



Mayer-Salovey-Caruso Emotional Intelligence Test™ Second Edition (MSCEIT® 2) Frequently Asked Questions

General

What is the MSCEIT 2?

The Mayer-Salovey-Caruso Emotional Intelligence Test™ Second Edition (MSCEIT® 2) is a measure of emotional intelligence (EI) based on the ability model of EI. It is designed to provide a clear, actionable understanding of how well an individual (the test taker) recognizes emotional cues, understands their causes and implications, and uses emotion as a source of information to facilitate smooth and effective interpersonal interactions.

How is MSCEIT 2 different from other measures of emotional intelligence?

The MSCEIT 2 offers a distinct way of understanding and evaluating EI. You may have heard people talk about concepts such as mathematical intelligence or musical intelligence when referring to people's skills with math or with music and rhythm. Similarly, the MSCEIT 2 approach considers EI to be another type of intelligence, one that focuses on the cognitive skills needed to detect, use, and think about emotions.

To understand and evaluate emotional intelligence, the MSCEIT 2 measures four domains:

- 1) Perceiving Emotions:** the skills needed to perceive and accurately identify emotions in people and their environments
- 2) Connecting Emotions:** the skills needed to feel and use emotions to assist thought and connect with others through empathy
- 3) Understanding Emotions:** the skills needed to understand emotional information, including the meaning, causes, and changes in emotions
- 4) Managing Emotions:** the skills needed to be open to your own emotions and those of other people, and the ability to reflectively manage emotions to make optimal decisions



General

How does the MSCEIT 2 measure emotional intelligence?

The MSCEIT 2 engages test takers in solving problems related to emotions and emotional scenarios. Using twelve different question types, MSCEIT 2 provides a comprehensive assessment of the test taker. Just like when solving math problems, there are correct and incorrect answers to the emotion problems presented in the MSCEIT 2.

What makes a scientifically valid assessment?

A scientifically valid assessment is one that is reliable, valid, and fair. The MSCEIT 2 is a reliable, valid, and fair measure of EI as demonstrated through its strong psychometric properties. There is evidence to support that it is reliable (i.e. scores are consistent over time), valid (i.e., it measures what it is intended to measure), and fair (i.e., it measures the same concepts in the same ways for all individuals).

Key Updates

What is new in the MSCEIT 2?

Improvements to the MSCEIT 2 include:

New interactive design of assessment questions that incorporates a variety of multimedia stimuli to increase individual engagement and ease of use.

New veridical scoring system, achieved by writing assessment questions based on theories about emotions and asking a panel of emotion research experts to use these theories to assign points that indicate the correctness of different response options.

Modular administration allows test administrators the option of administering the entire MSCEIT 2 assessment or select EI domains of interest, as needed.

Shortened completion time of approximately 30 minutes if all questions are administered.

An updated model for the MSCEIT 2 is presented, along with a refinement of the conceptualization of the Connecting Emotions domain.

Is the MSCEIT 2 aligned with the latest research in emotional intelligence?

Over the past 35 years, the study of EI has evolved significantly. The original MSCEIT model has been updated with new findings (Mayer et al., 2016)¹ and a new appreciation of how adult training, education, and specialization can improve people's well-being and performance—and even improve their EI levels.



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Product Information

Who is the MSCEIT 2 designed for?

With the substantial influence that EI can have on a person's daily life and social interactions, the MSCEIT 2 can provide valuable insight in workplace, educational, clinical, and research settings. The MSCEIT 2 is designed for use by professionals - coaches, human resource practitioners, and leadership development consultants, physicians, social workers, guidance counselors, career counselors, psychologists, psychiatrists, and researchers to use in a wide variety of settings.

What reports are available for the MSCEIT 2?

The MSCEIT 2 test takers' results are summarized in an Individual Report. This report consists of both a client version and a coach version. Each version of the report is designed to be easy and appealing to use. The client version of the report sets the stage for a detailed, personalized interpretation of how the test taker scored in each of the four domains and is designed to be distributed by the test administrator to the test taker as part of the debriefing process. The coach version of the report is designed to help the professional understand the best way to put the test taker's results into context.

How long does the MSCEIT 2 take to administer?

The MSCEIT 2 consists of 94 items across the four domains, and if all four are administered, the MSCEIT 2 takes approximately 30 minutes to complete.

What is the normative sample for the MSCEIT 2?

The MSCEIT 2 norm is composed of 3,000 individuals. The MSCEIT 2 norm represents two regions, including 2,700 individuals from the U.S. and 300 individuals from Canada. The Normative Sample was evenly distributed by gender and across five age ranges, with race/ethnicity, educational level, and region within the country matched to 2022 U.S. and 2021 Canadian census proportions.

Product Availability

How are MSCEIT 2 scores calculated?

The MSCEIT 2 uses a scoring system called "veridical scoring". This is a major advance in emotional intelligence assessment. "Veridical" means that the answers to the assessment are compared against a standard of what's considered correct based on a comprehensive review of the research literature on emotions, emotion perception, emotion knowledge, emotion understanding, and emotion management. The MSCEIT 2 test provides standard scores for overall emotional intelligence, four domains, and additional supplemental scores.

What languages is the MSCEIT 2 available in?

The MSCEIT 2 assessment and Individual Report are available in English.



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Would a person's culture impact how they respond to the assessment items?

The MSCEIT 2 was developed with bias reduction and inclusion in mind. During the development process, a concerted effort was made to ensure that the test content was inclusive and avoids any content with distinct cultural connotations. An audit was conducted of the item content (i.e., the phrases and scenarios used in the assessment questions) and those that were identified as being potentially biased towards North American/Western contexts were removed.

What accessibility accommodations are available for test takers?

If requested by the test taker, testing accommodations can be provided if they do not change what the test is designed to measure. The professional must use their best judgment to determine if the MSCEIT 2 is a suitable measure for the test taker. Because the MSCEIT 2 Perceiving Emotions and Managing Emotions domains require test takers to visually perceive images and videos presented on a device screen, these domains may not be accessible to individuals with a visual impairment.

Who is eligible to take the MSCEIT 2?

MSCEIT 2 is appropriate for use with individuals 18 years of age or older.

How do I access the MSCEIT 2?

The MSCEIT 2 can be accessed through the MHS Talent Assessment Portal (TAP) by qualified or certified users. Please get in touch with us to learn how to become a certified user.

Do I need to be certified to administer the MSCEIT 2?

You must be qualified or certified to administer the MSCEIT 2 assessment to other people. For more information on the qualifications and certification required to administer the MSCEIT 2, get in touch with our team.

If I'm already certified in the MSCEIT, do I need to get recertified?

No, users who are certified to use the original MSCEIT are also certified to use the MSCEIT 2.

¹Mayer, J. D., Caruso, D. R., & Salovey, P. (2016). The ability model of emotional intelligence: Principles and updates. *Emotion Review*, 8(4), 290–300.



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