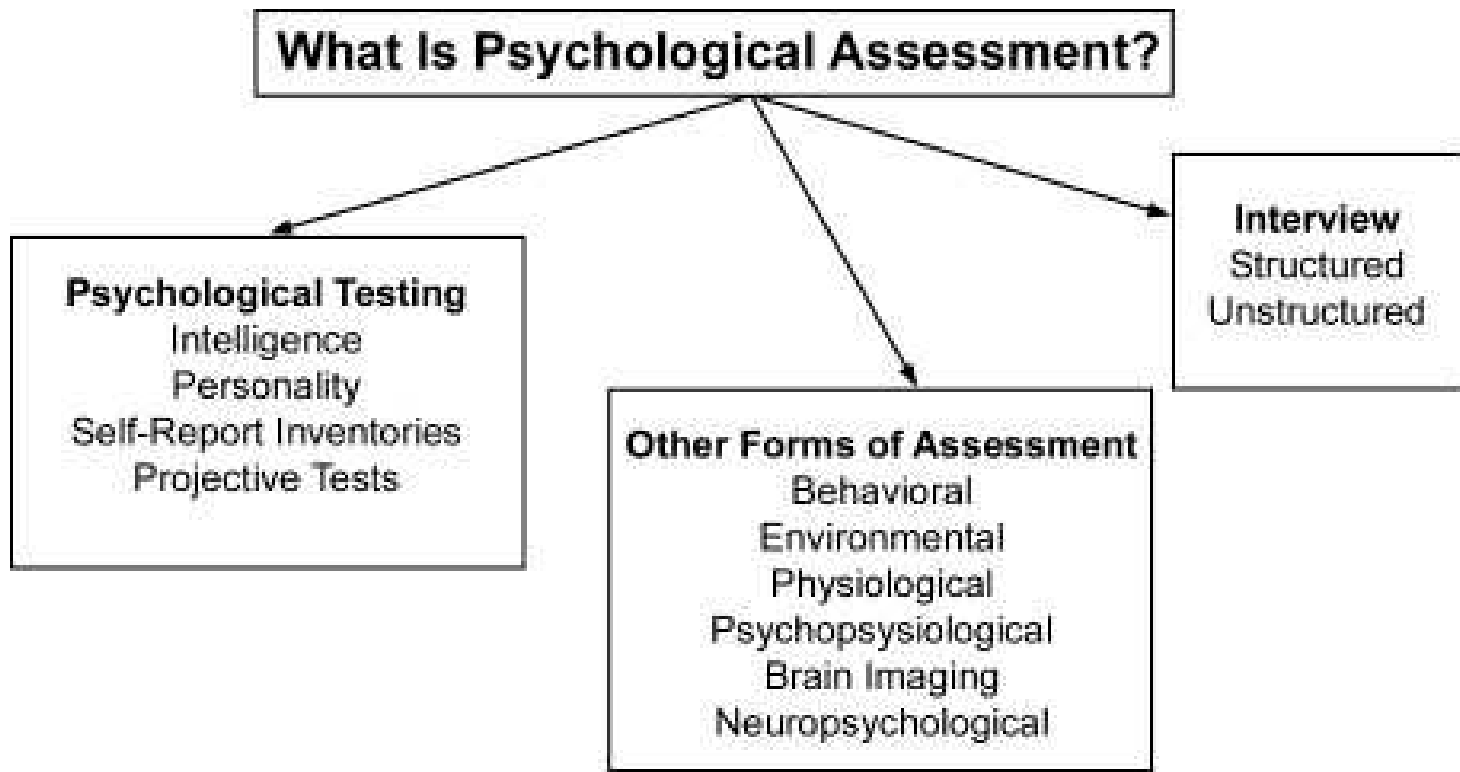



Chapter 3

Assessment







What Is Psychological Assessment?

Assessment:

A procedure in which a clinician evaluates a person in terms of the psychological, physical, and social factors that influence the individual's functioning.

Assessment vs. Diagnosis.

- **Assessment**

- a deep understanding of a client.
- a sense of a person's individuality,
- the forces that generate his/her uniqueness.
- why the person is in difficulty
- how the difficulty can be resolved.
- strengths
- weaknesses,
- causes
- cures
- diagnosis may be included

