

Chapter 3

Item Descriptions

The following sections contain the PCL-R items. Each item is described in detail, and suggestions about the sources of information needed to score the item are provided. These item descriptions should be reviewed when ratings are made. A careful review of the scoring criteria by even the most experienced raters will serve to ensure that the diagnostic criteria remain stable from one use to the next.

The item descriptions are the same as those in the 1991 edition of the manual. The use of the pronouns he and him in the Technical Manual, Rating Booklet, Interview Guide, and QuikScore Forms reflects the early research focus on male offenders. There now exists extensive data from female offenders. However, the masculine terminology is retained in this edition to maintain consistency with the 1991 edition of the PCL-R.

Item 1: Glibness/Superficial Charm

Description:

Item 1 describes a glib, voluble, verbally facile individual who exudes an insincere and superficial sort of charm. He is often an amusing and entertaining conversationalist, is always ready with a quick and clever comeback, and is able to tell unlikely but convincing stories that place him in a good light. He may succeed in presenting himself well and may even be quite likeable. However, he generally seems too slick and smooth to be entirely believable. He appears to have knowledge in many areas, and may casually use technical terms and jargon effectively enough to impress most people. Careful questioning will usually reveal that his knowledge is only superficial.

Sources of Information:

Ratings for this item should be based wherever possible, on interviews with the individual in addition to file information. In interviews, assess his interpersonal style. He may appear to be friendly, straightforward, and cooperative, but may actually provide very little useful information. He frequently starts out answering a question but ends up talking about a completely different subject, leaving the impression that he has answered the question, whereas he actually may have said nothing of substance. He appears very much at ease throughout the interview, showing few signs of anxiety, embarrassment, or discomfort.

During the interview, it will often be difficult to determine who is in control. When given the opportunity to answer questions about his past (e.g., childhood, schooling, travel), he may ramble and tell stories that seem unlikely in light of what is known about him. His approach will generally have a pseudo-intellectual flavor. Some typical areas with which he may attempt to appear familiar are sociology, psychiatry, medicine, psychology, philosophy, poetry, literature, art, and law. He may be over-concerned with the interviewer's impression of him; he often asks direct questions ("How am I doing so far?") and may try to read the interviewer's notes. On occasion, it is useful to let him stray from the topic; some of the characteristics described above are much more obvious in unstructured than in highly structured interactions.

In institutional files, look for comments that he has a reputation for smooth talking, "the gift of gab," and so forth. Conflicting impressions in files should alert the rater to the possibility that she or he may have obtained a biased impression of the individual.

Some raters have difficulty scoring individuals who present as extremely superficial but who are not at all charming. For example, some inmates put on a consistent but transparent "macho" or "tough guy" image. Typically, we rate such individuals as a 1. People who present as sincere and straightforward, shy and reserved, or immature and inadequate are typically scored as a 0.

Scoring:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 | The item applies to the individual; a reasonably good match in most essential respects; behavior is generally consistent with the flavor and intent of the item. |
| 1 | The item applies to a certain extent but not to the degree required for a score of 2; a match in some respects but with too many exceptions or doubts to warrant a score of 2; uncertain about whether or not the item applies; conflicts between interview and file information that cannot be resolved in favor of a score of 2 or 0. |
| 0 | The item does not apply to the individual; does not exhibit the trait or behavior in question, or exhibits characteristics that are the opposite of, or inconsistent with, the intent of the item. |

In brief: 2 = Yes

1 = Maybe/in some respects

0 = No

Item 2: Grandiose Sense of Self Worth

Description:

Item 2 describes an individual with a grossly inflated view of his abilities and self-worth. He may impress as a braggart. He often appears self-assured, opinionated, and cocky during the interview, perhaps giving the impression that he is performing or giving a press conference. His inflated ego and exaggerated regard for his own abilities are remarkable, given the facts of his life.

He is not embarrassed about, or sensitive to, his current legal problems; he is convinced that his present circumstances are the result of bad luck, unfaithful friends, or an unfair and incompetent criminal justice system. He may also see himself as the real victim of the "alleged" crime because of the time he is forced to spend in jail. He does not see his future as being adversely affected by his contacts with the law. He feels that the skilled trades taught in prison are worthless or beneath him; he expresses an intention to pursue a career with status.

