

Modern Racism Scale

Instructions for researchers

This scale combines both the old-fashioned racism questions and modern racism questions, similar to how it was used by McConahay, Hardee, & Batts (1981). Similar to their methodology, it is highly recommended that you scramble the questions and interlace them with unrelated filler questions to avoid the respondents learning about the nature of the study, which may affect their responses. The questionnaire includes two subscales: the old-fashioned racism and modern racism questions. Tallying results involves summing up the value that each response is associated with. Below, each statement is labeled with the response that indicates racism. If the label is “disagree”, then that item is reverse-scored; for example, a “Strongly Disagree (-2)” response to the question “It is easy to understand the anger of black people in America (disagree)” is equal to a +2 score.

Modern racism questions

1. It is easy to understand the anger of black people in America. (disagree)
2. Blacks have more influence upon school desegregation plans than they ought to have. (agree)
3. The streets are not safe these days without a policeman around. (agree)
4. Blacks are getting too demanding in their push for equal rights. (agree)
5. Over the past few years, blacks have gotten more economically than they deserve. (agree)
6. Over the past few years, the government and news media have shown more respect to blacks than they deserve. (agree)
7. Blacks should not push themselves where they're not wanted. (agree)
8. Discrimination against blacks is no longer a problem in the United States. (agree)

Old-fashioned racism questions

9. I favor strong open housing laws that permit minority persons to rent or purchase housing even when the owner does not wish to rent or sell. (disagree)
10. It is a bad idea for blacks and whites to marry one another (agree)
11. It was wrong for the United States Supreme Court to outlaw segregation in its 1954 decision. (agree)
12. If a black family with about the same income and education as I had moved next door, I would mind it a great deal. (agree)
13. Generally speaking, I favor full racial integration. (disagree)
14. Black people are generally not as smart as whites. (agree)
15. I am opposed to open or fair housing laws. (agree)

As a tool primarily used in population research, the original researchers did not prescribe cut-off scores for individual results. However, a higher score generally indicates a stronger tendency towards racism. For the full methodology, please refer to the original paper by McConahay, Hardee, and Batts.

Questionnaire

Respondent's name (optional):

Date:

Please use the following scale in answering. If you do not wish to answer, please choose the last option under "X". **Do not leave any items blank.**

2 Strongly agree	1 Somewhat agree	0 Neither agree nor disagree or no opinion	-1 Somewhat disagree	-2 Strongly disagree	X I do not wish to answer
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Statements		2	1	0	-1	-2	X
1	It is easy to understand the anger of black people in America.						
2	Blacks have more influence upon school desegregation plans than they ought to have.						
3	The streets are not safe these days without a policeman around.						
4	Blacks are getting too demanding in their push for equal rights.						
5	Over the past few years, blacks have gotten more economically than they deserve.						
6	Over the past few years, the government and news media have shown more respect to blacks than they deserve.						
7	Blacks should not push themselves where they're not wanted.						
8	Discrimination against blacks is no longer a problem in the United States.						
9	I favor strong open housing laws that permit minority persons to rent or purchase housing even when the owner does not wish to rent or sell.						
10	It is a bad idea for blacks and whites to marry one another.						
11	It was wrong for the United States Supreme Court to outlaw segregation in its 1954 decision.						

2 Strongly agree	1 Somewhat agree	0 Neither agree nor disagree or no opinion	-1 Somewhat disagree	-2 Strongly disagree	X I do not wish to answer
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Statements		2	1	0	-1	-2	X
12	If a black family with about the same income and education as I had moved next door, I would mind it a great deal.						
13	Generally speaking, I favor full racial integration.						
14	Black people are generally not as smart as whites.						
15	I am opposed to open or fair housing law.						

Total score:
Subscale 1 score:
Subscale 2 score: