

TESTING THE INTUITIVE RETRIBUTIVISM DUAL-PROCESS MODEL: STUDY MATERIALS

Directions (Please read carefully.)

Welcome, and thank you very much for participating in our research!

In this study, you will read a short scenario in which a crime is committed, and the offender is arrested. We will ask you to choose a punishment for the offender. In order to inform your choice, you will have the opportunity to select pieces of information about the crime and about the offender from a list.

You might feel that some of these items are clearly much more relevant than others. That is okay, we are not trying to trick you—all we are interested in is finding out what pieces of information you find important for choosing a punishment for this crime!

By clicking on “Next”, you will proceed to the experiment.

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A person was arrested for [stealing/blackmail/arson/aggravated assault/murder]. This person is guilty of the offense, and it will be your task to choose a punishment for them.

Below, you see a list containing descriptions of various pieces of information about this crime and about the offender. Before you make your punishment decision, we will ask you to request pieces of information from this list to inform your decision. To request a piece of information, select its description and then hit the “Select item” button below the list. You can only request pieces of information one at a time. Please always make your selections in order of priority; that is, always request the piece of information on the list that you think will help you the most in making a good punishment decision. You will receive all of the pieces of information you requested before making your punishment decision.

It is important to our research that everyone who participates has read through these instructions carefully. To catch people who have not done so, we are asking everyone to request a specific piece of information on the first go. From the list below, please request the item “Gender of the offender”, then hit the “Select item” button. After that, please always make your selections in order

of priority; that is, always request the piece of information on the list that you think will help you the most in making a good punishment decision.

[For participants in Think Carefully: For this experiment, it is very important that you take your time and think carefully about each request. In particular, before requesting a piece of information, think carefully about which piece of information would be most helpful to you for making your punishment decision.]

- **Magnitude of harm:** How severe is the financial, physical or psychological harm that the offender has caused?
- **Offender intent:** Did the offender act with intention?
- **Extenuating circumstances:** Are there aspects of this particular offense that make the offender less than fully responsible?
- **Publicity of offense and trial:** Will this particular offense and its trial attract a lot of public attention?
- **Detection rate:** How frequently are offenses like this detected and brought to trial?
- **Frequency of the offense:** How frequently do offenses like this occur in society?
- **Frequency trend:** Is the frequency of offenses like this in society increasing or decreasing?
- **Risk of offender recidivism:** How likely is it that the offender will commit further offenses?
- **Dangerousness of the offender:** How dangerous is the offender?
- **Self-control:** Does the offender normally have good self-control or does the offender frequently act on impulse?
- **Prior record:** Does the offender have a prior criminal record?
- **Gender of the offender:** What is the offender's gender?

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A person was arrested for [stealing/blackmail/arson/aggravated assault/murder]. This person is guilty of the offense, and it will be your task to choose a punishment for them.

Please request the piece of information from the list below that you think will help you the most in making a good punishment decision.

[For participants in Think Carefully: For this experiment, it is very important that you take your time

and think carefully about each request. In particular, before requesting a piece of information, think carefully about which piece of information would be most helpful to you for making your punishment decision.]

- **Magnitude of harm:** How severe is the financial, physical or psychological harm that the offender has caused?
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- **Frequency of the offense:** How frequently do offenses like this occur in society?
- **Frequency trend:** Is the frequency of offenses like this in society increasing or decreasing?
- **Risk of offender recidivism:** How likely is it that the offender will commit further offenses?
- **Dangerousness of the offender:** How dangerous is the offender?
- **Self-control:** Does the offender normally have good self-control or does the offender frequently act on impulse?
- **Prior record:** Does the offender have a prior criminal record?

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Alright, enough with that list. Below, you will see the five pieces of information about the crime and the offender that you have requested. Please read through them carefully. Then, choose a punishment for the offender by answering the three questions below the pieces of information. Once you are done, hit the "Next" button.

[For participants who read about stealing:

Seriousness of the offense: The offense is regarded as somewhat serious.

Magnitude of harm: The offender caused the victim no physical harm, but considerable financial harm. The victim felt anxious for the following weeks.

Offender intent: The offender planned the offense several days in advance.

Extenuating circumstances: No aspects of the offense mitigate the offender's responsibility.

Publicity of offense and trial: The offense is a typical case of stealing and will thus not attract special public attention.

Detection rate: Most cases of theft are detected, but few cases are brought to trial.

Frequency of the offense: Offenses like this one occur frequently in society.

Frequency trend: In recent years, the frequency of offenses like this one has been sharply increasing.

Risk of offender recidivism: The offender is likely to commit more offenses in the future.

Dangerousness of the offender: The offender is not considered to be very dangerous.

Self-control: The offender is known to lack self-control and to frequently act on impulse.

