

THE PERSONALITY CHARACTERISTICS
OF A PRISON POPULATION

by

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I certify that this thesis contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university, and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the thesis contains no copy or paraphrase of material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference is made in the text of the thesis.

B. Paul

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ABSTRACT

In order to investigate the personality characteristics of Tasmanian prisoners a sample of 197 prisoners at Risdon Male Prison was studied by means of psychological tests and two questionnaires. The study is a beginning to the task of defining the state's prison population.

The Otis Higher Intelligence Test was administered, and the mean I.Q. was 89.1. Results on the Eysenck Personality Inventory indicated neither an introversive or extraversive trend for the group and a slightly above average level of neuroticism. Results on the Sixteen Personality Factor Questionnaire indicated introversion and a slightly above average level of anxiety.

The prisoners in the sample were classified in two ways - a classification according to the number of prison terms, and a classification according to type of crime - and test results presented for the various sub-groups.

The study suggests that recidivism may be correlated with:-

1. An increasing isolation from society.
2. An increasing degree of neuroticism.
3. An increasing consumption of alcohol.
4. An increasing incidence of brain damage.

I. Introduction

Tasmania has a population of 383,000. The state's main prison is situated at Risdon, a few miles from Hobart, the state capital. As well there is a prison for females at Risdon. The Kilderry Farm Gaol for selected male prisoners is situated in a country area 27 miles from Hobart. The daily average number of prisoners held at each of these centres for the year 1966/67 is given in Table I.

Table 1. Accommodation and Daily Average Number of Prisoners for the Year 1966/67

Prison	Accommodation	Daily Average
Risdon Male	320	216.57
Risdon Female	23	7.36
Kilderry Farm	60	57.69

The Launceston Gaol is a holding centre for prisoners from the northern part of the state, although sentences of not more than 14 days can be served there. This means that prisoners who commit minor offences in the northern part of the state may serve their sentences at Launceston. All other prisoners are sent to Risdon following sentencing.

For a number of years psychiatrists and psychologists

of the Division of Psychiatric Services of the Department of Health Services (now the Mental Health Services Commission) have provided a clinical service to Risdon Prison. The need for this service to be supported by research has been apparent for some time. With this need in mind the present study is a beginning to the task of defining the state's prison population. The study is a survey of a sample of prisoners, with particular reference to personality characteristics.

The number of convicted persons entering Risdon Male Prison during the year 1966/67 was 658. New admissions to the prison during the last quarter of 1966, numbering 197, comprised the sample for the present study. In the main the prisoners were examined within a few days of their arrival at Risdon, prior to their allocation to one of the workshops, or work gangs, or the farm.

The Eysenck Personality Inventory and Cattell's Sixteen Personality Factor Questionnaire were the main tests used in the study. Previous studies that have used these tests in the examination of prisoners will be summarised, and the methods employed in the present study will be outlined. Then the test results will be presented, together with the results from a general questionnaire filled in by the prisoners and a health questionnaire filled in by the Medical Officer and the Medical Orderly. Then follows a discussion of some of the questions that are raised by the study, and a summary of the findings.

II. Previous Research

This section summarises previous studies that have reported prisoners' scores on the Maudsley Personality Inventory \ast , the Eysenck Personality Inventory, and the Sixteen Personality Factor Questionnaire, and concludes with a note on the relevance of the study of personality to corrective methods employed in penal institutions.

\ast The Maudsley Personality Inventory is the forerunner of the Eysenck Personality Inventory.

The Maudsley Personality Inventory
and the Eysenck Personality Inventory

Eysenck, in the Manual of the Maudsley Personality Inventory (1959), gives test scores for 146 recidivist prisoners. Their mean score on the extraversion scale is just on the introversive side of the mean score of the sample of "normals", while their mean score on the neuroticism scale is well above the mean for the "normals".

Bartholemew (1963) gives M.P.I. data for various English and Australian groups. A group of 72 English male recidivists obtained a similar score to Eysenck's recidivist group on the extraversion scale. Two further groups of 50 and 54 English male recidivists obtained slightly higher scores on the extraversion scale, scoring just on the extraversive side of the mean for "normals". The three recidivist groups obtained high scores on the neuroticism scale. Bartholemew also gives data for a group of 50 English male first offenders. Their scores on both the extraversion and the neuroticism scales are lower than those reported by Eysenck and Bartholemew for recidivist groups.

Bartholemew's Australian data reveal that prisoners are more extraverted and neurotic than any "normal" group. Particularly on the neuroticism scale a group of 150 Australian male prisoners scored well above the means

for the "normal" groups. It is noted that the members of the Australian groups scored slightly higher on the extraversion scale than their English counterparts, while there was little difference in the neuroticism scores.

Blackler (1968) presents M.P.I. data for two groups of English prisoners - 438 first sentence men, and 242 second sentence men described as primary recidivists. On the extraversion scale the mean score for both groups deviates only slightly from mean scores that have been reported for groups of "normals". On the neuroticism scale the mean score for both groups is considerably higher than mean scores for "normals", and the primary recidivists obtained a higher mean score than the first sentence group.

Summarising these published M.P.I. scores for groups of prisoners - extraversion scores deviate only slightly from the mid-point of the scale, while neuroticism scores are invariably high. One study suggests that recidivists are more extraverted and more neurotic than first offenders; another study reports no difference in the extraversion scores of recidivists and first offenders, and a higher neuroticism score for the recidivists.

The Manual of the Eysenck Personality Inventory (1964) gives normative data for a number of groups, but a group of male prisoners is not included.

Recently published Australian data on the E.P.I. make possible a comparison of Australian scores with the English scores from Eysenck's standardization sample. The Australian data, presented by Salas and Richardson (1968), is based on the testing of three groups of National Servicemen (numbering 249, 267 and 371) and two groups of Volunteer Army applicants (266 and 274). Eysenck presents data for a "normal" standardization sample (2000), and he gives the scores of the various sub-groups, including an Army group (341). Comparing the two sets of scores for Form A of the test (the Form used in the present study), there is little difference in the extraversion scores, while the neuroticism scores are slightly higher for the English groups.

Some years ago Franks (1956) made these observations on the personality characteristics of prisoners at Wakefield Prison, "It would therefore seem reasonable to postulate that the majority of so-called recidivists tend to be slightly introverted in personality; these people have simply fallen into a criminal environment, they are amenable to training and are not intrinsically psychopathic. On the other hand there is a small proportion of recidivists who tend to be more extraverted in personality; these people are in general not amenable to training and would probably be best classified as psychopathic". (p. 198).

Subsequent work by Eysenck supports this observation that there are two types of criminal - the extraverts who are unconditionable and unable to learn non-delinquent standards, and the introverts who have learnt delinquent standards from a delinquent sub-culture. Eysenck (1964) cites a study in a Chicago prison that found that the most recalcitrant prisoners obtained high scores on the extraversion and neuroticism factors of Cattell's tests.

Further research is needed to determine the proportions of introverted and extraverted personalities in prison populations and to study the personality characteristics of recidivists.

