

NSAD Stress (National Stress Assessment Day) Questionnaire

Because everyone reacts to stress in his or her own way, no one stress test can give you a complete diagnosis of your stress levels. This stress test is intended to give you an overview only. Please see a stress or anxiety counsellor for a more in depth analysis and guidance.

Answer all the questions but just tick one box that applies to you, either yes or no. Answer yes, even if only part of a question applies to you. Take your time, but please be completely honest with your answers.

Stress Item	Yes	No
1. I frequently bring work home at night		
2. Not enough hours in the day to do all the things that I must do		
3. I deny or ignore problems in the hope that they will go away		
4. I do the jobs myself to ensure they are done properly		
5. I underestimate how long it takes to do things		
6. I feel that there are too many deadlines in my work / life that are difficult to meet		
7. My self confidence / self esteem is lower than I would like it to be		
8. I frequently have guilty feelings if I relax and do nothing		
9. I find myself thinking about problems even when I am supposed to be relaxing		
10. I feel fatigued or tired even when I wake after an adequate sleep		
11. I often nod or finish other peoples sentences for them when they speak slowly		
12. I have a tendency to eat, talk, walk and drive quickly		
13. My appetite has changed, have either a desire to binge or have a loss of appetite / may skip meals		
14. I feel irritated or angry if the car or traffic in front seems to be going too slowly/ I become very frustrated at having to wait in a queue		
15. If something or someone really annoys me I will bottle up my feelings		
16. When I play sport or games, I really try to win whoever I play		
17. I experience mood swings, difficulty making decisions, concentration and memory is impaired		
18. I find fault and criticize others rather than praising, even if it is deserved		
19. I seem to be listening even though I am preoccupied with my own thoughts		
20. My sex drive is lower, can experience changes to menstrual cycle		
21. I find myself grinding my teeth		
22. Increase in muscular aches and pains especially in the neck, head, lower back, shoulders		
23. I am unable to perform tasks as well as I used to, my judgment is clouded or not as		

good as it was		
24. I find I have a greater dependency on alcohol, caffeine, nicotine or drugs		
25. I find that I don't have time for many interests / hobbies outside of work		
26. A yes answer score = 1 (one), and a no answer score = 0 (zero).		
Totals for "Yes"	Yes	X
Totals for "No"	No	X

Your score:

Most of us can manage varying amounts of pressure without feeling stressed. However too much or excessive pressure, often created by our own thinking patterns and life experiences, can overstretch our ability to cope and then stress is experienced.

- 4 points or less: You are least likely to suffer from stress-related illness.
- 5 - 13 points: You are more likely to experience stress related ill health either mental, physical or both. You would benefit from stress management / counselling or advice to help in the identified areas.
- 14 points or more: You are the most prone to stress showing a great many traits or characteristics that are creating un-healthy behaviours. This means that you are also more likely to experience stress & stress-related illness e.g. diabetes, irritable bowel, migraine, back and neck pain, high blood pressure, heart disease/strokes, mental ill health (depression, anxiety & stress). It is important to seek professional help or stress management counseling. Consult your medical practitioner.

Help to start lifting your stress:

- Review the questions that you scored yes. Are there changes you can make right away? Are there changes you can make over the next couple of months?
- In making changes on your stress, start with the ones that are easiest and most likely to be successful for you.
- Aim for small changes and watch them become large changes over time.
- It takes daily practice to make any change, so changes have to be daily – not one timers.
- Support from friends, family / colleagues will make the process easier but the changes are still yours to make.
- Professional help is always available and your GP is a good place to start. You may need to ask for anti-depressants for help in the short run. (Anxiety, stress and depression are often co-related.)
- Seek out a counsellor and find yourself a stress and anxiety self-help workbook from your bookstore. This is something you can write in and assess your changes.

Questionnaire is from the International Stress Management Association in the UK. Check their website for more information -- <http://www.isma.org.uk/index.html>