

BEACON Version for students in Year 4 to Year 5 – Scoring

BEACON (Brief Evaluation of Adolescents and Children Online) is a mental health screening tool for students to do in school. It aims to identify students who may be going through a difficult time and need additional support. The version for students in Year 4 to Year 5 has 18 items in total and consists of two subscales: anxiety (10 items) and attention/hyperactivity problems (8 items).

Administration

The authors recommend computer-based administration via online survey tools, such as SurveyMonkey or SurveyGizmo. BEACON takes approximately 5 minutes to complete. Respondents indicate the extent to which items describe how they have felt over the past few weeks, on the following 5-point scale:

- 1 – not at all/not at all hard
- 2 – only a little/only a little hard
- 3 – sometimes/sometimes hard
- 4 – quite a lot/quite hard
- 5 – a great deal/ very hard

Scoring

Subscales are scored by summing scores from items 1-10 for the anxiety subscale, and items 11-18 for the attention/hyperactivity problems subscale. Raw scores range from 10 to 50 on the anxiety subscale and from 8 to 40 on the attention/hyperactivity problems subscale.

Higher scores on the subscales are suggestive of higher mental health risk; conversely, lower scores are associated with lower mental health risk.

Interpretation

Results can be interpreted using Table 1 to convert raw scores into T-scores, which provide guidelines to relevant cut-off points to identify students who might benefit from further evaluation or referral. For example, based on mental health prevalence data of the Australian population (Lawrence et al., 2015), cut-offs at T-scores of 67 (reflecting the highest 7%) may be used to identify students for additional follow-up support. However, if a school has very limited local resources, then they might select an even higher cut-off, or if they plan to implement broad, early intervention programs, then a lower cut-off may be warranted.

For details about the psychometric evaluation of BEACON, please refer to Rapee et al. (2024). The Brief Evaluation of Adolescents and Children Online (BEACON): Psychometric development of a mental health screening measure for school students. *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, <http://doi.org/10.1002/jclp.23673>.

Table 1. Raw Scores, T-Scores and Percentiles for BEACON subscales (Year 4 to Year 5)

Anxiety subscale			Attention/hyperactivity subscale		
Raw Score	T-Score	%	Raw Score	T-Score	%
10	37	5.50	8	37	7.10
11	38	9.60	9	39	13.70
12	39	14.90	10	40	19.90
13	41	20.40	11	42	26.80
14	42	26.20	12	43	33.80
15	43	31.90	13	45	40.80
16	44	37.20	14	46	46.80
17	45	43.00	15	48	52.00
18	47	47.50	16	49	57.80
19	48	52.10	17	51	62.80
20	49	56.90	18	52	67.70
21	50	60.70	19	54	70.50
22	52	65.30	20	55	74.90
23	53	68.70	21	56	77.70
24	54	71.70	22	58	80.40
25	55	74.90	23	59	82.70
26	57	77.80	24	61	85.40
27	58	80.30	25	62	87.90
28	59	82.50	26	64	90.10
29	60	85.10	27	65	91.90
30	62	86.70	28	67	93.30
31	63	88.20	29	68	94.60
32	64	90.30	30	70	95.70
33	65	91.50	31	71	96.50
34	67	93.10	32	73	97.30
35	68	94.60	33	74	97.60
36	69	95.00	34	76	98.20
37	70	96.10	35	77	98.60
38	71	96.80	36	78	98.90
39	73	97.20	37	80	99.50
40	74	97.70	38	81	99.70
41	75	98.00	39	83	99.90
42	76	98.80	40	84	100.00
48	84	99.80			
49	85	99.90			
50	86	100.00			