Sources of Information:

Interviews are particularly helpful in rating this item. The individual may try to control the interview or act as if he is holding a press conference. He may even use expressions such as "no comment" and "I'm not prepared to answer that question at this time." He may talk like a "jailhouse lawyer"—he may even have acted as his own defense counsel during his trial. If so, get him to discuss his reasons for doing so and his views on how well he performed. His reactions to questions regarding others (e.g., "Do you find others stupid? dull? boring? smart? interesting?") will often reveal an attitude of superiority. It is useful to explore his self-perceptions and self-image. He may claim that others respect him, fear him, envy him, dislike him, and so forth. Someone scoring high on this item is usually happy to talk about his status and reputation (whether deserved or not) in prison. He may try to "overpower" the interviewer with nonverbal behaviors such as direct eye contact, flamboyant gestures, and intrusions on the interviewer's personal space.

Files may contain comments and impressions about the individual's self-image consistent with the above description. In particular, files give the rater a chance to see how the individual is perceived by a number of other people (including staff, other inmates, parole board officials, psychologists, and friends or relatives).

Scoring:

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- 0 The item does not apply to the individual; does not exhibit the trait or behavior in question, or exhibits characteristics that are the opposite of, or inconsistent with, the intent of the item.

In brief: 2 = Yes

1 = Maybe/in some respects

0 = No

Item 3: Need for Stimulation/ Proneness to Boredom

Description:

Item 3 describes an individual who demonstrates a chronic and excessive need for novel and exciting stimulation, and an unusual proneness to boredom. He will usually express a strong interest in taking chances, "living life in the fast lane" or "on the edge," being "where the action is," and in doing things that are exciting, risky, or challenging. He may try and use many types of drugs. He frequently complains that school, work, and long-term relationships are boring and tedious. He may comment that he has itchy feet, needs to be on the go, and can't imagine working at the same job for any length of time. He will often refuse to attempt, or will readily quit, any task that he finds routine, monotonous, or uninteresting.

Sources of Information:

In the interview detailed questioning will reveal a pattern of constantly starting and stopping new activities—such as school, jobs, relationships—that cannot be accounted for by economic conditions, illness, and so forth.

Files may contain collateral information relevant to the scoring of this item (e.g., employment history, work habits, school records, etc.). Disagreements between file and interview information should prompt the rater to reassess the validity of the interview information.

Scoring:

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- 0 The item does not apply to the individual; does not exhibit the trait or behavior in question, or exhibits characteristics that are the opposite of, or inconsistent with, the intent of the item.

In brief: 2 = Yes

1 = Maybe/in some respects

0 = No

Item 4: Pathological Lying

Description:

Item 4 describes an individual for whom lying and deceit are a characteristic part of his interactions with others. He is capable of fabricating elaborate accounts of his past even though he knows that his story can easily be checked. His readiness to lie, and the apparent ease with which he carries it off (even with people who know him well), can be quite remarkable. When caught in a lie or when challenged with the truth, he seldom appears perplexed or embarrassed: He simply changes his story or attempts to rework the facts so that they appear to be consistent with what he has said. He has an explanation or excuse for everything. Moreover, even after repeatedly breaking his promises and commitments to someone, he still finds it easy to make new ones on "his word of honor." He often lies for obvious reasons, but deceiving others also appears to have some intrinsic value for him. He may freely discuss and take pride and pleasure in his ability to lie.

Sources of Information:

In the interview, the individual may give conflicting accounts of his marital status, family background, previous occupations, education, crimes, and so forth; this is particularly apparent in long interviews. On occasion, it is useful to challenge him concerning these inconsistencies to see how he responds. Any challenges should be gentle at first; if the interviewer feels secure, he or she can become more pressing and persistent.

Discrepancies between interview and file information, or within the files, are particularly telling; the individual may have a number of completely divergent and fictitious "life histories." People who score a 2 on this item frequently use aliases and false identities. Files also contain comments made by institutional staff concerning the individual's reputation for insincerity.

Scoring:

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In brief: 2 = Yes

1 = Maybe/in some respects

0 = No

Item 5: Conning/Manipulative

Description:

Although similar in some respects to Item 4 (Pathological Lying), Item 5 is more concerned with the use of deceit and deception to cheat, bilk, defraud, or manipulate others. The use of schemes and scams, motivated by a desire for personal gain (money, sex, status, power, etc.) and carried out with no concern for their effects on victims, warrants a score of 2. Some of these operations are elaborate and well thought out, whereas others are quite simple; in each case, they are carried off in a cool, self-assured, or brazen manner. Conning and manipulative behaviors include criminal activities, such as collecting social assistance under several different names, passing bad checks, and setting up phony businesses. However, they also include noncriminal activities. Sometimes the individual will describe how he "uses" family members for their money, or how—unknown to his partners—he is involved in two or three intimate relationships at the same time. He may also show a predilection for using a variety of dishonest and unethical practices that are of dubious legality or that make use of loopholes in the law.

