

# Identity Style Inventory (ISI)

The Identity Style Inventory (ISI-6G) is a 40-item self-report measure designed to assess adolescents' approaches to identity formation. This version features simplified language appropriate for individuals with a sixth grade reading level, making it suitable for use with younger populations. The ISI-6G evaluates three empirically supported identity styles:

- Informational Style: Characterized by active exploration and critical evaluation of identity-related issues. Individuals with this style seek out, process, and reflect on self-relevant information.
- Normative Style: Reflects a tendency to conform to expectations and adopt the values and beliefs of significant others without extensive personal exploration.
- Diffuse/Avoidant Style: Involves procrastination or avoidance in dealing with identity issues, often relying on situational pressures or short-term goals rather than sustained self-reflection.

**Directions:** Please read each of the following statements carefully. Then, indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each statement. There are no right or wrong answers, your honest response is important. Use the following scale to answer each item:

Strongly Disagree = 1; Disagree = 2; Neither agree nor disagree = 3; Agree = 4; Strongly Agree = 5

1. I know what I believe about religion.
2. I've spent a lot of time thinking about what I should do with my life.
3. I'm not sure what I'm doing in life.
4. I act the way I do because of the values I was brought up with.
5. I've spent a lot of time reading and/or talking to others about religious ideas.
6. When I talk with someone about a problem, I try to see their point of view.
7. I know what I want to do with my future.
8. I don't worry about values ahead of time; I decide things as they happen.
9. I'm not really sure what I believe about religion.
10. I was brought up to know what to work for.
11. I'm not sure which values I really hold.
12. I know where the government and country should be going.
13. If I don't worry about my problems, they usually work themselves out.
14. I'm not sure what I want to do in the future.
15. I feel like the work I do (or have done in the past) is right for me.
16. I've spent a lot of time reading about and/or trying to understand political issues.
17. I'm not thinking about my future now – it's still a long way off.
18. I've spent a lot of time talking to people to find a set of beliefs that works for me.

19. I've never had any serious doubts about my religious beliefs.
20. I'm not sure what job is right for me.
21. I've known since I was young what I wanted to be.
22. I have a strong set of beliefs that I use when I make decisions.
23. It's better to have a firm set of beliefs than to be open to different ideas.
24. When I have to make a decision, I wait as long as I can to see what will happen.
25. When I have a problem, I do a lot of thinking to understand it.
26. It's best to get advice from experts (preachers, doctors, lawyers, teachers) when I have a problem.
27. I don't take life too serious. I just try to enjoy it.
28. It's better to have one set of values than to consider other value options.
29. I try not to think about or deal with problems as long as I can.
30. My problems can be interesting challenges.
31. I try to avoid problems that make me think.
32. Once I know how to solve a problem, I like to stick with it.
33. When I make decisions, I take a lot of time to think about my choices.
34. I like to deal with things the way my parents said I should.
35. I like to think through my problems and deal with them on my own.
36. When I ignore a potential problem, things usually work out.
37. When I have to make a big decision, I like to know as much as I can about it.
38. When I know a problem will cause me stress, I try to avoid it.
39. People need to be committed to a set of values to live a full life.
40. It's best to get advice from friends or family when I have a problem.

### **Scoring:**

Calculate means for each scale, produce z-scores, and assign identity style (I, N, or D) based on the highest z-score

Information (I): 2, 5, 6, 16, 18, 25, 26, 30, 33, 35, & 37.

Normative (N): 4, 10, 19, 21, 23, 28, 32, 34, & 40

Diffuse/Avoidant (D): 3, 8, 13, 17, 24, 27, 29, 31, 36, & 38.

Commitment (C) [used for secondary analysis, not an identity style]: 1, 7, 9\*, 11\*, 12, 14\*, 15, 20\*, 22, & 39.

\* Reverse Coded

### **Source:**

Li, D. D., Liao, A. K., & Khoo, A. (2013). Player–Avatar Identification in video gaming: Concept and measurement. *Computers in human behavior*, 29(1), 257-263.