

Parental Authority Questionnaire (PAQ)

The Parental Authority Questionnaire (PAQ) is an instrument used to assess parenting styles according to the three main categories defined by Baumrind: authoritarian, permissive and democratic (authoritative). It is mainly used to study the impact of parenting style on the development of the child or adolescent.

Number of questions	30 questions
Estimated duration	10 minutes
Language	English
Original name	Parental Authority Questionnaire
Target audience	Parents of children/adolescents
Authors	John R. Buri (1991)

Preview of the 30 questions

While I was growing up my mother felt that in a well-run home the children should have their way in the family as often as the parents do.

Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree

Even if her children didn't agree with her, my mother felt that it was for our own good if we were forced to conform to what she thought was right.

Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree

Whenever my mother told me to do something as I was growing up, she expected me to do it immediately without asking any questions.

Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree

As I was growing up, once family policy had been established, my mother discussed the reasoning behind the policy with the children in the family.

Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree

My mother has always encouraged verbal give-and-take whenever I have felt that family rules and restrictions were unreasonable.

Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Agree | Strongly agree

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Scoring & interpretation

The PAQ comprises 30 items divided equally among the three parenting styles: authoritarian, permissive and authoritative. Each item is rated on a 5-point Likert scale (from 'strongly disagree' to 'strongly agree'). The scores for each style are summed (10 questions per style) to obtain a score reflecting the tendency toward the parenting style described.

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Basile R. - Clinical Psychologist