Intelligence Test for Youth (ITY)

Notes for Group Administrators

If the parent/guardian of the test-taker doesn't want the child/tween/teen to write down their name, they are asking for special treatment and - whether or not they mean to - possibly putting you in a bind.

- In case of a blank name, to make the process work you need to score the test right there on the spot; you may not have time to do this. "Coming back later" will not work as it creates a possibility of mixing-up tests. So does allowing more than one test-taker to leave a blank name.
- I would advise against allowing a code name (or number, or phrase). It is likely to be:
  - A commonly used fake name - we see lots of Donald Ducks and Mickey Mouses.
  - A name that seems like a good choice to the test-taker's family but does not actually provide security. Grandmothers' names get used a lot.
  - Insecure. Anyone who can guess and/or obtain a code name can gain access to the test score. I can refuse to give a student's results to anyone other than the parents, but only if I know the child and parents and can definitively determine that the person claiming to be the parent, actually is.

If the test-taker (or their family) doesn't want to give you their complete date of birth (with year, month, and day), it makes no sense to administer the test. It is impossible to determine an I.Q. score, as the tests and scores are age-dependent. Telling you the birthday but not writing it down, creates the possibility of an error in scoring.

Additionally, regarding both name and date of birth. Without those two items, if the test-taker ever takes another or a different test, it will be impossible to match the two (or more) tests up. This means that the test-taker's development will not be possible to track. Though this may not matter much to the test-taker, it also renders certain research goals impossible.

I.Q. testing is a sensitive area and trust issues loom high. Depending on whether you are being compensated or not, and/or other factors, you as test administrator may simply refuse to administer the test if the test-taker (or their family member) doesn't fill in all the information. I explain that "This isn't a one-way street; I give you something of value, I get something back, I turn that into value for other/future children/tweens/teens. I'm a researcher and as we administer these tests, we improve them." You may also explain that it takes a lot of test results - which may be anonymized before saving - to norm tests. There is precedent, for example St. Jude's Children's Hospital which requires that every patient admitted agree to participate in a research trial.

As for the answer sheet item about boy/girl or male/female. In the year 2025 it is hard to say how the "gender wars" and transgender controversy will eventually resolve. However, it is the case - though sometimes "not mentioned aloud" - that scoring on certain measures differs significantly between the two sexes. Therefore for research and norming purposes, the test-taker's sex is materially relevant. You need to be careful getting into a discussion as it can turn into a big argument that doesn't come to a natural conclusion.

Another option is to tell a test-taker or family member (of course only if some version of this is true) "The test-scoring process requires these pieces of information; if any of them are left incomplete the test goes straight into the shredder. Which is a waste of everyone's time."

But finally, as testing administrator, it is your call. You have the authority to just say no. (If your organization or situation doesn't actually grant you such authority I suggest you quit, if you can.)

Of course we want to accommodate reasonable requests and differences in life situations, including parental views, needs, and demands. However this is supposed to be a fun, rewarding process for everyone involved, including you, the test administrator!

About Data Hygiene

Most people know that certain entities desire to, attempt to, and do track just about every conceivable aspect of whole populations. Some of them would love to know your child's I.Q. and maybe you prefer that they don't.

Here is a statement I use in my own operation. Please don't use it verbatim unless you mean it and have actually configured your own operation - including personnel and record-keeping - to match these promises.

We do a number of things to keep private your or your test-taker's results.

First, we don't use tests offered by major test publishers that either:

- offer only on-line testing (using their own proprietary systems), or
- are scored by first putting all the test information into the company's proprietary data stores.

Second, we store our test results separately from your/the test-taker's Personally Identifying Information. There are two data stores. One stores:

A) the questions (or a key, such as the name and version of the test),

B) for each question, whether the test-taker answered correctly or incorrectly,

C) the test-taker's age in days at the time they took the test (note, this is not their birthday),

D) the test-taker's sex, and

E) an arbitrary and unique "test-taker ID"

The test-taker ID is not encrypted and in fact is rather simple. All that links it to the test-taker's identity is a single book which shows:

1. Full Name
2. Date of Birth
3. the test-taker ID.

Care is needed as this system could permit confusion between two persons with the exact same name and date of birth. However it is quite secure.

There are two scenarios for retrieval of test scores and results:

- Test taker, parent, and/or guardian identifies the test-taker and validates their request by some identification (such as an ID) and proof of date of birth.
- The test archivist uses the Full Name and Date of Birth to look up the test-taker ID, then:
- uses the test-taker ID to look up the test results, and gives the results to the requester.

Alternate scenario:

- Hostile actor and/or other party or entity not approved by test-taker and/or their family, demands test-taker's results. They know the test-taker's name and date of birth. They do not know the test-taker ID.
- The person fielding the request can't fulfill the request as they haven't the test-taker ID.

There are a number of variants of the above scenario and it is not possible to predict the future. However it is possible to create data management systems such that certain common lines of attack, are impossible; stymieing certain breaches, misuses, or "repurposing".

In the end we are faced with a decision: whether or not to trust persons who may not even be born yet, to do the right thing in a future we can't predict. (In some hypothetical scenarios, maybe we ourselves don't even know what we'd do in that situation.) There is no good answer to such a quandary; probably the best that can be done is to go by your own judgment of the integrity, character, and intent of the person and organization administering the test.