Sources of Information:

In the interview, he may willingly describe himself as a "con man," "hustler," or "fraud artist." His manipulateness is evident in many different areas (crime, relationships, etc.). His statements may reveal a belief that the world is made up of "givers and takers" and "predators and prey," or that it would be foolish not to exploit weaknesses in others. He may be very astute at determining what these weaknesses are, and at using them to his benefit. He may say he is willing to do almost anything for money. He may even attempt to manipulate the interviewer to do him a favor (generally something illegal or against institutional rules).

In files, look for a record of criminal charges or convictions for fraud, embezzlement, impersonation, promoting phony stocks and worthless property, and swindles of all sorts, both large and small. Files may contain reports of his ability to manipulate staff, other inmates, and the system. For example, he may have attempted (perhaps successfully) to get a member of the staff to obtain a special benefit for him, to smuggle something in or out of the prison, or to do something for him on the outside. Parole applications and reports are particularly useful in scoring this item. They may show that he tends to use the facilities and programs that give the appearance of a sincere concern for rehabilitation, including educational upgrading, drug and alcohol programs, religious and quasi-religious organizations, and whatever self-improvement fad happens to be currently in favor. In many cases he will join organizations for the sole purpose of enlisting community support for parole applications.

Evaluate conflicting opinions regarding the individual carefully; they may reflect his ability to successfully manipulate others.

Scoring:

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0 = No

Item 6: Lack of Remorse or Guilt

Description:

Item 6 describes an individual who shows a general lack of concern for the negative consequences that his actions, both criminal and noncriminal, have on others. He is more concerned with the effects that his actions have upon himself than he is about any suffering experienced by his victims or damage done to society. He may be completely forthright about the matter, calmly stating that he has no sense of guilt, that he is not sorry for the things he has done, and that there is no reason why he should be concerned now that the matter is finished. On the other hand, he may verbalize some remorse, but his actions do not confirm his words. Lack of remorse may be indicated by a failure to appreciate the seriousness of his actions (e.g., feeling that his criminal sentences were too severe or that he was judged unfairly, etc.); by arguing that his victims, others, society, or extenuating circumstances were really to blame; or by repeatedly engaging in activities that are clearly harmful to others. For example, he may blame the criminal justice system or the media for damaging his reputation and for preventing him from realizing his potential.

Sources of Information:

In the interview, be aware that there is a difference between what the individual feels and what he thinks the interviewer wants to hear. A standard question in correctional interviews is, "Do you feel remorse for what you have done?" and he probably has rehearsed answers to this question. Therefore, indirect assessment of his perceptions concerning the seriousness or consequences of his behavior for himself and others may prove more revealing. Finally, look for evidence of a capacity for remorse in various situations involving other people (e.g., concern over past behavior in intimate relationships, employment, etc.).

Files may contain reports of interviews, parole hearings, etc., in which previous expressions of remorse and guilt were not followed by any noticeable change in behavior.

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1 = Maybe/in some respects
0 = No

Item 7: Shallow Affect

Description:

Item 7 describes an individual who appears unable to experience a normal range and depth of emotion. At times, he may impress as cold and unemotional. Displays of emotion generally are dramatic, shallow, short-lived; they leave careful observers with the impression that he is playacting and that little of real significance is going on below the surface. He may admit that he is unemotional or that he shams emotions.

Sometimes the individual claims to experience strong emotions, yet he seems unable to describe the subtleties of various affective states. He may equate love with sexual arousal, sadness with frustration, and anger with irritability. Also, his emotions may not be consistent with his actions or with his situation.

Sources of Information:

In the interview, look for inconsistencies between verbal expressions of emotion and behavior. For example, if the individual expresses love for family or friends, can he provide details about their current whereabouts, health, financial condition, and general well-being? If a family member or friend has become seriously ill or has died, what effect did this have on him? Did he visit the hospital or attend the funeral? Are strong verbal expressions of emotion accompanied by nonverbal behaviors consistent with that emotion? (Try to take into account the fact that incarceration may have an effect on the individual's general level of emotional expression and on his willingness to reveal his feelings to those whom he thinks may be associated with the institution.)

File information should be used to assess the validity of reports made during the interview. For example, the individual may state that he is close to his family, whereas his

files indicate that he does not write or phone them and has had no visits from them. Also, files may contain interviews with friends and relatives indicating that his behavior towards them has usually been incompatible with his verbal expressions of affection.