- **Diagnosis:**

- current symptoms



1. How do you feel about Psychological Tests?



<http://www.albany.edu/psc/images/testing.jpg>

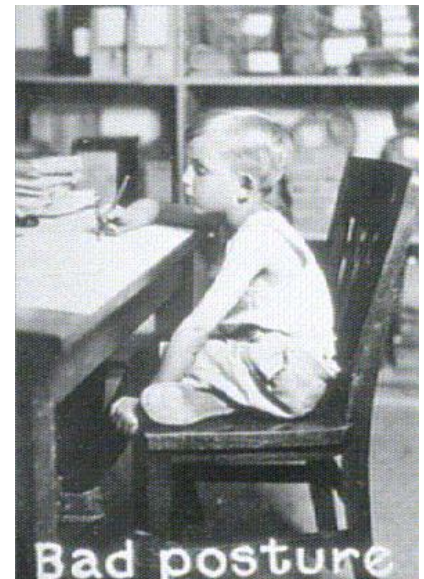
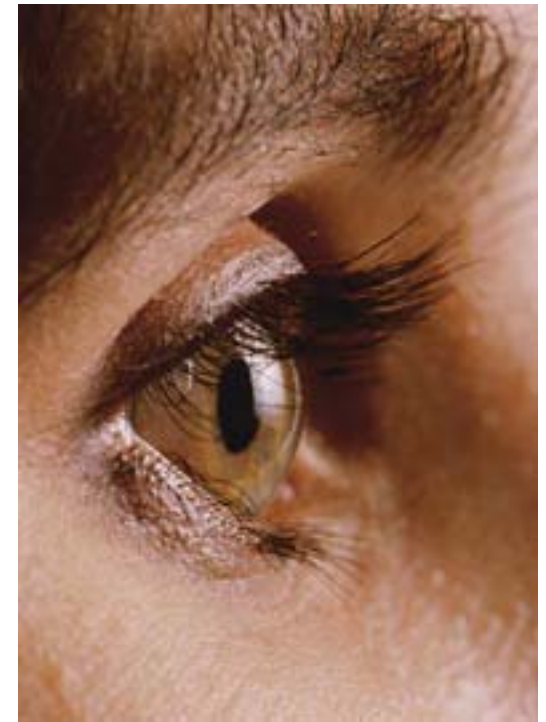
Major Methods of Psychological Assessment

- **Clinical interview**
- **Mental status examination**
- **Psychological testing**
- **Behavioral observation**



Clinical Interview

- Favored instrument of clinical psychologists and psychiatrists,
- Reflects view that we don't know someone well until we have met and talked with him/her.
- Good interviewers get information from:
 - what people say,
 - how they say it,
 - their tone of voice,
 - body postures, and
 - degree of eye contact



Information sought through interviews:

- Reasons for being in treatment
- Symptoms
- Health status
- Family background
- Life history



2. Would you rather be interviewed or take a psychological test?



<http://www.chssc.salford.ac.uk/healthSci/psych2000/images/Tat.jpg>

2 Types of Clinical Interview

Unstructured interviews

- allow for flexibility of timing and content
- allow the client to determine the hour



Structured interview

- improves reliability and validity
- allows lay persons to do the interview
- may use branching to eliminate unneeded questions

Unstructured Interview

- Personal history
 - Health
 - Employment
 - Peer relationships
 - School performance
- Family history
 - Close family members
 - Distant family members
 - Assess for history of mental disorder



3. Would you rather conduct an interview or give a psychological test?



Mental Status Examination

To assess:

- Appearance and Behavior
- Orientation
- Content of Thought
- Thinking Style and Language
- Affect and Mood
- Perceptual Experiences
- Sense of Self
- Motivation
- Cognitive Functioning
- Insight and Judgment



Mental Status Examination

- Appearance and behavior
 - Physical appearance
 - Level of consciousness
 - Mannerisms
 - Attire
 - Grooming
 - Activity level
 - Style of interaction



Abnormal Motor Behavior

- Hyperactivity
- Psychomotor Agitation
- Psychomotor Retardation
- Catatonia
- Compulsion



Orientation


- Person's awareness of
 - Time
 - Place
 - Identity
- Disturbances in orientation
 - Brain damage or brain disease
 - Amnesia
 - Dementia
 - Psychotic disorders
 - Schizophrenia



Content Of Thought

- Obsessions
- Delusions
- Overvalued ideas
- Magical thinking
- Violent ideation
 - Suicidal ideation
 - Threats to harm others
- Thinking style and language





Mental Status Examination

Thinking Style & Language

Symptoms involving vocabulary use and style:

incoherence

illogical thinking

loosening of associations

neologisms

circumstantiality

blocking

clanging

tangentiality

confabulation

echolalia

flight of ideas

pressure of speech

perseveration

Affect and Mood

- Affect - outward expression of emotion
 - Appropriateness of affect
 - Intensity of affect: Blunted or Flat
 - Mobility of affect
 - Range of affect
- Mood - inward experience of emotion (feeling)
 - Euthymic = Neither happy nor sad.
 - Dysphoric = Unpleasant feelings.
 - Euphoric = Cheerful, elated, possibly even ecstatic.



