

Integrative Complexity Scoring Test – II
Master Set

#1

Childhood was a difficult time for me. I think because of the experiences that I had I grew into an insecure, self-conscious and angry adult and the person that I took it all out on was myself. Through my twenties, I was busy trying to establish myself in my career and tried to ignore how unhappy and dissatisfied I was. Around the time I turned 30, I realized that life did not have to be this way. I set about facing the pain and anger from my past and getting rid of it or at least changing the effect, the outcome. I liked to think of this process as “taking my life back”. The help of a therapist and support of friends and a lot of work on my part brought me to where I am today which is fairly satisfied with my life and myself. I think that I am still beginning to get to know who I am.

#2

I am a woman who has learned (and is continuing to learn) some ways by which to create a satisfying life experience. I spent much of my first 33 years living what I call now my “dead life”—depressed, inactive, and lonely, cut off from others and myself. I’ve found ways to feed my spirit, the core of me, so that I feel alive. I have others as part of my life with whom I feel loved and loving.

#3

These are unmistakable signs that Cubans find intolerable the denial of democratic liberties and the subversion of the 26th of July Movement by an alien-dominated regime. It cannot be surprising that, as resistance within Cuba grows, refugees have been using whatever means are available to return and support their countrymen in the continuing struggle for freedom. Where people are denied the right of choice, recourse to such struggle is the only means of achieving their liberties.

#4

I am at times temperamental and sensitive to criticisms. Public speaking and big social functions sometimes make me uncomfortable. I am not assertive enough and take on too much responsibility at times. My strengths on the other hand are that I am a good teacher and leader. I am responsible, flexible, friendly and understanding.

#5

You didn't know it, but you almost went into mourning for the man who is writing you these lines. Yes, my worthy sir; yes, young man; I came close to paying my respects to Pluto, Rhadamanthus, and Minos. I am still in bed, with a seton on my neck—a collar even stiffer than the kind worn by an officer of the National Guard—taking countless pills and tisanes, and above all plagued by that spectre, a thousand times worse than all the illnesses in the world, called a diet. Know then, dear friend, that I have had a cerebral congestion, a kind of attack of apoplexy in miniature, accompanied by nervous symptoms which I retain because it's good form to do so. I very nearly passed out in the midst of my family (with whom I had come to spend two or three days to recover from the terrible scenes I had witnessed at H's). They bled me in three places simultaneously and I finally opened my eyes. My father wants to keep me here a long time and to watch me carefully; my morale is good, however, because I don't know what it is to be worried. I'm in a rotten state: at the slightest excitement, all my nerves quiver like violin strings, my knees, my shoulders, and my stomach tremble like leaves.

#6

Moons and Junes and ferris wheels, the dizzy dancing way you feel, as every fairy-tale comes real—I've looked at love that way. But now it's just another show, you leave them laughing when you go, and if you care don't let them know, don't give yourself away. I've looked at love from both sides now, from give and take and still somehow it's love's illusions I recall. I really don't know love at all.

#7

I am glad Mrs.—Gertrude lived—I believed she would—Those that are worthy of Life are of Miracle, for Life is Miracle, and Death, as harmless as a Bee, except to those who run—

#8

Illness in the family and other family problems in my teens and twenties affected my life considerably but through it all I became a mature and caring person.

#9

Leading diplomats are trying to make last minute arrangements to bring the Big Five together in Washington before the San Francisco Conference. They feel the entire approach to the proposed World Security Organization will have to be revamped if there is to be any chance of success.

#10

Policemen represent fear and safety. I feel confident they'll be helpful if needed and that I'll feel resentful toward them.

#11

When questions about the purpose of my life arise, I sit back, take a deep breath and say "Well . . .". One's purpose in life seems uncertain. Perhaps it is to live by certain standards as best one can; perhaps it's to make the world "a better place"; perhaps it's to own the best car on the block. Purpose can be looked at on a number of levels. Philosophically, I think that people should strive for what they believe is "right". To me, that means making the world a more agreeable place. My philosophy is sort of a long term hedonism: if we make the world a pleasant place, we get to live in a pleasant place. People can have conflicting ideas about what's "pleasant", though, which creates problems. At a more day to day, pragmatic, level, I have a few purposes: (a) try not to lose my mind; (b) try not to be unduly obnoxious; (c) try to keep some sense of personal integrity; etc. Sort of sounds like a creed doesn't it? Sometimes I find it both amusing and somewhat humbling that my mores fit those my parents intended me to have (even though their own purposes in life and beliefs seem to me to be somewhat more traditional).

#12

One must be both. No doubt every individual is predominantly one. But we keep our sanity by being both. A pure extrovert is insane and a destructive influence. So is a pure introvert, like Lenin or Karl Marx or most Americans. You are too much an introvert. Then learn, and humbly learn to be sufficiently an extrovert, so that you may have a balance. You've got to curb your introverted pride, first and foremost. One's pride should be in one's wholeness, not in an intensification of one's own partiality.