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In brief: 2 = Yes
1 = Maybe/in some respects
0 = No

Item 8: Callous/Lack of Empathy

Description:

Item 8 describes an individual whose attitudes and behavior indicate a profound lack of empathy and a callous disregard for the feelings, rights, and welfare of others. He is only concerned with "Number 1," and views others as objects to be manipulated. He is cynical and selfish. Any appreciation of the pain, anguish, or discomfort of others is merely abstract and intellectual. He has no hesitation in mocking other people, including those who have experienced misfortune or who suffer from a mental and/or physical handicap. His contempt and lack of concern for others may lead him to describe himself as a "loner by choice." He views emotionality as a sign of weakness.

Sources of Information:

During the interview, the individual's descriptions of his crimes and victims will often be strangely casual and matter-of-fact. Comments like "very unfortunate," "they got what they deserved," "I can't worry about it; I've got problems of my own," and "I really haven't thought about it," are not uncommon. He may say that his attitude towards oth-

ers is prompted by a desire to survive in a hostile world. He may be unconcerned about the reactions of friends or family to his incarcerations. Often, those who score a 2 on this item can steal from family or friends as easily as from strangers.

The files may contain reports of callous and sadistic treatment of others. This behavior may be criminal or non-criminal in nature, ranging from emotional or physical abuse of family members to cold-blooded murder. It may start at an early age with activities such as mistreatment of animals. During the commission of crimes, the individual may engage in excessive violence towards people or property, for no apparent reason: For example, during a break-in, he may "trash" the house, or during an armed robbery, he may assault the victim.

Scoring:

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- 0 The item does not apply to the individual; does not exhibit the trait or behavior in question, or exhibits characteristics that are the opposite of, or inconsistent with, the intent of the item.

In brief: 2 = Yes

1 = Maybe/in some respects

0 = No

Item 9: Parasitic Lifestyle

Description:

Item 9 describes an individual for whom financial dependence on others is an intentional part of his lifestyle. Although able-bodied, he avoids steady, gainful employment; instead, he continually relies on family, relatives, friends, or social assistance. He obtains what he wants by presenting himself as helpless or as deserving of sympathy and support, by using threats or coercion, or by exploiting his victim's weaknesses. His use of others in this way is not simply the result of temporary circumstances that prevent him from working or from supporting himself. Rather, it reflects a persistent pattern of behavior in which others are called upon to support him and to cater to his

needs, no matter what the economic and emotional cost to them.

Sources of Information:

In the interview, the individual may spontaneously admit that he does not like to work, and would rather let others do the work for him. If he does not have a stable employment record, or if he appears to be living beyond his means, ask him how he supports himself. Parole and probation reports are a particularly good source of information about the individual's typical means of self-support when not in jail. Look for evidence of excessive reliance on family, spouses, or social assistance for economic support; as well, pimping is strong evidence for a high score on this item. Merely supporting himself through crime, or having no visible means of support when not in jail, warrants a score of 1.

Scoring:

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- 0 The item does not apply to the individual; does not exhibit the trait or behavior in question, or exhibits characteristics that are the opposite of, or inconsistent with, the intent of the item.

In brief: 2 = Yes

1 = Maybe/in some respects

0 = No

Item 10: Poor Behavioral Controls

Description:

Item 10 describes an individual with inadequate behavioral controls. He may be described as short-tempered or hot-headed. He tends to respond to frustration, failure, discipline, and criticism with violent behavior or with threats and verbal abuse. He takes offense easily and becomes angry and aggressive over trivialities; these behaviors will often seem inappropriate, given the context in which they occur. They are often short-lived, and the individual may

quickly act as if nothing out of the ordinary has happened. His behavioral controls, ordinarily not very strong, appear to be further weakened by alcohol.

Sources of Information:

Files typically provide better evidence for scoring this item than does the interview. Psychiatric and psychological reports will usually contain relevant information about behavioral controls. Examine institutional reports for entries about reprimands and punishments for violent and aggressive outbursts, including sudden assaults and heated verbal attacks on staff and other inmates. His criminal record may include charges and convictions for offenses involving spontaneous and unprovoked violence.

In the interview, the individual may show signs of sudden irritability, annoyance, or impatience. If asked, he will often admit that he has a bad temper or that he loses his head easily. Ask him to describe the conditions under which this happens.

Scoring:

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In brief: 2 = Yes
1 = Maybe/in some respects
0 = No

Item 11: Promiscuous Sexual Behavior

Description:

Item 11 describes an individual whose sexual relations with others are impersonal, casual, or trivial. This may be reflected in frequent casual liaisons (e.g., "one-night stands"), indiscriminate selection of sexual partners, maintenance of several sexual relationships at the same time, frequent infidelities, prostitution, or a willingness to participate in a

wide variety of sexual activities. In addition, the individual may coerce others into sexual activity with him, and may have charges or convictions for sexual assault.