The Sixteen Personality Factor Questionnaire

Cattell, in his Handbook for the Sixteen Personality Factor Questionnaire (1957), gives a profile for 45 convicts. A profile for a much larger sample of convicts (891) is presented in the I.P.A.T. Information Bulletin No. 8 (1963). This profile reveals that scores on several factors deviate substantially from the general population average, a substantial deviation being one that is expressed in a sten score of 7.0 or greater, or a sten score of 4.0 or less. The deviant scores indicate that the convicts are less intelligent (factor B), have low ego strength (C) and low super-ego strength (G), are serious (F), imaginative (M), apprehensive (O) and tense (Q 4). Scores on the second order factors indicate introversion and a high level of anxiety.

Cattell and Morony (1962) report the 16 P.F. scores of 67 convicts examined in a New South Wales prison. The 16 P.F. scores of a larger sample of New South Wales prisoners (264), who were examined in 1962, have been made available to the author. x The profile for this group of prisoners is very similar to the profile presented in the I.P.A.T. Bulletin. Two differences are

x Supplied by Mr. L. Evers, Psychologist, Department of Prisons, New South Wales.

noted. The I.P.A.T. sample scored towards the serious end of the serious - happy-go-lucky factor (F) while the Australian sample scored in the opposite direction, just beyond the mid-point of the scale. The other difference in the profiles is the scores on the trusting - suspicious factor (L), the Australian sample manifesting greater suspiciousness. The Australian scores on the second order factors indicate an introversive trend and a high level of anxiety.

In their report on the test scores of Australian prisoners Cattell and Morony present the scores for a sample of Australian "normals", and they point out that the means deviate only slightly from the 5.5 figure for the American population. There is some indication that the American population is more happy-go-lucky (F) and more venturesome (H) than the members of the Australian sample.

Williamson (1966) presents 16 P.F. (Form C) profiles for New Zealand prisoners. The profile for 96 prisoners is similar to the American and Australian profiles that have been described. The main differences are an almost average score on the scale measuring super-ego strength (G) and a greater degree of tender-mindedness (I) for the New Zealand sample.

The New Zealand sample divides into two groups - 48 first offenders and 48 habitual offenders. The test profile for the habitual offenders is the more deviant and in particular reveals lower ego strength (C) and a greater degree of apprehension (O). Again the scores on the second order factors indicate introversion and a high level of anxiety, with the habitual offenders group showing a greater degree of introversion and a higher level of anxiety.

The I.P.A.T. Information Bulletin No. 8 gives profiles for a number of clinical groups. It is noted that convicted criminals, delinquents and psychopaths have profiles that are similar to the basic neurotic profile. Introversion and anxiety are less pronounced in the profiles for the anti-social groups, though they still clearly exist. Yet elsewhere Cattell (1965) says, "Neurotics are more frequently made out of introverts, and delinquents more frequently out of extraverts." (p. 217).

Personality Studies and Corrective Methods

Studies that reveal basic differences in personality among prisoners often go on to suggest that the form of training and treatment that is given to a prisoner should be based on personality factors, rather than on other considerations. Eysenck (1964) makes his position clear when he says, "Those who are extraverted, who condition poorly, obviously require a good deal of firmness in their treatment; however, those who are introverted, who condition well, and who turn to crime largely as a result of conditioning in an unfavourable environment, might be permanently damaged by excessive severity". (p. 160)

Cattell (1965) too stresses the importance of the individual personality. "However, in treatment, in the last resort, each case must be guided by the individuality of the primary personality profile, and these profiles in maladjusted individuals, will range from about the neurotic to around the delinquent pattern". (P. 218).

A study of 100 prisoners by Levy and Kennard (1953) suggests that it may be possible to separate two types of transgressors on the basis of E.E.G. records and M.M.P.I. profiles. One group with a fixed psychopathic personality pattern would require permanent maximal custodial care. The second group, characterized by a degree of instability and neuroticism, deserves careful therapy.

Andry's study (1963) of 121 short-term prisoners recommends a prison sentence for the "extra-punitive" offender, and the establishment of special centres for the immature, neurotic and "intra-punitive" offenders, where treatment would be based on personality factors.

III. The Present Research

Psychological tests were administered to 197 sentenced male prisoners who were admitted to Risdon Prison during the last quarter of 1966.

Several considerations led to the decision to examine the prisoners within a week of their admission to prison. There was the practical consideration of prison routine. The routine would not be disturbed to any degree if prisoners were examined prior to their classification. There could be problems if prisoners were examined at a later date, after they had been allocated certain duties. In order to secure the co-operation of the prisoners it was considered desirable to introduce the testing programme as part of the total assessment that is made of prisoners following their admission. A further consideration was the desirability of testing the prisoners in small groups.

The testing was carried out every Monday morning in the three months period extending from Monday 19th September to Monday 19th December. On two occasions, because of the number of admissions, additional groups were tested on other days of the week. On most occasions the group consisted of about 12 men. The largest group tested was 17.

The aim was to test all men who were sentenced to a term in prison during the three months period. A small number of prisoners was excluded from the sample

for various reasons. Two prisoners who were in solitary confinement, and who were oppositional and aggressive in attitude, were not tested. Five prisoners who were in the remand yard waiting for the court to hear appeals against their sentences, were excluded. Four prisoners who were given sentences of only a few days missed the examination.

In addition to the psychological tests three questionnaires were prepared, covering the areas of general background information, education and employment, and health. The first of these was filled in by the prisoners at the time of the psychological examination. The Education Officer at the prison agreed to obtain the information on education and employment from each prisoner. The Medical Officer and the Medical Orderly agreed to interview the prisoners and obtain the information for the health sheet. Interviewing prisoners to obtain detailed information on schooling and employment history proved to be such a time consuming task that it was discontinued early in the study. At this stage the prisoners were asked to write down certain general information in these areas at the time of the psychological examination. The health sheets were filled in for most of the prisoners, although a few were unavoidably missed.

Further information on the men in this sample was obtained from police and prison records.

In selecting a battery of tests, two considerations had to be kept in mind:-

1. The intention to obtain measures of literacy level, intelligence level, and personality.
2. The need to secure the co-operation of the prisoners by keeping the testing time within reasonable limits.

The following tests were used, listed here in order of administration:-

A.C.E.R. Word Knowledge Test - Adult Form B.

Army Psychology Service Literacy Test - Form LB.

Otis Higher Test - Form C.

Eysenck Personality Inventory - Form A.

Questionnaire (referred to above).

Cattell's Sixteen Personality Factor Questionnaire -
Form C.

The duration of testing was about 2½ hours.

The Word Knowledge Test is a multiple-choice test of general vocabulary. It is a suitable introductory test because the instructions are easy to follow, and it is based on familiar material. The norms are given in centile ranks, and are based on a standardization of the test on a sample of Victorian National Servicemen.

The Army Psychology Service Literacy Test consists of two parts, a reading comprehension test and a dictation test. It is designed to give a preliminary assessment of the ability of the subject to read and write. Scores

on the two parts of the test are combined to give a rating of Illiterate, Near Illiterate, Educationally Backward or Satisfactory. The norms are based on the testing of Army recruits.

The Otis Higher Test is a widely used test of general intelligence, with norms covering the age range from 12/6 to 18/9. The norms for the 18 year old group are based on the administration of the test to a representative sample of Victorian National Servicemen.

The Eysenck Personality Inventory measures two dimensions of personality - extraversion and neuroticism, and in addition contains a lie scale. The manual gives means and standard deviations for various populations.