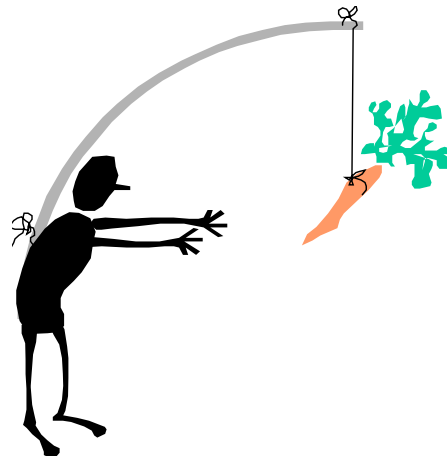
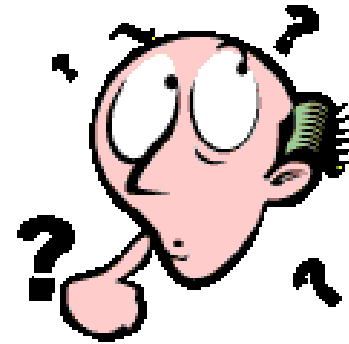
Perceptual Experiences

- HALLUCINATIONS- false perceptions not corresponding to objective environmental stimuli.
 - Auditory
 - Command
 - Visual
 - Olfactory
 - Somatic
 - Gustatory



Sense Of Self And Motivation

- Sense of self
 - Strange bodily sensations
 - Depersonalization
 - Identity confusion
- Motivation
 - Do they seek
 - Personality change or
 - Relief from emotional distress?





Cognitive Functioning

- General level of intelligence as evidenced by
 - Level of general information
 - Attention
 - Concentration
 - Memory
 - Physical coordination
 - Capacity for abstraction and conceptualization





Insight And Judgment

- Insight
 - Sense of understanding and awareness about self and world
- Judgment
 - decision-making ability



Impact of Perspective on Interview

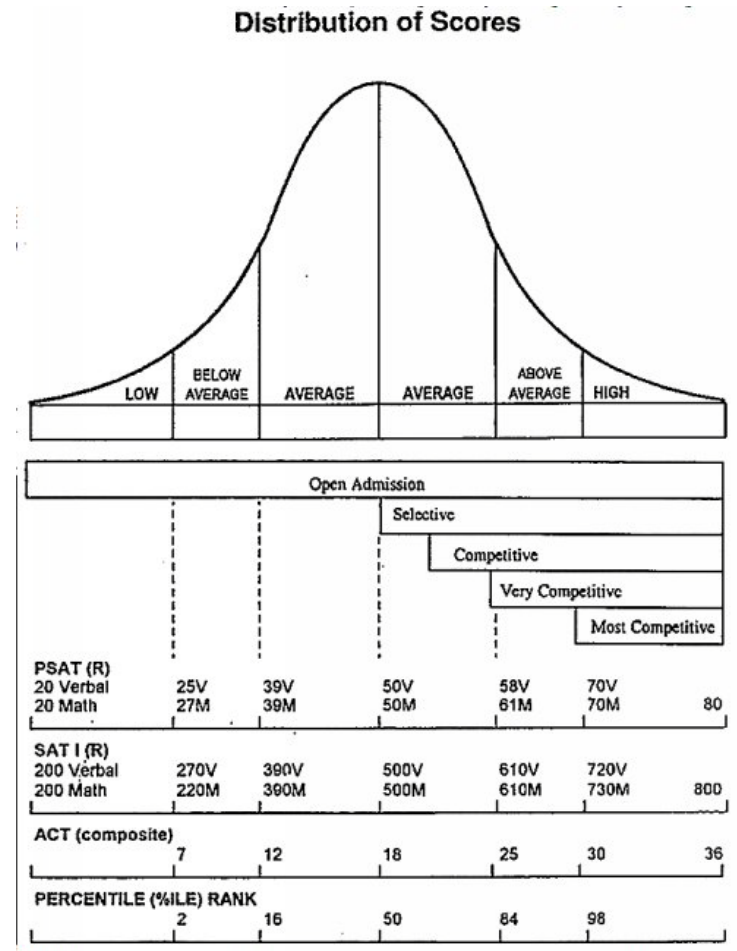
- Psychoanalysts look at early experience because their theory says this is important
- Behaviorists concentrate on current event for the same reason.