Prior record: The offender does not have any prior criminal record.]

[For participants who read about blackmail:

Seriousness of the offense: The offense is not regarded as serious.

Magnitude of harm: The offender caused the victim no physical harm, but some financial harm. The victim felt uneasy for the following days.

Offender intent: The offender planned the offense weeks in advance.

Extenuating circumstances: The offender was in extreme financial duress which could partially mitigated the offender's responsibility.

Publicity of offense and trial: The offense is a typical case of blackmail and will thus not attract special public attention.

Detection rate: Few cases of blackmail are detected and brought to trial.

Frequency of the offense: Offenses like this one occur quite frequently in society.

Frequency trend: In recent years, the frequency of offenses like this one has been increasing.

Risk of offender recidivism: The offender is likely to commit more offenses in the future.

Dangerousness of the offender: The offender is not considered to be dangerous.

Self-control: The offender is known to have good self-control and to rarely act on impulse.

Prior record: The offender does not have any prior criminal record.]

[For participants who read about arson:

Seriousness of the offense: The offense is regarded as serious.

Magnitude of harm: The offender caused the victim no physical harm, but considerable financial harm. The victim suffers from episodes of severe anxiety ever since.

Offender intent: The offender planned the offense several days in advance.

Extenuating circumstances: No aspects of the offense mitigate the offender's responsibility.

Publicity of offense and trial: The offense and its trial will attract more public attention than most

other cases of arson.

Detection rate: Most cases of arson are detected, but few cases are brought to trial.

Frequency of the offense: Offenses like this one only occur rarely in society.

Frequency trend: In recent years, the frequency of offenses like this one has been decreasing.

Risk of offender recidivism: The offender is not likely to commit more offenses in the future.

Dangerousness of the offender: The offender is considered to be somewhat dangerous.

Self-control: The offender is known to have good self-control and to rarely act on impulse.

Prior record: The offender does not have any prior criminal record.]

[For participants who read about aggravated assault:

Seriousness of the offense: The offense is regarded as very serious.

Magnitude of harm: The offense caused the victim severe physical harm and psychological trauma.

Offender intent: The offender planned the offense several days in advance.

Extenuating circumstances: No aspects of the offense mitigate the offender's responsibility.

Publicity of offense and trial: The offense and its trial will attract some public attention.

Detection rate: Most cases of aggravated assault are detected and brought to trial.

Frequency of the offense: Offenses like this one only occur rarely in society.

Frequency trend: In recent years, the frequency of offenses like this one has been decreasing.

Risk of offender recidivism: The offender is likely to commit more offenses in the future.

Dangerousness of the offender: The offender is considered to be extremely dangerous.

Self-control: The offender is known to lack self-control and to frequently act on impulse.

Prior record: The offender has committed a number of assaults in the past.]

[For participants who read about murder:

Seriousness of the offense: The offense is regarded as extremely serious.

Magnitude of harm: The offender killed the victim and caused the victim's family severe emotional trauma.

Offender intent: The offender did not plan the offense in advance.

Extenuating circumstances: No aspects of the offense mitigate the offender's responsibility.

Publicity of offense and trial: The offense and its trial will attract a lot of public attention.

Detection rate: Almost all cases of murder are detected and brought to trial.

Frequency of the offense: Offenses like this one only occur very rarely in society.

Frequency trend: In recent years, the frequency of offenses like this one has been decreasing.

Risk of offender recidivism: The offender is not likely to commit more offenses in the future.

Dangerousness of the offender: The offender is not considered to be very dangerous.

Self-control: The offender is known to have good self-control and to rarely act on impulse.

Prior record: The offender does not have any prior criminal record.]

How severe a punishment should be given for this particular offense?

Not at all severe

Very severe

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How much should the offender suffer for this particular offense?

Not at all severe

Very severe

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What would be an appropriate sentence for this particular offense?

- 0 days
- 1 day
- 2 weeks
- 2 months
- 6 months
- 1 year
- 3 years
- 7 years
- 15 years
- 30 years
- Life

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Thank you, almost done. Before we let you go, please answer the following questions about yourself.

How old are you?

FREE TEXT

What is your gender?

- Man
- Woman
- Other
- Prefer not to specify

What race do you identify as? (Please select all that apply.)

- Asian
- Black/African
- Caucasian/White
- Caribbean
- Prefer not to say
- Other: FREE TEXT

How religious are you?

Not at all religious

Very religious

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How would you describe your political attitudes?

Very liberal

Very conservative

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Have you ever taken an ethics course?

- Yes
- No

Have you ever taken a law course?

- Yes
- No

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That was it.

Again, thank you very much for participating in this research.

Please click on "Submit" in order to submit your responses.

Have an excellent rest of your day!