

APPENDIX A: SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

VIEWS PERTAINING TO SHOP THEFT

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RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE

Please do not give your name. I would just like you to answer a few questions concerning your views of specific crimes, certain types of behaviour and punishment. There are no right or wrong answers as only your personal views about these matters are required. The information is needed for research purposes with a view to help develop suitable crime prevention programmes.

ALL INFORMATION WILL BE TREATED AS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL AND YOUR IDENTITY WILL REMAIN UNKNOWN. COMPLETE CONFIDENTIALITY IS GUARANTEED AND THE RESULTS WILL BE COLLATED BY COMPUTER. PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS AND INDICATE YOUR ANSWER WITH A ✓ IN THE SPACE PROVIDED.

Questionnaire number

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 1-3

1 Gender

Male	Female
1	2

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2 Age (in years)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21+

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3 Scholastic details:
Current grade

1	2	3	4	5
Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12

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 6

The following concerns your views about what you PERSONALLY regard as crime. Please answer each subquestion of question 4.

4 Do you regard any of the following as crimes?

		Yes	No		
4.1	All behaviour which is legally (according to law) defined as crime	1	2		7
4.2	All violations of human rights, eg racism, sexism and class-based exploitation	1	2		8
4.3	Behaviour which is worldwide regarded as serious crime, ie murder, rape, hijacking and assault resulting in serious injury	1	2		9
4.4	Behaviour which only a particular society regards as crime, eg in some Muslim countries adultery is regarded as a crime for which the death penalty is in force	1	2		10
4.5	Burglary, housebreaking (entering or breaking into a house with the intent to steal or remove goods from the property without the owner's consent)	1	2		11
4.6	Theft of personal property (theft of property from the person without force or threat, eg pickpocketing)	1	2		12
4.7	Taking goods from a shop without paying (crime committed by customers also known as shoplifting)	1	2		13
4.8	Employee theft (stealing goods or money from their employers)	1	2		14
4.9	Taking goods from a shop if the value is less than R20,00	1	2		15
4.10	Taking goods from a shop if the value is more than R100,00	1	2		16

5 Do you agree with any of the following statements? Please answer each sub statement.

	Strongl y agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongl y disagree	
5.1 It is allright to take small items such as deodorant, cosmetics and sweets, if you do not have enough money to pay for such small items which can be regarded as luxury goods.	1	2	3	4	17
5.2 It is allright to take food items such as meat, bread, etc. to provide for your family if you do not have any money to pay for it.	1	2	3	4	18
5.3 It is allright to take clothing from a store if you or your family cannot afford to pay for such goods.	1	2	3	4	19

6 Do you agree with any of the following statements? Please answer all the sub statements in question 6.

	Strongl y agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongl y disagree	
6.1 It is allright to take goods from shops because they make a lot of profit and they can afford to lose some money.	1	2	3	4	20
6.2 It is allright to take goods from shops if the oppportunity is there and no one will catch you.	1	2	3	4	21
6.3 Taking goods from stores without paying has serious consequences for all members of society because shops increase their prices to compensate for shop theft resulting in everybody having to pay more for goods.	1	2	3	4	22
6.4 It is allright to take goods from stores because they seldom prosecute you even if they do catch you.	1	2	3	4	23

6.5 It is allright to take goods from stores if your friends dare you to do so.	1	2	3	4			24
6.6 It is allright to take goods from stores to see whether you can get away with it as it gives one a feeling of excitement.	1	2	3	4			25

7 What sentence would you regard as appropriate for a first offender of 21 years who has stolen a television from a SHOP? GIVE ONLY ONE ANSWER.

Fine	1	
Prison sentence	2	
Community service (working free of charge for the community in your free time)	3	
Suspended sentence (postponement of sentence till another crime is committed	4	
Any other sentence (specify.....)	5	26

7.1 PLEASE NOTE: Only if you have recommended a prison sentence indicate how long it should be. Otherwise skip this question and go to question 8. (ONLY ONE OPTION ALLOWED).

1 month or less	1
2-6 months	2
6 months to a year	3
1 year	4
2 years	5
3 years	6
4 years	7
5 years	8
6-10 years	9
11-15 years	10
16-20 years	11
21-25 years	12

more than 25 years	13
life sentence	15

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27-28

8 What sentence would you regard as appropriate for a first offender of 21 years who has stolen a television from your HOUSE? GIVE ONLY ONE ANSWER.

Fine	1
Prison sentence	2
Community sentence (working free of charge for the community in your free time)	3
Suspended sentence (postponement of sentence till another crime is committed)	4
Any other sentence (specify.....)	5

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8.1 If you have recommended a prison sentence indicate how long it should be. (ONLY ONE OPTION ALLOWED).

1 month or less	1
2-6 months	2
6 months to a year	3
1 year	4
2 years	5
3 years	6
4 years	7
5 years	8
6-10 years	9
11-15 years	10
16-20 years	11
21-25 years	12
more than 25 years	13
life sentence	15

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9 Have you ever taken anything from a shop without paying for it during the last three years?

Yes	No
1	2

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9.1 If you have answered YES to question 9, please indicate the number of times you have done this.

Once 1	Twice 2	Three times or more 3	
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9.2 Please indicate what you have taken. (MORE THAN ONE OPTION/RESPONSE ALLOWED).

Small luxury items (eg sweets,deodorant,cosmetics, toys)	1		34
Stationery (writing paper, pens, books)	1		35
Food (meat, bread, butter. etc).	1		36
Clothing	1		37
CD's or tapes	1		38
Other (specify)	1		39

10 If relevant, what was your main motivation for taking the property mentioned in 9.2 above?

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS AND COOPERATION IN COMPLETING THE RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE.

