

## Assessing Individual Differences

### **Examples from the California F scale (Adorno, Frenkel-Brunswik, Levinson, & Sanford, 1950)**

**Conventionalism:** Rigid adherence to conventional, middle-class values

1. Obedience and respect for authority are the most important virtues children should learn.

**Authoritarian submission:** Submissive, uncritical attitude toward idealized moral authorities of the ingroup

32. What this country needs most, more than laws and political programs, is a few courageous, tireless devoted leaders in whom the people can put their faith.

44. In order for us to do good work, it is necessary that our bosses outline carefully what is to be done and exactly how to go about it.

**Authoritarian aggression:** Tendency to be on the lookout for, and condemn, reject, and punish people who violate conventional values

17. An insult to our honor should always be punished.

49. Most of our social problems would be solved if we could somehow get rid of the immoral, crooked, and feeble-minded people.

58. Homosexuals are nothing but degenerates and ought to be severely punished.

**Anti-intraception:** Opposition to the subjective, the imaginative, the tender-minded

16. When a person has a problem or worry, it is best for him not to think about it, but to keep busy with more cheerful thoughts.

30. Some cases of feeble-mindedness are caused by overstudy.

**Superstition and stereotypy:** The belief in mystical determinants of the individual's fate; the disposition to think in rigid categories

18. It is more than just chance that Japan had an earthquake on Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, 1941.

40. Some day it will probably be shown that astrology can explain a lot of things.

**Power and "toughness":** Preoccupation with the dominance-submission, strong-weak, leader-follower dimension....exaggerated assertion of strength and toughness

35. People can be divided into two distinct classes: the weak and the strong.

**Destructiveness and cynicism:** Generalized hostility, vilification of the human

10. Human nature being what it is, there will always be war and conflict.

**Projectivity:** The disposition to believe that wild and dangerous things go on in the world; the projection outward of unconscious emotional impulses.

45. Nowadays more and more people are prying into matters that should remain personal and private.

**Sex:** Exaggerated concern with sexual “goings-on”

52. The wild sex life of the old Greeks and Romans was tame compared to some of the goings-on in this country, even in places where people might least expect it.

### **Examples from the Right-Wing Authoritarianism scale (Altemeyer, 1996)**

5. Our country desperately needs a mighty leader who will do what has to be done to destroy the radical new ways and sinfulness that are ruining us.

8. Atheists and others who have rebelled against the established religions are no doubt every bit as good and virtuous as those who attend church regularly.\*

9. The real keys to the “good life” are obedience, discipline, and sticking to the straight and narrow.

11. There are many radical, immoral people in our country today, who are trying to ruin it for their own godless purposes, whom the authorities should put out of action.

13. There is absolutely nothing wrong with nudist camps.\*

20. A “woman’s place” should be wherever she wants to be. The days when women are submissive to their husbands and social conventions belong strictly in the past.\*

25. There is nothing wrong with premarital sexual intercourse.\*

30. Obedience and respect for authority are the most important virtues children should learn.

### **Examples from the Social Dominance Orientation scale (Ho et al., 2015)**

*Dominance:*

1. Some groups of people must be kept in their place.

4. Some groups of people are simply inferior to other groups.

5. Groups at the bottom are just as deserving as groups at the top.\*

*Antiegalitarianism:*

9. We should not push for group equality.

11. It is unjust to try to make groups equal.

16. Group equality should be our ideal.\*

\*Reverse-scored question