CRIMINAL SENTIMENTS SCALE – MODIFIED

Directions: Read each statement carefully and decide how you feel about it. Circle **A if you agree** with the statement or **D if you disagree** with the statement. If you are undecided or cannot make up your mind about the statement, circle **U**. Remember – there are no right or wrong answers.

**LAW**
1. Pretty well all laws deserve our respect. A U D
2. It’s our duty to obey all laws. A U D
3. Laws are usually bad. A U D
4. The law is rotten to the core. A U D
5. You cannot respect the law because it’s there only to help a small and selfish group of people. A U D
6. All laws should be obeyed just because they are laws. A U D
7. The law does not help the average person. A U D
8. The law is good. A U D
9. Law and justice are the same thing. A U D
10. The law makes slaves out of most people for a few people on the top. A U D

   Law Total:_________

**COURTS**
11. Almost any jury can be fixed. A U D
12. You cannot get justice in court. A U D
13. Lawyers are honest. A U D
14. The prosecution often produces fake witnesses. A U D
15. Judges are honest and kind. A U D
16. Court decisions are pretty well always fair. A U D
17. Pretty well anything can be fixed in court if you have enough money. A U D
18. A judge is a good person. A U D

   Court Total:________

**POLICE**
19. The police are honest. A U D
20. A cop is a friend to people in need. A U D
21. Life would be better with fewer cops. A U D
22. The police should be paid more for their work. A U D
23. The police are as crooked as the people they arrest. A U D
24. Society would be better off if there were more police. A U D
25. The police almost never help people. A U D

   Police Total:________
7. Sometimes a person like me has to break the law to get ahead in life.  
   A U D

8. Most successful people broke the law to get ahead in life.  
   A U D

9. You should always obey the law, even if it keeps you from getting ahead in life.  
   A U D

10. It’s OK to break the law as long as you don’t get caught.  
    A U D

11. Most people would commit crimes if they wouldn’t get caught.  
    A U D

12. There is never a good reason to break the law.  
    A U D

13. A hungry man has the right to steal.  
    A U D

14. It’s OK to get around the law as long as you don’t actually break it.  
    A U D

15. You should only obey those laws that are reasonable.  
    A U D

16. You’re crazy to work for a living if there’s an easier way, even if it means breaking the law.  
    A U D

   TVL Total:________

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17. People who have broken the law have the same sorts of ideas about life as me.  
    A U D

18. I prefer to be with people who obey the law rather than people who break the law.  
    A U D

19. I’m more like a professional criminal than people who break the law now and then.  
    A U D

20. People who have been in trouble with the law are more like me than people who don’t have trouble with the law.  
    A U D

21. I have very little in common with people who never break the law.  
    A U D

22. No one who breaks the law can be my friend.  
    A U D

   ICO Total:________

   CSS TOTAL:________

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Name: ___________________________ Date: ________________
CRIMINAL SENTIMENTS SCALE – MODIFIED ---- SCORING KEY

Directions: Read each statement carefully and decide how you feel about it. Circle A if you agree with the statement or D if you disagree with the statement. If you are undecided or cannot make up your mind about the statement, circle U. Remember – there are no right or wrong answers.

### LAW
1. Pretty well all laws deserve our respect.  
   - 0 1 2
2. It’s our duty to obey all laws.  
   - 0 1 2
3. Laws are usually bad.  
   - 2 1 0
4. The law is rotten to the core.  
   - 2 1 0
5. You cannot respect the law because it’s there only to help a small and selfish group of people.  
   - 2 1 0
6. All laws should be obeyed just because they are laws.  
   - 0 1 2
7. The law does not help the average person.  
   - 2 1 0
8. The law is good.  
   - 0 1 2
9. Law and justice are the same thing.  
   - 0 1 2
10. The law makes slaves out of most people for a few people on the top.  
    - 2 1 0