Cattell's Test measures sixteen dimensions of personality and in addition Form C incorporates a motivational distortion scale. Form C was chosen for the present study because it is shorter, and uses a more elementary vocabulary than the other forms of the test. Norm tables are presented for various populations in stanines and stens.

The psychological testing was introduced along the following lines:-

"I am a psychologist from the Health Department, and this morning I am going to give you several tests.

In some of the mainland prisons this has become an accepted part of the admission procedure. All new admissions are given tests of this kind, just as they

are given a medical.

In Tasmania we are doing this for the first time, and it is in the nature of an experiment. We hope it will be of benefit to our prisoners, perhaps indicating that certain kinds of training are needed.

It can be regarded as a piece of research. I am interested in the overall results rather than individual results.

I think you will find these tests interesting. I will explain to you exactly what you have to do. If you are not sure about anything don't hesitate to ask me. You are free to smoke if you want to."

This approach secured the co-operation of the prisoners. If a question was asked regarding the confidentiality of the test results the prisoner was informed that any personal information that was disclosed was confidential and would be used only for general research purposes. Only a few prisoners raised this question of confidentiality. Occasionally there was the problem of the talkative prisoner who tried to disturb the group, but this was not a serious problem, and the whole testing programme went through smoothly.

The prisoners in the sample are classified in two ways. One classification is based on the number of prison terms; the other classification is based on type of crime. The test scores of prisoners serving

their first sentence are compared with those of prisoners who have been imprisoned three or more times; and the test scores of prisoners in the 'dishonesty', 'violence', and 'sex' groups are compared. Tables 2a and 2b give the numbers in the various groups.

Table 2a. Prisoners Examined at Risdon Prison in 1966 - Classification According to the Number of Prison Terms.

	N
One prison term	111
Two prison terms	23
Three or more prison terms	63
Total group	197

Table 2b. Prisoners Examined at Risdon Prison in 1966 - Classification According to Type of Crime.

	N
Crimes of Dishonesty	108
Crimes of Violence	23
Sex Crimes	20
Other Crimes (Vagrancy, Traffic Offences, etc.)	46
Total Group	197

The classification according to type of crime is based on the prisoners' criminal records, as follows:-

Crimes of Dishonesty *

This category includes the following:-

- a) Prisoners whose criminal records consist entirely of crimes of dishonesty.
- b) Prisoners whose records consist mainly of crimes of dishonesty, their other crimes belonging to the miscellaneous category.
- c) Prisoners whose records reveal a preponderance of crimes of dishonesty, and who have committed only one crime of violence - of a minor nature. (For the purposes of the present study a crime of a minor nature is defined as a crime for which a prison sentence of not more than one month is imposed).

The following are excluded:-

- a) Prisoners who have committed more than one crime of violence, and prisoners who have committed a crime of violence for which a prison sentence of more than one month was imposed.
- b) Prisoners who have committed a sex crime. (An exception would be a prisoner who committed an offence of a sexual nature in his early teens.)

* Appendix A lists the offences in each of the three categories - dishonesty, violence and sex.

Crimes of Violence

This category includes the following:-

- a) Prisoners whose criminal records consist entirely of crimes of violence.
- b) Prisoners whose records consist mainly of crimes of violence, their other crimes belonging to the miscellaneous category.
- c) Prisoners whose records reveal that they have committed a crime of violence of a serious nature. (For the purposes of the present study a crime of a serious nature is defined as a crime for which a prison sentence of at least six months is imposed).
- d) Prisoners whose records reveal a preponderance of crimes of violence and who have committed only one crime of dishonesty - of a minor nature.

The following are excluded:-

- a) Prisoners who have committed more than one crime of dishonesty, and prisoners who have committed a crime of dishonesty for which a prison sentence of more than one month was imposed.
- b) Prisoners who have committed a sex crime. (Again an exception would be a prisoner who committed an offence of a sexual nature in his early teens).

Sex Crimes

Prisoners whose criminal records contain a crime of a sexual nature are placed in this category.

As already stated a prisoner who committed an offence of a sexual nature in his early teens and who committed no further offences of this kind, is excluded.

Miscellaneous

- a) Prisoners whose criminal records contain both crimes of dishonesty and crimes of violence.
- b) Prisoners whose records consist entirely or almost entirely of various other offences, for example, vagrancy, drunk and disorderly, dangerous driving, etc.

**IV. Results from Psychological
Tests and Questionnaires**

This section includes information on the age composition of the sample, a note on vocabulary and literacy levels, test scores for the intelligence test and the personality questionnaires, and findings from the general questionnaire and the health questionnaire.

The prisoners in the sample are classified in two ways:-

1. A classification according to the number of prison terms.
2. A classification according to type of crime.

Age Composition

The age composition of the sample is presented in Tables 3a, 3b, 4a and 4b. The mean age of the sample is 26.7, with almost two-thirds of the prisoners in the 16 - 25 age range. Offenders who have committed crimes of violence are in the younger age groups, while a number of the sexual offenders are in the older age groups.

Table 3a. Mean Ages and Standard Deviations for Different Groups of Prisoners - Classified According to the Number of Prison Terms.

	N	RANGE	M	S.D.
One prison term	110	16-54	23.3	8.5
Two prison terms	24	17-57	27.1	11.1
Three or more prison terms	63	18-60	32.5	11.0
Total Group	197	16-60	26.7	10.6

Table 3b. Mean Ages and Standard Deviations for Different Groups of Prisoners - Classified According to Type of Crime.

	N	RANGE	M	S.D.
Crimes of dishonesty	106	16-58	24.9	9.1
Crimes of violence	23	17-41	24.4	6.3
Sex crimes	20	17-57	31.6	12.7
Miscellaneous	48	17-60	29.8	12.7
Total group	197	16-60	26.7	10.6

Table 4a. Age Distribution of Prisoners for the 'One Term' and 'Three or More Terms' Groups, Expressed in Percentages.

Ages	One Term (N = 110)	Three or More Terms (N = 63)	Total Group (N = 197)
16-25	76%	35%	61%
26-35	11	29	17
36-45	8	22	13
46 +	5	14	9

Table 4b. Age Distribution of Prisoners for the 'Dishonesty', 'Violence' and 'Sex' Groups, Expressed in Percentages.

Ages	Dishonesty (N = 106)	Violence (N = 23)	Sex (N = 20)	Total Group (N = 197)
16-25	67%	61%	45%	61%
26-35	17	35	10	17
36-45	13	4	25	13
46 +	3	-	20	9

Word Knowledge and Literacy Tests

Results on the A.C.E.R. Word Knowledge Test and the Army Literacy Test give an indication of the educational level of the prisoners in this sample. It is obvious from the results on the Word Knowledge Test that the vocabulary level of the prisoners is well below that of the standardization sample; for example, 43% of the prisoners who attempted the test scored at the 20th centile rank or below. Nearly all the prisoners attempted the Literacy Test, and 38% obtained scores that place them in the educationally backward, near-illiterate or illiterate categories. (See frequency tables for the two tests in Appendix B).

These percentages hold for the sub-group of prisoners serving their first sentence and for the sub-group made up of those who have served three or more prison terms. The percentages vary to some extent for the sub-groups based on type of crime. It is noted that a smaller proportion of prisoners in the 'violence' sub-group scored at the lower levels on both the Word Knowledge and the Literacy Tests, but the small number of prisoners in this sub-group does not allow other than tentative interpretations of these findings.

