Personality Attributes

The attributes assessed by the Caliper Profile are defined below, accompanied by brief explanations of the significance of a high or low score on each attribute.

While all attributes are considered important, please note that the attributes that most significantly predict success vary from job to job. Depending on the job, an attribute can either push performance in a positive direction, or it can interfere with performance.

**Abstract Reasoning Ability:** Potential to solve problems and understand the logical relationships among concepts. People who show a high level of Abstract Reasoning Ability should be capable of understanding complex issues. Individuals with low levels tend to be most effective when handling issues that have straightforward solutions.

**Accommodation:** Desire to help others. Individuals who have high scores on this attribute tend to be motivated to help people. Those with low scores might be uninterested in providing assistance. In certain jobs, Accommodation can inhibit performance. In such cases, individuals who have high Accommodation scores are apt to be motivated to please people, which may interfere with performing key tasks. Individuals with low scores are unlikely to sacrifice job performance in order to satisfy others.

**Aggressiveness:** Inclination to push forcefully. People who have high scores in Aggressiveness tend to be forceful when defending their ideas or actions. Individuals with low scores would be unlikely to take a firm approach.

**Assertiveness:** Potential to communicate information and ideas in a direct manner. Individuals scoring high on this quality should be willing to communicate their ideas and opinions. People with low Assertiveness scores may be uncomfortable expressing their viewpoints.

**Cautiousness:** Inclination to make decisions carefully and think through relevant facts and alternatives. High scorers tend to be careful when deliberating options and calculating outcomes. By contrast, low scores on this attribute suggest a tendency to act without thinking things through.

**Ego-Drive:** Degree of satisfaction gained from persuading others. Highly ego-driven individuals should be motivated to win others’ commitment. People with low scores on this attribute are unlikely to invest much effort in gaining consensus. Ego-Drive can sometimes inhibit performance. In those cases, individuals with strong Ego-Drive could overemphasize gaining people’s agreement, possibly at the expense of accomplishing work goals. Individuals with low scores would be unlikely to sacrifice job performance in order to persuade others.
**Ego-Strength:** Capacity to handle rejection and criticism. Individuals with high scores on Ego-Strength tend to be unconcerned by setbacks. On the other hand, people who score low on this scale may be sensitive to criticism or rejection.

**Empathy:** Potential to perceive others’ feelings and to adapt as needed. An empathic individual should be capable of understanding others and adjusting accordingly. Low scorers are inclined to misinterpret people’s needs or feelings.

**Energy:** Potential to sustain a high level of activity over extended periods. People who score high on this attribute tend to be active in the workplace, while individuals with low scores might be unenergetic in their work approach.

**External Structure:** Degree to which a person is sensitive to existing rules. Individuals who show a high level of External Structure are likely to be receptive to a structured environment with rules. People with low scores could be unresponsive to authority. Caliper’s research shows that high scores in External Structure suggest weaker performance in certain jobs. In such cases, high scorers are apt to follow rules closely, possibly at the expense of achieving objectives. By contrast, low scorers may be willing to disregard rules when necessary in order to accomplish work goals.

**Flexibility:** Willingness to modify an approach and to adapt to changing circumstances. Individuals who score high on this measure should be adaptable to change. Those who show low scores are likely to be reluctant to change their approach.

**Gregariousness:** Comfort with meeting new people and initiating conversations. Highly gregarious people are likely to be comfortable establishing contact and networking. Those who have low scores on this attribute may be uneasy about taking the initiative in social situations. Gregariousness can inhibit performance in some jobs. When this attribute inhibits performance, people with high scores could allow their motivation to meet new people and start conversations to interfere with fulfilling position requirements. Low scorers are unlikely to initiate interpersonal contact at the expense of handling job responsibilities.

**Idea Orientation:** Preference for thinking creatively and generating new ways to solve problems. Individuals with high Idea Orientation are likely to be motivated to develop creative, original solutions, while low scorers are inclined to use well-established methods. In certain jobs, high Idea Orientation can derail performance. In these situations, people who show high scores are apt to be distracted by their need to innovate. Those with low scores are unlikely to become sidetracked by the desire to think creatively.

**Level-Headedness:** The potential to remain calm and to maintain a steady disposition in everyday situations. People scoring high on this scale should be capable of remaining composed. Those who score low are inclined to respond emotionally.

**Openness:** Receptiveness to new or alternative ideas. People who show high scores on Openness should be willing to consider others’ input. Those who have low scores tend to be focused on their own way of doing things.
**Risk-Taking:** Willingness to take chances. Individuals scoring high on this attribute are likely to take chances on untested initiatives. People with low scores tend to be reluctant to risk failure.

**Self-Structure:** Preference for independently determining work methods. Individuals with high scores are apt to be motivated to independently determine their work approach, while those who show low Self-Structure scores are unlikely to define their own work methods.

**Skepticism:** Inclination to doubt or question others’ motives. Caliper’s research has shown that this attribute can inhibit performance in some jobs. Highly skeptical individuals tend to be guarded and wary of others’ intentions. People with low levels on this scale are likely to be trusting and willing to give others the benefit of the doubt.

**Sociability:** The enjoyment of being around people and working with others. Individuals who score high on Sociability are likely to be motivated to interact with others. Low scorers on this attribute could be uninterested in having frequent social interaction. Sociability can detract from job performance in some jobs. In those circumstances, high scorers could become distracted by their motivation to socialize, while those with low scores would be unlikely to interact with others at the expense of producing results.

**Thoroughness:** The tendency to pay attention to detail. Individuals who show high scores on this attribute are apt to be conscientious when handling detail-intensive tasks. Those who score low may be uninterested in focusing on fine points.

**Urgency:** The motivation to take quick action in order to obtain immediate results. High scorers on this attribute tend to be driven to act quickly. Individuals with low levels of Urgency are inclined to take their time when handling tasks.