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Test Your Personality

People like to keep things simple, especially when talking about other people. There's many nuances and complexities to someone's character. Two people, Carolyn Kalil, and David Keirsey, have made tests to generally describe people based on some questions. I have taken the Keirsey Temperament Sorter and the True Colors test by Keirsey and Kalil, respectively. I was given the letters ISTJ (Introverted Sensing Thinking Judging) from the Temperament Sorter and the color green from Kalil’s True Colors test. After reading through the descriptions given by both of the assessments they are mostly correct on many points of my personality, but there are a few differences that do not fit my personality to the types I was given.

Defined as an ISTJ by the Keirsey Temperament Sorter I agreed with many parts of their description. Titled as the “Inspector”, the ISTJ “tend to work behind the scenes, only rarely having to confront others with their findings” (Keirsey 1984). I prefer tasks where people do not notice anything unless something wrong has happened. These jobs usually involve little to no cooperation with other people. If I cause problems, then it will most likely be my fault. If someone else makes a mistake, it is their problem and not mine. Another part which I agree with talks about the Inspector “in their choice of personal property price and durability are of primary concern, comfort or appearance given small consideration” (Keirsey 1984). I am very frugal and stingy in the first place. I do not like spending money unless there is a lot of conditions met. I will almost never purchase something at full price. There has to be a discount that almost always has to be at least half off. Even if it is at a suitable discount, I do my research to see if the sales price is repeated to see if it's actually considered a good price and not just a repeated sale. For the most part, being considered an ISTJ fits my personality for the most part, but there are some points that I don't agree with.

While I felt that being called an ISTJ is correct, there were some parts in the Keirsey Temperament Sorter that I felt did not accurately portray me. As an ISTJ I am expected to “ prefer the old-fashioned to the newfangled every time.” (Keirsey 1984). I prefer the modern approach compared to the old ways as modernization usually comes with better efficiency or just made easier overall. I would not do the laundry by hand if I have a washing machine at my disposal. I would not walk to a place if I could just drive there. I also do not agree with the idea that as an ISTJ I “tend to choose the directive Administrator's role over the soft-hearted Conservator's informative role.”(Keirsey 1984) I do not like leading or being in a leadership role. If at all possible I would prefer to be ordered around rather than commanding others. It goes with the idea that I want to work behind the scenes and away from the spotlight. There were some things that I didn't agree with in the Keirsey Temperament Sorter, but similar to the True Colors test it was mostly accurate.

Like the Keirsey Temperament Sorter, the statements made by being the color green in the Kalil’s True Colors test were accurate. Being defined as the color green, I am to be quiet, calm, and collected which is correct. When people are angry at someone, I usually express disappointment instead. The few times that I express anger or rage are in usually one of two cases: either I am angry at someone over the internet (also being disappointed at the same time) or I get frustrated by some problem that does not involve people such as some design decisions of a program I am using or being punished by something that is out of my control. Also as the color green I value knowledge. I am to be very analytical and logical in my reasoning which I am. I love to analyze the inner workings and rules of machines and games. If people ask me how I feel about something, I answer what I think about it considering logical reasoning and good analysis over how I feel. I can't tell people how I feel because I usually feel indifferent about things unless there's a reason to feel a certain way. Like the Keirsey Temperament Sorter, the True Colors test does describe my personality accurately but there are a few things I disagree with.

As said before, the True Colors test does accurately describe my personality but there are a few things about their evaluation that I disagree with. As the color green I am defined to be a visionary, which I do not necessarily agree with. Other people would consider me a visionary as I do often focus on the future and plan ahead of time. However I do not necessarily believe that I am a visionary because I am usually basing my actions on the present and past. I often say that I will or should do something in the future, but it usually never happens. I often think about the future and further beyond that of my lifetime but what matters to me is the present. Another thing I don't agree with is the idea that as a green I “seek to increase the certainty of their own values through being assertive and requiring differences from others in intellectual areas.” I usually am very open to ideas and will change my opinions and beliefs when given sufficient evidence. For the most part the True Colors test by Kalil is accurate, but there were a traits that I felt didn't fit my personality.

The personality tests that I have taken were mostly accurate at defining my personality, but there were some parts of their definition that I did not agree with. The Keirsey Temperament Sorter was correct in defining me as an ISTJ for the most part. I agree with almost all of the traits and characteristics such as being . However there were some things that I do not agree with their assessment such as preferring the old fashioned ways over the modern day. The True Colors test also was correct in identifying me as the color green. I am very analytical and calm for the most part. However I am not assertive or require to think differently from others. These tests can’t be perfect at describing me when there are billions of other people to consider. Generally, they seem to accurately portray my personality.

References

Keirsey, D., & Bates, M. M. (1984). *Please Understand Me: Character & Temperament types*. Del Mar, CA: Distributed by Prometheus Nemesis Book Company.

Kalil, C. (1998). *Follow your true colors to the work you love: the popular method for matching your personality to your career*. Santa Ana, CA: True Colors International.