**Famous People**

**Description, Rationale, and Scoring Guidelines**

The intent of this exercise is to provide clinicians with a simple and enjoyable way to assess communicative ability in a systematic fashion. It aims to take advantage of semantic knowledge that is fairly intact and use that knowledge to examine communicative abilities and personal communicative style in demonstrating this knowledge to others. This is also designed to be a positive “testing” experience, so it should be fun, and if the PWA veers off into interesting digressions, please feel free to follow him/her, but do get back to the task so you end up with a total score.

These famous people have been deliberately chosen for their recognizability to individuals born before 1970.

The goal is to tap knowledge, but also to tap the ability to communicate DESPITE limitations of aphasia. Although supported communication is used, the protocol is really an exercise in spontaneous communication. So, if somebody hums, “You ain’t nothin’ but a hound dog”, you know he knows who Elvis is. If he says “guitar”, it’s less clear.

The protocol can be administered on an iPad or a computer. The stimuli are provided here in both Keynote and PowerPoint formats. While administering the protocol, clinicians should read the written prompts (that appear on the screen) to the PWA. They are not for the PWA, but for the tester to read. If the PWA DOES read them, you might want to note it in the margins. Feel free to make other notes to capture inventive answers and informative comments.

**Cueing and Scoring for Naming Items**

For all items, correct responses can be spoken, written, drawn, or gestured. For the items requiring famous people’s names, a correct response is the person’s first name or last name or **key** identifying information. Feel free to provide general encouragers such as, “Tell me something about him” or “Can you tell me more about her”.

If the PWA does not provide a correct answer spontaneously, provide a first name cue such as “It’s Marilyn \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”.

If the PWA does not provide a correct answer spontaneously or following a first name cue, ask the 3 yes/no questions.

Score each item as follows:

**3 points** -- The PWA says either the first or last name recognizably or demonstrates beyond doubt that s/he knows.

Note: Some people are identified as much by a film or TV character as they are by their own names (e.g., Judy Garland as “Dorothy”, Lucille Ball as “Lucy”). Please give full credit for such responses.

**2 points** – The PWA provides correct identification after first name cueing or provides 2 pieces of information that are related but not specific (e.g., gesturing a nose job **and** demonstrating the moonwalk with fingers for Michael Jackson).

**1 point** – The PWA answers all 3 yes/no questions correctly.

Note: ONLY ask yes/no questions if s/he has not scored 2 or 3 points as outlined above.

For the other items on the test that are not simply naming items, scoring is either correct or incorrect (1 or 0 points). Correct answers are indicated on the scoresheet. Cueing for these items should be limited to encouragers with no specific content.

**Examples:** To illustrate scoring and cueing for the naming items, let’s say the Famous Person is Frank Sinatra. You might begin by saying *“Do you think you know who he is?”* If the answer is yes, then, you might say, *“Okay, tell me or show me.”* Here are a number of possible scenarios:

1. The PWA says “Frankie” or “Frank” or “Sinatra” or “ Old Blue Eyes” -- score 3 points.
2. The PWA does not say anything or gives no indication of knowing who the person is. Give a first name cue (spoken or written). For example, say, “*it’s Frank ...”* and score 2 points if s/he responds correctly.
3. The PWA says “Rat Pack” AND “la-la-la” -- score 2 points. (If the PWA gave just one of these relatively ambiguous answers, you could ask for another.)
4. The PWA does not produce anything spontaneously or in response to a first name cue, so you ask the 3 yes/no questions and s/he answers them all correctly -- score 1 point.
5. The PWA does not produce anything and answers only one or two questions -- score 0 points.

A practice item with similar cueing examples is available at the beginning of the test.

Remember that the PWA can communicate by writing, gesturing, and sometimes singing. Provide feedback throughout and give the correct answer before moving on when an answer is incorrect.

If at all possible, this test should be videotaped, so you can use it as a therapy exercise for the PWA as well. The video could also be used to instruct families in the strengths their aphasic family member demonstrates, or how they might devise conversational practice involving individual interests. When you view the videotape, you can look more closely at modalities the PWA is using successfully. These are the ones you should consider using with that person, or suggesting s/he use more often.

Some of you might have to do a little “boning up” on a few of these people, so that you know how to score. For example, if somebody says “The Manchurian Candidate” for “Frank Sinatra”, and you don’t know for sure if that’s correct, give the PWA the first name cue (“it’s Frank ...”), but then look up the PWA’s answer before you score it. You will find that indeed Frank was in the initial version of the film. You learned something.

Have fun!!