



## The F-Scale

### Selected items from the new balanced F-Scale (Ray, 1972)

This questionnaire was designed to measure how **authoritarian** a person is. You respond by indicating how much you agree or disagree with each statement. Not all of the questions are included here, so this version does not produce meaningful scores. You cannot use it to assess your own (or anyone else's) personality. The intention is only that you understand how authoritarianism is measured.

Insults to our honor are not always important enough to bother about.	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Sex crimes such as rape and attacks on children are signs of mental illness; such people belong in hospitals rather than in prisons.	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Most honest people admit to themselves that they have sometimes hated their parents.	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Young people sometimes get rebellious ideas but as they grow up, they ought to get over them and settle down.	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Obedience and respect for authority are the most important virtues children should learn.	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
What the young need most is strict discipline, rugged determination, and the will to work and fight for family and country.	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
There is hardly anything lower than a person who does not feel great love, gratitude and respect for his parents.	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree

**Read each scale item carefully and decide whether a person with the authoritarian traits would be more likely to agree or disagree with it.**

**Why do you think the scale was designed to include some statements a person would agree with and some they would disagree with?**

**Can you think of any problems with using questionnaires like this one to measure people's psychological traits?**