

Cognitive Screening Tips: OCS*

*Oxford Cognitive Screen

Introduction

To be used in conjunction with OCS Score Form, Test Booklet and User Manual. Version A and version B allow for test/retest, both are available in several languages. The User Manual is very comprehensive and contains instructions for each item and for scoring. There is also a [training video](#), [FAQ | OCS](#), and online training modules available on the developer's [website](#).

The Score Form includes all single use sheets needed for each individual assessment.

The Test Booklet includes sheets that can be reused (i.e. stimulus cards). Consider laminating Test Booklets so they can be cleaned and re-used.

All items are located on Insite. If you do not have access to Insite, please contact practice.consultation@healthsharedservices.ca.

Materials Required

Score Form (including scoring key for Broken Heart Test), Test Booklet (preferably laminated and collated in order), paper, pencil, quiet room with a table and chairs, timer.

Instructions

The User Manual contains scripts for each testing item. Several items contain instructions to partially compensate for communication issues.

Suggested Introduction Script

"Today, I would like to ask you some questions about your memory, vision, perception and thinking skills. Because this is a standard test, I need to read/show the questions exactly as they are written and I am not able to answer any questions during the test. Some of the questions may seem unusual, quite simple or difficult. Just try to answer them as best you can. We will have time for questions at the end. Do you have any questions before we start?"

Picture Naming

Client receives full points if they self-correct after giving a wrong answer.

Orientation

In the Test Booklet, replace page 6 with a customized version indicating your local city/town and alternatives per instructions. Replace page 9 with current year and alternatives per instructions.

Sentence Reading

The sentence in Version A included the word QUAY (Canadian pronunciation “Key”, but ‘Kay’ and ‘Kway’ are acceptable US pronunciations). Version B’s sentence does not have ‘quay’ and uses words which may be more familiar to Canadians. If you are not required to use a specific version for test-retest purposes, choose whichever version you feel is most appropriate for your client.

Broken Hearts Test

The Broken Heart stimulus sheet (page 6) and scoring template (page 15) in Score Form Version A are set to UK printer parameters. *Please adjust your printer settings to “Fit” or “Shrink Oversized pages” in order to avoid cutting off portions of the sheet.* Score Form Version B is formatted correctly for Canadian printers.

Executive Task

The instructions do not specify whether the client can lift the pencil from the paper during the task. In the demonstration video, the examinee did not raise the pencil off the paper.

Scoring

Clients are not penalized if test items are modified in compensating for expressive language issues. Scoring for the Attention tasks are quite specific. Please refer to the User Manual and developer recording available here: [The Oxford Cognitive Screen](#).

For Semantics Picture Pointing (#2), the Visual Snapshot Report indicates the maximum score is 4. The maximum score is actually 3. Anything less than 3 points is defined as impaired.

For the Executive Task score, the Visual Snapshot Report indicates the lowest score possible is minus 1. This is not accurate. It is possible to score lower but it is highly unusual as it requires the client to perform poorly on the easier items and perform better on the more difficult items. Results can be represented on a wheel that provides a visual representation.

Instructions for using the Visual Snapshot Report, including sample Cognitive Profiles are contained in the User Manual.