

## How the Rorschach Inkblot Test Works

by Kendra Cherry (<https://www.verywellmind.com/what-is-the-rorschach-inkblot-test-2795806>)

Student-Created Annotations	Summary	Required Annotations
Student-created		Required (bold)

The Rorschach inkblot test is a type of psychological test in which subjects look at 10 ambiguous inkblot images and describe what they see in each one.

In the Rorschach inkblot test, the person is asked to describe what they see in ambiguous inkblot images. The therapist then interprets the person's answers. This test often appears in films and television shows as a way of revealing a person's unconscious thoughts, motives, or desires.

### History of the Rorschach Inkblot Test

One of Hermann Rorschach's favorite games as a child was **Klecksography**, which involves creating inkblots and making up stories or poems about them.

**Klecksography**  
Context Clues

His interest in inkblots continued into adulthood. While working in a psychiatric hospital, Rorschach noticed that patients with schizophrenia responded to the blots differently from patients with other diagnoses. He began wondering if inkblots could be used to create profiles for different mental disorders. So, Rorschach developed a systematic approach to using inkblots as an assessment tool.

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### Uses of the Rorschach Inkblot Test

The Rorschach test is used in psychotherapy and counseling, although not as frequently now as in the past.

**Practitioners** use it to gain information about their patients, including their personalities, emotional functioning, and thinking patterns. The results serve as a springboard to further discussion about issues they supposedly illustrate. In fact, psychologists once used the Rorschach to diagnose mental conditions such as schizophrenia.

**Practitioners**  
Context clues

Likewise, organizations use the test to measure attributes such as creativity, intelligence, and temperament.

### Administration of the Rorschach Inkblot Test

There are 10 official inkblots, each printed on separate white cards. During administration, the examiner will sit next to you. This helps them see what you see.

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The test involves certain steps:

1. Present: The examiner will give you one card at a time and ask you,

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“What might this be?”

2. Respond: You’re free to interpret the ambiguous image however you want.
3. Record: Your examiner records everything you say, no matter how trivial.

On average, it takes about 1.5 hours to administer and score the test.

### Is the Rorschach Still Used?

Today, some psychologists dismiss the Rorschach as merely a relic<sup>1</sup> of psychology's past.

Rorschach testing is **problematic**. The patient provides an interpretation of the ink blot, but the therapist is going to make her own interpretation for the ink blot. This means that the therapist is interpreting himself as well as the patient. But who is going to interpret the therapist's interpretation to make sure it's true?

However, though the inkblot test may not be a perfect tool, it continues to be used widely, particularly for diagnosing schizophrenia—which was Rorschach's original intent for the test. The test is used in a variety of settings, such as in schools, hospitals, and courtrooms.

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### Questions/Summary

For each of the sections of the article, write one sentence describing the main idea of the section.

Section	Main Idea
History of the Rorschach Inkblot Test	
Uses of the Rorschach Inkblot Test	
Administration of the Rorschach Inkblot Test	
Is the Rorschach Still Used?	

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<sup>1</sup> an object, custom, or belief that has survived from an earlier time but is now outmoded.