

Verbal Test of Practical Judgment (VPJ®)

Name: _____

Today's Date: _____

DOB: _____

Gender: Female / Male

Total Score: _____/20

Education: _____

Examiner: _____

***Scoring guidelines** are written in the white space below each question.

1. Suppose you have been taking heart medication for a long time. What might happen if you suddenly stop taking it? 2 1 0

2 = Serious negative consequences could arise. For example, I could become seriously ill or eventually die.

1 = Minor negative consequences could arise. For example I could feel sick.

0 = Probably nothing would happen. I take too many medications anyway. Inaccurate or vague response.

2. Suppose you realize that you accidentally took too much of your medication. You took twice the prescribed dose. What should you do? 2 1 0

2 = Call my doctor and ask advice. Contact the nurse and ask advice. Call Poison Control and ask advice.

1 = Monitor my reactions and call for help if I get sick.

0 = I wouldn't do anything. I would just wait. Inaccurate or vague response.

3. Suppose you fall in the bathroom and cannot get up. You're home alone. What should you do? 2 0

2 = Push my pendant. Crawl to the phone and call for help. Other appropriate and active response.

0 = Lay there and wait for help.

4. Suppose you plan to microwave a frozen dinner for your meal. When taking the dinner out of the freezer, you notice it is not frozen. What do you do about eating? 2 1 0

2 = A plan to eat something else AND awareness that eating the microwave dinner might make one sick. (key feature)

1 = An awareness of the possible health consequences of eating spoiled food, but NO reasonable plan to eat.

1 = A plan to eat something else, but NO recognition of the possible health consequences of eating spoiled food.

0 = I would eat it anyway. Lack of awareness that spoiled food can lead to being sick.

5. Suppose you have a 5 PM appointment with your doctor. It takes 35 minutes to get there. What is the latest you can leave to get there at 5 PM? 2 0

2 = 4:25

0 = Any other answer

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| <p>6. Suppose you are waiting for a ride to take you to a doctor's appointment. The driver is 15 minutes late. What should you do?</p> <p>2 = I would call the doctor and say I am running late. 1 = I would call the driver to see what happened (without calling the doctor). 0 = I would just wait for the ride to come (or another inappropriate response).</p> | 2 1 0 |
| <p>7. Suppose you haven't bathed or showered in two weeks. Tell me what possible problems might be the result.</p> <p>2 = At least two concrete examples or a stated association between hygiene and health. 1 = One concrete response [I could smell bad], without stating an association between hygiene and health. 0 = I don't think showering or bathing is all that important. Inaccurate or vague response.</p> | 2 1 0 |
| <p>8. Suppose you receive a check the beginning of every month that you use to meet your expenses. You have five days left in the month. The electric bill is due and you have a prescription to pick up. You can't afford to pay both. What should you do?</p> <p>2 = I would pay for the prescription and call the electric company and see if I can send it in late. (Recognition that patient can't pay both, but Rx is more important). 1 = I would pay for the Rx and wait on the electric. (Understand that both can't be paid w/o a plan for both). 0 = I would wait for next month and pay them then. Inaccurate or vague response.</p> | 2 1 0 |
| <p>9. Suppose you buy a meal at a restaurant that costs \$15. You hand the server \$20, and she gives you \$2 back. What should you do?</p> <p>2 = Ask for the correct change. (Recognition of receiving an inaccurate change with an appropriate response). 1 = Consider the amount she owes me as the tip. 0 = I wouldn't do anything. Inaccurate or vague response.</p> | 2 1 0 |
| <p>10. Suppose you get a phone call from someone you do not know. The caller says she works for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and that you have unpaid taxes. To avoid cutting off your Social Security benefits or Medicare, she says you need to make an immediate payment. She asks you to give her your checking account number or a credit card number so you can make a payment over the phone. What should you do?</p> <p>2 = Recognizes that this may be a scam and would not give financial information. 1 = Would NOT give financial information, but does not appreciate that this could be a scam. 0 = Provides financial information to the caller.</p> | 2 1 0 |