



Code of Good Practice for Psychological Testing

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People who use psychological tests for assessment are expected by The British Psychological Society to:

Responsibility for Competence

1. Take steps to ensure that they are able to meet all the standards of competence defined by the Society for the relevant Certificate(s) of Competence in Psychological Testing, and to endeavour, where possible, to develop and enhance their competence as test users.
2. Monitor the limits of their competence in psychometric testing and not to offer services which lie outside their competence nor encourage or cause others to do so.

Procedures and Techniques

3. Only use tests in conjunction with other assessment methods and only when their use can be supported by the available technical information.
4. Administer, score and interpret tests in accordance with the instructions provided by the test distributor and to the standards defined by the Society.
5. Store test materials securely and to ensure that no unqualified person has access to them.
6. Keep test results securely, in a form suitable for developing norms, validation, and monitoring for bias.

Client Welfare

7. Obtain the informed consent of potential test takers, or, where appropriate their legitimate representatives, making sure that they understand why the tests will be used, what will be done with their results and who will be provided with access to them.
8. Ensure that all test takers are well informed and well prepared for the

test session, and that all have had access to practice or familiarisation materials where appropriate.

9. Give due consideration to factors such as gender, ethnicity, age, disability and special needs, educational background and level of ability in using and interpreting the results of tests.
10. Provide the test taker and other authorised persons with feedback about the results in a form which makes clear the implications of the results, is clear and in a style appropriate to their level of understanding.
11. Ensure that confidentiality is respected and that test results are stored securely, are not accessible to unauthorised or unqualified persons and are not used for any purposes other than those agreed with the test taker.

Steering Committee for Test Standards 2002