Sources of Information:

The interview is particularly useful in obtaining information about sexual behavior that is not necessarily illegal. Ask about his views on sex, his attitude toward sexual partners, the number and nature of sexual relationships he has had, and so forth. He may take great pride in discussing his sexual exploits.

Files may confirm reports of sexual behavior given during the interview. As well, screen the files for sex-related offenses both inside and outside the institution; these offenses are rarely discussed by the individual during the interview.

Scoring:

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In brief: 2 = Yes
1 = Maybe/in some respects
0 = No

Item 12: Early Behavioral Problems

Description:

Item 12 describes an individual who had serious behavioral problems as a child (i.e., age 12 and below). These problems may include persistent lying, cheating, theft, robbery, fire-setting, truancy, disruption of classroom activities, substance abuse (including alcohol and glue sniffing), vandalism, violence, bullying, running away from home, and precocious sexual activities. These behaviors are more serious than those exhibited by most children, and they often result in complaints by other people, sus-

pension or expulsion from school, or contacts with the police.

Sources of Information:

In the interview, try to elicit frank descriptions of the individual's early behavior problems; he will often spontaneously describe himself as the "black sheep of the family," "hyperactive," or "unmanageable." The rater should be satisfied that the behavior problems were not due solely to subcultural or familial factors (e.g., living in a violent neighborhood or abusive family); the individual's problem history appears excessive, even when compared with those of his siblings and friends.

Use files to confirm interview data. Look for consistent reports—from social workers, probation officers, and so forth—of delinquency and disruptive behavior at home and in school. Early psychiatric and psychological reports, presentence reports, school records, and reports of interviews with parents or others who knew him as a child are also very useful.

Scoring:

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In brief: 2 = Yes
1 = Maybe/in some respects
0 = No

Item 13: Lack of Realistic, Long-Term Goals

Description:

Item 13 describes an individual who demonstrates an inability or unwillingness to formulate and carry out realistic, long-term plans and goals. He tends to live day to day and to change his plans frequently. He does not give

serious thought to the future nor does he worry about it very much. He is seldom disturbed by the knowledge that he has done little with his life so far and that he is going nowhere. He may say that he is not interested in having a steady job or that he has not really thought about it much. He may lead a nomadic existence and describe himself as a drifter.

Sometimes, the individual claims to have specific goals. For example, he may state that he is thinking of becoming a lawyer, writer, brain surgeon, social worker, psychologist, airline pilot, and so forth, but is unaware of the qualifications required for these professions. Also, he wants to make it to "easy street," and is interested in "get-rich-quick" schemes. However, in such cases, questioning reveals that he has no idea of how to achieve these goals, and the goals appear unrealistic given his education and employment record.

Sources of Information:

In the interview ask the individual about his future. What does he plan to do after his release? How will he attain his goals? Where would he like to be in ten years? Compare his plans for the future with his qualifications and employment or release records to determine whether or not they are realistic.

Pre-release plans contained in previous and current applications for parole and conditional release are particularly useful for determining how well-thought out and realistic his goals are. As well, they reveal the consistency of his goals and plans over time, and how often he follows through on them.

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1 = Maybe/in some respects
0 = No

Item 14: Impulsivity

Description:

Item 14 describes an individual whose behavior is generally impulsive, unpremeditated, and lacking in reflection or forethought. He usually does things on the "spur of the moment" because he "feels like it" or because an opportunity presents itself. He is unlikely to spend much time weighing the pros and cons of a course of action, or in considering the possible consequences of his actions to himself or to others. He will often break off relationships, quit jobs, change plans suddenly, or move from place to place, on little more than a whim and without bothering to inform others.

Sources of Information:

In the interview ask the individual whether he generally thinks before acting, and have him describe the circumstances leading up to his offenses. Also elicit his views on the importance of planning and spontaneity in his lifestyle. Look for evidence of impulsivity in crimes, employment, and relationships.

There may be file evidence that many of his offenses were spontaneous. Parole reports may indicate that he frequently changes jobs and addresses. Look for a pattern of offenses in which little planning was apparent.

Scoring:

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0 = No

Item 15: Irresponsibility

Description:

Item 15 describes an individual who habitually fails to fulfill or honor obligations and commitments to others. He has little or no sense of duty or loyalty to family, friends, employers, society, ideas, or causes. His irresponsibility is evident in a variety of areas including financial dealings (a poor credit rating, defaulting on loans, failure to discharge debts, etc.); behavior that puts others at risk (drunk driving, recurrent speeding, etc.); work behavior (frequently late or absent, careless or sloppy performance not attributable to lack of ability, etc.); business relationships (violating contractual arrangements, not paying bills, etc.); and relationships with family and friends (failure to provide financial support for spouse or children, causing them unnecessary hardship, etc.).

