

Formula Scoring

Normally, a raw score is calculated by counting the number of correct answers. Formula scoring is a method of adjusting scores to discourage guessing by subtracting additional points for incorrectly marked responses. Formula scoring ignores items that are left blank, it does not consider them incorrectly marked. Formula scoring uses the following calculation:

$$\text{Adjusted Raw Score} = \text{Raw Score} - (\text{Number Incorrectly Marked} \div \text{Formula Scoring Factor})$$

The adjusted raw score can be a fraction. It can either be rounded to the nearest whole integer (.5 to .999 rounded up to the next whole number and .001 to .499 rounded down) or truncated, where the fractional part is simply dropped (for example, 88.7 becomes 88). An option in the **Preferences** dialog lets you select which method you want.


In some extreme cases, formula scoring may result in a negative adjusted raw score.

Fill in **Yes** if formula scoring is desired. If yes, you must also fill in a **Factor** value.

Fill in **No** if formula scoring is not desired. Selecting **No** causes the raw score method to be used for scoring. **No** is required if you want to use weighted scoring.

Factor - To balance scoring, we recommend that you select a factor one less than the number of possible answers to each question. For example, if each question has 5 choices, enter 4. Scoring will deduct 1/4 of a point for each wrong answer.

Example: In a test with 100 questions, there are 5 choices for each question. The scoring factor is 4 (5-1). The Formula Scoring grid is filled out as follows:



The image shows a dialog box titled "Formula Scoring". At the top, there are two radio buttons: "Yes" (which is selected) and "No". Below this, there is a section labeled "Factor" with a vertical list of radio buttons numbered 1 through 8. The radio button for "4" is selected.

Assume 85 questions were answered, 15 left blank. Of the 85 answered, 75 were correct and 10 were incorrect. The score without formula scoring is 75. The score calculated using formula scoring is:

$$75 - (10 \div 4) = 72.5 \quad (\text{If rounding is used, the adjusted raw score is 73.})$$