

The Insanity Defense Attitudes-Revised scale (IDA-R) can be found on the following page. Any work stemming from its use should cite the development article ([Skeem et al., 2004](#)).

### Scoring the IDA-R

Reverse code items 4, 12, 13, 14, 17 and 18. Sum items 1-19 to yield total score. Items 20-22 are optional and not included in the total or scale scores.

Questions regarding use of the IDA-R can be directed to [Dr. Jennifer Eno Loudon](#).

---

1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 / 6 / 7  
**STRONGLY DISAGREE    SLIGHTLY DISAGREE    NEUTRAL    SLIGHTLY AGREE    STRONGLY AGREE**

---

Disagree \_\_\_\_\_ Agree

**ATTITUDE SURVEY**

On the following pages, you will find statements that express commonly held opinions about the insanity defense. We would like to know how much you agree or disagree with each of these statements. To the right of each statement is a rating scale. You may interpret the seven points on this scale as follows:

---

1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 / 6 / 7  
**STRONGLY DISAGREE    SLIGHTLY DISAGREE    NEUTRAL    SLIGHTLY AGREE    STRONGLY AGREE**

---

After reading each statement, please circle the point on the scale that comes closest to saying how much you agree or disagree with the statement.

---

	Disagree	Agree					
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. I believe that people should be held responsible for their actions no matter what their mental condition.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2. I believe that <u>all</u> human beings know what they are doing and have the power to control themselves.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3. The insanity defense threatens public safety by telling criminals that they can get away with a crime if they come up with a good story about why they did it.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4. I believe that mental illness can impair people's ability to make logical choices and control themselves.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5. A defendant's degree of insanity is irrelevant: if he commits the crime, then he should do the time.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6. The insanity defense returns disturbed, dangerous people to the streets.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7. Mentally ill defendants who plead insanity have failed to exert enough willpower to behave properly like the rest of us. So, they should be punished for their crimes like everyone else.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8. As a last resort, defense attorneys will encourage their clients to act strangely and lie through their teeth in order to appear "insane."	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

---

1	/	2	/	3	/	4	/	5	/	6	/	7
<b>STRONGLY DISAGREE</b>		<b>DISAGREE</b>		<b>SLIGHTLY DISAGREE</b>		<b>NEUTRAL</b>		<b>SLIGHTLY AGREE</b>		<b>AGREE</b>		<b>STRONGLY AGREE</b>

---

- |  | <u>Disagree</u> |   |   |   |   |   | <u>Agree</u> |
|--|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|--------------|
| 9. Perfectly sane killers can get away with their crimes by hiring high-priced lawyers and experts who misuse the insanity defense.  | 1               | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7            |
| 10. The insanity plea is a loophole in the law that allows too many guilty people to escape punishment.  | 1               | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7            |
| 11. We should punish people who commit criminal acts, regardless of their degree of mental disturbance.  | 1               | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7            |
| 12. It is wrong to punish people who commit crime for crazy reasons while gripped by uncontrollable hallucinations or delusions.   | 1               | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7            |
| 13. Most defendants who use the insanity defense are truly mentally ill, <u>not</u> fakers.  | 1               | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7            |
| 14. Some people with severe mental illness are out of touch with reality and do not understand that their acts are wrong. These people cannot be blamed and do not deserve to be punished. | 1               | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7            |
| 15. Many of the crazy criminals that psychiatrists see fit to return to the streets go on to kill again.   | 1               | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7            |
| 16. With slick attorneys and a sad story, any criminal can use the insanity defense to finagle his way to freedom.   | 1               | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7            |
| 17. It is wrong to punish someone for an act they commit because of <u>any</u> uncontrollable illness, whether it be epilepsy or mental illness.   | 1               | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7            |
| 18. I believe that we should punish a person for a criminal act <u>only</u> if he understood the act as evil and then freely chose to do it.   | 1               | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7            |
| 19. For the right price, psychiatrists will probably manufacture a “mental illness” for any criminal to convince the jury that he is insane.   | 1               | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7            |

20. How strongly do you feel about the insanity defense?

Not at all 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Very strongly

21. How personally important is your opinion on the insanity defense?

Not at all 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Very important

22. How much do you care about the insanity defense?

Not at all 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Very much