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Theoretical Perspectives in Psychology
Assignment 2: Trait Aspects of Personality

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Sect. 00454

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TIPI

- 1:** 7 Extroverted, enthusiastic
- 2:** 6 Critical, quarrelsome
- 3:** 6 Dependable, self-disciplined
- 4:** 6 Anxious, easily upset
- 5:** 7 Open to new experiences, complex
- 6:** 3 Reserved, quiet
- 7:** 6 Sympathetic, warm
- 8:** 4 Disorganized, careless
- 9:** 5 Calm, emotionally stable
- 10:** 2 Conventional, uncreative

Assessing self on the Big Five

Extroversion Score: $7+5 = 12/2 = 6/7$

Agreeableness Score: $2+6 = 8/2 = 4/7$

Conscientiousness Score: $6+4 = 10/2 = 5/7$

Emotional Stability Score: $6+3 = 9/2 = 4.5/7$

Openness to Experience Score: $7+6 = 13/2 = 6.5/7$

College Average vs My Average

College Students:

Extroversion: 4.4

Agreeableness: 5.23

Conscientiousness: 5.4

Emotional Stability: 4.83

Openness to Experience: 5

My Average:

Extroversion: 6

Agreeableness: 4

Conscientiousness: 5

Emotional Stability: 4.5

Openness to Experience: 6.5

Subjectivity of the Big Five

I find this test to be quite subjective, as humans are the most complex being in the Universe that we know of. Putting us into 5 categories is too little. With that being said, this test does appeal to just about everyone in the world, and just about everyone has these traits. Everyone can relate to it, and has levels of each trait mentioned. However, the issue is grading. It was relatively easy for me to give myself a rating, but if someone who doesn't know me would look at my results would think I am highly unsure of my self-evaluation. As an example, my agreeableness says I'm a 4/7. However, in reality I am very open to other people's thoughts and opinions, and have radically changed my philosophies and outlook on life over one conversation. However, I am still a critical

person, and will generally be argumentative over the littlest of wrong facts because it is simply wrong. With that said, I don't believe that makes not agreeable, it just makes me a person who takes critical thinking a bit too far. This gets us back on the issue of the test being very subjective, but overall I find this is a very practical and simple test that does meet a lot of criteria on a very simple scale.

TIPI: General Conclusions

1: Personally, I didn't have much trouble scoring because I am an extremely introspective person and always think about my psyche, what am I good at, how my personality is, what brings me pleasure, what doesn't, etc. However, I did have to alter the score a few times for a couple, such as "Disorganized, careless" and "Calm, emotionally stable". The reason for this was because of the fact that it is rather vague, and those are emotions that are very complex in nature, such as carelessness, because you can be careless in a certain aspect, but care a lot about completely different matters. I believe the scoring issue comes from being honest, but also the vagueness of the options given to us make scoring difficult at times.

2: A pattern does emerge: Extroversion and Openness to Experience correlate well with each other, along with Conscientiousness and Emotional stability. The pattern between extroversion and openness to experience to me is quite simply actually. If you are an extrovert, you are more likely to go to parties, go out, be less shy when meeting new people, and are open to a new life style. Whereas an introvert would have trouble accomplishing some of these tasks. To be an extrovert, you have to be open to new people, and to be open to experience, you have to be open to change in your environment. An extreme introvert would not be open to new people or a new environment, and a mild introvert would be open to certain people, but is not likely to be open with a new environment. The correlation amongst conscientiousness and emotional stability tie in really simply I find as well. To be conscientious, you have to be emotionally stable. You cannot be disciplined if your emotions are all over the place. Controlling your emotions is a form of discipline in its own right. I believe that in order to be conscientious, you need to have a sort of control on your well being on an emotional level, because if not you have too much on your mind to be properly disciplined. If you have low emotional stability, your conscientiousness will be lowered.

3: I believe that agreeableness is in a league of its own in a certain way. I find that it is its own set of emotions that doesn't directly affect extroversion and openness to experience, or conscientiousness and emotional stability. I find that being critical and/or sympathetic is something that is rather innately built into our genetics and can have slight environmental modifications through experience, but it is not as malleable as being extroverted or becoming emotionally stable.

4: I find the TIPI test is a little odd. While yes some people need synonyms of words to get a better understanding of what they are evaluating themselves on, I find this test can be quite confusing at times. For example #7 states: Sympathetic, warm. I am not always sympathetic, but I can generally say that I am almost always a warm/welcoming person. So evaluating myself led to a bit of an awkward difficulty, as I wasn't sure if the grade I was giving was entirely accurate. I also believe that people who don't see reality on a 3rd dimension, will have trouble grading themselves. Meaning, they see things at face value, and only face value, very black and white type style, will grade in extremes. If they don't feel as if they're disciplined, they'll put a 1 or vice versa. This will result in them giving less accurate results to themselves and affect an average if they are participating in one. I also feel like indecisiveness can affect scores. Because this person is feeling unconfident about what they are answering, they will not judge honestly, for a number of reasons. They could not want to feel cocky in regards to giving a 7, or they aren't confident that they are less competent in a certain aspect. I believe they would generally aim for around the 3 or 5 zone because it's the safe way to answer those questions.

