



HCHS/SOL Question by Question Instructions Sociocultural Form (SCE/SCS), Version A

General Instructions

The questions on the Sociocultural Questionnaire are designed to assess a variety of cultural factors such as acculturation level, perceptions of family dynamics, ethnic identity or a participant's sense of affiliation to his or her ethnic group, religiosity and perceived discrimination.

Question by Question Instructions

Q1-10 The acculturation scale will assess our participant's degree of assimilation into American culture or the "host" culture. The first six items tap into language use as it has been shown to be a good index of acculturation. The remaining four items evaluate ethnic preferences for social interactions. Please note that our participants are likely to vary considerably in their levels of acculturation and this variation will be associated to other factors such as birth place, age, length of time in the U.S, SES, etc. Assessors should be sensitive to this variability and provide participants with facilitative comments emphasizing that there are no right or wrong answers and that there are no set expectations for their language use, selection of social ties, etc., regardless of time in the U.S, age or other factors.

Indicate to participants that although they may speak more than one language and spend time with people of many different backgrounds, the focus of the questions are on Spanish and English and Hispanics/Latinos and non-Hispanics/non-Latinos.

For questions Q6, Q8, and Q10, if a participant responds with a statement of indifference, the interviewer should continue to probe so that participant chooses one of the response categories given.

Q11-16 The familism scale taps into perceptions and attitudes related to family systems. Again, the same degree of sensitivity should be employed when administering these items. For instance, some of our participants may be conflicted by not being able to fulfill some culturally-expected familial roles due to financial or job-related constraints. In contrast to the acculturation scale, this section of the questionnaire taps into perceptions that can be independent of actual behavior. For example, a participant may "agree a lot" that an aging parent should live with relatives but not be able to provide such living arrangements for his or her parent/s. **It is important that the participant's response is based on agreement or disagreement with the statement and not on actual circumstances.**

If a participant responds with a statement of indifference, the interviewer should repeat response categories, so that participant chooses one of the response categories given.

Q17 – 18 In regard to ethnic identity, most participants will self-identify as a member of a specific group (e.g., Latino, Hispanic, Mexican-American, etc.). Some participants may perceive themselves as multi-ethnic and have some difficulty relating to only one ethnic group. In these cases, the interviewer should anchor the identity questions to the Latino/Hispanic ethnicity.

Q19 This question asks participant to state how often he/she attends any type of organized religious services or meetings. Nearly every day can be operationalized as 5-7 times per week, at least once a week can be operationalized as 1-4 times per week, and a few times a year as 1-10 times per year.

Q20 In regard to religion, most participants will self-identify as a member of a specific religious group. Some participants may perceive themselves as having no affiliation but define themselves as Christian. They can indicate this by answering Christian (non-specified). Those with no religious affiliation can indicate “none.”

A few examples of “Other Protestant” are Episcopalian, Lutheranism, Presbyterian, Methodist, and Church of Christ.

Q22 – 23 The final two items relate to perceptions of discrimination. Please note that these items refer to any perceived unfair treatment of self or others based on Hispanic/Latino ethnicity across any domain (e.g., employment, medical care, housing, interpersonal relations, etc.).