Psychological Testing

- What makes a good psychological test?
- Psychometrics
 - Reliability
 - Validity
 - Standardization
 - Percentile score



Psychological Tests

Type

- Psychological inventories
- “Projective” tests
- Intelligence tests

Example

- MMPI
- Rorschach, TAT
- WAIS



Characteristics of Psychological Tests

Type	Structure	Reliable	Focus
Psychological Inventories	Yes	Yes	Conscious
Projective Test	No	No	Unconscious
Intelligence	Yes	Yes	Conscious

Psychological Inventories

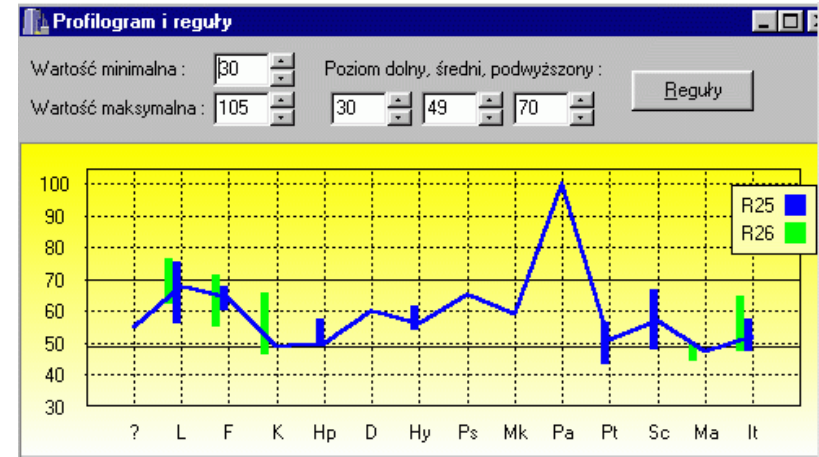
- Highly reliable
- Can be given simultaneously to several people
- Relatively inexpensive to administer and score
- Provide statistical norms for comparative judgments



Personality & Diagnostic Testing

- Self-report inventories

- Minnesota multiphasic personality inventory, II (MMPI-2) - behaviors, thoughts, and feelings
- NEO personality inventory (NEO-PI-R) - five-factor dimensional personality traits
- Million clinical multiaxial inventory (MCMI-III)- diagnosis of personality disorders
- SCL-90-R - physical and psychological symptoms



Million Clinical Multiaxial Inventory - III
CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION FOR PROFESSIONAL USE ONLY

ID NUMBER: 43463
PERSONALITY CODE: 8B 3 2B ** 8A * 2A 6B 8A 1 + 4 * 7 5 ' 1 // - ** C * //
SYNDROME CODE A * M * D // - ** CC * //
DEMOGRAPHIC: 4364/MF/40/W/R/12/L/O/SC/---/03/---/

Valid Profile

CATEGORY	SCORE	PROFILE OF BR SCORES				DIAGNOSTIC SCALES
		BR 0	50	75	95	
MODIFYING INDICES	X 118					DISCLOSURE
	Y 6					DESIRABILITY
	Z 20					DEBASEMENT
CLINICAL PERSONALITY PATTERNS	1 6					SCHIZOID
	2A 10					AVOIDANT
	2B 17					DEPRESSIVE
	3 17					DEPENDENT
	4 9					HISTRIONIC
	5 2					NARCISSISTIC
	6A 6					ANTISOCIAL
	6B 9					SADISTIC
SEVERE PERSONALITY PATHOLOGY	7 8					COMPULSIVE
	8A 16					NEGATIVISTIC
	8B 13					MASOCHISTIC
	S 3					SCHIZOTYPAL
	P 6					PARANOID
CLINICAL SYNDROMES	A 12					ANXIETY DISORDER
	H 9					SOMATIFORM
	N 9					BIPOLAR: MANIC
	D 13					DYSTHYMIC DISORDER
	B 3					ALCOHOL DEPENDENCE
	T 1					DRUG DEPENDENCE
SEVERE SYNDROMES	R 11					POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS
	SS 6					THOUGHT DISORDER
	CC 12					MAJOR DEPRESSION
	PP 1					DELUSIONAL DISORDER

Personality And Diagnostic Testing

- Projective testing
 - Client responds to ambiguous item or task with own meaning
 - Goal: - access unconscious
 - Rorschach inkblot test
 - 10 cards of “blots”
 - What might this be?
 - Where do you see it?
 - Thematic apperception test
 - Tell me a story about a picture
 - Themes, hero



Projective Tests

- Relatively unreliable (??)
- Preferred by Psychodynamically oriented
- Focus on
 - unconscious conflicts
 - latent fears
 - sexual and aggressive impulses
 - hidden anxieties



Projective Hypothesis

- **Stimulus material is unstructured,**
- **Patient's response determined by unconscious processes**
- **Reveals attitudes, motivations, and modes of behaviors.**



