Polisher Research Institute
Philadelphia Geriatric Center

Lawton’s
PGC MORALE SCALE

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(1923-2001)

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THE PHILADELPHIA GERIATRIC CENTER MORALE SCALE

Guide to Users

The 17-item revised version of the PGC Morale Scale (Lawton, 1975) is the one in general use. Although differences have not been formally tested, it has been widely used in two alternative styles:

1. Interview style, where the interviewer reads the questions as phrased in the attached interview form (second-person style, “Do you . . .” “Have you . . .” etc.).

2. Questionnaire form, where the form is first-person (but note that item #6 remains second-person). This form is laid out so that it can be directly reproduced by anyone who wishes.

Scoring is straightforward: Each high-morale response receives a score of “1” and each low-morale response a score of “0,” so that total score ranges from 0-17. The Xs in the interview version show the high-morale responses. Although factors may be used separately for special purposes, the total score is preferred.

USE OF THE PGC MORALE SCALE

The Morale Scale is in the public domain and may be reproduced and used in any way by anyone who wishes. The author’s hope is that this statement will be acceptable to anyone contemplating use of the scale and will preclude the necessity of taking either the user’s or the author’s time to write a special permission letter.

ADDENDUM

In the report on the revised Morale Scale (Lawton, 1975), the total score and factor means and S.D.s were inadvertently omitted. For the 17 items and the 3 factors, these data are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>N</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>S.D.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>928</td>
<td>11.35</td>
<td>3.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agitation</td>
<td>929</td>
<td>4.38</td>
<td>1.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attitude toward own aging</td>
<td>931</td>
<td>2.17</td>
<td>1.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lonely dissatisfaction</td>
<td>930</td>
<td>4.81</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Philadelphia Geriatric Center Morale Scale (interview version)

Agitation Sub-Scale
4. Do little things bother you more this year?  Yes_____ No____X
7. Do you sometimes worry so much that you can’t sleep?  Yes____ No____X
12. Are you afraid of a lot of things?  Yes____ No____X
13. Do you get made more than you used to?  Yes____ No____X
16. Do you take things hard?  Yes____ No____X
17. Do you get upset easily?  Yes____ No____X

Attitude Toward Own Aging Sub-Scale
1. Do things keep getting worse as you get older?  Yes____ No____ X
2. Do you have as much pep as you had last year?  Yes____ X No____
6. Do you feel that as you get older you are less useful?  Yes____ No____ X
8. As you get older, are things (better/worse) than you thought they would be?  Better____ X Worse____
10. Are you as happy now as you were when you were younger?  Yes____ X No____

Lonely-Dissatisfaction Sub-Scale
9. Do you sometimes feel that life isn’t worth living?  Yes____ No____X
11. Do you have a lot to be sad about?  Yes____ No____X
15. How satisfied are you with your life today?  Satisfied____ X Not satisfied____
3. How much do you feel lonely?  Not much____ X A lot____
5. Do you see enough of your friends and relatives?  Yes____ X No____
Philadelphia Geriatric Center Scale (questionnaire form)

1. Things keep getting worse as I get older. Yes______ No______
2. I have as much pep as I had last year. Yes______ No______
3. How much do you feel lonely? Not much______ A lot______
4. Little things bother me more this year. Yes______ No______
5. I see enough of my friends and relatives. Yes______ No______
6. As you get older, you are less useful. Yes______ No______
7. I sometimes worry so much that I can’t sleep. Yes______ No______
8. As I get older, things are (better/worse) than I thought they would be. Better______ Worse______
9. I sometimes feel that life isn’t worth living. Yes______ No______
10. I am as happy now as I was when I was younger. Yes______ No______
11. I have a lot to be sad about. Yes______ No______
12. I am afraid of a lot of things. Yes______ No______
13. I get made more than I used to. Yes______ No______
14. Life is hard for me much of the time. Yes______ No______
15. How satisfied are you with your life today? Satisfied______ Not satisfied____
16. I take things hard. Yes______ No______
17. I get upset easily. Yes______ No______
Selected Morale Scale References (Including cross-national reports)


Thanks are due Alana Iglewicz for the opportunity to use her exhaustive bibliography on the Morale Scale.