Inside the Test

Sort personality assessments, explain two choices, and create your own examples.

P.5.2 "Distinguish between objective and projective techniques of personality assessment and give examples of each."

NAME _____ DATE _____

OBJECTIVE	PROJECTIVE
People select from set answers. The answers are scored using the same rules for everyone.	People respond freely to an unclear prompt. An examiner interprets their responses for clues about personality.
On a confidence survey, students mark a number from 1 to 5 for "I speak up in groups." A scoring guide adds their numbers.	A psychologist asks what a strange clay sculpture might represent, then interprets the description.

1 SORT

8 items

For each numbered assessment, circle OBJECTIVE or PROJECTIVE.

1.	1. The MMPI asks people to mark set answers to statements, then scores those answers with a standard key.	OBJECTIVE	PROJECTIVE
2.	2. A Big Five inventory asks people to rate statements on a fixed scale, then calculates scores for five traits.	OBJECTIVE	PROJECTIVE
3.	3. A person says what an inkblot resembles, and an examiner interprets the response.	OBJECTIVE	PROJECTIVE
4.	4. A checklist asks people to select yes or no for each statement, then totals the answers using a scoring guide.	OBJECTIVE	PROJECTIVE
5.	5. A person tells a story about an unclear scene, and an examiner interprets its themes.	OBJECTIVE	PROJECTIVE
6.	6. A person finishes "My biggest fear is…" in their own words, and an examiner interprets the answer.	OBJECTIVE	PROJECTIVE
7.	7. The 16PF asks people to select from set answers, then uses a scoring key to report personality factors.	OBJECTIVE	PROJECTIVE
8.	8. A personality questionnaire asks people to pick one of four answers for each question, then scores every form the same way.	OBJECTIVE	PROJECTIVE

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

PROVE IT: Pick two numbered items and explain how you knew where each belongs. MAKE YOUR OWN: Write one new example of each category.

OBJECTIVE _____

PROJECTIVE _____

CHALLENGE

A student says any assessment that asks about feelings is projective. Explain why that claim is wrong using the kinds of answers each technique requires.

Inside the Test

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	1. The MMPI asks people to mark set answers to statements, then scores those answers with a standard key.	**OBJECTIVE**	The MMPI uses set responses and standard scoring.
2	2. A Big Five inventory asks people to rate statements on a fixed scale, then calculates scores for five traits.	**OBJECTIVE**	The ratings have fixed options and are scored by a set method.
3	3. A person says what an inkblot resembles, and an examiner interprets the response.	**PROJECTIVE**	The inkblot allows a free response that an examiner interprets.
4	4. A checklist asks people to select yes or no for each statement, then totals the answers using a scoring guide.	**OBJECTIVE**	Responses are limited to set options and scored by a guide.
5	5. A person tells a story about an unclear scene, and an examiner interprets its themes.	**PROJECTIVE**	The unclear scene invites a free story that an examiner interprets.
6	6. A person finishes "My biggest fear is..." in their own words, and an examiner interprets the answer.	**PROJECTIVE**	The sentence prompt invites a free response that an examiner interprets.
7	7. The 16PF asks people to select from set answers, then uses a scoring key to report personality factors.	**OBJECTIVE**	The 16PF uses set responses and a scoring key.
8	8. A personality questionnaire asks people to pick one of four answers for each question, then scores every form the same way.	**OBJECTIVE**	The answer options and scoring rules are fixed.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **OBJECTIVE**: An inventory asks people to rate "I like busy places" from 1 to 4 and scores the ratings with a standard key.
- **PROJECTIVE**: A psychologist asks what a made-up creature in a blurry outline is thinking, then interprets the answer for personality themes.

Challenge: An assessment about feelings can be objective if people select from set answers that are scored by the same rules. A projective technique asks for a free response to an unclear prompt, which an examiner interprets.

For Part 2, a student could explain that item 1 has set answers and standard scoring, while item 3 asks for a free response to an inkblot that an examiner interprets. Accept other explanations that identify the response format and how the response is scored or interpreted.