Sources of information:

Look for evidence that the individual freely makes promises and obligations or enters into agreements, yet fails to fulfill his part of the bargain. If he is married or has children, be sure to ask how his family is being supported, and if he supports them when he is not in prison. In general, an unwillingness to take on responsibilities, so long as others are not adversely affected, warrants a score of 1.

In the files, parole supervision and probation reports are particularly useful because of their employment records, criminal charges, financial dealings, general activities, and family support provided when the individual is not in prison.

Scoring:

- 2 The item applies to the individual; a reasonably good match in most essential respects; behavior is generally consistent with the flavor and intent of the item.
- 1 The item applies to a certain extent but not to the degree required for a score of 2; a match in some respects but with too many exceptions or doubts to warrant a score of 2; uncertain about whether or not the item applies; conflicts between interview and file information that cannot be resolved in favor of a score of 2 or 0.
- 0 The item does not apply to the individual; does not exhibit the trait or behavior in question, or exhibits characteristics that are the opposite of, or inconsistent with, the intent of the item.

In brief: 2 = Yes

1 = Maybe/in some respects

0 = No

Item 16: Failure to Accept Responsibility for Own Actions

Description:

Item 16 describes an individual who is unable or unwilling to accept personal responsibility for his own actions (both criminal and noncriminal) or for the consequences of his actions. He usually has some excuse for his behavior, including rationalization and placing the blame on others (society, his family, accomplices, victims, the system, etc.). In extreme cases, he may deny accusations made against him, despite overwhelming evidence. For example, he may claim that he is being "framed" by others or that he has memory loss for the events in question. More frequently, though, he will accept responsibility for his actions in a superficial manner, and then will greatly minimize or even deny the consequences of his actions. Examples here include admitting to assaults, but claiming the victims lied about physical injuries; or, admitting to thefts, but claiming that because the victims were insured, nobody really suffered.

Sources of Information:

In the interview, explore the circumstances surrounding his offenses and his reasons for committing them. Popular excuses include psychological disorders such as amnesia, black-outs, multiple personality, or temporary insanity; however, when asked to describe the symptoms, he will often give responses that are vague, medically implausible, or have a rote textbook quality. He may also blame his offenses on excessive use of alcohol or drugs, but at the same time will refuse to accept responsibility for changing his pattern of abuse. Also, be sure to question the individual about noncriminal matters; he may show the same pattern of denial and minimization as he does with criminal activities.

The files may contain information about the reasons given to the police and courts for his crimes, as well as explanations for institutional offenses.

Scoring:

- 2 The item applies to the individual; a reasonably good match in most essential respects; behavior is generally consistent with the flavor and intent of the item.
- 1 The item applies to a certain extent but not to the degree required for a score of 2; a match in some

respects but with too many exceptions or doubts to warrant a score of 2; uncertain about whether or not the item applies; conflicts between interview and file information that cannot be resolved in favor of a score of 2 or 0.

- 0 The item does not apply to the individual; does not exhibit the trait or behavior in question, or exhibits characteristics that are the opposite of, or inconsistent with, the intent of the item.

In brief: 2 = Yes

1 = Maybe/in some respects

0 = No

Item 17: Many Short-Term Marital Relationships

Description:

Item 17 describes an individual who has had many marital relationships. We define a marital relationship as live-in relationship that involves some degree of commitment from one or both partners. Such relationships include formal and common-law marriages, and both heterosexual and homosexual partnerships.

It may be better to omit this item if he is very young or has spent much of his adult life in prison or out of effective contact with a pool of potential partners (unless, of course, he still manages to have many relationships, in which case a score of 2 can safely be given).

Sources of Information:

During the interview, ask him how many relationships he has had. Files may contain a list of visitors and correspondents (including those designated as "spouse," common-law wife, etc.) for past and present incarcerations. Parole and probation reports contain information concerning relationships while on the street.

This item should be scored on the basis of the individual's current age, using the guidelines below.

Scoring:

Score	Number of Relationships: Under age 30	Number of Relationships: Age 30 and over
2	3 or more	4 or more
1	2	3
0	1, or has never had a relationship	2 or fewer

Item 18: Juvenile Delinquency

Description:

Item 18 describes an individual who has a history of serious antisocial behavior as an adolescent, aged 17 and below. This includes both charges and convictions for criminal and statutory offenses.

