

Scoring the 25-item Dementia Knowledge Assessment Scale (DKAS)

The primary approach to scoring version 2.0 of the DKAS involves recoding responses and the calculation of a total, summative score using SPSS (or similar data analysis software).

Q #	Statements about dementia	Response scale (Please tick one box ✓)				I don't know
		False	Probably false	Probably true	True	
A1	Dementia is a normal part of the ageing process. [FALSE]					
A2	Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia. [TRUE]					
A3	People can recover from the most common forms of dementia. [FALSE]					
A4	Dementia does not result from physical changes in the brain. [FALSE]					
A5	Planning for end of life care is generally not necessary following a diagnosis of dementia. [FALSE]					
A6	Blood vessel disease (vascular dementia) is the most common form of dementia. [FALSE]					
A7	Most forms of dementia do not generally shorten a person's life. [FALSE]					
A8	Having high blood pressure increases a person's risk of developing dementia. [TRUE]					
A9	Maintaining a healthy lifestyle does not reduce the risk of developing the most common forms of dementia. [FALSE]					
A10	Symptoms of depression can be mistaken for symptoms of dementia. [TRUE]					
A11	Exercise is generally beneficial for people experiencing dementia. [TRUE]					
A12	Early diagnosis of dementia does not generally improve quality of life for people experiencing the condition. [FALSE]					
A13	The sudden onset of cognitive problems is characteristic of common forms of dementia. [FALSE]					
A14	It is impossible to communicate with a person who has advanced dementia. [FALSE]					
A15	A person experiencing advanced dementia will not generally respond to changes in their physical environment. [FALSE]					
A16	It is important to correct a person with dementia when they are confused. [FALSE]					
A17	People experiencing advanced dementia often communicate through body language. [TRUE]					
A18	Uncharacteristic behaviours in a person experiencing dementia are generally a response to unmet needs. [TRUE]					
A19	Medications are the most effective way of treating behavioural symptoms of dementia. [FALSE]					
A20	People experiencing dementia do not generally have problems making decisions. [FALSE]					
A21	Movement is generally affected in the later stages of dementia. [TRUE]					
A22	People with advanced dementia may have difficulty speaking. [TRUE]					

Q #	Statements about dementia	Response scale (Please tick one box ✓)				I don't know
		False	Probably false	Probably true	True	
A23	People experiencing dementia often have difficulty learning new skills. [TRUE]					
A24	Difficulty eating and drinking generally occurs in the later stages of dementia. [TRUE]					
A25	Daily care for a person with advanced dementia is effective when it focuses on providing comfort. [TRUE]					

DKAS total scoring

Step one: In your database, DKAS response categories should be labelled as follows:

False	1
Probably false	2
Probably true	3
True	4
I don't know	5

Step two: Enter DKAS data.

Step three: Recode responses to 'false' statements and apply scoring system. The DKAS scoring system is as follows:

- Score 2 points for an answer of 'true' to a truthful statement.
- Score 2 points for an answer of 'false' to an untrue statement.
- Score 1 point for an answer of 'probably true' to a truthful statement.
- Score 1 point for an answer of 'probably false' to an untrue statement.
- Score 0 points for an answer of 'true' or 'probably true' to an untrue statement.
- Score 0 points for an answer of 'false' or 'probably false' to a truthful statement.
- Score 0 points for an answer of 'I don't know'.

Recoding of DKAS scores can be undertaken using the syntax function in SPSS. Note that the syntax below assumes that the order of items is the same as that presented in the scale. The following syntax can be used:

Insert name of item
used in your database.

Insert desired name of
recoded item.

```
RECODE [item_A1] (3,4,5=0) (1=2) (2=1) into [final_item_A1].
RECODE [item_A2] (1,2,5=0) (3=1) (4=2) into [final_item_A2].
RECODE [item_A3] (3,4,5=0) (1=2) (2=1) into [final_item_A3].
RECODE [item_A4] (3,4,5=0) (1=2) (2=1) into [final_item_A4].
RECODE [item_A5] (3,4,5=0) (1=2) (2=1) into [final_item_A5].
RECODE [item_A6] (3,4,5=0) (1=2) (2=1) into [final_item_A6].
RECODE [item_A7] (3,4,5=0) (1=2) (2=1) into [final_item_A7].
RECODE [item_A8] (1,2,5=0) (3=1) (4=2) into [final_item_A8].
RECODE [item_A9] (3,4,5=0) (1=2) (2=1) into [final_item_A9].
RECODE [item_A10] (1,2,5=0) (3=1) (4=2) into [final_item_A10].
RECODE [item_A11] (1,2,5=0) (3=1) (4=2) into [final_item_A11].
RECODE [item_A12] (3,4,5=0) (1=2) (2=1) into [final_item_A12].
RECODE [item_A13] (3,4,5=0) (1=2) (2=1) into [final_item_A13].
RECODE [item_A14] (3,4,5=0) (1=2) (2=1) into [final_item_A14].
RECODE [item_A15] (3,4,5=0) (1=2) (2=1) into [final_item_A15].
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RECODE [item_A16] (3,4,5=0) (1=2) (2=1)into [final_item_A16].  
RECODE [item_A17] (1,2,5=0) (3=1) (4=2)into [final_item_A17].  
RECODE [item_A18] (1,2,5=0) (3=1) (4=2)into [final_item_A18].  
RECODE [item_A19] (3,4,5=0) (1=2) (2=1)into [final_item_A19].  
RECODE [item_A20] (3,4,5=0) (1=2) (2=1)into [final_item_A20].  
RECODE [item_A21] (1,2,5=0) (3=1) (4=2)into [final_item_A21].  
RECODE [item_A22] (1,2,5=0) (3=1) (4=2)into [final_item_A22].  
RECODE [item_A23] (1,2,5=0) (3=1) (4=2)into [final_item_A23].  
RECODE [item_A24] (1,2,5=0) (3=1) (4=2)into [final_item_A24].  
RECODE [item_A25] (1,2,5=0) (3=1) (4=2)into [final_item_A25].  
EXECUTE.
```

Step four: Sum items to provide a total score. The maximum total score on the DKAS v2.0 is **50**.

Step five: To calculate subscale scores, sum the items for each subscale (see Annear et al. 2017 for subscale items). In order to compare the subscales, you may wish to standardise each subscale to a maximum of 1.

Annear, M. J., Toye, C., Elliott, K.-E. J., McInerney, F., Eccleston, C., & Robinson, A. (2017). Dementia knowledge assessment scale (DKAS): confirmatory factor analysis and comparative subscale scores among an international cohort. *BMC Geriatrics*, 17(1), 168. doi:10.1186/s12877-017-0552-y