on real experiences, favorable or unfavorable. < 50% indicates that perceptions of people are based more on non real than real experiences.

H+(H):Hd+(Hd)

3+:1

Any elevation in Hd should be cause for concern. Overly pedantic and possibly distorted view of others.

H+A:Hd+Ad

4+:1

If value on right is > 25% than that on the left, suggests that views of social environment may be somewhat unusual.(H)+(A):(Hd)+(Ad)
value on left indicates detachment from reality. If combined values > 3, or if higher value is on right side, consider if social environment is misinterpreted.

1:0 - 2:1

Human Contents

H:Hd+(Hd)+(H)

I : 3.0:1.0

E, A: 1.3:1.0

Sz : 1.5:2.0

Dep : 1.0:1.5

Char D.O. : 1.0:2.0

Hx 0.01 [0.11]

If present with H subject tries to deal with self image/value in overly intellectual way, possibly ignoring reality.

AG & COP

Elevations signify an increased likelihood for aggressive behaviors (verbal or nonverbal) also indicate attitudes toward others that are more negative and hostile than is customary.

Sees social environment as marked by hostility.

Compare with D to predict how hostility will be expressed. Do not interpret in isolation. COP: Correlates with group therapy process.

COP = 0 and AG = 0 or 1: probable that subject does not perceive or anticipate positive interactions with people as a

routine event. Feel less comfortable in interpersonal situations, often seen as aloof.

COP = 0 and AG = 2: probable that subject tends to perceive aggressiveness as a natural manifestation in interpersonal relationships. More likely to exhibit aggression of some sort.

COP = 1 or 2 and AG = 0 or 1: generally perceives positive interactions and is willing to enter them.

COP = 2 or 3 and AG is 2: subject is open and interested in positive interaction but that many interactions will have aggressive component.

COP \geq 3 and AG = 0 or 1 OR COP is $>$ 3 and AG is \leq 2: probable that subject tends to be regarded as likable and outgoing.

COP \geq 3 and AG $>$ 2: very unusual, probable conflict re: appropriate mode of interpersonal behavior.

Isolate:R

Isolation Index = $[2(CI)+2(Na)+Bt+Ge+Ls]/R0.20$ (0.09)

When $<$ 25%, stop--go no further. When left side is $>$ than 33% than that on the right, a marked tendency toward social isolation exists. Should be used cautiously. Between .25 and .33: less involved with social interaction. Not necessarily maladaptive.

PER 1.05 (1.00)

Hi: need to be overly precise in defending their self image.

Ab+Art 0-2

Intellectualization to ward off threats to the self. Must interpret conservatively.

SPECIAL SCORES

AB 0.15 [0.40]

Abstraction. When human experience (Hx) is used to note human emotion or sensory experience or clear and specific symbolic representation.

COP 2.07 (1.52)

Cooperative Movement: assigned to any movement response (M, FM, or m) involving two or more objects in which the interaction is clearly positive or cooperative. Needs to be evaluated in context of AG (aggressive movement) answers. Relates to interpersonal perception.

SIX "CRITICAL" SPECIAL SCORES

DV 1:0.70 [0.79]
2:0.01 [0.10]

Distorted language use or idiosyncratic modes of expression impede subject's ability to communicate clearly. Frequency of 2-3 not significant.

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| INCOM | 0.52 [0.65] | Most common of special 6 scores. Unusual condensations of blot details into single object. 1-2 not significant. |
| DR | 1:0.15 [0.38] 2:0.00 [0.04] | Represents more serious form of dysfunction. Most common in patients with affective problems. Detachments from task and often consist of circumstantial like ramblings. Presence of even 1 should be weighed carefully. Possibility of ideational instability. Hi numbers: effects effective decision making of patient. |
| FABCOM | 0.17 [0.41] | Irrational synthesizing action. Loose associations which are inconsistent, disorganized, and primitive. Presence of one should be weighed carefully. |
| ALOG | 0.04 [0.22] | Poor logic and flawed judgment. |
| CONTAM | 0.00 (0.00) | Most severe form of cognitive disorganization that is detected by test. Completely unrealistic merging of experience. Possible perceptual merging. Strained reasoning, maladaptive behavior. |
| Level 1/2 | | FABCOM, DR, DV, & INCOM can be classified into 2 levels depending upon the degree of cognitive slippage or how bizarre the response is. |
| Sum 6 SP SC | 1.62 (1.26) | If > 4 there is cause for worry. |
| SPECIAL INDICES⁴ | | |
| S-CON | 0-4 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. $FV + VF + V + FD > 2$ 2. Color shading blends > 0 3. $3r+(2)/R < .31$ or $> .44$ 4. $MOR > 3$ 5. $Zd > +3.5$ or $Zd < -3.5$ 6. $es > EA$ 7. $CF + C > FC$ 8. $X+ \% < .70$ 9. $S > 3$ 10. $P < 3$ or $P > 8$ 11. Pure H < 2 12. $R < 17$ <p>If ≥ 8 indicates warning for suicidal tendencies. Has no usefulness for subjects under age 15.</p> |
| SCZI | 0-1 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. $(X+\% < .61$ and $S-\% < .41)$ <u>or</u> $(X+\% < .50)$ 2. $X-\% > .29$ 3. $(FQ- \geq FQu)$ <u>or</u> $(FQ- > (FQo + FQ+))$ 4. Sum Level 2 Special Scores > 1 <u>and</u> $FABCOM2 > 0$ 5. Sum 6 Spec. Scores > 6 <u>or</u> Weighted Sum 6 Sp. Sc. > 17 6. $M- > 1$ <u>or</u> $X-\% > .40$ <p>Presence of any one condition scores one point.</p> |