Intelligence Test

The mean I.Q. score of 89.1 is based on the scores of 180 of the prisoners on the Otis Higher Test. (see Tables 5a and 5b) If 90-109 is regarded as the average range of scores, 4% of the scores are above average, 46% of the scores fall within the average range, and 50% are below average. 24% of the group obtained I.Q. scores of 79 or less. (see Tables 6a and 6b)

The mean I.Q. scores for the sub-groups vary only slightly from the mean for the 180 prisoners. The mean for 100 prisoners in the 'one term' group is 89.4, and the mean for 60 prisoners in the 'three or more terms' group is 88.8 ($t = 0.290$, $p > .05$). The mean for 96 prisoners in the 'dishonesty' group is 87.7, the mean for 20 prisoners in the 'violence' group is 91.8, and the mean for 18 prisoners in the 'sex' group is 89.4. ($F = 1.150$, $p > .05$).

The percentage of prisoners obtaining an I.Q. score of 79 or less is lower in the 'violence' and 'sex' groups than in the 'dishonesty' group, but the small numbers in the 'violence' and 'sex' groups preclude any interpretation of these differences.

Table 5a. Mean I.Q. Scores and Standard Deviations on the Otis Higher Test for Different Groups of Prisoners - Classified According to the Number of Prison Terms.

	N	M	S. D.
One prison term	100	89.4	12.5
Two prison terms	20	88.8	12.2
Three or more prison terms	60	88.8	11.6
Total Group	180	89.1	12.2

Table 5b. Mean I.Q. Scores and Standard Deviations on the Otis Higher Test for Different Groups of Prisoners - Classified According to Type of Crime.

	N	M	S. D.
Crimes of dishonesty	96	87.7	12.3
Crimes of violence	20	91.8	10.9
Sex crimes	18	89.4	9.3
Miscellaneous	46	90.8	13.1
Total Group	180	89.1	12.2

Table 6a. Distribution of Prisoners' Scores on the Otis Higher Test for the 'One Term' and 'Three or More Terms' Groups, Expressed in Percentages.

I.Q's.	One Term (N = 100)	Three or More Terms (N = 60)	Total Group (N = 180)
120-129	1%	-	1%
110-119	4	2%	3
100-109	19	15	17
90- 99	25	38	29
80- 89	26	22	26
70- 79	20	18	19
60- 69	5	5	5

Table 6B. Distribution of Prisoners' Scores on the Otis Higher Test for the 'Dishonesty', 'Violence' and 'Sex' Groups, Expressed in Percentages.

I.Q's.	Dishonesty (N = 96)	Violence (N = 20)	Sex (N = 18)	Total Group (N = 180)
120-129	-	-	-	1%
110-119	3%	5%	-	3
100-109	18	25	16%	17
90- 99	22	30	17	29
80- 89	29	20	50	26
70- 79	22	20	17	19
60- 69	6	-	-	5

Eysenck Personality Inventory

The results on the Eysenck Personality Inventory are presented in Tables 7a and 7b. The questionnaires of subjects who failed to reach a score of 7 on the reading comprehension section of the Literacy Test or a score of 70 I.Q. on the Otis Test have been excluded.

No results have been rejected on the basis of the Lie score. Knowles and Kreitman (1965) have argued against the practice of rejecting the results of subjects with high Lie scores, pointing out that lying is a complex process and that both honest and dishonest subjects contributed to the standardization norms. The Lie scale may be measuring attitudes other than dishonesty leading to an attempt to falsify test results.

Table 7a. Eysenck Personality Inventory (Form A)
- Means and Standard Deviations for Different
Groups of Prisoners - Classified According to the
Number of Prison Terms.

	N	EXTRAVERSION		NEUROTICISM	
		M	S.D.	M	S.D.
One prison term	94	13.17	4.26	9.81	5.19
Two prison terms	19	11.42	3.82	12.26	4.29
Three or more prison terms	52	12.50	3.96	11.22	5.65
Total Group	165	12.76	4.16	10.53	5.32

Note:- The means and standard deviations for the normal standardization sample are 12.07 and 4.37 for the E scale, and 9.07 and 4.78 for the N scale.

Table 7b. Eysenck Personality Inventory (Form A)
- Means and Standard Deviations for Different
Groups of Prisoners - Classified According to
Type of Crime.

	N	EXTRAVERSION		NEUROTICISM	
		M	S.D.	M	S.D.
Crimes of dishonesty	89	12.93	3.89	10.73	5.40
Crimes of violence	19	13.84	3.87	10.37	4.09
Sex crimes	16	12.69	4.47	10.44	4.36
Miscellaneous	41	11.90	4.55	10.22	5.37
Total group	165	12.76	4.16	10.53	5.32

Note:- The means and standard deviations for the normal standardization sample are 12.07 and 4.37 for the E scale and 9.07 and 4.78 for the N scale.

The Extraversion (E) score for the total group varies only slightly from E scores reported by Eysenck (1964) for a "normal" population and by Salas and Richardson (1968) for Australian Army groups, suggesting that there is no decided trend in either the introversive or the extraversive direction in this group of prisoners.

There is little variation in the E scores of the sub-groups, none of the differences reaching the .05 level of significance. The mean of 94 'one term' prisoners, is 13.17, and the mean of 52 'three or more terms' prisoners is 12.50. ($t = 0.295$, $p > .05$). The mean of 89 prisoners in the 'dishonesty' group is 12.93, the mean of 19 prisoners in the 'violence' group is 13.84, and the mean of 16 prisoners in the 'sex' group is 12.69. ($F = 0.473$, $p > .05$). However it is noted that the 'three or more terms' group is slightly less extraverted than the 'one term' group, and the 'violence' group obtained the highest score on the E scale.

Neuroticism (N) scores for the total group and for all sub-groups are higher than the N scores reported by Eysenck and Salas and Richardson for their "normal" groups, the deviation being more pronounced when the prisoners scores are compared with the scores of the Australian Army groups.

It is noted that the 'three or more terms' group has a higher level of neuroticism than the 'one term'

group. However the difference fails to reach the .05 level of significance. The mean of 94 'one term' prisoners is 9.81, and the mean of 52 'three or more terms' prisoners is 11.22. ($t = 1.508, p > .05$).

There are only slight differences in N scores for the other three sub-groups. The mean of 89 prisoners in the 'dishonesty' group is 10.73, the mean of 19 prisoners in the 'violence' group is 10.37, and the mean of 16 prisoners in the 'sex' group is 10.44.

($F = 0.052, p > .05$).

Cattell's Sixteen Personality

Factor Questionnaire

As in the case of the E.P.I., the 16 P.F. results of subjects who failed to reach a score of 7 on the reading comprehension section of the Literacy Test, or a score of 70 I.Q. on the Otis Test have been rejected.

Table 8 presents scores on the 16 P.F. second order factors for groups of prisoners in Tasmania, New Zealand, and New South Wales. The scores for all groups indicate introversion and a high level of anxiety.

