

*\*This assessment review was compiled by our students and is intended to be used as a guide in assisting clinicians. We encourage you to review the evaluations and assessments for yourself to guarantee the most accurate and updated information.*

## I. General Information

**Title of the test:** T/PAL – Therapists' Portable Assessment Lab

**Author:** Valpar International

**Publisher:** VALPAR International Corporation

**Time required to administer:** Full assessment requires 2 hours

**Cost of the Test:** Contact Sales office at 800.633.3321 or [sales@valparint.com](mailto:sales@valparint.com)

## II. Description of Test

**Type/Purpose of Test:** The purpose of the test is to assess a person's vocationally-relevant skills and abilities, interests, and preferred modes of learning. This test is designed to assess both cognitive and psychomotor abilities. The T/PAL scores the person on rate of work percent and qualifications as it relates to the standards in job performance. This derived information would allow for the person to understand their qualifications and search appropriate jobs defined in the Dictionary of Occupational Titles (DOT). The T/PAL will match similar jobs by the skills demonstrated by the person from the evaluation. The T/PAL includes surveys to determine self-perceptions of ability, modes of learning, and preferred environments. Also, the T/PAL consists of an auditory screen that assesses the person's ability to follow verbal instruction.

**Population:** The population most commonly assessed are those with cognitive impairments, closed head injuries, neuromusculoskeletally injured to measure reasoning, language, motor coordination, manual dexterity, finger dexterity, clerical perception, spatial perception, form perception, and physical demand factors. This test has also been used to test children and adults to determine appropriate skill paths.

**Focus of measurement:** Compares abilities of the person to a set of work-relevant standards.

Organic systems    Abilities    Participation/life habits    Environmental Factors

## III. Practical Administration

**Ease of Administration:** The process of administration of the T/PAL is fairly straightforward and easy. The evaluation primarily consists of 12 work modules consisting of: mail sorting, alphabetizing, visual maze, payroll computation, patient info memo, small parts activities, ruler reading, pipe assembly, O-ring sort, block design, color sort, and circuit board. The directions for the modules are written clearly and pictures are provided to help with the set up and administration. The surveys of the career assessment and learning styles are self-administered. The auditory directions screen is given by the person answering questions on a work sheet while listening to a cassette tape.

**Clarity of Directions:** The clarity for administering the test modules are very straightforward and easy to understand. The sequencing of giving the different sections of the test is not mapped out very well for the administrator. The manual is very limited and confusing about the different scoring and overall general information about the test. It seems very brief and lacks information that would benefit a therapist to interpret the results.

**Scoring Procedures:** The scoring for the 12 different modules is very straightforward to complete. All of the modules are based on a time completion scale, while accounting for errors. This means that after completion of the module, the therapist counts up the number of errors made to determine if the person was over the maximum error limit. If the person is over the limit, then the person is not considered successful in that module. If the number of errors falls below the error limit, then the

person will be given a rating based on his time to complete the module. The person will be rated as exceeding, meets, does not meet A, or does not meet B. In order to be considered successful in the module the person must be rated as exceeding or meets time criteria for that module. Essentially each category is either a pass or fail due to this criteria. The computing and analyzing of jobs as it relates to the person's skills, abilities, and preferences is very complex. This is done using the software that is provided with the test. Basically, once the raw data is collected the software will compute all information into end results.

**Examiner Qualification & Training:** There are no specific qualifications mentioned on the test. However, this test is primarily used by therapists, social workers, and counselors.

#### IV. Technical Considerations

**Standardization:** \_\_\_ Norms  Criterion Referenced \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Reliability:** Not Available

**Validity:** Not Available

**Manual:** \_\_\_ Excellent  Adequate \_\_\_ Poor

**What is (are) the setting/s that you would anticipate using this assessment?**

The settings that would benefit from this would be a return to work therapy program, high school, and vocational rehabilitation.

**Summary of strengths and weaknesses:**

**Weakness:**

- Amount of time to administer
- bulky container
- need software to obtain all results
- confusing and limited manual

**Strength:**

- functional assessment of skills
- easy to administer modules
- in dept look and skill
- screens for auditory difficulties first
- takes in the person's interest and learning strengths