Homework Assignment

Extroversion: 1, 2, 3, 7, 21, 23

Agreeableness: 10, 16, 27, 24

Conscientiousness: 10, 12, 8, 9, 11, 20, 5, 3

Neuroticism: 4, 6, 13, 17, 14, 26

Openness: 15, 18, 19, 20, 25, 27

The traits that were at both ends of dimensions were honesty, confidence, and welcoming. I placed honesty in extroversion and conscientiousness, confidence in extroversion and conscientiousness, and welcoming for agreeableness and openness. I believe this occurs because the Big Five is not a continuum of traits, but it is rather a mixture of a bunch of traits and they are classed in general sections. Some traits can overlap because they can be applied to both, and don't necessarily have to stick to just one section of the five characteristics. The aspects are complex, and having only a narrow path for each aspect of the Big Five just would not work.

A few friends of mine would agree that intelligence cannot be placed as a trait in any of the big five. As intelligence is a vague term and can be interpreted in many fashions. For example, one can be a heavy philosopher, but be terrible at math, and another person can be extremely good at math, but downright cannot keep up with philosophical debates, and what not. And those friends also agreed that intelligence should be added as trait. The way it could be measured is via IQ score, problem solving, mathematical skills, critical thinker, can keep up in philosophical debates. Obviously this is purely based on brainstorming and we aren't educated enough on psychology and the human brain to know if this is actually feasible as an option or not. However,

I don't think anyone can deny that intelligence is a trait that one can possess, and can play massive roles in their lives with how said person can use their intelligence.

One dimension that my friends were on the fence about was conscientiousness and agreeableness. We weren't sure whether to put humble in agreeableness or conscientiousness. I believe that it is a form of conscientiousness as being humble is a sign of confidence and honesty. It shows that you know your worth, are not overestimating your skills and it is a depiction of a healthy person, which a conscientious person is. One friend said that humbleness can be a sign of weakness and/or being compliant to others in terms of acknowledging your skills. He did see our point of view for it being conscientiousness in our eyes, but still stood his ground for his side.

I find the dimension that defines me the most is conscientious. I have the most traits there, and I can safely agree on it being the most definitive trait about me. While there is a big role of anxiety in my life that is being played out right now, and was played out in the beginning of my senior year in high school, the amount of traits in the conscientious section outweighs that singular aspect. While writing my trait list, I didn't have it in my mind that I was that conscientious, but after grouping it together, I ended up seeing which dimension had the most, and I was pleasantly surprised. I expected neuroticism or openness to be the most populated dimension, but was faced with the reality that maybe my biggest dimension so far is my conscientiousness. It doesn't surprise me that much, but like I said, it wasn't something I was expecting.

The only visible pattern that I managed to observe was that extroversion and openness were rather equal in terms of traits, and both had the same number of traits as well (6). To me I really believe that extrovertedness and openness do complement a lot on each other. There could be an exception to the rule that you can be open to new ideas and culture, but not be extroverted. However, I believe that this case is rather difficult to find in a modern society. The scores on my TIPI don't exactly match. I scored a 6 for extroversion and 6.5 for openness to experience, yet conscientiousness was my most popular dimension, and that was scored at 5. This could leave a gap in the TIPI scoring system in terms of accuracy. Perhaps the most accurate way to measure personality is to create a trait list and assimilate it into the Big Five, and see which dimension is the most popular. This leaves less room for interpretation and vagueness, and could lead to a better method of measuring one's personality.

Final aspect of the written assignment

I believe that the Big Five is quite a practical theory that does apply to just about everybody in the world, and is simple to remember. It isn't complicated and lays out the 5 most important dimensions for the personality of a human being. At the same time, it is also an easy system to expand on when it comes to adding traits in a certain dimension or dimensions. The only thing I

believe that is missing is an intelligence dimension. While I understand that measuring intelligence is extremely ambiguous and vague, but there are certain ways we can measure it. Because intelligence does not have to be one separate definition, but a mixture of a bunch of aspects that intelligent people seem to be having. Like stated before, we can have a trait saying Intelligence: IQ score, problem solving, mathematical skills, critical thinker, can keep up in philosophical debates, can bring up philosophical problems. This isn't perfect and can be scrapped by someone more educated in the field of psychology than me, however I feel this is an extremely important trait. The trait of supreme intelligence marks the specialty that homo sapiens bring to the Earth, and I feel that having it as a trait for a dimension of personality is important. Without great minds in science or philosophy, we could still be living in a medieval period.

I feel as if Cattell's 16 trait list is very good and accurate, but can be dumbed down a little. I do genuinely believe that if you are venturesome, you are more than likely going to be experimental, or that if you are apprehensive, you are more than likely going to be tense physically and mentally the times you are apprehensive. I believe that when making this trait list he had good intentions when making the list to try and appeal to as many people as possible, but didn't do so super successfully as it is a tad repetitive in nature.

Placing 16 in the Big Five

Extroversion: Outgoing, venturesome, assertive

Agreeableness:

Conscientiousness: Forthright, assertive, emotionally stable, self-sufficient, controlled

Neuroticism: Tense, apprehensive, suspicious, shrewd

Openness: Experimenting, Imaginative, happy-go-lucky, more intelligent,

Trait list

- 1 Extrovert
- 2 Sociable
- 3 Confident (A developing one)
- 4 Self-conscious
- 5 Humble
- 6 Shy
- 7 Competitive
- 8 Resourceful
- 9 Calm
- 10 Trustworthy
- 11 Extremely selective (Selective in where I put my attention to)
- 12 Ambitious

- 13 Easily upset
- 14 Overthinker
- 15 Experimental
- 16 Empathetic
- 17 Anxious (Anxiety in a specific area in my life)
- 18 Open to new ideas & philosophies
- 19 Creative with thought
- 20 Honest
- 21 Extremely sarcastic
- 22 Introspective
- 23 Argumentative
- 24 Gullible
- 25 Philosophical in nature
- 26 Skeptical
- 27 Welcoming