Trueblood Sexual Attitudes Questionnaire

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Roseann Hannon, David Hall, Vianey Gonzalez, Holly Cacciapaglia
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ROSEANN HANNON, DAVID HALL,\textsuperscript{1} VIANEY GONZALEZ, AND HOLLY CACCIAPAGLIA,
University of the Pacific, Stockton

The original Trueblood Sexual Attitudes Questionnaire (TSAQ) (Trueblood, Hannon, & Hall, 1998) was developed to reliably measure attitude change regarding the most common topics relating to sexual behavior covered in human sexuality courses. The authors were also interested in comparing attitudes by gender, ethnicity, sexual experience, etc. Based on Story’s (1979) approach, the TSAQ was divided into sexual attitudes acceptable for oneself versus acceptable for others. TSAQ items were developed based on an analysis of the content of college sexuality course textbooks, with a final scale containing 90 items divided into five subscales: Autoeroticism, Heterosexuality, Homosexuality, Sexual Variations, and Commercial Sex. Topics less directly related to sexual behavior per se (e.g., abortion, marital relationships) were not included. Internal consistency (reliability) was assessed using coefficient alpha, which was .93 for the Self scale and .96 for the Other scale. Subscale coefficients (e.g., Autoeroticism-Self) ranged from .67 to .97, with the lowest coefficients for Heterosexuality and Commercial Sex. The revision (Hannon, Hall, Gonzalez, & Cacciapaglia, 1999) was designed to shorten the scale, replace poor items, and to assess test/retest reliability.

Description

The current questionnaire contains 80 items reflecting Self (40 items) versus Other (40 items) across the five subscales. Each item is rated on a 9-point Likert-type scale, ranging from 1, I completely disagree to 9, I completely agree. Some questions are reverse scored. For total and subscale scores, higher numbers indicate a more liberal attitude. Questions from the five subscales are randomly ordered within the Self scale. The same 40 questions were reworded to reflect attitudes toward others and then randomly ordered within the Other scale. The following list shows sample items.

- The division of the items into Self versus Other, with five major areas of content coverage in each, allows for more refined measurement of attitudes following a sexuality course. Changes in attitudes toward Self versus Others can be compared. One can note differential change in the five content areas, as they may vary in amenability to change. The questionnaire can also be used to study subgroups of particular interest (e.g., ethnic, age, Greek (fraternity/sorority) versus non-Greek. Information from responses to the questionnaire may be used to guide the development of future courses, depending on course goals. Although the scale has been used primarily with college students, there is no reason it cannot be used on other populations. It has been used by Duyan and Duyan (2005), by Petroski, Spears, Dempsey, and Kapalka (2007), and is listed in the GASP Measures Database, an American Psychological Association division site.

Response Mode and Timing

This questionnaire can be implemented as a paper instrument or by using online survey software. It typically takes 15–20 minutes to complete.

Scoring

The mean rating for the 8 questions in each subscale is normally reported, as well as the overall mean rating for Self and Other. The attached questionnaire has the subscale indicated for each question, as well as an R for reverse scoring.

Reliability and Validity

The questionnaire was tested in 1999 on 143 female and 51 male college students (median age = 20) in Northern California. Coefficient alpha was .97 for the entire measure.

| TABLE 1 Mean and Standard Deviation for the Basic Scales |
|----------------|-----------|
|                | Self      | Other     |
| Single test (N = 194) | 3.47 (1.33) | 5.21 (1.92) |
| Retest (N = 104)       | 3.55 (1.48) | 5.24 (2.04) |

Response mode and timing were excellent. Self versus Other comparisons were significantly different on both the Self and Other scales than Asians and Hispanics, who did not differ from each other. Test-retest reliability after 3 weeks was .94 (p < .01). Caucasians were significantly more liberal on both the Self and Other scales than Asians and Hispanics, who did not differ from each other. F (2, 157) = 10.86, p < .001. Gender differences were not significant.

Mean scores for the Self and Other scales for the single test and retesting are shown in Table 1. Test-retest reliability is excellent. Self versus Other comparisons were significantly different on both testings (p < .001). As expected, the participants were more liberal about others’ behavior than their own.

Coefficient alpha for each subscale is shown in Table 2, along with the mean rating for each of the 10 subscales. Ratings were acceptable for all subscales except

\textsuperscript{1}Please address correspondence to David S. Hall, 2111 Lido Circle, Stockton, CA 95207; e-mail: airsafe1@comcast.net
Heterosexuality. The mean ratings for Self were significantly more conservative than for Other in each of the five areas. The largest mean difference between Self and Other occurred for Homosexuality.

The revised questionnaire had acceptable internal consistency for the total score, the Self and Other scores, and 8 of the 10 subscale scores. The Heterosexuality subscale scores were weaker.