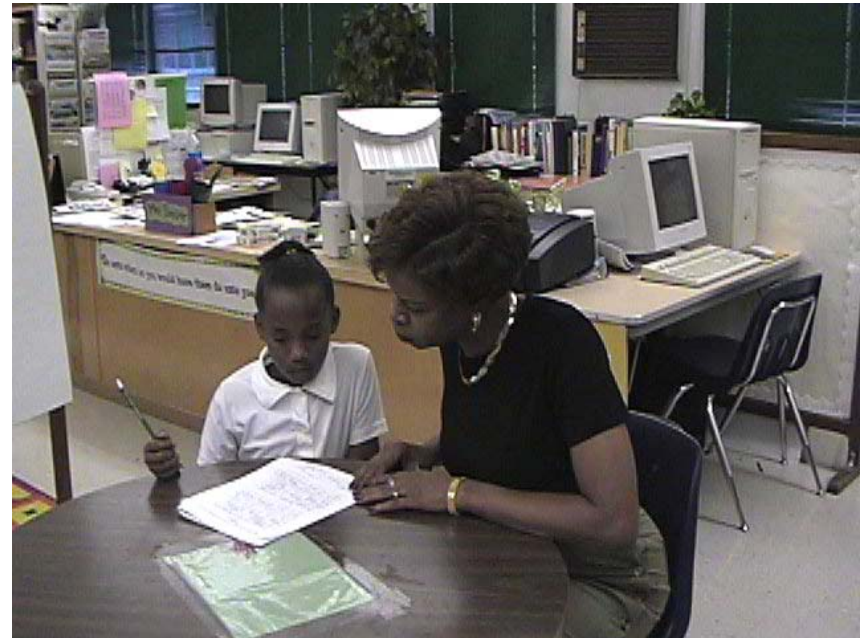
4. Other than an IQ test have you taken any other Psychological test?



http://www.feldmangallery.com/media/fudge/fudexh_05/projective-47-01.jpg

Intelligence tests

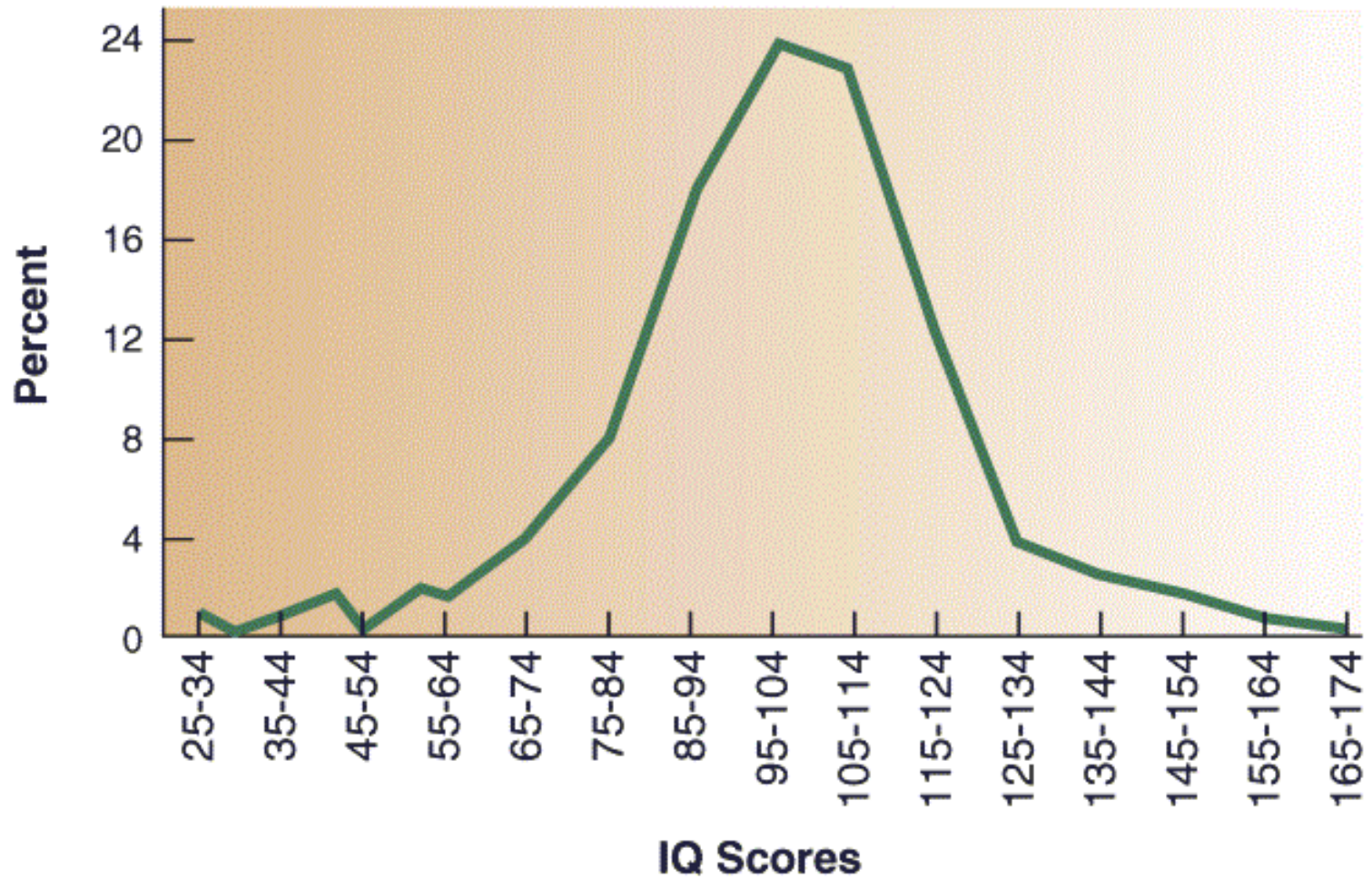
- **Most valid of all psychological tests**
- **Most reliable of all psychological tests.**
- **They are good predictors of success in school.**