**Table 8. Sixteen Personality Factor Questionnaire
(Form C) - Second Order Extraversion and Anxiety - Means
and Standard Deviations in Stens for Various Groups of Prisoners.**

	N	SECOND ORDER EXTRAVERSION		SECOND ORDER ANXIETY	
		M	S.D.	M	S.D.
Tasmanian sample	162	4.2	1.9	6.6	1.7
New Zealand sample	96	4.0	-	7.9	-
New South Wales sample	264	4.8	-	8.3	-
One prison term - Tasmania	94	4.4	1.8	6.4	1.7
Three or more prison terms - Tasmania	50	4.3	2.1	6.7	1.7
First offenders - New Zealand	48	4.2	-	7.4	-
Habitual offenders - New Zealand	48	3.8	-	8.4	-
Crimes of dis- honesty - Tasmania	87	4.2	1.7	6.6	1.7
Crimes of violence- Tasmania	19	5.0	2.4	6.5	1.6
Sex crimes - Tasmania	16	3.9	2.1	6.5	2.0

Note: - The mean for the normal American adult population is 5.5 stens,
and the standard deviation is 2.0.

The extraversion scores of the 'one term' and 'three or more terms' Tasmanian groups are almost identical. The mean of 94 'one term' prisoners is 4.4 stens and the mean of 50 'three or more terms' prisoners is 4.3 stens ($t = 0.090$, $p > .05$). However the tendency for the 'three or more terms' group to be less extraverted is more pronounced in the New Zealand sample where the habitual offenders obtain a lower score on the extraversion factor than the first offenders.

The anxiety scores reveal a slightly higher level of anxiety in the 'three or more terms' group. The mean of 94 'one term' prisoners is 6.4, and the mean of 50 'three or more terms' prisoners is 6.7 ($t = 1.101$, $p > .05$). Again the difference is more pronounced in the New Zealand sample, the habitual offenders registering a higher level of anxiety than the first offenders.

The scores of the other Tasmanian sub-groups indicate a greater degree of extraversion in the 'violence' group, but again the differences are not statistically significant. The mean of 87 prisoners in the 'dishonesty' group is 4.2, the mean of 19 prisoners in the 'violence' group is 5.0, and the mean of 16 prisoners in the 'sex' group is 3.9 ($F = 0.482$, $p > .05$). Anxiety scores are almost identical for these three groups. The mean for the 87 prisoners in the 'dishonesty' group is 6.6, the mean

for the 19 prisoners in the 'violence' group is 6.5, and the mean for the 16 prisoners in the 'sex' group is 6.5 ($F = 0.022$, $p > .05$).

The correlation between E.P.I. and 16 P.F. extraversion is + .55, but it is noted that while E.P.I. scores are at about the mid-point of the introversion - extraversion scale, the 16 P.F. scores indicate introversion. The correlation between E.P.I. neuroticism and 16 P.F. anxiety is + .59.

16 P.F. profiles are presented for various groups of prisoners.

FACTOR	Sten Score			Low Score Description	Sten Score										High Score Description
	Tas.	N.Z.	N.S.W.		1	2	3	Average			7	8	9	10	
A	4.7	4.4	5.1	Reserved	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Outgoing
B	4.1	3.9	4.1	Less Intelligent	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	More Intelligent
C	5.8	3.8	3.8	Low Ego Strength	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	High Ego Strength
E	5.2	4.9	5.6	Submissive	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Dominant
F	4.7	4.8	5.9	Serious	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Happy Go Lucky
G	5.1	5.2	3.8	Low Super Ego	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	High Super Ego
H	3.8	4.0	4.1	Shy	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Venturesome
I	5.2	7.2	6.3	Tough Minded	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Tender Minded
L	6.7	6.1	7.3	Trusting	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Suspicious
M	5.2	5.6	6.7	Practical	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Imaginative
N	6.0	5.4	5.3	Naive	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Shrewd
O	5.1	7.3	8.0	Placid	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Apprehensive
Q1	4.8	6.1	5.7	Conservative	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Experimenting
Q2	4.9	6.2	6.6	Group Dependent	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Self Sufficient
Q3	3.6	4.2	4.4	Casual	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Controlled
Q4	6.4	7.9	7.9	Relaxed	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Tense
	4.2	4.0	4.8	Introversion	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Extraversion
	6.6	7.9	8.3	Low Anxiety	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	High Anxiety

Figure 1. 16 P.F. Test Profile for Prisoner Groups in Tasmania, New Zealand and New South Wales.

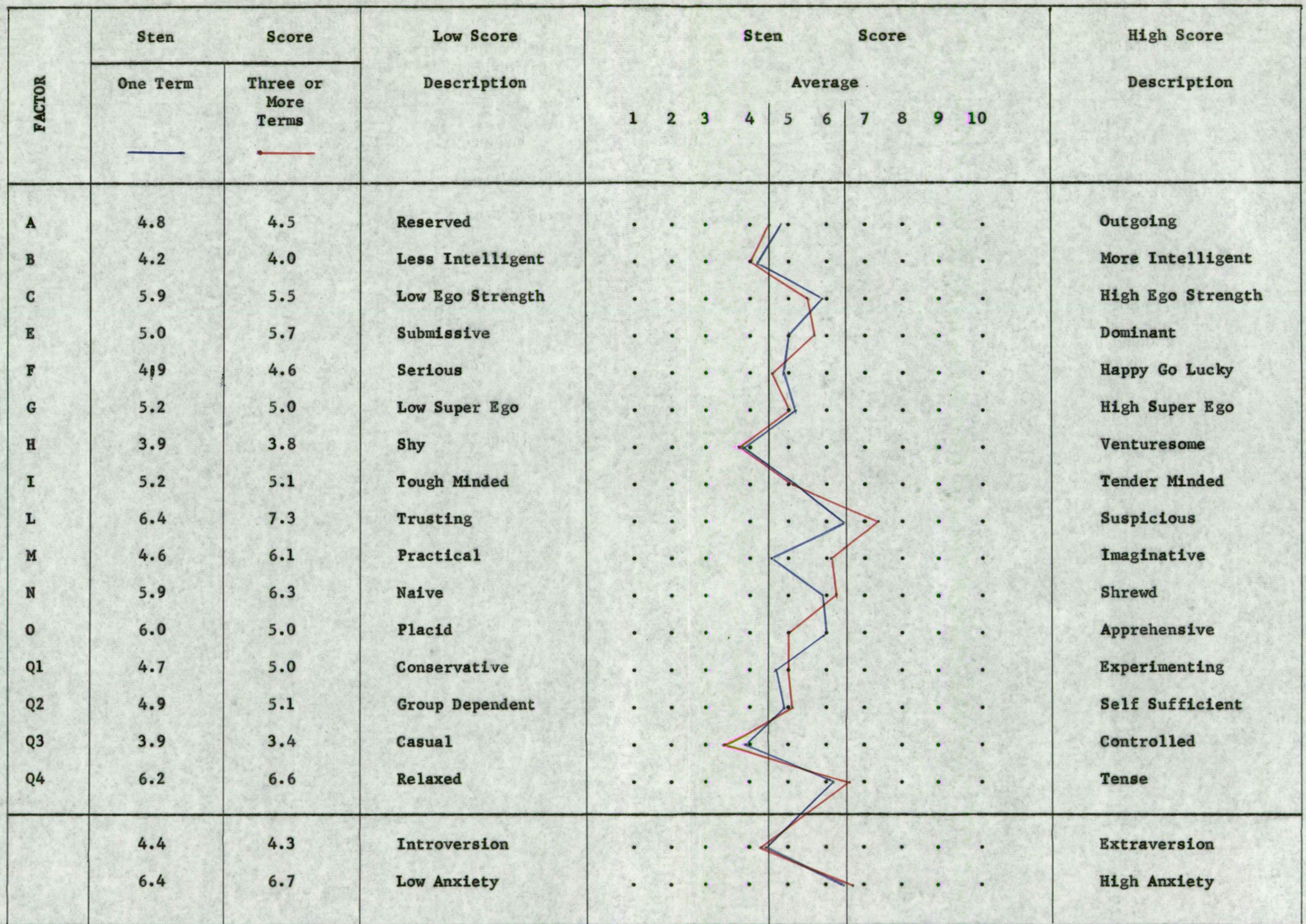


Figure 2. 16 P.F. Test Profile for the Tasmanian
'One Term' and 'Three or More Terms' Groups.