### References


### Exhibit

**Trueblood Sexual Attitudes Questionnaire**

**Subscales**

1. Masturbation/Erotic
2. Heterosexual
3. Homosexual
4. Variations
5. Commercial

Please answer the following questions about your attitudes toward your personal sexual behavior by writing the number between 1 and 9 that best represents how you feel in response to each question.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I Completely Disagree</td>
<td><em>1</em></td>
<td><em>2</em></td>
<td><em>3</em></td>
<td><em>4</em></td>
<td><em>5</em></td>
<td><em>6</em></td>
<td><em>7</em></td>
<td><em>8</em></td>
<td><em>9</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Completely Agree</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

_1_ 1. I find that masturbating is an acceptable sexual outlet when I am not currently involved with a partner.
_2_ 2. I would engage in sexual intercourse with my fiancée before marriage.
_3_ 3. I would engage in oral genital sexual stimulation with a partner of the same sex.
_4_ 4. I would watch pornography with my partner to learn new sexual techniques.
_5_ 5. I could be involved in more than one sexual relationship at a time.
_6_ 6. I would find it acceptable to dress in the clothing of the opposite gender if I found it sexually arousing.
_7_ 7. It is acceptable for me to engage in bisexuality.
_8_ 8. Videotaping myself and my partner during sexual activity is acceptable to me if it is arousing.
_9_ 9. I do not believe there should be censorship of sexual materials because I want the freedom to enjoy sexual materials.
_10_ 10. It is acceptable for me to be attracted to members of the same sex as well as members of the opposite sex.
_11_ 11. I would find it acceptable to inflict pain on a consenting individual if I found it sexually arousing.
_12_ 12. I find it acceptable to watch other people engage in sexual activity.
_13_ 13. I personally believe it is acceptable for me to think or daydream about sexual activity.
_14_ 14. I believe I would engage in sex more often if I watched pornography.
_15_ 15. I would use my sexual activity only for reproduction, not for pleasure.
_16_ 16. When I am engaged in sexual activity with my partner, it is acceptable to fantasize about someone else.
_17_ 17. I would sell my sexual services for money.
_18_ 18. I would enjoy being dominated in a sexual relationship.
19. I would use sexual activity for my own personal sexual pleasure.
20. I would enjoy being the dominator in a sexual relationship.
21. Even if I were married, I would engage in masturbation as an acceptable means of sexual outlet.
22. It would be acceptable to me if a member of my own sex made an advance toward me.
23. I would watch pornography to enhance my sexual relationships.
24. I would appear in sexually explicit entertainment for money.
25. I would engage in sexual intercourse with a partner of the same sex.
26. I would use erotica (magazines, videos, books) as a means to stimulate sexual arousal for myself.
27. I would engage in sexual intercourse only with my spouse.
28. I would find it acceptable to receive a sexually obscene phone call if I found it sexually arousing.
29. I would engage in mutual touching with a partner of the same sex.
30. It is acceptable for me to engage in homosexuality.
31. I would engage in group sex (3 or more people consenting).
32. I would engage in sexual intercourse with a person of the opposite sex the first time we met.
33. If I were single, I would engage in masturbation as a means of sexual outlet.
34. I would engage in sexual intercourse only if I loved my partner.
35. It is acceptable for me to engage in prostitution.
36. I consider it acceptable for me to be attracted to members of the same sex.
37. I would engage in oral genital sexual stimulation with a partner of the opposite sex.
38. I would not watch pornography because it is harmful.
39. I would engage in anal sexual stimulation with a partner of the opposite sex.
40. When I am in a sexual relationship, I think it is still acceptable to fantasize about someone else.

The following questions refer to your beliefs about others.

