

Tolerance of Ambiguity Scale

Please respond to the following statements by indicating the extent to which you agree or disagree with them. Circle the number at the right that best represents your evaluation of the item. SA = Strongly Agree; MA = Moderately Agree; A = Slightly Agree; N = Neither Agree Nor Disagree; D = Slightly Disagree; MD = Moderately Disagree; SD = Strongly Disagree. The scoring key is on page 83 of Appendix I.

	SA	MA	A	N	D	MD	SD
1. An expert who doesn't come up with a definite answer probably doesn't know too much.	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
2. I would like to live in a foreign country for a while.	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
3. There is really no such thing as a problem that can't be solved.	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
4. People who fit their lives to a schedule probably miss most of the joy of living.	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
5. A good job is one where what is to be done and how it is to be done are always clear.	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
6. It is more fun to tackle a complicated problem than to solve a simple one.	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
7. In the long run it is possible to get more done by tackling small, simple problems rather than large and complicated ones.	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
8. Often the most interesting and stimulating people are those who don't mind being different and original.	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
9. What we are used to is always preferable to what is unfamiliar.	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
10. People who insist upon a yes or no answer just don't know how complicated things really are.	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
11. A person who leads an even, regular life in which few surprises or unexpected happenings arise really has a lot to be grateful for.	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
12. Many of our most important decisions are based upon insufficient information.	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
13. I like parties where I know most of the people more than ones where all or most of the people are complete strangers.	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
14. Teachers or supervisors who hand out vague assignments give one a chance to show initiative and originality.	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
15. The sooner we all acquire similar values and ideals the better.	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
16. A good teacher is one who makes you wonder about your way of looking at things.	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

SCORING KEY

Tolerance of Ambiguity Scale (page 32)

Having intolerance of ambiguity means that an individual tends to perceive situations as threatening rather than promising. Lack of information or uncertainty, for example, would make such a person uncomfortable. Ambiguity arises from three main sources: novelty, complexity, and insolubility. These three subscales exist within the instrument.

High scores indicate a greater intolerance for ambiguity. To score the instrument, the even-numbered items must be reverse-scored. That is, the 7s become 1s, 6s become 2s, 5s become 3s, and 4s remain the same. After reversing the even-numbered items, sum the scores for all 16 items to get your total score.

The three subscales also can be computed to reveal the major source of intolerance of ambiguity—novelty (N), complexity (C), or insolubility (I). Here are the items associated with each subscale.

ITEM	SUBSCALE	ITEM	SUBSCALE
1	I	9	N
2	N	10	C
3	I	11	N
4	C	12	I
5	C	13	N
6	C	14	C
7	C	15	C
8	C	16	C

(N) Novelty score (2, 9, 11, 13)

(C) Complexity score (4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 14, 15, 16)

(I) Insolubility score (1, 3, 12)

TOTAL SCORE

(Average range: 44-48)