Reflect on the Self-Assessment

Tolerance for Ambiguity

Instructions
To determine your level of tolerance for ambiguity, rate each of the following items on this 7-point scale.³⁷

1. strongly disagree
2
3. slightly agree
4
5. slightly agree
6
7. strongly disagree

1. An expert who doesn’t come up with a definite answer probably doesn’t know too much.
2. There is really no such thing as a problem that can’t be solved.
3. I would like to live in a foreign country for a while.
4. People who fit their lives to a schedule probably miss the joy of living.
5. A good job is one where what is to be done and how it is to be done are always clear.
6. In the long run it is possible to get more done by tackling small, simple problems rather than large, complicated ones.
7. It is more fun to tackle a complicated problem than it is to solve a simple one.
8. Often the most interesting and stimulating people are those who don’t mind being different and original.
9. What we are used to is always preferable to what is unfamiliar.
10. A person who leads an even, regular life in which few surprises or unexpected happenings arise really has a lot to be grateful for.
11. People who insist upon a yes or no answer just don’t know how complicated things really are.
12. Many of our most important decisions are based on insufficient information.
13. I like parties where I know most of the people more than ones where most of the people are complete strangers.
14. The sooner we all acquire ideals, the better.
15. Teachers or supervisors who hand out vague assignments give a chance for one to show initiative and originality.
16. A good teacher is one who makes you wonder about your way of looking at things.

Total Score

Scoring
To obtain a score, first reverse the scale score for the eight “reverse” items, 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, and 16 (i.e., a rating of 1 5 7 2 5 6 3 5 5, etc.), then add up the rating scores for all 16 items.