Are YOU Cut Out for Antarctica?

No workplace on Earth compares to an Antarctic research station in winter. Inside, conditions are fine--but outside? It’s cold. It’s dark. It can be dangerous. And worst of all, you can’t go home until the season ends . . . no matter what.

That’s why applicants are screened to make sure they’re up to the challenge. A real psychological test, meant to reveal who should—and shouldn’t—go, might have hundreds of questions. Ours is just for fun, but it may get you thinking. Could you endure a winter in Antarctica?
Test Yourself!

Rate your answers to the following questions by moving the sliders. When you’re finished, hit the button to see your score.

1. At some research stations, winter temperatures can reach -80 °F (-112 °C). How well do you handle being cold?
   1 - Not well  2 - Fairly well  3 - Very well

2. Antarctica experiences three to six months of complete darkness in winter. Would the lack of sunlight affect you?
   1 - I’d go  2 - Maybe I’ll use a natural light lamp  3 - I think it’d be interesting
   4 - a little crazy  5 - I’d go nuts

3. Winds of up to 185 mph (300 kph) have been clocked in Antarctica, and the sound is intense. Would this bother you?
   1 - I’d find it annoying  2 - I can tune it out  3 - That doesn’t bother me
   4 - I can get along some alone time  5 - I need my privacy

4. Accommodations today are comfortable but quarters are close. Could you live—and work—with just a few people for months at a time?
   1 - I need my privacy  2 - I hope I’ll find someone interesting  3 - I can get along
   4 - some alone time  5 - I need my privacy
5. crews working outside have to wear up to seven layers of clothing. do you have the patience for all those zippers?

1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5
i have little i’m fairly i’m very
patience patient patient

6. research stations have energy and water conservation programs. could you get by with only two, two-minute showers a week?

1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5
i couldn’t wait maybe i’d get i like roughing it
that long used to it

(text over button)
push the button to tally your score

(text over score)
your score:

(answer key)
if your score is ...

6 – 11 your honesty will serve you well ... in the tropics

12 – 17 it’s probably best if you stick to office work

18 – 24 your attitude is open, your score ... just short

25 – 30 pack your thermal underwear!