**Law Total:**

### COURTS
11. Almost any jury can be fixed.  
    - 2 1 0
12. You cannot get justice in court.  
    - 2 1 0
13. Lawyers are honest.  
    - 0 1 2
14. The prosecution often produces fake witnesses.  
    - 2 1 0
15. Judges are honest and kind.  
    - 0 1 2
16. Court decisions are pretty well always fair.  
    - 0 1 2
17. Pretty well anything can be fixed in court if you have enough money.  
    - 2 1 0
18. A judge is a good person.  
    - 0 1 2

**Court Total:**

### POLICE
19. The police are honest.  
    - 0 1 2
20. A cop is a friend to people in need.  
    - 0 1 2
21. Life would be better with fewer cops.  
    - 2 1 0
22. The police should be paid more for their work.  
    - 0 1 2
23. The police are as crooked as the people they arrest.  
    - 2 1 0
24. Society would be better off if there were more police.  
    - 0 1 2
25. The police almost never help people.  
    - 2 1 0

**Police Total:**
26. Sometimes a person like me has to break the law to get ahead in life. 2 1 0
27. Most successful people broke the law to get ahead in life. 2 1 0
28. You should always obey the law, even if it keeps you from getting ahead in life. 0 1 2
29. It’s OK to break the law as long as you don’t get caught. 2 1 0
30. Most people would commit crimes if they wouldn’t get caught. 2 1 0
31. There is never a good reason to break the law. 0 1 2
32. A hungry man has the right to steal. 2 1 0
33. It’s OK to get around the law as long as you don’t actually break it. 2 1 0
34. You should only obey those laws that are reasonable. 2 1 0
35. You’re crazy to work for a living if there’s an easier way, even if it means breaking the law. 2 1 0

TVL Total:________

36. People who have broken the law have the same sorts of ideas about life as me. 2 1 0
37. I prefer to be with people who obey the law rather than people who break the law. 0 1 2
38. I’m more like a professional criminal than people who break the law now and then. 2 1 0
39. People who have been in trouble with the law are more like me than people who don’t have trouble with the law. 2 1 0
40. I have very little in common with people who never break the law. 2 1 0
41. No one who breaks the law can be my friend. 0 1 2

ICO Total:________

CSS TOTAL:________

Name: ___________________ Date: _______________

Law-Court-Police (LCP): higher scores indicate pro-criminal attitudes.
TLV & ICO: lower scores indicate pro-social attitudes.
The CSS TOTAL: calculated by subtracting the combined scores on TLV & ICO scales from the LCP scale.
The Criminal Sentiments Scale-Modified

The Criminal Sentiments Scale-Modified (CSS-M; Shields & Simourd, 1991) is a self-report instrument that measures antisocial attitudes, values, and beliefs directly related to criminal activity.

It consists of 41 items grouped into five subscales:
- Attitudes Toward the Law (Law),
- Court (Court),
- Police (Police),
- Tolerance for Law Violations (TLV), and
- Identification with Criminal Others (ICO).

The first three subscales are combined to form the Law-Court-Police (LCP) subscale that assesses respect for the law and criminal justice system. The TLV subscale follows the concept of 'neutralization' (Sykes & Matza, 1957) which effects specific justifications for criminal behavior. The ICO assesses personal evaluative judgments about law violators. Higher scores on the CSS-M are indicative of greater criminal attitudes. Early versions of the CSS-M have been used in numerous studies with a wide range of samples including probationers, provincial prisoners, young offenders, forensic prisoners, and university students (Andrews, Wormith, & Kiessling, 1985; Roy & Wormith, 1985; Wormith & Andrews, 1984, 1995). Wormith and Andrews (1995) found the original CSS predicted recidivism among relatively young (i.e., 21-years-old) mainly first time property offenders, while Simourd and van de Ven (1999) found the CSS-M predicted recidivism among older violent offenders.

Law-Court-Police (LCP): higher scores indicate pro-social attitudes.
TLV & ICO: lower scores indicate pro-social attitudes.
The Total Score: calculated by subtracting the combined scores on TLV & ICO scales from the LCP scale.