

This is a **Sample** version of the
**Rowland Universal Dementia
Assessment Scale (RUDAS)**

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- User Manual
- Scoring Guide
- Test/ Questionnaire

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Rowland Universal Dementia Assessment Scale (RUDAS)

Introduction

The Rowland Universal Dementia Assessment Scale (RUDAS): A Multicultural Cognitive Assessment Scale – (Storey J, Rowland J, Basic D, Conforti D & Dickson H [2004] International Psychogeriatrics, 16(1) 13-31) is a short cognitive screening instrument designed to minimise the effects of cultural learning and language diversity on the assessment of baseline cognitive performance.

When administering the RUDAS it is important that the respondent is encouraged to communicate in the language with which they are most competent and comfortable.

Test administrators should read the instructions carefully before using the RUDAS.

The Assessment Context – General Guidelines:

Test Anxiety

- Make sure the test taker is as relaxed as possible, as test anxiety can interfere with performance on cognitive tests.

Hearing

- Conduct the RUDAS in a quiet area and make sure the test taker can hear clearly. It is important to identify at the beginning of the assessment if the test taker has impaired hearing and accommodate for this as much as possible by speaking slowly and clearly. Encourage the test taker to wear any hearing aids. Be careful not to speak too loudly as this may result in distortion. (There is a large print version of the RUDAS for test takers with severe hearing impairment).

Vision

- Ensure that the test taker is using reading glasses where necessary and that there is sufficient light in the room.

Seating

- Sit opposite the test taker. This is important for communication reasons as well as controlling for the difficulty of some items on the RUDAS. Do not sit behind a desk, as this will inhibit the giving of instructions for some items on the RUDAS and may also be intimidating for the test taker.

Recording Responses

- It is important to record the test taker's full response to each item.

Physical Disability

- For test takers who have a physical disability (e.g. vision, hearing, hemiparesis, amputee, stroke, aphasia) which may affect their ability to perform certain items on the RUDAS, it is important to complete the RUDAS as fully as possible but to interpret any total score less than 22 with caution (further research is necessary to assess validity of the RUDAS in this sub-group of patients)

Multilingual Test Administrators

If, as the test administrator, you are multilingual it is important to consider all of the same issues which are relevant to the use of a professional interpreter, as well as the following:

- You may need to be careful when translating the RUDAS questions as you might find it more difficult when you have to read in one language and speak in another.
- It is important that you translate the RUDAS questions precisely. Be aware of the differences between formal and informal word usage when translating the RUDAS instructions and recording the test taker's responses.

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