

Psychometric Review of the Dark Factor Test

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Overall assessment

The supplied results provide an encouraging basis for the IDRlabs [Dark Core Personality Test](#), as an educational self-report measure of aversive personality tendencies. Across 25,253 completed sittings, the 45-item test shows strong overall internal consistency, positive item-total relationships throughout, and substantial variation in scores. [1, 2]

The assessment indicates a moderately positive outlook, with some degree of uncertainty. The evidence is strongest for the internal consistency of the broad composite; support for the nine facet scores is more uneven. Continued use for self-reflection and further validation is reasonable, with particular attention to weaker facets and the meaning of the overall score.

Internal consistency

Overall Cronbach's alpha is .953 (.95 when rounded). Facet estimates range from .66 to .85. Seven facets have alphas between .72 and .85; Narcissism (.66) and Moral Disengagement (.69) warrant closer examination. [1, 2]

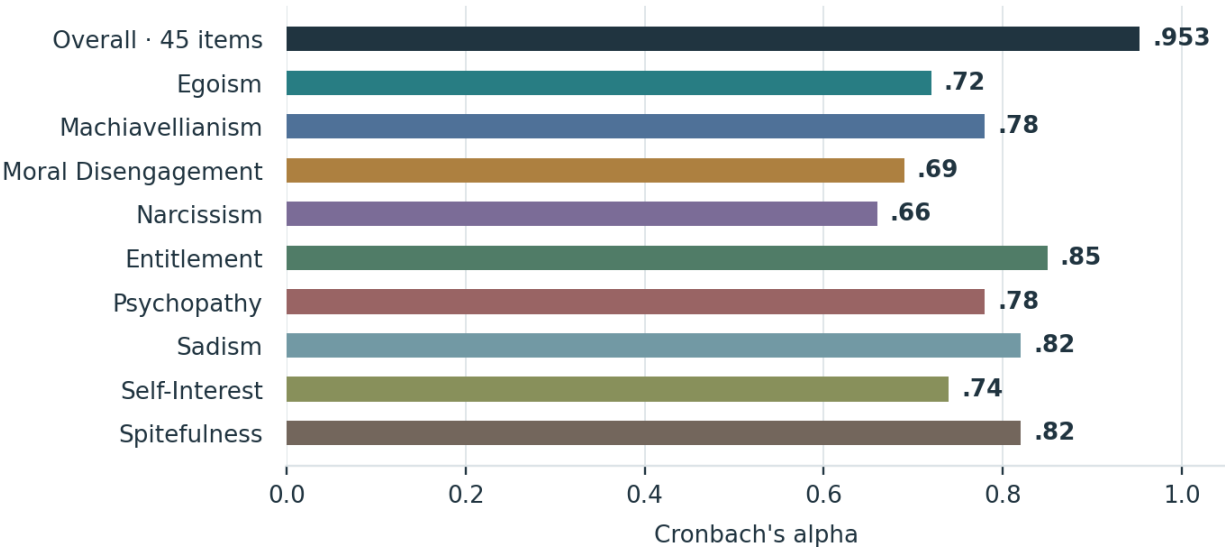


Figure 1. Reported internal consistency for the overall score and nine five-item facets. [1, 2]

The overall estimate is a clear strength, although alpha is influenced by test length and item overlap. It does not establish a single latent factor, external validity, or the accuracy of individual interpretations. The five-item facet estimates should be considered alongside content coverage and further reliability analyses.

Sample quality and score interpretation

The package covers all deduplicated, gradable sittings logged from 30 July to 9 September 2026 across 20 locales. Of 25,347 result-page records, 94 same-visitor, identical-answer repeats were removed, leaving 25,253 sittings. No additional records were excluded as incomplete or out of range, and no time-based filter was applied. Median completion time was 5 minutes 7 seconds among 11,730 timed sittings. [1, 2]

These are sittings rather than verified unique people. The 23,172 sittings with a browser identifier represent 21,921 distinct identifiers; 1,023 identifiers occur in more than one sitting. A further 2,081 sittings have no identifier. Browser identifiers improve deduplication but do not establish person-level identity. [2]

Straight-line responses were retained in 223 sittings (0.88%), including 114 all-maximum, 72 midpoint, and 31 all-minimum patterns. They contribute to isolated score spikes. Such patterns can include genuine responses, so sensitivity analyses are preferable to assuming that all are invalid. [1]

Score distribution

The overall mean is 53.4/100, the median is 53, and the standard deviation is 19.0. Reported skewness is effectively zero and excess kurtosis is -0.25. The middle half of sittings falls between 40 and 66; the 5th and 95th percentiles are 22 and 86. This broad spread is useful for describing differences within this sample. [1]