Sources of Information:

In scoring this item, we count only formal contacts with the criminal justice system. We do not score offenses for which the individual was not arrested, such as instances where he was driven home by police or held at the station until his parents picked him up. The vast majority of offenses scored for this item are handled in juvenile courts. However, we also score offenses handled in adult court, so long as the individual was aged 17 or below.

In the interview, ask the individual how old he was when he first got arrested for, charged with, or convicted of, a criminal or statutory offense. Next, ask him to detail his contacts with the criminal justice system since that time, and any punishments he may have received as a result.

Files are the principal source of information in scoring this item. Official arrest records, pre-sentence reports, parole files, and case-history reports may contain this information.

There are occasional conflicts between interview and file information. In general, inmates tend to minimize (underreport) their offense history. Therefore, if the individual admits to more offenses than are contained in the files, or if there are no files, we accept the interview information as valid. If he admits to fewer offenses in the interview than the files indicate, we accept the files as valid. If he denies any juvenile offenses and there is no collateral file information, we omit the item.

Scoring:

- 2 Has a history of serious offenses as an adolescent, including murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, rape, serious assault, robbery, auto theft, or other major theft, kidnapping, arson, fraud, trafficking in drugs, major driving violations (e.g., drive while intoxicated, hit and run, dangerous driving), escape, and so forth.
- 1 Has a history of minor offenses as an adolescent, including possession of drugs, minor theft, possession of stolen property, simple assault, mischief, causing a disturbance, minor driving violations (e.g., driving without a license), breach of probation, and so forth.

- 0 Has no history of arrests for antisocial behavior as an adolescent.

Item 19: Revocation of Conditional Release

Description:

Item 19 describes an individual who, as an adult (aged 18 or older), has violated a conditional release or escaped from an institution. Violations of conditional release include technical but noncriminal breaches (i.e., drinking alcohol while on parole), or new charges or convictions while on parole, mandatory supervision, probation, bail, or restraining orders. Escapes from institutions include jail-breaking and violation of temporary absences. In serious cases, these violations result in automatic re-incarceration; in less serious cases, the individual may face a disciplinary hearing or new charges, but may be released back into the community.

This item is omitted for individuals who have had no formal contact with the criminal justice system as an adult prior to the current offense.

Sources of Information:

Information about the number, types, and outcomes of any conditional releases the individual may have been granted should be collected from files and interviews.

Conflicts between file and interview information are as follows: If the individual admits to more offenses than are contained in the files, or if there are no files, accept the interview information as valid. If he admits to fewer offenses in the interview than the files indicate, accept the files as valid. If he denies any violations or escapes and no collateral file information is available, omit the item.

Scoring:

- 2 Has had major violations or escapes including revocation of parole or mandatory supervision, breach of bail, escape, and so forth.
- 1 Has had minor violations only, including suspension of parole or mandatory supervision, charges or convictions for fail to appear or breach of court order, and so forth.
- 0 Has had no violations or escapes.

Item 20: Criminal Versatility

Description:

Item 20 describes an individual whose adult criminal record involves charges or convictions for many different types of offenses.

Sources of Information:

Information for scoring this item should be collected from both files and interviews. Conflicts between files and interviews are resolved as follows: If the individual admits to more offenses than are contained in the files, or if there are no files, accept the interview information as valid. If he admits to fewer offenses in the interview than the files indicate, accept the files as valid. If he denies any other offenses and no collateral file information is available, omit the item.

In scoring this item, we count all offenses appearing on the individual's adult criminal record, even if he was not an adult (i.e., younger than age 18) when the offense occurred. We divide criminal offenses into the following categories:

1. Theft, break and enter, possession of house-breaking tools, possession of stolen property, loitering at night, etc.
2. Robbery, armed robbery, robbery with violence, extortion, etc.
3. Drug offenses (possession, trafficking)
4. Assault, assault causing bodily harm, threatening, etc.
5. Murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, etc.
6. Possession of weapons, explosives
7. Sexual offenses
8. Criminal negligence, including major driving offenses (e.g., drive while intoxicated, hit and run, dangerous driving)
9. Fraud, forgery, false pretenses, impersonation, uttering, etc.
10. Escape, unlawfully at large, jumping bail, failing to appear, breach of recognizance
11. Kidnapping, unlawful confinement, forcible seizure, hijacking
12. Arson

13. Obstruction of justice, perjury, assaulting a police officer, etc.
14. Crimes against the state, including treason, espionage, smuggling, evasion of income tax, etc.
15. Miscellaneous minor charges, including vandalism, causing a disturbance, mischief, willful damage, minor driving offenses, etc.