⁴. Note that the methods of calculating several of these scores (SCZI and DEPI) were revised in the second volume of Exner; do not use the method presented in volume 1.

4: probability of schizophrenia is substantial but false positive also likely, need confirming evidence to include.

5: probability of schizophrenia is considerable, possibility of false positives is low, need disconfirming evidence to exclude.

6: very strong likelihood Sz is present. Start as a given, need extraordinarily compelling evidence to exclude.

DEPI

0-2

1. $(FV + VF + V) > 0$ or $FD > 2$
2. Color shading blends > 0 or $S > 2$
3. $(3r + (2)/R) > .44$ and $Fr + rF = 0$
or $3r + (2)/R < .33$
4. $Afr < .46$ or Blends < 4
5. Sum of Shading $> FM + m$ or Sum C' > 2
6. $MOR > 2$ or $(2AB + Art + Ay) > 3$
7. $COP < 2$ or $Isolate/R > .24$

Presence of any one condition scores one point.

Value of 5 is critical but not necessarily definitive. Probably reflects presence of psychological organization that can easily give rise to experience of depression. Values of 6 and 7 are more definitive.

CDI

Coping Deficit Index:

1. $EA < 6$ or $Adj D < 0$
2. $COP < 2$ and $AG < 2$
3. Weighted Sum C < 2.5 or $Afr < .46$
4. Passive movement $> Active + 1$ or $Pure H < 2$.
5. $Sum T > 1$ or $Isolate/R > .24$
or $Food > 0$

Scores of 4 or more are likely to have impoverished or unrewarding social relationships. Difficulty contending with the natural demands of social world. Histories of social chaos and or ineptness. Trouble in Coping situations, disorganization at social demands.

HVI

Hypervigilance Index:

1. $FT+TF+T=0$
2. $Zf > 12$
3. $Zd > +3.5$
4. $S > 3$
5. Sum of all human content (H (H) Hd (Hd)) > 6
6. $(H) + (A) + (Hd)+(Ad) > 3$
7. $H + A: Hd + Ad$ is less than 4:1
8. $Cg > 3$

When 1 is true and 4 out 2-8 are positive, HVI is positive. When T not = 0 or less than 4 out of 7 are positive, HVI is negative. T = 0 is primary variable, other seven are secondary.

When positive tend to view world more cynically than most people, tend to avoid close relationships, distrust others, concerned with personal space. Respond slowly to treatment. Consider selves victims of environment.

OBS

Obsessive Style Index:

(1) Dd > 3, (2) Zf > 12, (3) Zd > +3.0,
(4) Popular > 7, and (5) FQ+ > 1

OBS is Positive if one or more condition is true:

1. Conditions 1 to 5 all positive
2. FQ+ > 3 and two or more of conditions 1-4 pos
3. X+% > .89 and 3 or more of conditions 1-5 pos
4. FQ+ > 3 and X+% > .89

If positive: probable that subject is prone to be perfectionistic, overly preoccupied with details, often indecisive, and likely to have difficulty expressing emotion.

Exner, J. E. (1993). *The Rorschach: A comprehensive system, Volume 1: Basic foundations* (third edition). New York: John Wiley & Sons.

Exner, J. E. (1991). *The Rorschach: A comprehensive system, Volume 2: Interpretation* (second edition). New York: John Wiley & Sons.