Intelligence Testing

- Why do mental health professionals use them?
 - Assess cognitive deficits and strengths
 - Relationship between cognitive capacities and expression of emotional problems
- Stanford-Binet
- Wechsler intelligence scales
 - WAIS-III (adults)
 - WISC-III (children)
 - Verbal, performance and full-scale IQs

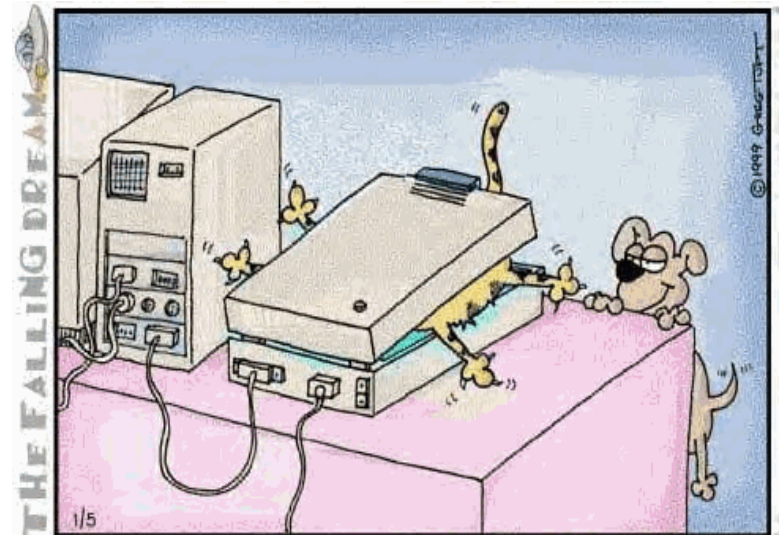




The distribution of IQ scores across the population fits a normal curve.

4 Types of Observation

- Behavioral assessment
 - speech anxiety
- Physiological assessment
 - EMG
- Neuropsychological testing
 - Bender-Gestalt Test
- Brain scanning techniques
 - CAT, PET, MRI



"Cat Scan"

Behavioral assessment vs. psychological assessment.

Traditional assessment

- Measures underlying personality structures
- Measures traits.



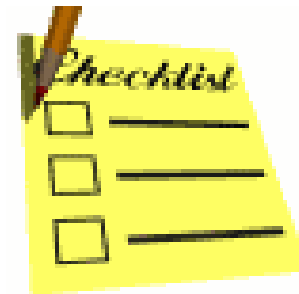
Behavioral assessment

- specifies conditions under which behavior does or does not occur.
- Closely tied to various therapy programs.
- Sometimes can be completed by the client
- No words needed
- Provides a record of
 - what needs to be changed,
 - progress made.



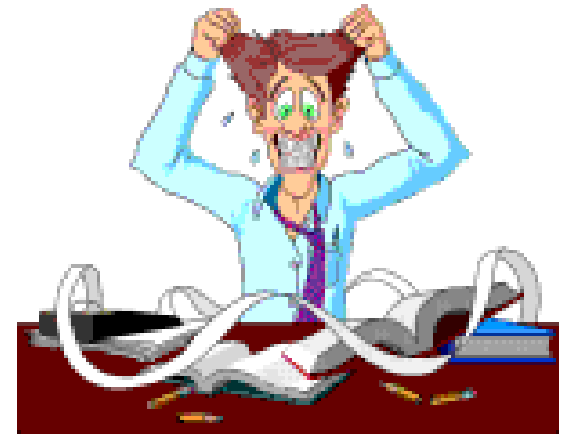
Behavioral Assessment

- BEHAVIORAL- antecedents and consequences of individual behavior
 - In Vivo Observation
 - Analog Observation
 - Self-reports
 - Self-monitoring
 - Checklists and inventories
 - Observation
- ENVIRONMENTAL - context of behavior family and social settings