#13

I would have written sooner had it not been for the state of my head (which has shown no improvement for inconceivable ages nor can I conceive an age when it will improve). I have read your poems many times over and think I have gained a certain intimacy with them. I find them highly attractive and to a certain degree even compelling. How strange the mixture of hope and despair in them and the impenetrability of this mixture, which however has a tonic effect. In almost every poem I think I hear your voice. Please do come to see me at my office, anytime you like. I am there every day until two; it would be highly unusual for me to be away. Let me stress again what I said to you earlier about my inadequacy as a judge of poetry.

#14

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of December 31, 1923, and thank you for your good wishes regarding the improvement of my health. But I cannot refrain from contradicting you on a few important points.

#15

Moving to Vancouver, going to school and doing 35 hours per week of classes and developing a relationship with my husband all at once was a traumatic time for me. But after graduation, and then working for a year, we went to Europe for a year. I had time, there, to contemplate who I was, what I wanted and this solidified my relationship with my husband. He provided me with much needed companionship without hampering my individuality and has continued to do so through our 15 years of marriage. With his love and support, and the strength that I have gained through my own experiences, I have had the confidence to grow as a person.

#16

I have just read Conrad's book; with distant admiration, but no passion for his villains, who had much better shoot themselves, I think. And I have become rather bored by Sylvia's Lovers—although the substance of it is very satisfactory. What I object to in the mid-Victorians is their instinctive fluency—as if Mrs. G. sat down to her writing with the cat on her knee—but the nurse will not let me explain my profound wisdom to you—nurses are strange beings—After all, some things are better worth having than flawless health—Perhaps it's the mushrooms she's after.

#17

The person I am now is not the person I was before I was in my early twenties. That person also cared about other people, but she would damage her own well-being trying to make others happy. Now I realize I must be comfortable with myself as a person and also worry about the emotional needs of others.

#18

In the wake of the wave of high grain and cotton output and the doubling of iron and steel production, extravagance and waste developed. The job of autumn harvesting was handled crudely and without consideration of cost, and we considered ourselves rich while actually we were still poor. More serious, in a rather long period of time, it was not easy to get a true picture of the situation. Even up to the Wuchang Meeting and the meeting of secretaries of provincial and municipal Party committees in January this year, we had still not been able to find out the realities of the overall situation. Such a habit of exaggeration has its social origin, which deserves to be studied with care. This has something to do with the situation where for some of our work there were only tasks and targets but no concrete measures. Although the Chairman had last year called on the whole Party to combine the sky-rocketing zeal with scientific analysis and set forth the policy of walking on two legs, it appears that both the call and the policy had not been appreciated by the majority of leading comrades. I am of course no exception.

#19

All aspects of my professional preparation and training through the years have contributed to wider knowledge of people, needs, behaviours, as well as honing my skills and developing personal confidence, enjoyment of challenges, and feelings of being able to make some contribution to the community.

#20

It seems strange at first that an organ, common to all men and extensively used by all, should be the active center of a performance limited to a few. Men readily admit that the activity of the artist is not only based on the use of the eye, but is unthinkable without it. Nevertheless, they assume a special artistic power apart from the eye and served by it only in an auxiliary capacity. And yet we may peer within the workshop of artistic activity if we realize that in essence this activity depends entirely upon the eye. Such realization can strip the artistic process both of the semi-mystical character which it possesses for some and of the trivial meaning attributed to it by others. This realization reveals it as a natural process which unfolds from the simplest beginnings to endless breadth and height.

#21

We moved to Ontario so my husband could take a job with a mining company. I became pregnant immediately and at the same time adopted a 4-year-old child. My mother had a nervous breakdown and I began walking the fence trying to appease both my husband and my parents, each demanding my total loyalty against the other. To survive, I withdrew from everyone, everything, and just went through the motions of doing just what I had to to keep everyone off my back and at the same time feeling guilty that I wasn't quite sure of what all these other people wanted me to do or be. This kind of dance routine went on for the next 13 years or so.

#22

Mrs. Murial Bennett does not know her onions. So four of her family came down with severe stomach aches Wednesday and a number of her husband's daffodils will not bloom in the spring, tra la.

#23

One mustn't pay attention to all the good, delightful things that come into one's mind when preparing for an examination; I reproach myself for wasting time whenever I open my window to look at the stars (there's a beautiful moon just now) and take my mind off things a little. To think that since leaving you I haven't read a line of French, not six lines of poetry, not a single decent sentence. The Institutes are written in Latin and the Civil Code in something even less resembling French. The gentlemen who edited it didn't offer up much of a sacrifice to the Graces. They make of it something as dry, as hard, as stinking, as dully bourgeois as the wooden benches of the Law School, where you go to harden your buttocks and hear it explained. Those who aren't very sensitive about intellectual comfort may find themselves not too badly off there; but for aristocrats like me, who are accustomed to enthroning their imaginations in seats that are more ornate, richer, and above all more softly luxurious, it's damned disagreeable and humiliating . . .

