

THE DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN NORMAL AND VARIOUS NEUROTIC GROUPS ON THE MAUDSLEY PERSONALITY INVENTORY

By H. J. EYSENCK

University of London

The M.P.I. (Eysenck, 1958*b*) is a 48-question inventory which purports to measure, in a rough and ready fashion, the two personality dimensions of Neuroticism (N) and Extraversion-Introversion (E). It has been carefully constructed on the basis of item- and factor-analyses (Eysenck, 1956), possesses adequate reliability (Jensen, 1958), and has been shown to possess 'construct validity' (Eysenck, 1957); the two scores are independent of each other. A summary of researches on a variety of normal groups (students, nurses, industrial apprentices, etc.) as well as several neurotic groups has shown considerable differentiating power as far as the N scale is concerned (Jensen, 1958); a study of the responses of different neurotic groups (Sigal, Star & Franks, 1958) found psychopaths and hysterics more extraverted than dysthymics, but did not succeed in obtaining statistically significant results due to the small numbers employed (Eysenck, 1958*c*). The present note is intended to collect together all available information on the differentiation between various neurotic groups, between normals and neurotics, and between all the above groups and recidivist criminals and patients suffering from psychosomatic disorders.

The means and s.d.'s are given in Table 1. The normal standardization group consisted of a quota sample of the population, collected along similar lines to those described elsewhere for the standardization of the short form of the M.P.I. (Eysenck, 1958*a*), except that subjects filled in the questionnaire instead of E. The American student group was largely collected by Dr A. W. Bendig of the University of Pittsburgh. The dysthymic, hysteric and psychopathic groups are made up of hospital patients so diagnosed by experienced and responsible psychiatrists, or else unanimously diagnosed on the basis of their case papers by three independent psychologists (Sigal *et al.* 1958). The prisoner group consisted of recidivists in one of H.M. prisons. The psychosomatic group consisted of patients suffering from asthma and ulcers; their use was suggested to me by Dr A. Barendregt who, in an unpublished paper read at the 1958 International Congress of Applied Psychology, found such groups to be highly neurotic and less introverted than dysthymics on the Heron questionnaire (Heron, 1956), which is in certain ways similar to the M.P.I. and correlates with it.

Table 1

Description of group:	Size	N mean	N _σ	E mean	E _σ
Normals (English): quota sample	1800	19.89	11.02	24.91	9.71
Normals (American students)	1500	20.91	10.69	28.53	8.28
Dysthymics (hospital patients)	84	38.18	10.84	17.86	10.02
Prisoners (recidivists)	146	30.35	10.73	24.09	9.11
Hysterics (hospital patients)	58	30.82	11.84	24.91	9.26
Psychosomatics (hospital patients)	108	35.69	10.89	25.38	9.33
Psychopaths (hospital patients)	36	35.58	10.91	30.77	9.51

The results as tabulated in Table 1 show that all neurotic, psychosomatic and recidivist groups are more neurotic than is the normal sample, that dysthymics are the most introverted and psychopaths the most extraverted groups, and that hysterics, recidivists, and psychosomatic patients cannot be discriminated from each other on the basis of the M.P.I., although they are differentiated from dysthymics, normals and psychopaths. On the whole, these results are in line with expectation (Eysenck, 1957), although the failure of the hysterics to be more extraverted than the normals is somewhat unexpected (Eysenck, 1947). This finding may be connected with the fact that the regression line of N on E is significantly bent at the extreme introverted end, showing a marked tendency, both in normal and in neurotic groups, for subjects with very low extraversion scores to have unduly high neuroticism scores (Eysenck, 1958*b*). On the whole, the results suggest the possible usefulness of this questionnaire in clinical, experimental and applied studies.

REFERENCES

- EYSENCK, H. J. (1947). *Dimensions of Personality*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul.
- EYSENCK, H. J. (1956). The questionnaire measurement of neuroticism and extraversion. *Riv. Psicol.* **50**, 113-40.
- EYSENCK, H. J. (1957). *Dynamics of Anxiety and Hysteria*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul.
- EYSENCK, H. J. (1958*a*). A short questionnaire for the measurement of two dimensions of personality. *J. Appl. Psychol.* **42**, 14-17.
- EYSENCK, H. J. (1958*b*). *Manual of the Maudsley Personality Inventory*. London: University of London Press.
- EYSENCK, H. J. (1958*c*). Hysterics and dysthymics as criterion groups in the study of introversion-extraversion: a reply. *J. Abnorm. (Soc.) Psychol.* **57**, 250-2.
- HERON, A. (1956). A two-part personality measure for use as a research criterion. *Brit. J. Psychol.* **47**, 243-51.
- JENSEN, A. (1958). The Maudsley Personality Inventory. *Acta psychol., Hague*, **14**, 314-25.
- SIGAL, J., STAR, K. H. & FRANKS, C. M. (1958). Hysterics and dysthymics as criterion groups in the study of introversion-extraversion. *J. Abnorm. (Soc.) Psychol.* **57**, 143-8.

(Manuscript received 28 June 1958)