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This guide to interpreting psychological test scores is designed to help the reader make sense of the findings stemming from neuropsychological examinations. The comprehensive report includes test findings in the form of conversion scores such as percentiles and when appropriate, accompanying grade and age equivalents. Knowing about those scores will help to clarify their interpretation.

Raw Scores: These are basic numerical scores achieved on each subtest by the individual. These scores offer no detail as to how the person performed relative to their peers.

In order to make comparisons and interpretations among tests, however, psychologists' use raw scores (e.g., the number of correct responses on a test) and convert those results to a score that does have interpretive value. All conversion scores have a "mean" (an average) and a "standard deviation" (a measure of variability around the mean. Both of these measures help psychologists to compare an individual to other persons of the same age. These conversion scores can also be used to make judgments about strengths and weaknesses and help to determine whether a specific skill is impaired.

Conversion scores are as follows:

Z Scores: Z scores are a basic type of conversion score. They have a mean of 0, and a standard deviation of +/- 1.

T Scores: T scores have a mean of 50 and a standard deviation of +/- 10.

Scaled Scores: These have a mean of 10 and usually s standard deviation of about +/- 3.

Standard Scores: These have a mean of 100 and usually a standard deviation of about +/- 15.

Percentiles: Percentiles are a way of ranking an individual against other persons on the same test. If a person is at the 52nd %ile, for example, s/he scored better at the task than 52% of others her age who took that test (but not as good at 48% of the people who took the test).

Grade and age equivalents (GE, AE): Based on raw scores, these place a person at a certain grade or age level. They are somewhat less formal measures and are primarily used to guide instruction.

It is best to not be too focused on specific scores, but rather to think of them as falling within a range of function. In addition, keep in mind that test performance reflects a sampling of behavior and can change from one time to another depending upon a variety of factors. Psychologists use ranges of function to make comparisons and judgments about an individual's strengths and weaknesses. Those ranges and their approximate conversion scores are described below.

Z Score Range	T Score Range	Scales Score Range	Standard Score Range	Percentile Rank Range	Interpretation
≥ +2	≥ 70	≥ 16	≥ 130	≥ 98	Very Superior/ Significantly Above Average
+1.4 to +1.9	64 to 69	14 - 15	120 to 129	91 to 97	Superior/Moderately above average
+0.7 to +1.3	57 to 63	13	110 to 119	76 to 90	High Average/ Above Average
-0.6 to +0.6	44 to 56	8 - 12	90 to 109	25 to 75	Average
-1.3 to -0.7	37 to 43	6 - 7	80 to 89	9 to 24	Low Average/Below Average
-2.0 to −1.4	30 to 36	4 - 5	70 to 79	2 to 8	Borderline/Moderately Below Average
-2.9 to −2.1	21 to 29	2 - 3	≤69	0.2 to 1	Significantly Below Average

We hope this information is helpful to you. Please note that the word "normal" is not included in this table, since it is a diagnostic description made based upon numerous sources of information and determined on a case-by-case basis.

Should you have questions about any aspect of this examination, please do not hesitate to contact the office of Dr. Mark A. Sandberg for additional information.