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: __________

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: __________

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

TVL Total:________

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

ICO Total:________

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.