Advantages of Behavioral Assessment

- **Words as symbols of experience sometimes do not elicit the behaviors that the direct experiences themselves produce,**
- **Interviews that rely heavily on words often fail to be fully diagnostic.**



Disadvantages of behavioral assessment

- **Tracking behavior in the required detail may be too**
 - expensive
 - time- consuming,
- **May not get at covert behaviors such as**
 - thoughts
 - Feelings
- **Reactivity: Change in a person's behavior in response to knowledge that he or she is being observed**



Functional Analysis

- **Assessing**
 - Behaviors
 - Stimuli that are presumed to
 - increase behavior
 - decrease behavior



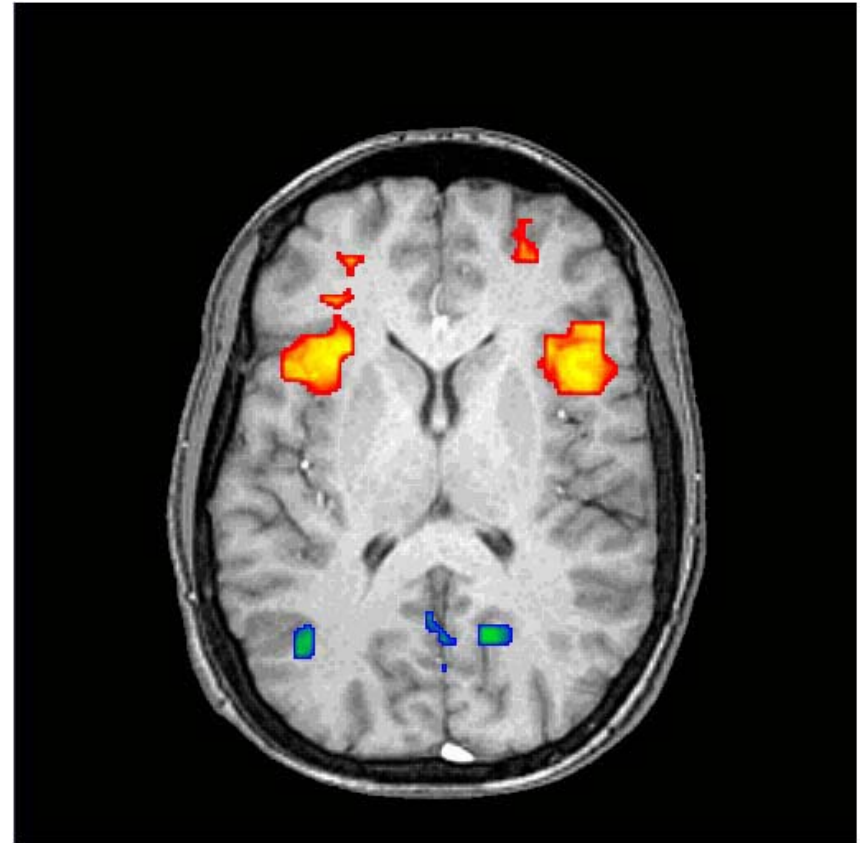
Psychophysiological Assessment

- Goal
 - Assess bodily changes associated with psychological or emotional experiences
 - Assess bodily functioning and structure.
- Electrocardiogram (ECG)
- Electromyography (EMG)
- Galvanic skin response (GSR)
- Blood Pressure



Brain Imaging Techniques

- GOAL - assess brain changes as a function of physical and psychological disorders



Electroencephalogram (EEG)



COMPUTERIZED AXIAL TOMOGRAPHY (CAT or CT)



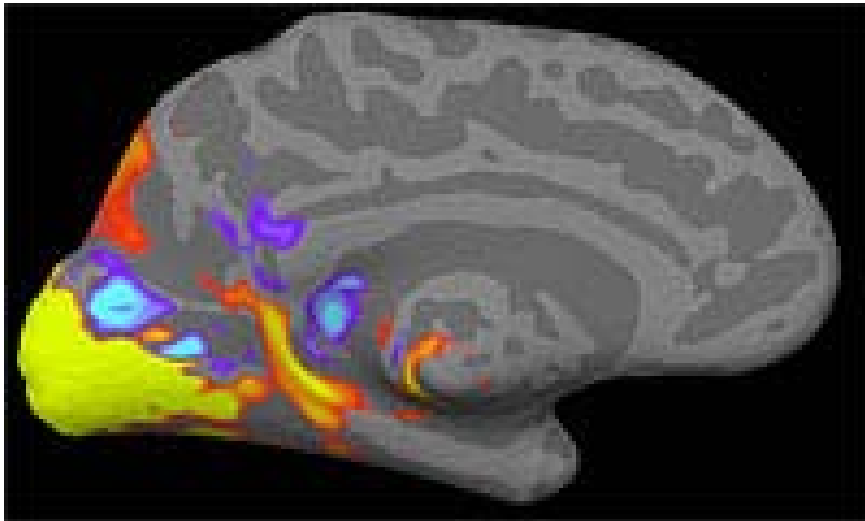
X-ray sections of the brain computer assembled for brain tissue density