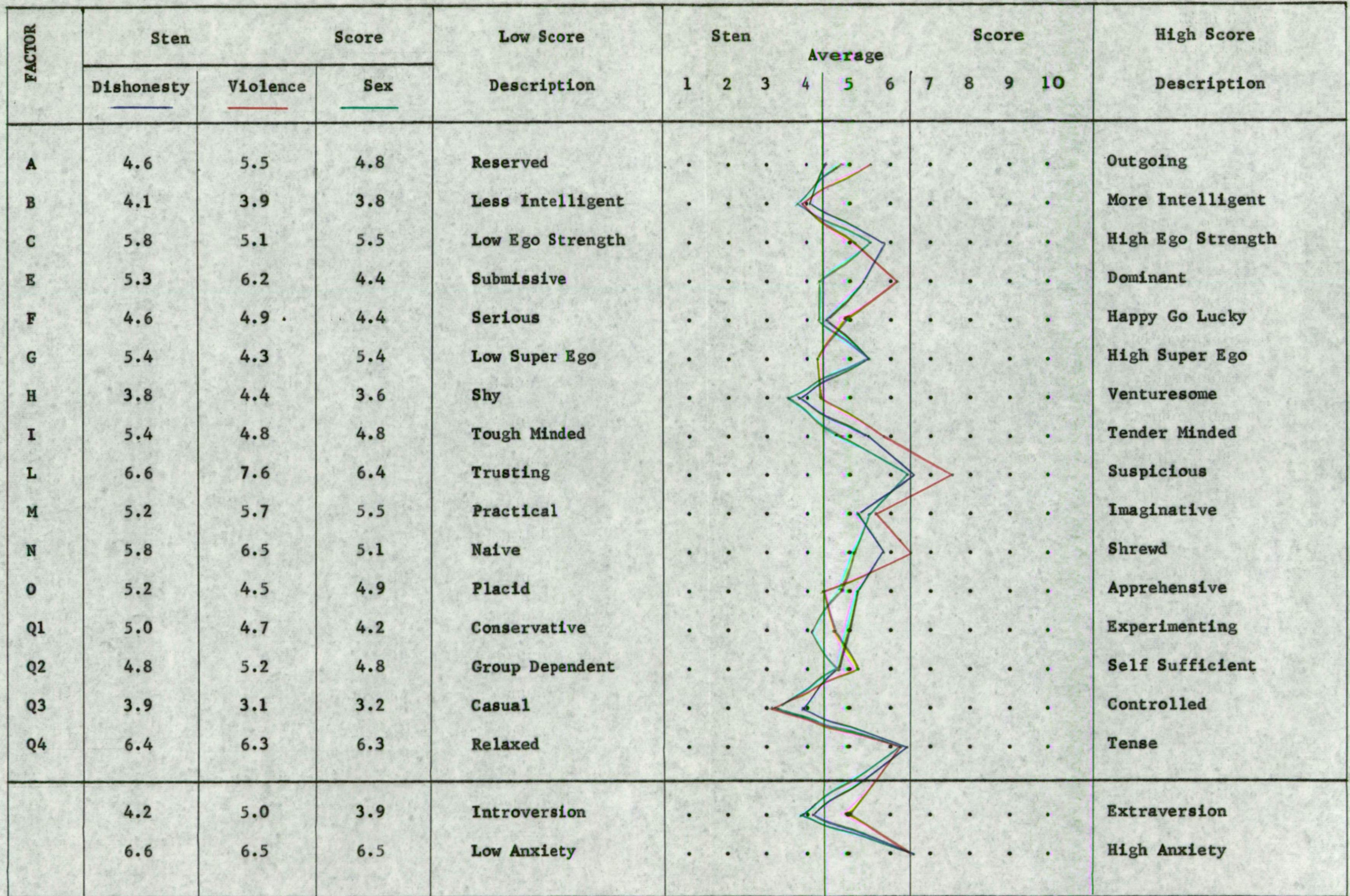


Figure 3.

16 P.F. Test Profile for the Tasmanian

'Dishonesty', 'Violence' and 'Sex' Groups.

The 16 P.F. profile for 162 prisoners in the Tasmanian sample reveals several deviant scores. The greatest deviations from the general population scores indicate shyness (factor H) and casualness (Q 3). Other deviant scores indicate that these prisoners have less than average intelligence (B), and are suspicious (L). These deviations are also present in Williamson's profile for 96 New Zealand prisoners. Comparing the Tasmanian and New Zealand profiles the pattern similarity coefficient (rp) is + .72. (Both samples were given Form C of the 16 P.F.).

The profile for the New Zealand prisoners contains other deviant scores, indicating low ego strength (C), tender-mindedness (I), apprehension (O) and tension (Q 4). These deviant scores are reflected in the higher score on the second-order anxiety factor - 7.9 stens compared to a score of 6.6 stens for the Tasmanian prisoners. The profile for the New South Wales sample follows fairly closely the New Zealand profile, and yields a still higher score of 8.3 stens on the second-order anxiety factor.

There is a high degree of similarity between the 16 P.F. profiles of the various sub-groups in the Tasmanian sample. Comparing the 'one term' group with the 'three or more terms' group the pattern similarity coefficient is + .92. Comparing the other groups, the coefficient

for the 'dishonesty' and 'violence' groups is + .88, for the 'dishonesty' and 'sex' groups + .94, and for the 'violence' and 'sex' groups +.85.

While the profiles for the 'one term' and 'three or more terms' groups are very similar, the differences in factor scores are generally in the direction of a greater degree of maladjustment in the prisoners who have served three or more terms. The same trend is observed when comparing the profiles of the first offenders and the habitual offenders in the New Zealand sample.

There are some interesting differences in the profiles of the three groups based on type of crime. For example, the 'violence' group tends to be aggressive (E), while the 'sex' group tends to be submissive (E); the 'violence' group scores lower on super-ego strength (G) and higher on suspiciousness (L) and shrewdness (N).

General Questionnaire

Tables 9a and 9b present the results of the questionnaire filled in by the prisoners at the time of the psychological examination. All the figures in the tables are in the form of percentages. It should be kept in mind that the figures are derived from prisoners' unsupported statements.

Table 9a. General Questionnaire. Results for the 'One Term' and 'Three or More Terms' Groups of Prisoners, Expressed in Percentages.