#24

The all Writs Act engrafts upon federal appellate procedure a new standard of interlocutory review. That standard allows interlocutory appeals under certain circumstances by leave of the appellate courts. It is a compromise between conflicting views on whether and when interlocutory review appeals should be allowed. The earlier federal policy of strictly limited review stressed the inconvenience and expense of piecemeal reviews and the strong public interest in favor of a single and complete trial. The other view, most extremely represented by New York state law, emphasizes the danger of injustice in individual cases from denial of review until after judgment at trial. Applying the new, more flexible compromise standard to the case at hand requires consideration of three interconnected but distinct issues, no one of which is sufficient to resolve the case.

#25

Generally speaking, my family offers support to me and in turn I offer support to it. Through a process of each family member loving those who are younger, respecting those who are older, and both loving and respecting those who are of the same age, the family becomes a powerful and positive force.

#26

Pylyshyn expresses concern that different theorists and experimenters operationalize imagery in different ways and that there is no single operation that can uniquely define the existence or functioning of the image. This is a common problem; "image" is not the only construct in cognitive psychology that lacks a unique operational definition. Most psychologists, however, have become comfortable with the use of converging operations to define entities that are not subject to direct observation. In fact, some researchers argue that unitary operational definitions should be avoided when dealing with inferred constructs, since such definitions confound the entity being measured with the instrument doing the measurement.

#27

The subject suggested by Francis Thompson's film is certainly very interesting—also very difficult to write about. One would like to find out, first of all, why, as a matter of historical fact, so many cubists and other abstractionists used forms which are identical with those obtained by photographing reflections in curved surfaces. Did the suggestion actually come from hub caps and the backs of spoons? Or is there a tendency in certain minds to perform the imaginative equivalent of projection on a curved surface? Then there is the question of duration, of change over time. Can a merely static art of distortion ever convey anything like the rich significance of a dynamic art in time? The question, oddly enough, hardly arises in relation to representational art. One would never think of complaining because the Piero "Nativity" is not a movie. Nor would it improve if it became one. Whereas, after seeing Thompson's film, one feels very definitely that lots of Picassos would be greatly improved if they were animated and had a development according to the laws of optics of curved surfaces. Perhaps the reason for the difference lies in this; in representational art we are shown a reality about which we can predict very little—for nobody knows what Nature, particularly living and moving nature, will do next. Whereas in the non-representational art of reflections in a curved surface there is (given the laws of optics) a foreseeable element. Whatever may happen in the given world, its curved reflections will comport themselves in certain logically connected ways. Can this inherent logicalness of reflection-distortions, as opposed to the inherent non-foreseeability of the facts reflected, be the reason why the non-representational movie seems more satisfactory than the non-representational picture? Whereas the same is by no means true of the representational movie and picture?

#28

You know Pen has bought the huge Rezzonico Palace—one of the best in Venice—and he finds it not a bit too big, but is occupied all day long in superintending a posse of workmen who fit the rooms into comfortable inhabitedness. But you owe me a luncheon here, and when you return you must come and be talked to death to about painted ceilings, marble statues and the like. It is an excellent purchase, —and surprises everybody now that it has been effected: for the mere adornments might be sold tomorrow for the price of the palazzo itself.

#29

Although Japan nor Manchoukuo harbor any aggressive designs there have, nevertheless, been frequent incidents along the border between Manchoukuo and the Soviet Union and Manchoukuo and Outer Mongolia. These incidents can be interpreted rather differently depending on one's perception of where the national boundaries actually lie. It is essential that the nations break out of an "attack and retaliate mentality" and realize this basic difference. A resort to arms on the assumption that trespass has been committed where there exists no clear border demarcation can serve no really useful purpose and may injure relations between countries, making resolution of differences even more difficult in the future. One thing all of these nations have in common is a hope and need for peace—none can afford the turmoil or expense of war. To this end the Japanese government in consultation with Manchoukuo has proposed a plan for taking measures for the clarification of the border line all along the Soviet-Manchoukuo border. If that is accomplished, it will relieve some of the tension, especially on the Eastern frontier. The Soviet Union now seems to concur with this plan so concrete questions may begin to be addressed. Direct negotiations are also now in progress between Outer Mongolia and Manchoukuo to solve various pending problems and establish good-neighbourly relations. If the settlement agreed upon by Japan and the Soviets can be translated into a working relationship for Outer Mongolia and Manchoukuo it will be possible to set up an organ for the peaceful settlement of border disputes between these nations.

#30

I'm a spiritual person directed by inner goals. I would say I'm a highly motivated, hard-working, easy-going, pleasant, friendly, caring and giving individual. My high self-esteem has given me courage and confidence to carry out and meet life's challenges. In spite of all this I'm still struggling with the question "Who am I?".