41. It is acceptable if other people are involved in more than one sexual relationship at a time.
42. While other people are engaged in sexual activity with their partner, it is acceptable for them to fantasize about someone else.
43. It is acceptable if other people use erotica (magazines, videos, books) as a means to stimulate sexual arousal for themselves.
44. It is acceptable for another person to engage in oral genital sexual stimulation with a partner of the same sex.
45. It is acceptable for other people to receive sexually obscene phone calls if they find this sexually arousing.
46. It is acceptable for other people to think or daydream about sexual activity.
47. It is acceptable for other people to engage in prostitution.
48. It is acceptable if other people appear in sexually explicit entertainment for money.
49. It is acceptable for other people to engage in masturbation as a means of sexual outlet if they are single.
50. It is acceptable for other people to watch pornography to enhance their sexual relationships.
51. Other people should not watch pornography because it is harmful.
52. It is acceptable for other people to videotape themselves and their partner during sexual activity if it is arousing to them.
53. It is acceptable for other people to engage in group sex (3 or more people consenting).
54. It is acceptable for another person to be attracted to members of the same sex as well as the opposite sex.
55. It is acceptable if other people find it acceptable when someone of their same sex makes an advance toward them.
56. It is acceptable for another person to enjoy being dominated in a sexual relationship.
57. It is acceptable for another person to engage in anal sexual stimulation with a partner of the opposite sex.
58. It is acceptable if other people watch pornography with their partner to learn new sexual techniques.
59. It is acceptable for other people to engage in sexual intercourse with a person of the opposite sex the first time they meet.
60. I believe other people would engage in sex more often if they watched pornography.
61. It is acceptable for another person to engage in sexual intercourse with a partner of the same sex.
62. It is acceptable for other people to engage in homosexual activity.
63. Even if they are married, it is acceptable for other people to engage in masturbation as a means of sexual outlet.
64. It is acceptable for other people to dress in the clothing of the opposite gender if they find it sexually arousing.
65. It is acceptable if other people are attracted to members of the same sex.
66. It is acceptable if other people use sexual activity for their personal sexual pleasure.
67. It is acceptable if other people engage in sexual intercourse with their fiancée before marriage.
68. When they are in a sexual relationship, it is still acceptable for other people to fantasize about someone else.
69. It is acceptable for another person to engage in oral genital sexual stimulation with a partner of the opposite sex.
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70. It is acceptable if other people engage in sexual intercourse only with a partner they love.
71. It is acceptable for other people to use masturbation as a sexual outlet when they are not currently involved with a partner.
72. It is acceptable for other people to use sexual activity only for reproduction, not pleasure.
73. It is acceptable for other people to inflict pain on another consenting individual if they find it sexually arousing.
74. It is acceptable for another person to engage in mutual touching with a partner of the same sex.
75. It is acceptable for other people to engage in bisexuality.
76. It is acceptable for another person to enjoy being the dominator in a sexual relationship.
77. It is acceptable if other people only engage in sexual intercourse with their own spouse.
78. It is acceptable if another person watches others engage in sexual activity.
79. It is acceptable for other people to believe there should not be censorship of sexual materials because they want the freedom to enjoy sexual materials.
80. It is acceptable for other people to sell their sexual services for money.

Note. Numbers in the answer space indicate the subscale the question is associated with, and the R is reversed scored. Contact David Hall at airsafe1@comcast.net for a printable copy without scoring information. There is no copyright on this questionnaire.

Sexual Attitudes Scale and Brief Sexual Attitudes Scale

SUSAN S. HENDRICK AND CLYDE HENDRICK, Texas Tech University

SEXUAL ATTITUDES SCALE

The Sexual Attitudes Scale (SAS; Hendrick & Hendrick, 1987) was developed to broaden the assessment of sexual attitudes from a heavy reliance on sexual permissiveness to a more comprehensive and multidimensional approach. Although we viewed sexual attitudes as more than just permissiveness, we realized that permissiveness is extremely important and included it as a major aspect of our measurement of sexual attitudes. The SAS was also designed to assess attitudes generically, including maritally, premaritally, and for nonmarital couples. Finally, the scale was intended to be psychometrically sound and to complement rather than duplicate existing measures.

Description

Initial work on the SAS (Hendrick, Hendrick, Slapion-Foote, & Foote, 1985) involved item generation and reduction via principal components analysis (PCA) to a 58-item scale measuring Sexual Permissiveness, Sexual Responsibility, Sexual Communion, Sexual Instrumentality, and Sexual Conventionality. After additional sampling of nearly 1,400 university students from both Florida and Texas and extensive analyses employing PCA with Varimax rotation, 43 items across four factors were retained in a final scale (Hendrick & Hendrick, 1987). Given the nature of PCA, the factors were orthogonal, and the subscales were only modestly related. The subscales and number of items are as follows (the full scale is reproduced in the Exhibit). Permissiveness (21 items) measures a casual, open attitude toward sex. Sexual Practices (7 items) measures responsible (e.g., birth control) and tolerant (e.g., masturbation) sexual attitudes. Communion (9 items) presents sex as an ideal or “peak experience.” Finally, Sexual Instrumentality (6 items) reflects sex as a natural, biological, self-oriented aspect of life. The items are all written as statements and are in a Likert format with which the respondent rates his/her degree of agreement. As noted, the scale is appropriate for partnered couples of all types whose relationships have a sexual component.

Response Mode and Timing

Instructions for the SAS are included in the Exhibit. The items are rated on a 5-point basis in a Likert format, with 1 = strongly agree, 2 = moderately agree, 3 = neither agree nor disagree, 4 = moderately disagree, and 5 = strongly disagree.

Scoring

The lower the score, the greater the endorsement of a subscale, although direction of scoring can be reversed. Two

1Address correspondence to Susan S. Hendrick, Department of Psychology, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409–2051; e-mail: s.hendrick@ttu.edu