

Beliefs about Social Mobility Scale (Adult)

This survey accompanies a measure in the SPARQTools.org [Measuring Mobility toolkit](#), which provides practitioners curated instruments for assessing mobility from poverty and tools for selecting the most appropriate measures for their programs.

Age: Adult

Duration: < 3 minutes

Reading Level: 6th to 8th grade

Number of items: 8

Answer Format: 1 = strongly disagree; 2 = disagree; 3 = somewhat disagree; 4 = neither agree or disagree; 5 = somewhat agree; 6 = agree; 7 = strongly agree

Scoring:

Q1, Q3, Q7, and Q8 should be reverse-scored. Reverse-scored items are worded in the opposite direction of what the scale is measuring. The formula for reverse-scoring an item is:

$$((\text{Number of scale points}) + 1) - (\text{Respondent's answer})$$

For example, Q3 is a 7-point scale. If a respondent answered 2 on Q3, you would re-code their answer as: $(7 + 1) - 2 = 6$.

In other words, you would enter a 6 for this respondents' answer to Q3.

To calculate the total score for each participant, take the average rating of the items by adding respondents' answers to each item and dividing this sum by the total number of items (8).

Source:

Browman, A. S., Destin, M., Carswell, K. L., & Svoboda, R. C. (2017). Perceptions of socioeconomic mobility influence academic persistence among low socioeconomic status students. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology, 72*, 45-52.

Instructions: Please circle your answer below.

1. People can do things differently, but their status can't really be changed.

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Somewhat agree	Agree	Strongly agree
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2. Everyone, no matter who they are, can significantly change their status in society.

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Somewhat agree	Agree	Strongly agree
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3. The status a person has in society is something basic about them, and it can't be changed very much.

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Somewhat agree	Agree	Strongly agree
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4. People can substantially change their status in society.

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Somewhat agree	Agree	Strongly agree
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5. No matter what status a person has in society at one point in their life, they can always change it a lot.

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Somewhat agree	Agree	Strongly agree
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6. People can change even their most basic status markers.

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Somewhat agree	Agree	Strongly agree
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7. Everyone is of a certain status in society, and there is not much that they can do to really change that.

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Somewhat agree	Agree	Strongly agree
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8. As much as I hate to admit it, people can't really change where they stand in society at large.

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Somewhat agree	Agree	Strongly agree
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