	One prison term (N=110)	Three or more prison terms (N = 63)	Total group (N-197)
Age -			
16-25	76%	35%	61%
26-35	11	29	17
36-45	8	22	13
46 +	5	14	9
Education -			
Primary	14	34	22
Secondary	86	66	78
Occupation -			
Unskilled and semi-skilled	75	72	76
Tradesman	20	23	20
Clerical, Sales, Stores	3	5	3
Semi-professional and professional	2	-	1
Unemployed at time of committing offence	25	37	30
Religion -			
Roman Catholic	29	16	24
Church of England	40	63	48
Other Protestant	25	13	22
Nil	6	8	6
Prisoner lives in urban area	68	75	73
Prisoner lives in rural area	32	25	27
Parents separated during prisoner's childhood	19	19	21
Marital status -			
Single	71	57	66
Married	24	30	25
Separated or divorced	5	13	9
Has been an inmate of Ashley Home	11	26	15

Table 9b. General Questionnaire. Results for the 'Dishonesty', 'Violence' and 'Sex' Groups of Prisoners, Expressed in Percentages.

	Crimes of dishonesty (N=106)	Crimes of violence (N=23)	Sex crimes (N=20)	Total group (N=197)
Age -				
16-25	67%	61%	45%	61%
26-35	17	35	10	17
36-45	13	4	25	13
46 +	3	-	20	9
Education -				
Primary	23	17	32	22
Secondary	77	83	68	78
Occupation -				
Unskilled and semi-skilled	79	70	74	76
Tradesman	18	22	26	20
Clerical, Sales Stores	2	4	-	3
Semi-professional and professional	1	4	-	1
Unemployed at time of committing offence	33	17	5	30
Religion -				
Roman Catholic	23	9	16	24
Church of England	50	65	52	48
Other Protestant	21	22	16	22
Nil	6	4	16	6
Prisoner lives in urban area	73	63	67	73
Prisoner lives in rural area	27	37	33	27
Parents separated during prisoner's childhood	24	17	11	21
Marital Status -				
Single	73	56	74	66
Married	23	35	5	25
Separated or divorced	4	9	21	9
Has been an inmate of Ashley Home	22	17	11	15

The 'three or more terms' group is of course an older group than the 'one term' group and has a higher percentage of married prisoners and a higher percentage of separated or divorced prisoners. Nearly all the prisoners in the 'violence' group are in the younger age groups, and the percentage of married men in this group is comparatively high. On the other hand there is a greater percentage of older men in the 'sex' group, and the number separated or divorced is comparatively high.

Reference has already been made to the lower intelligence and lower educational level of the prisoners, and the preponderance of unskilled and semi-skilled workers is not surprising. About one third of the prisoners were unemployed at the time of committing their most recent offence.

The section of the table dealing with religious denomination reveals some interesting differences between sub-groups. Roman Catholics comprise 29% of the 'one term' group, but only 16% of the 'three or more terms' group. Likewise the 'Other Protestants' drop from 25% of the 'one term' group to 13% of the 'three or more terms' group. On the other hand the percentage of Church of England prisoners rises from 40% of the 'one term' group to 63% of the 'three or more terms' group.

The figures for the other sub-groups show that the percentage of Roman Catholics is lower in the 'violence'

and 'sex' groups than in the 'dishonesty' group, and the percentage of 'Other Protestants' drops in the 'sex' group.

For all sub-groups the percentage of prisoners living in urban areas remains about the same, the figure for the total group being 73%.

It is interesting to note that the prisoners guilty of sex crimes show lower percentages on the items referring to a broken home, and unemployment at the time of committing the offence.

15% of the present sample stated that they had been in the Ashley Home for Boys, a corrective institution for teenage boys, under the control of the Social Welfare Department. The figure is 26% for the 'three or more terms' group.

Health Questionnaire

Tables 10a and 10b present the results of the health questionnaire. The Medical Officer and the Medical Orderly at the prison obtained this information by interviewing each prisoner. Again the percentages given in these tables are based on the prisoners' own statements in answering the questions asked.

Table 10a. Health Questionnaire. Results for the 'One Term' and 'Three or More Terms' Groups of Prisoners, Expressed in Percentages.

	One prison term (N=101)	Three or more prison terms (N=60)	Total group (N=183)
Suffers from			
Stomach ulcers	3%	-	2%
Skin condition	8	2%	6
Asthma	5	7	6
Suffers from			
blackouts	9	23	13
fits	2	5	3
memory loss	3	12	7
Has done boxing	28	38	30
Involved in one or more car accidents	54	55	55
Involved in one or more motor cycle accidents	14	20	11
Has been knocked unconscious	39	57	45
Has sustained a head injury	16	38	24
Has had psychiatric treatment	12	23	18
Has been a heavy drinker	23	50	32
States he is an alcoholic	6	28	13
Has had treatment for alcoholism	5	17	8
Drinking just prior to committing offence	56	65	58
"Under the influence" when committing offence	41	53	46
Positive family history -			
Prison sentence	20	22	21
Psychiatric treatment	20	18	20
Treatment for alcoholism	3	7	4

Table 10b. Health Questionnaire. Results for the 'Dishonesty', 'Violence' and 'Sex' Groups of Prisoners, Expressed in Percentages.

	Crimes of dishonesty (N=98)	Crimes of violence (N=22)	Sex crimes (N=18)	Total group (N=183)
Suffers from stomach ulcers	2%	5%	-	2%
skin condition	4	9	-	6
asthma	4	9	-	6
Suffers from blackouts	12	9	22%	13
fits	5	5	-	3
memory loss	5	-	17	7
Has done boxing	29	36	28	30
Involved in one or more car accidents	48	68	72	55
Involved in one or more motor cycle accidents	22	18	17	11
Has been knocked unconscious	46	55	44	45
Has sustained a head injury	20	36	28	24
Has had psychiatric treatment	14	14	22	18
Has been a heavy drinker	29	32	44	32
States he is an alcoholic	11	9	17	13
Has had treatment for alcoholism	6	9	11	8
Drinking just prior to committing offence	49	86	67	58
"Under the influence" when committing offence	38	74	44	46
Positive family history				
Prison sentence	26	14	17	21
Psychiatric treatment	20	23	11	20
Treatment for alcoholism	3	5	-	4

Very few of the prisoners reported that they suffered from stomach ulcers, skin conditions or asthma, possibly indicating a low incidence of psychosomatic conditions.

The percentage of prisoners stating that they suffer from blackouts is higher, particularly in the 'three or more terms' group and the group guilty of sex crimes. The incidence of heavy drinking and alcoholism is high for both these groups, and this may partly account for the numbers that report blackouts.

The numbers who reported that they had been knocked unconscious, sustained a head injury, had boxing experience, and been involved in road accidents are high - items that were included because of their possible bearing on the incidence of brain damage.

The 'three or more terms' group has higher percentages than the 'one term' group on all items relating to 'organicity.' 57% of the 'three or more terms' group stated that they had been knocked unconscious and 38% reported head injury.

The 'violence' group has high percentages on several of the 'organicity' items, with 55% stating that they had been knocked unconscious and 36% reporting head injury.

The percentages for involvement in one or more car accidents are consistently high, with a figure of 68% for the 'violence' group, and 72% for the 'sex' group.

The incidence of reported psychiatric treatment is

highest for the 'three or more terms' group and the 'sex' group.

The 'three or more terms' group has higher percentages than the 'one term' group on all items relating to drinking behaviour.

The 'sex' group has higher percentages on the items recording heavy drinking and alcoholism than the 'dishonesty' and 'violence' groups.

