

DIGIT SYMBOL SUBSTITUTION TEST CARDIA COGNITION STUDY (CARDIA Y30)

Hand participant a pencil without an eraser and begin instructions.

"Now, I'm going to ask you to copy some symbols. Look at these boxes. Notice that each has a number in the upper part and a special mark in the lower part. Each number has its own mark."
(Point to the seven squares located to the left of the heavy black line). **"Now look down here where the squares have numbers in the top part but the squares at the bottom are empty. In each of the empty squares, put the mark that should go there."**

Demonstrate by filling in the first two empty boxes with the corresponding symbol.

"Like this. Here is a 2; the 2 has this mark (point to symbol). So, I put it in this empty square, like this." (Write in the symbol.) **"This is a 1; the 1 has this mark, so I put it in the square like this."**
(Write in the symbol.)

After marking the first two Sample Items, say:

"Now you fill in the squares up to this heavy line."

PROBLEMS: If the participant makes an error on any of the Sample Items, correct the error immediately and review the use of the key. Continue to provide help if needed. **DO NOT PROCEED WITH THE TEST UNTIL THE PARTICIPANT CLEARLY UNDERSTANDS THE TASK.** If after three trials of explaining the sample and participant does NOT understand, discontinue and move on to the Stroop Test.

When all the Sample Items have been completed, point to the first square to the right of the heavy line and say:

"Good! Now begin here and fill in as many squares as you can, one after the other, without skipping any. Keep working until I tell you to stop. WORK AS QUICKLY AS YOU CAN without making any mistakes."

Sweep across the first row with your finger and say:

"When you finish this line, go on to this one. Go ahead."

BEGIN TIMING – STOP DSST AFTER 2 MINUTES AND SCORE

SKIPPING AROUND: If the participant skips a box, redirect him/her the first time only. Say **"start here"** and point to the box that was skipped. Redirect only once. If participant skips a second box, do not redirect.

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Digit Symbol--Coding



Sample Items

2	1	3	7	2	4	8	2	1	3	2	1	4	2	3	5	2	3	1	4

5	6	3	1	4	1	5	4	2	7	6	3	5	7	2	8	5	4	6	3

7	2	8	1	9	5	8	4	7	3	6	2	5	1	9	2	8	3	7	4

6	5	9	4	8	3	7	2	6	1	5	4	6	3	7	9	2	8	1	7

9	4	6	8	5	9	7	1	8	5	2	9	4	8	6	3	7	9	8	6

2	7	3	6	5	1	9	8	4	5	7	3	1	4	8	7	9	1	4	5

7	1	8	2	9	3	6	7	2	8	5	2	3	1	4	8	4	2	7	6

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SCORING THE TEST:

You should be seated where you can observe the participant closely. If the participant begins to work out of sequence (after being redirected the first time), place an "X" in the box after the last correctly completed symbol using a pen or marker.

Credit is not given for items completed out of sequence. Out of sequence means clustering or grouping, for example, doing all the 1s.

Using the Digit Symbol Scoring Template, record 1 point for each correctly-drawn symbol completed within the 2-minute time limit.

A response is scored as correct if it is clearly identifiable as the keyed symbol, even if it is drawn imperfectly or if it is a spontaneous correction of an incorrect symbol.

Maximum score = 133 points.

Score the number of boxes completed correctly – indicated on the scoring template by the number above the symbol.

Total score (0 – 133) = _____

DSST given? 1 ☐ No → reason(s): 2 ☐ Physical 2 ☐ Not cooperative 2 ☐ Vision 2 ☐ Hearing 2 ☐ Yes
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