

# MEASURING THE DARK TRIAD

## **Machiavellianism**

1. It's not wise to tell your secrets.
2. I like to use clever manipulation to get my way.
3. Whatever it takes, you must get the important people on your side.
4. Avoid direct conflict with others because they may be useful in the future.
5. It's wise to keep track of information that you can use against people later
6. You should wait for the right time to get back at people.
7. There are things you should hide from other people to preserve your reputation.
8. Make sure your plans benefit yourself, not others.
9. Most people can be manipulated

## **Narcissism**

1. People see me as a natural leader.
2. I hate being the centre of attention. (R)
3. Many group activities tend to be dull without me.
4. I know that I am special because everyone keeps telling me so.
5. I like to get acquainted with important people.
6. I feel embarrassed if someone compliments me. (R)
7. I have been compared to famous people.
8. I am an average person. (R)
9. I insist on getting the respect I deserve.

Jones, DN & Paulhus, D (2014) *Introducing the Short Dark Triad: A brief Measure of Dark Personality Traits*

Adapted by Gaskin, S (2020) *Extreme Psychopaths and Serial Killers*

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## **Psychopathy**

1. I like to get revenge on authorities.
2. I avoid dangerous situations. (R)
3. Payback needs to be quick and nasty.
4. People often say I'm out of control.
5. It's true that I can be mean to others.
6. People who mess with me always regret it.
7. I have never got into trouble with the law. (R)
8. I enjoy having sex with people I hardly know
9. I'll say anything to get what I want.

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# HOW TO INTERPRET THE RESULTS

## **DON'T NOT SPEND MORE THAN 5 MINUTES ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS**

Score each question as follows:-

- Read the question and apply a score between 1-5;

<i>Disagree strongly</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neither agree nor disagree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Agree strongly</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

- The questions with an (R) at the end need to have the score reversed. For example "I hate being the centre of attention" (R)  
If I *disagreed strongly* the score would be reversed from 1 to 5 (2 would be scored 4 and 3 would remain the same)
- Once you have answered all 27 questions add up the TOTAL score for EACH SECTION (i.e Machiavellianism, Narcissism, Psychopathy)
- Work out the average (mean) for each section. For example if my raw score for Machiavellianism was 30. Divide 30 by the number of questions (9). Therefore my score would be  $30 \div 9 = \mathbf{3.3}$
- Compare your scores to the following table.

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Compare your scores to the  
"norms" below

TRAIT	MALE (MEAN)	FEMALE (MEAN)
Machiavellianism	3.12	2.91
Narcissism	2.83	2.64
Psychopathy	2.41	2.04

Example: I am a male and I have scored 3.9  
on the Narcissism scale. The norm is 2.83. So  
I am higher than normal. The maximum  
score for each section is 5

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