

Cognitive Dimension of the 3D-WS

of items: 14

SCALE (Part A):

- 1 = Strongly agree
- 2 = Agree
- 3 = Neutral
- 4 = Disagree
- 5 = Strongly disagree

SCALE (Part B):

- 1 = Definitely true of myself
- 2 = Mostly true of myself
- 3 = About half-way true
- 4 = Rarely true of myself
- 5 = Not true of myself

SCALE CONSTRUCTION: Mean of items

Subdomains:

- Ability and willingness to understand a situation or phenomenon thoroughly (A1, A9, A11, B7, B13, B16, B23)
 - Includes a desire to know the truth and to reach a deep understanding of life
- Knowledge of the complexities of human nature and acknowledgement of ambiguity, complexity, and uncertainty in life (A3, A5, A7, A13, A15, B10)
- Ability to make important decisions despite life's unpredictability and uncertainties (B19)

* Selected for the 3D-WS-12

Part A: How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Item Wording	Wisdom Characteristics (Subdomains)	Source
A1. In this complicated world of ours the only way we can know what's going on is to rely on leaders or experts who can be trusted.	Ability and willingness to understand a situation or phenomenon thoroughly	Dogmatism Scale (Rokeach, 1960)
A3. Life is basically the same most of the time.	Acknowledgement of ambiguity, complexity, and uncertainty in life	New item
A5. You can classify almost all people as either honest or crooked.	Acknowledgement of ambiguity, complexity, and uncertainty in life	Intolerance of Ambiguity Scale (King & Hunt, 1975; Martin & Westie, 1959)
A7. There is only one right way to do anything.	Acknowledgement of ambiguity, complexity, and uncertainty in life	Intolerance of Ambiguity Scale (King & Hunt, 1975; Martin & Westie, 1959)
A9. It is better not to know too much about things that cannot be changed.	Ability and willingness to understand a situation or phenomenon thoroughly	Attitudes about Reality Scale (Unger, Draper, & Pendergrass, 1986)
A11. Ignorance is bliss.	Ability and willingness to understand a situation or phenomenon thoroughly	Need for Cognition Scale (Cacioppo & Petty, 1983)
A13. A person either knows the answer to a question or he/she doesn't.	Acknowledgement of ambiguity, complexity, and uncertainty in life	Intolerance of Ambiguity Scale (King & Hunt, 1975; Martin & Westie, 1959)
A15. People are either good or bad.	Acknowledgement of ambiguity, complexity, and uncertainty in life	New item

Part B: How much are the following statements true of yourself?

Item Wording	Wisdom Characteristics (Subdomains)	Source
*B7. I try to anticipate and avoid situations where there is a likely chance I will have to think in depth about something.	Ability and willingness to understand a situation or phenomenon thoroughly	Need for Cognition Scale (Cacioppo & Petty, 1983)
*B10. A problem has little attraction for me if I don't think it has a solution.	Acknowledgement of ambiguity, complexity, and uncertainty in life	Ambiguity Tolerance Scale (MacDonald, 1970)
B13. I often do not understand people's behavior.	Ability and willingness to understand a situation or phenomenon thoroughly	New item
*B16. I prefer just to let things happen rather than try to understand why they turned out that way.	Ability and willingness to understand a situation or phenomenon thoroughly	Need for Cognition Scale (Cacioppo & Petty, 1983)
*B19. I am hesitant about making important decisions after thinking about them.	Ability to make important decisions despite life's unpredictability and uncertainties	Need for Cognition Scale (Cacioppo & Petty, 1983)
B23. Simply knowing the answer rather than understanding the reasons for the answer to a problem is fine with me.	Ability and willingness to understand a situation or phenomenon thoroughly	Need for Cognition Scale (Cacioppo & Petty, 1983)

Reflective Dimension of the 3D-WS

of items: 12

SCALE (Part A):

- 1 = Strongly agree
- 2 = Agree
- 3 = Neutral
- 4 = Disagree
- 5 = Strongly disagree

SCALE (Part B):

- 1 = Definitely true of myself
- 2 = Mostly true of myself
- 3 = About half-way true
- 4 = Rarely true of myself
- 5 = Not true of myself

SCALE CONSTRUCTION: Mean of variables

Subdomains:

