

Note to users: For the response alternatives in the first 42 items, 5 is strongly disagree. This is because we have found that this response format increased the internal consistency of the scales contained in the battery somewhat. If you use this format, it is advisable to repeat the response alternatives at the top of each page. However, you may wish to use a 5 = strongly agree format. The "loss" in internal consistency is not substantial and interpretation of the scores will be easier. Norms for college students are available. The correct citation for this instrument is:

Penner, L. A., Fritzsche, B. A., Craiger, J. P., & Freifeld, T. S. (1995). Measuring the prosocial personality. In J. N. Butcher, & C. D. Spielberger (Eds.) Advances in personality assessment, (Vol. 12). Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum.

There is also a 30-item version of the scale.

Prosocial Personality Battery (PSB)

PART 1:

Below are a number of statements which may or may not describe you, your feelings or your behavior. Please read each statement carefully and blacken in the space on your answer sheet which corresponds to choices presented below. There are no right or wrong responses

Use the following scale to indicate your answer:

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

Social Responsibility Items (Schwartz and Howard, 1982)

1. If a good friend of mine wanted to injure an enemy of theirs, it would be my duty to try to stop them.
2. I wouldn't feel that I had to do my part in a group project if everyone else was lazy. (R)
3. When people are nasty to me, I feel very little responsibility to treat them well. (R)
4. I would feel less bothered about leaving litter in a dirty park than in a clean one. (R)
5. No matter what a person has done to us, there is no excuse for taking advantage of them.
6. You can't blame basically good people who are forced by their environment to be inconsiderate of others. (R)
7. No matter how much people are provoked, they are always responsible for whatever

they do.

8. Being upset or preoccupied does not excuse people for doing anything they would ordinarily avoid.

9. As long as business people do not break laws, they should feel free to do their business as they see fit. (R)

10. Occasionally in life people find themselves in a situation in which they have absolutely no control over what they do to others. (R)

11. I would feel obligated to do a favor for someone who needed it, even though they had no shown gratitude for past favors.

12. With the pressure for grades and the widespread cheating in school nowadays, the individual who cheats occasionally is not really as much at fault. (R)

13. It doesn't make much sense to be very concerned about how we act when we are sick and feeling miserable. (R)

14. If I broke a machine through mishandling, I would feel less guilty if it was already damaged before I used it. (R)

15. When you have a job to do, it is impossible to look out for everybody's best interest. (R)

Empathy Items (from Davis, 1980)

16. I often have tender, concerned feelings for people less fortunate than me. EC

17. I sometimes find it difficult to see things from the "other person's" point of view. PT (R)

18. Sometimes I don't feel very sorry for other people when they are having problems. EC (R)

19. In emergency situations, I feel apprehensive and ill-at-ease. PD

20. I try to look at everybody's side of a disagreement before I make a decision. PT

21. When I see someone being taken advantage of, I feel kind of protective towards them. EC

22. I sometimes try to understand my friends better by imagining how things look from their perspective. PT

23. Other people's misfortunes do not usually disturb me a great deal. EC (R)
24. If I'm sure I'm right about something, I don't waste much time listening to other people's arguments. PT (R)
25. Being in a tense emotional situation scares me. PD
26. When I see someone being treated unfairly, I sometimes don't feel very much pity for them. EC (R)
27. I am usually pretty effective in dealing with emergencies. PD (R)
28. I am often quite touched by things that I see happen. EC
29. I believe that there are two sides to every question and try to look at them both. PT
30. I would describe myself as a pretty soft-hearted person. (EC)
31. I tend to lose control during emergencies. PD
32. When I'm upset at someone, I usually try to "put myself in their shoes" for a while. PT
33. When I see someone who badly needs help in an emergency, go to pieces. PD
34. Before criticizing somebody, I try to imagine how I would feel if I were in their place. PT

Moral Reasoning Items

PART 2:

Below are a set of statements which may or may not describe how you make decisions when you have to choose between two courses of action or alternatives when there is no clear right way or

wrong way to act. Some examples of such situations are: being asked to lend something to a close friend who often forgets to return things; deciding whether you should keep something you have won for yourself or share it with a friend; and choosing between studying for an important exam and visiting a sick relative. Read each statement and blacken in the space on your answer sheet which corresponds to the choices presented below.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Uncertain	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

35. My decisions are usually based on my concern for other people. O
36. My decisions are usually based on what is the most fair and just way to act. M
37. I choose alternatives that are intended to meet everybody's needs. M
38. I choose a course of action that maximizes the help other people receive. O
39. I choose a course of action that considers the rights of all people involved. M
40. My decisions are usually based on concern for the welfare of others. O
41. My decisions are usually based on my personal principles about what is fair and unfair. M
42. I choose alternatives that minimize the negative consequences to other people. O

PART 3:

Below are several different actions in which people sometimes engage. Read each of them and decide how frequently you have carried it out in the past. Blacken in the space on your answer sheet which best describes your past behavior. Use the scale presented below.

1	2	3	4	5
Never	Once	More than Once	Often	Very Often

SRA Past Helpfulness (from Rushton et al., 1981)

43. I have given directions to a stranger.
44. I have made change for a stranger.
45. I have given money to a stranger who needed it (or asked me for it).
46. I have donated goods or clothes to a charity.
47. I have done volunteer work for a charity.
48. I have helped carry a stranger's belongings (e.g., books, parcels, etc.).
49. I have delayed an elevator and held the door open for a stranger.
50. I have allowed someone to go ahead of me in a line (e.g., supermarket, copying machine, etc.)
51. I have given a stranger a lift in my car.
52. I have let a neighbor whom I didn't know too well borrow an item of some value (e.g., tools, a dish, etc.).
53. I have bought 'charity' Christmas cards deliberately because I knew it was for a good cause.
54. I have helped a classmate who I did not know that well with a homework assignment when my knowledge was greater than his or hers.
55. I have, before being asked, voluntarily looked after a neighbor's pets or children without being paid for it.
56. I have offered to help a handicapped or elderly stranger across a street.

Scoring Instructions:

Compute scores for 7 individual scales:

Social Responsibility (SR)

Empathic Concern (EC)

Perspective Taking (PT)

Personal Distress (PD)

Other-Oriented Moral Reasoning (O)

Mutual Concerns moral reasoning (M)

Self-reported altruism (SRA)

Factor 1, Other-oriented empathy, = sum of scores on SR, EC, PT, O, M.

Factor 2, Helpfulness, = sum of PD (reversed) and SRA. Note if you used a response scale for the PD items where 5 = **strongly disagree**, the reversal is not necessary.

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