

Psychopathy Checklist (PCL) Test*

Assess yourself or other people for psychopathic traits based on how well you or they are described by each of the 12 items of the test. The following scores are possible:

- 1** – the specified traits are definitely **not present**, coincidence with them is not observed;
- 2** – there is **some coincidence** with the specified traits, but not without exceptions and doubts;
- 3** – the specified traits are definitely **present**, coincidence with them is significant.

№	Items	Description of items and their traits	Score
1	Superficiality, shallowness	A tendency to create a favorable impression of oneself through faking emotions, persistently putting oneself in a good light, and making unlikely excuses for one's undesirable actions.	
2	Impulsiveness	A tendency to take actions without considering their consequences. A tendency to act rashly, in a flurry of strong emotions.	
3	Grandiosity	An extremely inflated view of oneself and one's abilities. Overconfident behavior in situations where most people would show at least a little restraint and respect.	
4	Poor behavioral control	A tendency to become easily angry and upset (these feelings may be exacerbated by alcohol and drugs). Verbal aggression (the tendency to insult and threaten others). Physical aggression (the tendency to push and hit others). Unprovoked and unexpected aggression.	
5	Deceitfulness	Resorting to lies, deceit, and other manipulations for personal benefit. Lying and deception are accompanied by self-confidence, a lack of significant anxiety, and even pleasure.	
6	Lack of goals and parasitism	Lack of long-term plans and responsibilities. Living day to day with no vision for the future. There may be an over-reliance on family, friends, and welfare services for one's own sustenance.	
7	Lack of remorse	Lack of guilt. Justifying causing harm to others. Insincerity in expressing remorse. Focusing on one's own suffering and ignoring the feelings of others.	
8	Irresponsibility	A tendency to engage in behavior that creates discomfort and risks for other people. Irresponsibility in family and work obligations.	
9	Lack of empathy	Low emotional attachment to other people. Lack of understanding of the emotional consequences of one's own actions for other people. Coldness, callousness, and indifference to their feelings.	
10	Antisocial behavior in adolescence	The presence of behavioral problems during adolescence. Diverse and frequent antisocial and aggressive behavior that cannot be explained only by being in a particular environment or by poor parenting.	
11	Failure to accept responsibility	Rationalizing actions that harm others. Shifting blame to the victim or circumstances. Denying the seriousness of the consequences for the victim or one's own culpability in such actions when committing them.	
12	Antisocial behavior in adulthood	A propensity for antisocial, violent and criminal behaviors in adulthood. These behaviors are diverse and frequent.	

Factor 1 (calculate the sum of the scores of items 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 and subtract six from it)	Factor 2 (calculate the sum of the scores of items 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and subtract six from it)	Total score (calculate the sum of the factors)

Additional information (e.g., data on individuals taking and/or administering the test):

Result**	Low level	Medium level	High level (risk of psychopathy)	Very high level (psychopathy)
Factor 1 / 2	0 – 3	4 – 6	7 – 8	9 – 12
Total score	0 – 6	7 – 12	13 – 17	18 – 24

Risk of psychopathy from a score of 13 and psychopathy from a score of 18 are defined based on Neumann, C. S., & Hare, R. D. (2008). Psychopathic traits in a large community sample: Links to violence, alcohol use, and intelligence and Coid, J., Yang, M., Ullrich, S., Roberts, A., & Hare, R. D. (2009). Prevalence and correlates of psychopathic traits in the household population of Great Britain.

Factor 1 describes interpersonal and affective psychopathy. Individuals with it are unemotional and indifferent to others, they have reduced empathy and guilt. They are manipulative and deceitful. This factor corresponds to **primary psychopathy** on the Levenson scale.

Factor 2 describes impulsive and antisocial psychopathy. Individuals with it are unable to control emotions and are prone to destructive behavior, increased reactivity, impulsiveness, and psychological problems. This factor corresponds to **secondary psychopathy** on the Levenson scale.

* The test is based on publicly available and open data on the screening version of Robert Hare's Psychopathy Checklist-Revised (PCL:SV). It is not an original test that is designed for the assessment of a person's psychopathic predispositions by a specialist. The test is suitable for individuals from the age of 16. Carefully analyze each item of the test.

** This test can only be used to make a preliminary assessment of an individual's level of psychopathic traits, it is not intended to make any definitive diagnosis and should not be taken seriously. Any suspicion of psychopathic predispositions should be followed up with more detailed testing and assistance from an appropriate specialist (a psychologist or psychiatrist).

This test is created as part of the **Antiviolence.io** project, aimed at informing and fighting the problem of violence in society. All details and references to research on psychopathy can be found on the project website.

Information Note!

Based on the **Violence Inhibition Mechanism** theory, the average and healthy individual has a strong inner resistance to harming others. This mechanism plays an important role in the development of moral emotions such as empathy and guilt. And the result of its dysfunction is the emergence of psychopathic traits, especially those related to primary psychopathy.

As statistical data demonstrate, the majority of the population is characterized by low levels or complete absence of psychopathic traits and corresponding behaviors. At the same time, people who commit premeditated acts of violence, and especially murders, typically have high psychopathic predispositions.

The ability to commit deliberate, planned, and purposeful acts of violence without inner resistance is a disorder that requires therapeutic intervention.