

THE 12 ITEM SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONSERVATISM SCALE (SECS)

“Please indicate the extent to which you feel positive or negative towards each issue. Scores of 0 indicate greater negativity, and scores of 100 indicate greater positivity. Scores of 50 indicate that you feel neutral about the issue.”

1. Abortion (reverse scored). (S)
2. Limited government. (E)
3. Military and national security. (S)
4. Religion. (S)
5. Welfare benefits (reverse scored). (E)
6. Gun ownership. (E)
7. Traditional marriage. (S)
8. Traditional values. (S)
9. Fiscal responsibility. (E)
10. Business. (E)
11. The family unit. (S)
12. Patriotism. (S)

Scoring Instructions:

- Participants respond on a 0-100 scale, and scores can either be tied to intervals of 10 (0, 10, 20...100) or as a continuous measure.
- Economic and social conservatism items are indicated above in parentheses by an E or S respectively.
- Reverse code items 1 and 5 (“*Abortion*” and “*Welfare Benefits*”), and then create overall mean scores (or for the two subscales separately).
- Once mean scores are computed, mean values for participants will vary from 0 to 100, with higher scores indicating greater political conservatism.

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