

Scoring Directions for Handout 3-3

Critical Thinking Activity: Self-Assessment on Psychology's Big Issues

This activity introduces student to some of psychology's major issues:

- **Human rationality versus irrationality**
- **Stability versus change**
- **Nature versus nurture**

This test is primarily intended to introduce and stimulate discussion of some of psychology's important issues, not to provide an accurate self-assessment. At best the scores suggestive of one's perspective on the issues.

“rationality versus irrationality”

Circle items 1, 4, 7, 10, and 13 before adding the scores reverse your score for numbers 4 and 10 (0=5, 1=4, 2=3, 3=2, 4=1, and 5=0)

Scores can range form 0-25 with higher scores suggesting a stronger belief in rationality.

“stability versus change” scale

Place a square around Items 2, 5, 8, 11, and 14 before adding the scores reverse your score for number 11 and then add the numbers for all five items. Scores can range form 0-25 with higher scores suggesting a stronger belief in stability of behavior across time and situation

“nature versus nurture”

Before adding the remaining numbers reverse your score for numbers 6 and 15 and then add all the remaining numbers 3, 6, 9, 12, and 15.

Scores can range form 0-25 with higher scores reflecting a stronger belief in the role of nature.

Discussion: students are typically eager to know how they compare with their classmates on these issues. You can have students form small discussion groups or ask for individual volunteers to share their positions, as well as their rationale. Collecting the data can provide some rough indication of students' initial leanings on issues that will reappear throughout the course.