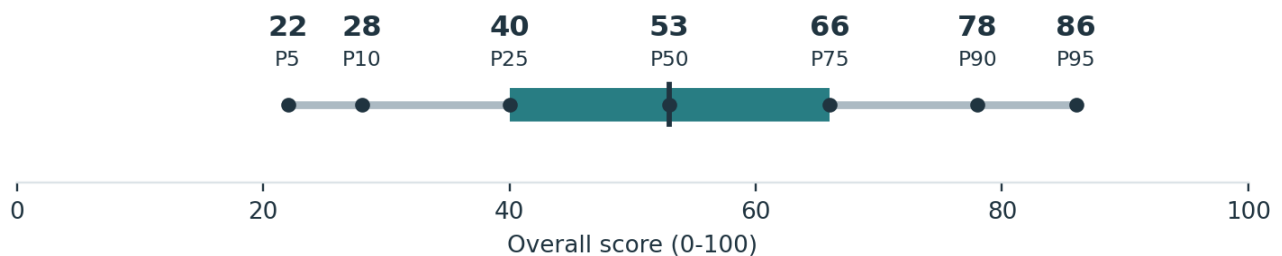


Figure 2. Reported overall-score percentiles. The teal segment marks the middle 50% of sittings; this is a quantile summary, not a reconstructed histogram. [1]

Scoring and reference values

All 45 items use seven agreement options stored as 0-6, and none is reverse-keyed. Each five-item facet is scored as its item sum divided by 30, multiplied by 100, and rounded once to a whole number. The overall score uses the 45-item sum divided by 270, multiplied by 100, with one final rounding. It is not calculated by averaging rounded facet scores. [1-3]

A score of 75 means 75% of the maximum possible item total, not the 75th percentile. These reference values describe self-selected website sittings and should not be presented as representative population norms.

Facet patterns and shared variance

Facet means reflect endorsement of these particular items; differences between means do not establish equivalent severity across traits. [1]

Facet	Items	Mean	SD	Alpha
Egoism	5	61.9	22.3	.72
Machiavellianism	5	55.0	24.7	.78
Moral Disengagement	5	49.0	22.0	.69
Narcissism	5	56.1	20.1	.66
Entitlement	5	54.7	25.2	.85
Psychopathy	5	46.6	24.4	.78
Sadism	5	49.0	26.9	.82
Self-Interest	5	57.8	22.5	.74
Spitefulness	5	50.5	27.2	.82

Table 1. Facet means and standard deviations use the 0-100 scoring scale. [1]

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1 Egoism	1.00	.70	.69	.47	.51	.68	.63	.53	.60
2 Machiavellianism	.70	1.00	.65	.52	.51	.71	.64	.59	.61
3 Moral Disengagement	.69	.65	1.00	.42	.47	.66	.65	.48	.64
4 Narcissism	.47	.52	.42	1.00	.67	.52	.42	.72	.40
5 Entitlement	.51	.51	.47	.67	1.00	.56	.47	.69	.45
6 Psychopathy	.68	.71	.66	.52	.56	1.00	.73	.59	.67
7 Sadism	.63	.64	.65	.42	.47	.73	1.00	.48	.67
8 Self-Interest	.53	.59	.48	.72	.69	.59	.48	1.00	.48
9 Spitefulness	.60	.61	.64	.40	.45	.67	.67	.48	1.00

Figure 3. Reported Pearson correlations between facet scores across all sittings. Column numbers follow the row numbering. [1]

Facet correlations range from .40 to .73. The strongest pairs are Psychopathy with Sadism (.73), Narcissism with Self-Interest (.72), and Machiavellianism with Psychopathy (.71). This broad positive overlap is compatible with shared aversive content, but does not by itself establish a general Dark Factor or nine distinct latent dimensions. [1]

The nine-part profile is a plausible content framework for further evaluation. Whether each facet adds reliable information beyond the broad composite remains an empirical question; the current summaries do not resolve it.

Item performance and content review

All 45 corrected item-total correlations are positive, ranging from .12 to .70. Forty-four items fall between .37 and .70. First-principal-component loadings range from .12 to .72, with the same 44 items between .39 and .72. The pattern is broadly encouraging, with one conspicuously weaker item. These are relationships with the overall scale, not within-facet discrimination estimates. [1]

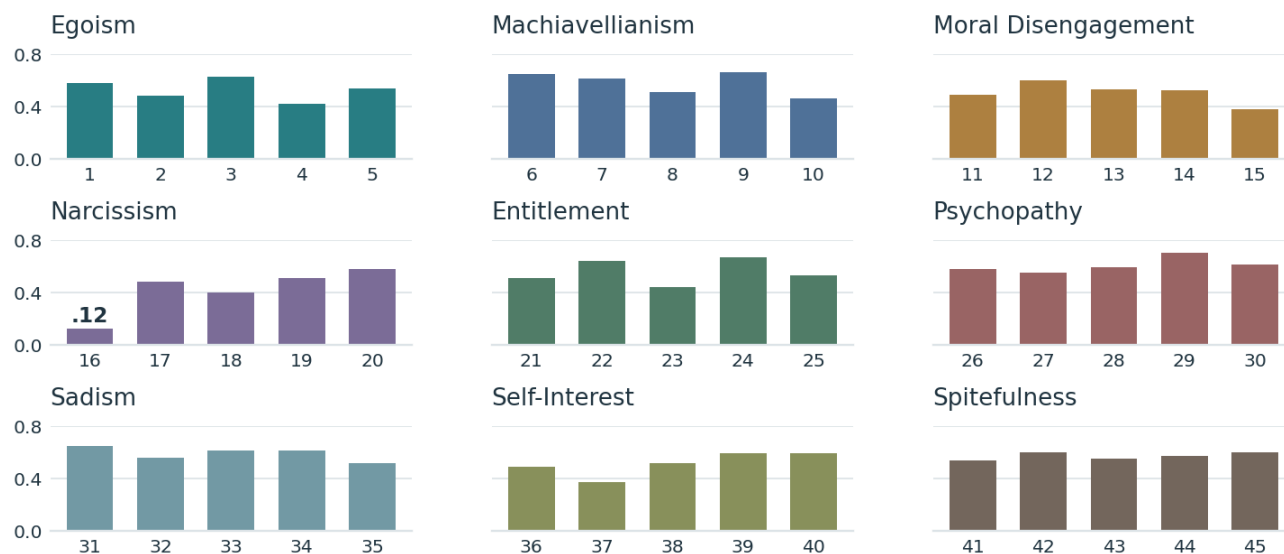


Figure 4. Corrected item-total correlations, grouped by assigned facet. Item numbers follow the supplied codebook; all panels use the same vertical scale. [1, 3]

A targeted item review

Item 16, “Those with superior talents should not hide them,” has the lowest item-total correlation (.12) and first-component loading (.12). It is also the most strongly endorsed item on average (4.57 on the 0-6 scale). Its wording may capture approval of expressing talent or ordinary self-confidence as well as narcissistic self-enhancement. This ambiguity makes it the clearest priority for cognitive interviewing and wording trials. [1, 3]

Its performance does not by itself justify deletion: the item could contribute facet-specific content that the total-score statistic does not capture. Within-Narcissism correlations, reliability with and without the item, and comparisons of revised wording should be examined before changing the scale.

Other content boundaries

Item 15 in Moral Disengagement has an item-total correlation of .38 and merits review within that weaker facet. Items about getting ahead, praise, and deserving good things may also elicit ordinary ambition or self-regard. Item 4 describes a belief about other people, while Item 32 emphasizes angry urges to hurt. Review should examine whether these items distinguish aversive motivation from adjacent attitudes and experiences. [1, 3]

Construct interpretation and validation

Relationship to the Dark Factor framework

The Dark Factor framework concerns pursuit of personal advantage while accepting or causing harm to others, together with beliefs that justify this conduct. The supplied item set includes relevant content on manipulation, entitlement, aggression, and rationalization. The theoretical framework provides a rationale for the test.

Published D measures include the D16, D35, and D70. This 45-item, nine-facet implementation should be evaluated on its own merits; published validation of other instruments does not automatically transfer to it. A direct comparison with an established D measure would be especially informative. [5, 6]

Conclusion and reviewer assessment

The Dark Factor Test has a promising internal psychometric foundation. Strong overall consistency, positive item discrimination across the full item set, and broad score variation support its continued development and careful educational use. The large multilingual dataset offers a useful basis for the next stage of validation.

Confidence is more qualified for the nine facet interpretations, particularly Narcissism and Moral Disengagement. The most immediate priorities are to investigate Item 16, establish the latent structure and facet-specific reliability, and test robustness across respondents and languages. External criteria and a planned stability study are needed to strengthen the intended interpretations.

The available evidence supports a reflective description of self-reported tendencies. It does not establish diagnostic cut-offs, clinical diagnoses, representative population norms, or predictions of individual dangerousness. High scores should not be treated as proof of a personality disorder or of harmful conduct.

Sources and scope

This assessment uses the supplied report, README, and English item codebook. The respondent-level responses.csv was not supplied; statistics are reviewed as reported rather than independently recalculated.

[1] IDRlabs. *Dark Core Personality Test - Results Package*. report(3).html, prepared 9 September 2026. Reported sample, distributions, reliability estimates, correlations, and item statistics.

[2] IDRlabs. *Dark Core Personality Test - reviewer data package*. README(3).md, prepared 9 September 2026. Sampling, identifiers, scoring, and overall alpha to three decimal places.

[3] IDRlabs. *Item codebook*. items(3).csv. English wording, facet assignments, response options, and item keys for the 45-item implementation.

[4] Moshagen, M., Hilbig, B. E., & Zettler, I. (2018). The dark core of personality. *Psychological Review*, 125(5), 656-688. doi:10.1037/rev0000111.

[5] Moshagen, M., Zettler, I., & Hilbig, B. E. (2020). Measuring the dark core of personality. *Psychological Assessment*, 32(2), 182-196. doi:10.1037/pas0000778.

[6] Moshagen, M., Hilbig, B. E., & Zettler, I. *The Dark Factor of Personality*. Author-maintained framework and measurement guidance. www.darkfactor.org (accessed 14 October 2026).



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