

Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI)

MMPI is an indirect type of objective inventory published in 1943 by Hathaway and Mckinley. The MMPI was originally constructed as part of an effort to develop a practical screening device for psychiatric setting. The inventory relies less than early inventories on the face validity of the items and on the subject's ability to report his own feelings and behaviour accurately. It uses, instead, the method of empirical keying. It comes in a group form with printed answer-sheets and in an individual form in which the 550 items are printed on separate cards, which the subject sorts into three slots in a box, marked *True*, *False* and *Cannot say*.

A typical item is a statement that might have been taken from a psychiatric interview; indeed, many of them were; some are frank statements of rater extreme, psychotic symptoms as "My soul sometimes leaves my body." Some items represent milder psychological and physical symptoms as "I have a great deal of stomach trouble." The items of MMPI cover the total personality. The original aim of the authors of the inventory was to create an aid to psychiatric diagnosis. The inventory was developed to detect pathological cases. The examiner scores the answers on the empirical scale and then draws inference from the resulting profile.

Hathaway and his collaborators made a determined effort to enhance the usefulness of the MMPI by providing several correction keys to alert the user that a "S's" answers may not be taken at face value. Anyone who does not want to commit himself on an item, does not understand it or feels that neither 'T' nor 'F' is the right answer for him, can omit the item in the group form or sort it as 'cannot say' in the individual form, because some subjects will overuse this scape hatch; the simplest control score is just a count of these, if as many as one-fifth of the items are answered this way the test is considered invalid.

Write short notes on the following :

- 1. Explanation of personality.**
- 2. Extroverts**
- 3. Introverts**
- 4. Trait theory**
- 5. Type theory**
- 6. Ambiverts**
- 7. Interactional approach to personality.**
- 8. Effect of home environment on personality.**
- 9. Interview as a test of personality.**
- 10. Impressive projective technique.**

Long Questions

1. Define personality and discuss its characteristics.
2. What is personality ? Discuss the trait approach to personality.
3. What are the main approaches for the study of psychology ?
4. Discuss the concept of personality. Discuss two most widely used tests of personality.
5. State and explain two projective tests that are commonly used to measure personality.
6. Give a brief outline of descriptive personality theories.
7. What is meant by T.A.T. ? Discuss the advantages and limitations of T.A.T.
8. What is meant by trait theory ? What are the disadvantages of trait theory ?
9. What is understood by surface traits and source traits ? How do you differentiate between the two ?
10. What is meant by Interactional approach to personality ? What are the advantages of Interactional approach over trait approach ?