

Adolescent Behavior Questionnaire (ABQ): An Introduction

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Ma's (1988) ABQ measures the prosocial and antisocial/delinquent behavior of adolescents. Subjects are asked to report the frequency of 65 acts performed in the past one year on a 7-point scale: 1 = none, 2 = 1-2 times, 3 = 3-4 times, 4 = 5-6 times, 5 = 7-8 times, 6 = 9-10 times, 7 = more than 10 times. There are eight subscales in the ABQ: 1) Cognitive and academic performance (CA) - deviant or socially disapproved acts in classroom or school setting (e.g., playing truant); 2) Psychosexual activities (PS) - socially undesirable sexual activities (e.g., reading pornographic magazines); 3) Antisocial acts in school (AS1) - antisocial acts against one's teachers or school authority (e.g., told a lie to cheat the teacher); 4) Antisocial acts in one's family (AS2) - antisocial acts occurred in one's family (e.g., disobeyed parent's command); 5) Antisocial acts in other settings (AS3) - antisocial acts in general (e.g., gambling); 6) Aggression (AG) - aggressive or hostile acts (e.g., spoke foul language); 7) Normative acts (SN) - socially acceptable or normative acts (e.g., apologized to others); and 8) Altruistic acts (AL) - helping behavior (e.g., did voluntary work). In addition to the eight subscale scores, two general scores are generated from the responses to the ABQ: Antisocial/Delinquent Behavior (DB) score and Prosocial Behavior (PB) score. The DB score is the summation of six subscale scores (CA, PS, AS1, AS2, AS3, and AG) and it indicates the frequency of deviant or socially undesirable acts in the past one year. The PB score is the summation of the SN and AL scores and it indicates the frequency of prosocial acts performed in the past one year. An overall score, Adolescent Behavior (AB) score can be generated by the following formula: $AB = PB - DB$. Nine sample items are given in Appendix 1.

The reliability and validity of ABQ scores were demonstrated to be good in studies by Ma and Leung (1991) and Ma, Shek, Cheung, and Lee (1996). The reliability of the ABQ scores is in the .80s to .90s. In addition, the DB and PB scores correlated negatively and positively with the altruistic orientation score, respectively (Ma & Leung, 1991, p.756). High academic achievers were found to score higher in PB score and lower in DB score than the low academic achievers. More details on the reliability and validity of the ABQ are given in Ma et al. (1996).

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Appendix 1

Adolescent Behavior Questionnaire: Sample Items

I. English Version

In the past one year, how often have you done the following matters? **Please tick [√]** the appropriate box after reading the question.

In the past one year, how often have you done the following matters?	None	Once to Twice	3 to 4 times	5 to 6 times	7 to 8 times	9 to 10 times	More than 10 times
1. Giving presents to parents							
2. Helping classmates revise their lessons							
3. Late for school							
4. Littering							
5. Not allowing leaving school for not complying with school regulations/ rules							
6. Hurting or insulting others without caring one's feelings							
7. Destroying school belongings (e.g., breaking windows or destroying the furniture)							
8. Sharing housework (e.g., cooking rice, cleaning dishes, sweeping the floor)							
9. Retorting teachers to his/ her face							

II. Chinese Version

在過去一年內，你曾做過多少次下列的事情？請在適當的方格用 ✓ 來表示。

在過去一年內，你做過下列的事情有多少次？	沒有	1-2 次	3-4 次	5-6 次	7-8 次	9-10 次	10 次以上
1. 送禮物給父母							
2. 幫助同學溫習功課							
3. 上學遲到							
4. 亂拋垃圾							
5. 不守校規而被罰留堂							
6. 隨意傷害或欺負他人							
7. 毀壞學校的東西（例如：打爛窗門或毀壞課室的檯椅）							
8. 幫忙做家務（例如：煮飯、洗碗、掃地）							
9. 當面頂撞老師							