- Ability and willingness to look at phenomena and events from different perspectives (B1, B3, B5, B14, B17, B20, B24)
- Absence of subjectivity and projections (A6, A10, B8, B11, B22)
 - Includes self-transcendence (e.g., non-defensiveness, no projections, absence of self-centeredness)

* Selected for the 3D-WS-12

Part A: How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Item Wording	Wisdom Characteristics (Subdomains)	Source
A6. I would feel much better if my present circumstances changed.	Absence of subjectivity and projections	New item
A10. Things often go wrong for me by no fault of my own.	Absence of subjectivity and projections	Ideas of Reference Scale (Sears, 1937)

Part B: How much are the following statements true of yourself?

Item Wording	Wisdom Characteristics (Subdomains)	Source
B1. I try to look at everybody's side of a disagreement before I make a decision. (reversed)	Ability and willingness to look at phenomena and events from different perspectives	Perspective-Taking Scale of the Interpersonal Reactivity Index (Davis, 1980)
B3. When I'm upset at someone, I usually try to "put myself in his or her shoes" for a while. (reversed)	Ability and willingness to look at phenomena and events from different perspectives	Perspective-Taking Scale of the Interpersonal Reactivity Index (Davis, 1980)
B5. I always try to look at all sides of a problem. (reversed)	Ability and willingness to look at phenomena and events from different perspectives	Perspective-Taking Scale of the Interpersonal Reactivity Index (Davis, 1980)
*B8. When I look back on what has happened to me, I can't help feeling resentful.	Absence of subjectivity and projections	Resentment Scale of the Buss-Durkee Hostility Inventory (Buss & Durkee, 1957)
*B11. I either get very angry or depressed if things go wrong.	Absence of subjectivity and projections	New item
*B14. Sometimes I get so charged up emotionally that I am unable to consider many ways of dealing with my problems.	Ability and willingness to look at phenomena and events from different perspectives	Personal Problem-Solving Inventory (Heppner & Petersen, 1982)
*B17. When I am confused by a problem, one of the first things I do is survey the situation and consider all the relevant pieces of information. (reversed)	Ability and willingness to look at phenomena and events from different perspectives	Personal Problem-Solving Inventory (Heppner & Petersen, 1982)
B20. Before criticizing somebody, I try to imagine how I would feel if I were in their place. (reversed)	Ability and willingness to look at phenomena and events from different perspectives	Perspective-Taking Scale of the Interpersonal Reactivity Index (Davis, 1980)
B22. When I look back on what's happened to me, I feel cheated	Absence of subjectivity and projections	Resentment Scale (Bachman et al., 1967)
B24. I sometimes find it difficult to see things from another person's point of view.	Ability and willingness to look at phenomena and events from different perspectives	Perspective-Taking Scale of the Interpersonal Reactivity Index (Davis, 1980)

Compassionate (Affective) Dimension of the 3D-WS

of items: 13

SCALE (Part A):

- 1 = Strongly agree
- 2 = Agree
- 3 = Neutral
- 4 = Disagree
- 5 = Strongly disagree

SCALE (Part B):

- 1 = Definitely true of myself
- 2 = Mostly true of myself
- 3 = About half-way true
- 4 = Rarely true of myself
- 5 = Not true of myself

SCALE CONSTRUCTION: Mean of variables

Subdomains:

- **Presence of positive and caring emotions toward others** (A12, B6)
 - Particularly sympathy and compassionate love
- **Absence of indifferent or negative emotions toward others** (A2, A4, A8, B4, B12, B15, B21)
- **Motivation to nurture the well-being of others** (A14, B2, B9, B18)

* Selected for the 3D-WS-12

Part A: How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Item Wording	Wisdom Characteristics (Subdomains)	Source
A2. I am annoyed by unhappy people who just feel sorry for themselves.	Absence of indifferent or negative emotions toward others	Measure of Emotional Empathy (Mehrabian & Epstein, 1972)
A4. People make too much of the feelings and sensitivity of animals.	Absence of indifferent or negative emotions toward others	Measure of Emotional Empathy (Mehrabian & Epstein, 1972)
A8. There are some people I know I would never like.	Absence of indifferent or negative emotions toward others	Pensacola Z Scale (Jones, 1957)
*A12. I can be comfortable with all kinds of people. (reversed)	Presence of positive and caring emotions toward others	Acceptance of Others Scale (Fey, 1955)
A14. It's not really my problem if others are in trouble and need help.	Motivation to nurture the well-being of others	Compassion Scale (Beutel & Marini, 1995)

Part B: How much are the following statements true of yourself?

