

**TOWES FOCUS ASSESSMENTS
DISCLAIMER**



*The **TOWES Focus™ (V*)** products may, at this time, be used **ONLY** in low stakes assessment situations.*

TOWES Focus™ products should be used in a manner that is consistent with fair and equitable assessment practices. Assessment administration guidelines have been developed based on the Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing developed by the American Educational Research Association, the American Psychological Association and the National Council on Measurement in Education published by the American Educational Research Association 1430 K st., NW, Suite 1200, Washington, DC 20005.

Individuals or organizations using the assessment are responsible for ensuring that they are sufficiently informed about the purpose(s) of the assessment and what the assessment measures so that appropriate judgments can be made about using the assessment results. Results should only be used in a way that is consistent with the intended purpose.

Assessment Specifications

Our research to date indicates the web-based assessment items that comprise this assessment are performing as expected. These items use the scoring parameters established for the most recently calibrated TOWES paper-based items, based on data collected from over 100,000 cases. Until more independent data on the web-based items is collected and analyzed, decisions made based upon the results of this assessment should be used only in low stakes assessment situations. Low stakes assessment situations are those in which the results obtained will not be used in any way that might disadvantage a client. Results may not be used in high stakes situations. High stakes situation are those in which results may be used to prevent or deny access to a desired service or employment.

Results from this assessment are appropriate for use in the following low stakes assessment situations:

- Point in time skill estimates
- Determination of placement in a general learner group
- Pre and post-training intervention, to estimate skill gain

Pre and post assessment situations must use the same mode of assessment. That is, if web-based assessment is used for the pre assessment, then web-based must also be used for the post assessment. Results obtained on the web-based assessment are independent of results obtained on the paper based assessment and therefore are not directly comparable.

Scores from this or any assessment should never be used as the only determinant for program inclusion or in any other situation in which an individual may be disadvantaged by a decision based on the results – particularly access to work. In all cases, other factors should be taken into consideration. A short list of possible other factors follows:

- results on any other types of assessments completed by the individual
- attitude
- aptitude
- readiness
- fit with occupation – when applicable