The following offenses are coded under two categories: assault with a weapon is coded under both "assault" and "weapon" categories; sexual assault with a weapon is coded under both "sex" and "weapon" categories.

Scoring:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 | Has committed 6 or more types of offenses. |
| 1 | Has committed 4 or 5 types of offenses. |
| 0 | Has committed 3 or fewer types of offenses. |

Item 20 is scored on the basis of "criminal versatility," that is, the variety of offenses committed by the person, rather than the severity of the offenses. Unfortunately, it is difficult to develop a truly comprehensive scoring system for coding this item, because there is a staggering variety of offenses and because the Criminal Code is constantly being revised. Below is an extensive list of crimes and categories; however, it is still not exhaustive. As well, researchers working outside Canada may have to develop a new coding system that is consonant with their own country's criminal code.

Theft

Theft

Break and Enter with intent (to commit an indictable offense)
Possession of housebreaking tools
Possession of stolen property
Possession of items obtained by crime
Loitering at night
Possession of stolen credit card
Retaining stolen property
Shopbreaking
Shoplifting
Auto theft
Unlawfully dwelling in house
Theft by wrongful possession

Robbery

Robbery

Armed robbery
Robbery with violence
Extortion

Drug Offenses

Possession of narcotics
 Trafficking in a narcotic
 Importing narcotics
 Possession for the purpose of trafficking
 Cultivation of a narcotic

Assault

Assault causing bodily harm
 Threatening
 Common assault
 Aggravated assault
 Grievous bodily harm
 Wounding

Murder

First degree murder
 Second degree murder
 Manslaughter
 Causing bodily harm with intent to endanger life
 Discharging a firearm with intent to endanger life
 Wounding with intent

Possession of Weapon

Possession of a weapon
 Possession of explosives
 Carrying a concealed weapon
 Dangerous use of firearm
 Pointing a firearm
 Using a firearm (during commission of an indictable offense)

Sex Offenses

Indecent assault
 Rape
 Incest
 Buggery
 Bestiality
 Carnal knowledge
 Committing an indecent act (in public)
 Indecent exposure
 Gross indecency
 Prostitution

Major Driving Offenses

Criminal negligence
 Driving while intoxicated
 Hit and run
 Dangerous driving
 Careless driving

Driving while ability impaired
 Driving with more than 80 mgs. of alcohol in blood
 Failure to provide a breath sample
 Failure to remain at scene of accident
 Failure to stop (at scene of an accident)

Fraud

Fraud
 Forgery
 False pretenses
 Personation
 Uttering (a forged document)
 Dealing with a forged document
 Failure to give name and address (with intent)
 Fraudulently obtaining food or lodging
 Making a false statement
 Obtaining food by fraud
 Using stolen credit cards

Escape

Escape (lawful custody)
 Unlawfully at large
 Breaking out of prison
 Failure to appear
 Failure to attend court
 Breach of recognizance
 Breach of bail
 Failure to comply (with probation order)
 Breach of probation

Kidnapping

Unlawful confinement
 Forcible seizure
 Hijacking
 Abduction

Arson

Arson

Obstruction of Justice

Perjury
 Assaulting a police officer
 Obstructing a peace officer
 Resisting arrest
 Contempt of court

Crimes Against the State

Treason
 Espionage

Smuggling
Evasion of income tax

Miscellaneous

Vandalism
Causing a disturbance
Mischief
Willful damage
Driving while disqualified
Driving while license suspended
Driving while prohibited
Vagrancy
Living off the avails of prostitution
Violation of immigration laws
Bookmaking
Disguised with intent

Coding Inchoate and Ambiguous Crimes

Include inchoate crimes—those charges that start with “Attempted...” or “Conspiracy to commit...”—under the category of the offense specified in the latter part of the charge. For example, “Attempted B&E” is coded the same as “B&E” under Theft. If no offense is specified, check the file and interview information; it is sometimes possible to determine the actual nature of the offense from these sources. For example, parole files may reveal that a charge appearing on the individual’s criminal record as “Conspiracy” is actually “Conspiracy to traffic in narcotics.” If no further details concerning the charge can be found, code attempts and conspiracies under Miscellaneous.

Similarly, the coding of ambiguous crimes can often be resolved by referring to file or interview information. For example, the charge “Disguise with intent to commit an indictable offense” may be the result of, among other offenses, attempted fraud or attempted robbery. If the nature of the charge can be determined, it can be coded under a specific category (e.g., Robbery or Fraud).