Item Wording	Wisdom Characteristics (Subdomains)	Source
B2. If I see people in need, I try to help them one way or another. (reversed)	Motivation to nurture the well-being of others	New item
B4. There are certain people whom I dislike so much that I am inwardly pleased when they are caught and punished for something they have done.	Absence of indifferent or negative emotions toward others	Overt but Safe Aggression Scale of the new F Scale (Webster, Sanford, & Freeman, 1955)
*B6. Sometimes I feel a real compassion for everyone. (reversed)	Presence of positive and caring emotions toward others	Pensacola Z Scale (Jones, 1957)
B9. I often have not comforted another when he or she needed it.	Motivation to nurture the well-being of others	Helping Disposition Scale (Severy, 1975)
B12. Sometimes I don't feel very sorry for other people when they are having problems.	Absence of indifferent or negative emotions toward others	Empathic Concern Scale of the Interpersonal Reactivity Index (Davis, 1980)
B15. Sometimes when people are talking to me, I find myself wishing that they would leave.	Absence of indifferent or negative emotions toward others	Liking People Scale (Filsinger, 1981)
*B18. I don't like to get involved in listening to another person's troubles.	Motivation to nurture the well-being of others	Helping Disposition Scale (Severy, 1975)
*B21. I'm easily irritated by people who argue with me.	Absence of indifferent or negative emotions toward others	Acceptance of Self and Others Scale (Berger, 1952; Shaw & Wright, 1967)

Three-Dimensional Wisdom Scale (3D-WS)

of items: 3

SCALE CONSTRUCTION: Mean of the cognitive, reflective, and compassionate (affective) dimensions of wisdom rather than the 39 items.

All 14 items of the *cognitive dimension* assess the absence of cognitive wisdom characteristics, such as the (in)ability or (un)willingness to understand a situation or phenomenon thoroughly (A1, A9, A11, B7, B13, B16, B23), the (un)acknowledgement of ambiguity, complexity, and uncertainty in life (A3, A5, A7, A13, A15, B10), and the (in)ability to make important decisions despite life's unpredictability (B19). The *reflective dimension* contains 12 items, measuring the ability and willingness to look at phenomena and events from different perspectives (B1, B3, B5, B14, B17, B20, B24) and the absence of subjectivity and projections (A6, A10, B8, B11, B22). The 13 items of the *compassionate (affective) dimension* assess positive and caring emotions toward others (A12, B6), the motivation to nurture others' well-being (A14, B2, B9, B18), and the absence of indifferent or negative emotions toward others (A2, A4, A8, B4, B12, B15, B21).

After data have been collected, reverse the scales for all items that are labeled with "reversed" and then compute the average of the 14 cognitive items to get the score for the cognitive dimension, the average of the 12 reflective items to get the score for the reflective dimension, and the average of the 13 affective items to get the score for the affective dimension. A simple overall wisdom score can be obtained by calculating the average of the three dimensions of wisdom, that is, the average of the three averages, NOT the average of all 39 items. Wisdom can also be treated as a latent variable with the cognitive, reflective, and affective dimensions of wisdom as its effect indicators. A relatively high wisdom score is indicated by average scores of 4 or higher on *each* of the three wisdom dimensions (strong criterion) or a score of 4 or higher on the average of the three wisdom dimensions (weaker criterion). Conversely, a relatively low wisdom score is indicated by average scores below 3 on *each* of the three wisdom dimensions (strong criterion) or a score below 3 on the average of the three wisdom dimensions (weaker criterion).

Please note that the 3D-WS was not developed through an exploratory or confirmatory factor analysis of all of its items. Hence, the three dimensions of the 3D-WS are not unidimensional constructs but encompass several wisdom characteristics within the cognitive, reflective, and compassionate wisdom domains. To test the psychometric properties of the 3D-WS, Cronbach's alpha values for each of the three wisdom dimensions should be reasonably high to confirm their internal reliability, and the three dimensions should significantly correlate with each other, with a Pearson's correlation coefficient of .30 or higher.