

Appendix A. The Multidimensional Attitude towards Ambiguity Scale (MAAS).

In this part we are interested in how people respond when they confront particular situations in their lives. This questionnaire asks you to indicate what you generally do and feel when you experience these situations. Try to respond to each item independently from other items on the questionnaire. Choose your answers thoughtfully, making your responses as true for you as possible. There are no correct or incorrect answers, we are most interested in the response that is accurate for you, not what you think “most people” would feel. You are asked to express your feeling about each by circling the number 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7 after each item.

- 1 = I strongly disagree
- 2 = I disagree enough
- 3 = I mildly disagree
- 4 = I neither agree nor disagree
- 5 = I mildly agree
- 6 = I agree enough
- 7 = I strongly agree

29 There are two kinds of people in the world: the weak and the strong*	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
19 I pursue problem situations which are so complex some people call them “mind boggling.”*	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
53 It intensely disturbs me when I am uncertain of how my actions will affect others.*	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
28 A person either knows the answer to a question or he doesn't.*	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
14 I often find myself looking for something new, rather than trying to hold things constant in my life.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
76 I don't feel comfortable with people until I can find out something about them.*	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
27 There are two kinds of people: the “good” and the “bad”.*	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
4 I'm drawn to situations which can be interpreted in more than one way.*	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
75 I am just a little uncomfortable with people unless I feel that I can understand their behavior.*	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
24 You can classify almost all people as either honest or crooked*	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
15 I generally prefer novelty over familiarity.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
71 I get pretty anxious when I'm in a social situation involving me which I have little control of*.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
44 Personally, I tend to think that there is a right way and a wrong way to do almost everything.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
93 Vague and impressionistic pictures appeal to me more than realistic pictures.*	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
54 It bothers me when I don't know how other people react to me.*	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
41 Nothing gets accomplished in this world unless you stick to some basic rules.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
90 I tend to like obscure or hidden symbolism.*	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
52 I always want to know what people are laughing at.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
123 There's a right way and a wrong way to do almost everything.*	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
17 Some problems are so complex that just trying to understand them is fun.*	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
126 I get pretty anxious when I'm in a social situation over which I have no control.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
96 Generally, the more meanings a poem or story has, the better I like it.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
57 If I am uncertain about the responsibilities of a job, I get very anxious.*	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
111 A good job is one where what is to be done and how it is to be done are always clear.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
112 It is more fun to tackle a complicated problem than to solve a simple one.*	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
25 A person is either a 100% patriotic or he isn't.*	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
87 I enjoy carefully rehashing my conversations in my mind afterwards.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
12 I enjoy tackling problems which are complex enough to be ambiguous.*	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
86 If I don't get the punch line of a joke, I don't feel right until I understand it.*	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
34 Our thinking would be a lot better off if we would just forget about words like “probably”, “approximately”, “perhaps”*	1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Note: Item numbers refer to the position of the item in Study 1. * denotes items retained for CFA in Study 2. Accordingly, DA is the average score of item 71, 54, 57, 53, 76, 75 and 86. MA/SPLT is the average score of item 27, 123, 24, 29, 28, 25 and 34. NC is the average score of item 12, 4, 19, 17, 90, 112 and 93.