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   A U D
      because it's there only to help a small
      and selfish group of people.
6.   All laws should be obeyed just   A U D
      because they are laws.
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   A U D
      people for a few people on the top.

                                                          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   A U D
      in court if you have enough money.
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   A U D
      for their work.
23. The police are as crooked as the   A U D
      people they arrest.
24. Society would be better off   A U D
      if there were more police.
25. The police almost never help people.   A U D

                                                          Police Total:_____

TLV

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   A U D
    as you don't actually break it.
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:_____

ICO

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:_____

TLV

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

TVL Total:_____

ICO

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

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 1neutralization' (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.