

## Scoring the DASS

The scale to which each item belongs is indicated by the letters D (Depression), A (Anxiety) and S (Stress). For each scale (D, A & S) sum the scores for identified items. Because the DASS 21 is a short form version of the DASS (the Long Form has 42 items), the final score of each item groups (Depression, Anxiety and Stress) needs to be multiplied by two (x2).

## Interpreting the DASS

Once multiplied by 2, each score can now be transferred to the DASS profile sheet, enabling comparisons to be made between the three scales and also giving percentile rankings and severity labels.

### DASS Severity Ratings

(Don't forget to multiply summed scores by x 2)

Severity	Depression	Anxiety	Stress
Normal	0-9	0-7	0-14
Mild	10-13	8-9	15-18
Moderate	14-20	10-14	19-25
Severe	21-27	15-19	26-33
Extremely Severe	28+	20+	34+

As previously mentioned, the DASS should not be used on its own to assess the presence or absence of Depression or Anxiety. High scores on the DASS would certainly alert the clinician to a high level of distress in the patient and this would need to be explored further within the interview process. Similarly, low scores on the DASS should not be a substitute for a comprehensive clinical interview.

High DASS scores which are not changing, may prompt the clinician to look for explanations and perhaps augment dosages or change medication. Here again, the DASS should be interpreted alongside the clinical interview.

Changes in scores in one scale (EG: Depression), with consistently high and unchanging scores in another scale (Anxiety) may alert the clinician to pay particular attention to the presence of a co-existing anxiety disorder which may need specific treatment in its own right. Similarly, decreasing Depression scores alongside unchanging Stress scores may alert the clinician to the presence of some life event or problem, which may need to be addressed directly.



**DASS 21**      NAME \_\_\_\_\_      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Please read each statement and circle a number 0, 1, 2 or 3 which indicates how much the statement applied to you over the past week. There are no right or wrong answers. Do not spend too much time on any statement.

*The rating scale is as follows:*

- 0 Did not apply to me at all - NEVER
- 1 Applied to me to some degree, or some of the time - SOMETIMES
- 2 Applied to me to a considerable degree, or a good part of time - OFTEN
- 3 Applied to me very much, or most of the time - ALMOST ALWAYS

FOR OFFICE USE

		N	S	O	AA	D	A	S
1	I found it hard to wind down	0	1	2	3			
2	I was aware of dryness of my mouth	0	1	2	3			
3	I couldn't seem to experience any positive feeling at all	0	1	2	3			
4	I experienced breathing difficulty (eg, excessively rapid breathing, breathlessness in the absence of physical exertion)	0	1	2	3			
5	I found it difficult to work up the initiative to do things	0	1	2	3			
6	I tended to over-react to situations	0	1	2	3			
7	I experienced trembling (eg, in the hands)	0	1	2	3			
8	I felt that I was using a lot of nervous energy	0	1	2	3			
9	I was worried about situations in which I might panic and make a fool of myself	0	1	2	3			
10	I felt that I had nothing to look forward to	0	1	2	3			
11	I found myself getting agitated	0	1	2	3			
12	I found it difficult to relax	0	1	2	3			
13	I felt down-hearted and blue	0	1	2	3			
14	I was intolerant of anything that kept me from getting on with what I was doing	0	1	2	3			
15	I felt I was close to panic	0	1	2	3			
16	I was unable to become enthusiastic about anything	0	1	2	3			
17	I felt I wasn't worth much as a person	0	1	2	3			
18	I felt that I was rather touchy	0	1	2	3			
19	I was aware of the action of my heart in the absence of physical exertion (eg, sense of heart rate increase, heart missing a beat)	0	1	2	3			
20	I felt scared without any good reason	0	1	2	3			
21	I felt that life was meaningless	0	1	2	3			
	<b>TOTALS</b>							