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)



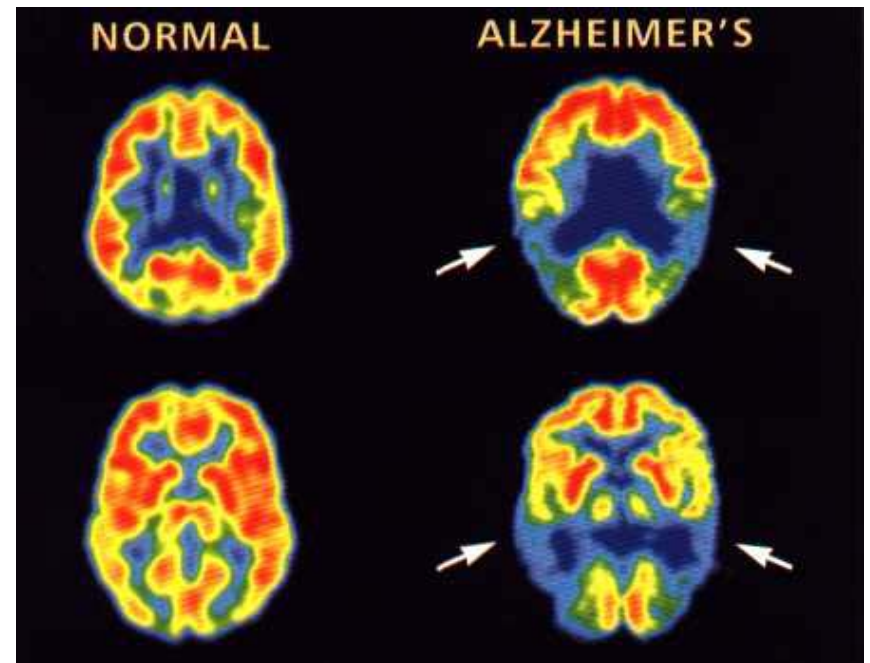
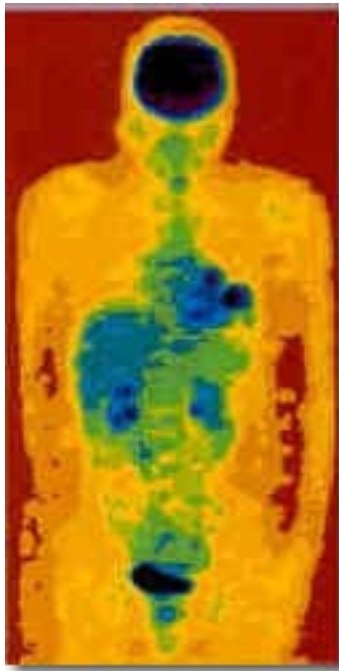
Radio waves organize the hydrogen atoms to emit electromagnetic energy this is picture is static.

FUNCTIONAL MRI (fmri)



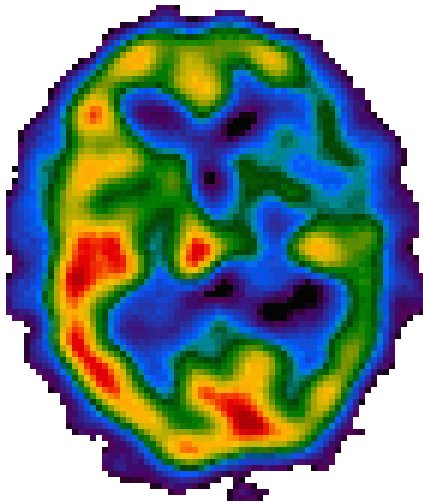
Images activity of brain using radio waves.

Positron-emission tomography (pet)



track radio active brain in motion after injection of radioactive compounds

Single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT)



Similar to PET Scan

Neuropsychological Assessment

- GOAL - assess brain functioning through psychological tests
- (as opposed to physiological tests)
- Halstead-Reiten battery
- Luria-Nebraska battery
- Bender visual motor gestalt test



Putting It All Together



5. What will be the area of your proposed topic tomorrow?

