

A. **Attitudes Towards Women Scale** (Spence, Helmrich & Stapp, 1978) – Short version

Instructions: The statements listed below describe attitudes toward the roles of women in society which different people have. There are no right or wrong answers, only opinions. You are asked to express your feeling about each statement by indicating whether you (A) agree strongly, (B) agree mildly, (C) disagree mildly, or (D) disagree strongly.

1. Swearing and obscenity are more repulsive in the speech of a woman than of a man.  
A                      B                      C                      D  
Agree strongly    Agree mildly    Disagree mildly    Disagree strongly
- 2.\* Women should take increasing responsibility for leadership in solving the intellectual and social problems of the day.  
A                      B                      C                      D  
Agree strongly    Agree mildly    Disagree mildly    Disagree strongly
- 3.\* Both husband and wife should be allowed the same grounds for divorce.  
A                      B                      C                      D  
Agree strongly    Agree mildly    Disagree mildly    Disagree strongly
4. Telling dirty jokes should be mostly a masculine prerogative.  
A                      B                      C                      D  
Agree strongly    Agree mildly    Disagree mildly    Disagree strongly
5. Intoxication among women is worse than intoxication among men.  
A                      B                      C                      D  
Agree strongly    Agree mildly    Disagree mildly    Disagree strongly
- 6.\* Under modern economic conditions with women being active outside the home, men should share in household tasks such as washing dishes and doing the laundry.  
A                      B                      C                      D  
Agree strongly    Agree mildly    Disagree mildly    Disagree strongly
- 7.\* It is insulting to women to have the "obey" clause remain in the marriage service.  
A                      B                      C                      D  
Agree strongly    Agree mildly    Disagree mildly    Disagree strongly

8.\* There should be a strict merit system in job appointment and promotion without regard to sex.

A B C D  
Agree strongly Agree mildly Disagree mildly Disagree strongly

9.\* A woman should be free as a man to propose marriage.

A B C D  
Agree strongly Agree mildly Disagree mildly Disagree strongly

10. Women should worry less about their rights and more about becoming good wives and mothers.

A B C D  
Agree strongly Agree mildly Disagree mildly Disagree strongly

11.\* Women earning as much as their dates should bear equally the expense when they go out together.

A B C D  
Agree strongly Agree mildly Disagree mildly Disagree strongly

12.\* Women should assume their rightful place in business and all the professions along with men.

A B C D  
Agree strongly Agree mildly Disagree mildly Disagree strongly

13. A woman should not expect to go to exactly the same places or to have quite the same freedom of action as a man.

A B C D  
Agree strongly Agree mildly Disagree mildly Disagree strongly

14. Sons in a family should be given more encouragement to go to college than daughters.

A B C D  
Agree strongly Agree mildly Disagree mildly Disagree strongly

15. It is ridiculous for a woman to run a locomotive and for a man to darn socks.

A B C D  
Agree strongly Agree mildly Disagree mildly Disagree strongly

16. In general, the father should have greater authority than the mother in the bringing up of children.

A B C D  
Agree strongly Agree mildly Disagree mildly Disagree strongly

17. Women should be encouraged not to become sexually intimate with anyone before marriage, even their fiancés.

A B C D  
Agree strongly Agree mildly Disagree mildly Disagree strongly

18.\* The husband should not be favored by law over the wife in the disposal of family property or income.

A B C D  
Agree strongly Agree mildly Disagree mildly Disagree strongly

19. Women should be concerned with their duties of childbearing and house tending rather than with desires for professional or business careers.

A B C D  
Agree strongly Agree mildly Disagree mildly Disagree strongly

20. The intellectual leadership of a community should be largely in the hands of men.

A B C D  
Agree strongly Agree mildly Disagree mildly Disagree strongly

21.\* Economic and social freedom is worth far more to women than acceptance of the ideal of femininity which has been set up by men.

A B C D  
Agree strongly Agree mildly Disagree mildly Disagree strongly

22. On the average, women should be regarded as less capable of contributing to economic production than are men.

A B C D  
Agree strongly Agree mildly Disagree mildly Disagree strongly

23. There are many jobs in which men should be given preference over women in being hired or promoted.

A B C D  
Agree strongly Agree mildly Disagree mildly Disagree strongly

24.\* Women should be given equal opportunity with men for apprenticeship in the various trades.

A B C D  
Agree strongly Agree mildly Disagree mildly Disagree strongly

25.\* The modern girl is entitled to the same freedom from regulation and control that is given to the modern boy.

A B C D  
Agree strongly Agree mildly Disagree mildly Disagree strongly

In scoring the items, A=0, B=1, C=2, and D=3 except for the items with an asterisk where the scale is reversed. A high score indicates a profeminist, egalitarian attitude while a low score indicates a traditional, conservative attitude.

**B. References:**

Spence, J.T., Helmreich, R., & Stapp, J. (1973). A short version of the Attitudes toward Women Scale (AWS). *Bulletin of the Psychonomic Society*, 2, 219-220.

Spence, J.T. & Helmreich, R.L. (1978). *Masculinity and femininity: Their psychological dimensions, correlates, and antecedents*. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press.