58% of the total group reported that they were drinking just prior to committing the offence, and 46% reported that they were under the influence when committing the offence. It is noted that the 'violence' group has very high figures for these two items - 86% and 74%.

21% of the total group reported that one or more members of their family has served a prison sentence, and 20% reported that one or more members of their family has received psychiatric treatment.

V. Discussion

This study of the characteristics of a prison population, with particular reference to certain personality variables, is based on a sample of 197 consecutive admissions to Risdon Male Prison, Tasmania, during the last quarter of 1966. It is not claimed that the sample is representative of all prisoners who serve sentences at Risdon. Nor can it be claimed that the findings are applicable to all criminals in Tasmania. Farber (1941) points out that we cannot assume that a criminal in prison behaves in the same way as a criminal at large in the variables in question. The prison environment may account for some of the differences found.

The study is a beginning to the task of defining the prison population in the State of Tasmania, and raises a number of questions that could form the basis of further research.

The prisoners were examined in small groups within a week of their admission to the prison. They appeared to accept the testing as part of the routine of admission procedure. They were co-operative, and in a number of cases questions put to the examiner indicated interest in what they were doing. Nevertheless attitudes towards the examiner and the testing programme cannot be assessed on appearances only. The lie scale of the Eysenck Personality Inventory and the motivational distortion scale of the Sixteen Personality Factor Questionnaire are more objective

measures of test attitude - although there is some doubt as to just what these scales are measuring.

The prisoners' mean score on the E.P.I. (Form A) lie scale was 3.36, less than one standard deviation above the mean of the normal standardization sample, and lower than the means of the Australian Army groups tested by Salas and Richardson (1968).

The prisoners' mean score on the 16 P.F. (Form C) motivational distortion scale was 4.6 stens compared to the general population mean of 5.5, and a mean of 5.7 for the New Zealand group of prisoners who were given the same test by Williamson (1966).

The test papers of a small number of prisoners (6 in the case of the E.P.I. and the 16 P.F.) were rejected on the grounds of doubtful motivation.

Thus there are these pointers to a co-operative attitude on the part of most of the prisoners in the sample.

The test scores of prisoners serving their first sentence are compared with the test scores of prisoners who have been sentenced three or more times. These groups might be described as "first offenders" and "recidivists", but these descriptions are unsatisfactory for a number of reasons. The point in time at which an offender receives his first prison sentence depends on how successful he has been in avoiding detection, on the sentencing policy of magistrates and judges, as well as on a number of other factors. Thus the "first offender" group is far from

homogeneous in regard to criminal history. Then there is the obvious point that "first offender" groups necessarily include the future "recidivists".

The 'three or more terms' group of the present study is more homogeneous in regard to criminal history and perhaps the members of this group can reasonably be described as "recidivists". A weakness of some studies is the failure to define the classification "recidivist".

While there are these difficulties in relation to the composition of a "first offender" group, it could be argued that differences that are found between "first offenders" and "recidivists" are likely to be real differences that would be accentuated if the potential "recidivists" could be excluded from the "first offender" group.

A further difficulty in comparing the two groups in relation to personality variables is the unknown effects of the prison environment on the members of each group.

The criminal records of the prisoners are the basis of the classification according to type of crime. The methods employed in assigning prisoners to the 'dishonesty', 'violence' and 'sex' groups are, in some respects, arbitrary.

Limitations of the study are the small numbers in the 'violence' and 'sex' groups, and the grouping together of the various sex crimes. With larger numbers the 'sex' group could have been broken down into sub-groups.

Age Composition

The ages of the prisoners range from 16 to 60, with a mean age of 26.7. 61% of the sample are in the 16-25 age range, and 29 of the 197 prisoners, or 15%, are in the 16-17 age group. It is a matter of concern that boys of 16 and 17 are being sent to prison and associating with older offenders.

The 'three or more terms' group is in the main comprised of older men than the 'one term' group. There is a trend for the prisoners guilty of crimes of violence to belong to the younger age groups, while the prisoners guilty of crimes of a sexual nature tend to belong to older age groups.

Educational and Literacy Levels

Prisoners' reports of the classes they reached at school are sometimes inaccurate. In addition, the highest class reached is not necessarily an indication of educational standard, as dull children are often promoted on age rather than on achievement. For these reasons scores on standardized tests are a better guide to educational level. Scores on the Word Knowledge Test and the Army Literacy Test suggest that about 40% of the present sample are educationally backward to a greater or lesser degree.

Some prisoners were unable to do the tests because of reading difficulty. Just under 10% of the prisoners are classified as illiterate or near-illiterate from their scores on the Army Literacy Test.

Intelligence

The Otis Test, with a preponderance of verbal items, is not an entirely satisfactory instrument for assessing prisoners' intelligence. Nevertheless as a group test it is widely used.

The mean I.Q. score for 180 of the prisoners is 89.1, with only slight variations from this figure for the subgroups. About half the prisoners scored in the 90-109 or average range of scores. 50% scored below 90, compared to 25% in a normal distribution. 24% of the group obtained a score of 79 or less, and 5% obtained a score of 69 or less. The percentage of prisoners at the lower end of the scale would rise if it is accepted that most of the prisoners who did not do the test because of reading difficulty would be of low intelligence.

Brown and Courtless (1968) report the results of a recent survey in the U.S.A. Questionnaires were mailed to 207 penal institutions and I.Q. information was returned on 90,477 inmates. The mean I.Q. was 93.2 and 9.5% were classified as mentally retarded, obtaining an I.Q. score of 69 or less.

Personality

The personality findings are based on the Eysenck Personality Inventory (Form A) scores of 165 prisoners, and the Sixteen Personality Factor Questionnaire (Form C) scores of 162 prisoners. This means that over 30 prisoners in the sample are excluded. A number of prisoners excluded themselves because they were unable to read or were very slow readers. Others have been excluded on the basis of low scores on other tests. Data on the Army Literacy Test suggests that a score of 7 on the reading comprehension section represents a critical level, below which reading ability is insufficient for even the simplest of everyday demands. The personality questionnaires of prisoners who failed to reach a score of 7 on this section of the Literacy Test have been rejected. In addition the questionnaires of prisoners who failed to reach a score of 70 I.Q. on the Otis Test have been rejected. These rejection levels are to some extent arbitrary, and might be considered too low.

Hundleby and Connor (1968) administered personality inventories to 267 airmen. They report a correlation of $+ .73$ between the M.P.I. extraversion scale and the 16 P.F. (Form A) second order extraversion factor, and a correlation of $+ .60$ between the M.P.I. neuroticism scale and the 16 P.F. second order anxiety factor. They comment that the two extraversion scales could be regarded as identical for most

purposes, and that M.P.I. neuroticism and 16 P.F. anxiety have much in common, but show differences worth considering.

In the present study the correlations of the E.P.I. scales with the 16 P.F. second order factors are reasonably high - + .55 for E.P.I. extraversion and 16 P.F. extraversion and + .59 for E.P.I. neuroticism and 16 P.F. anxiety. While the E.P.I. extraversion scores are at about the midpoint of the scale, indicating neither an introversive or extraversive trend for the group, the 16 P.F. scores indicate introversion - as is the case with New Zealand and New South Wales samples.

The component factors of the 16 P.F. second order extraversion are factors A (reserved - outgoing), E (submissive - assertive), F (serious - happy-go-lucky), H (shy - venturesome), and Q2 (group-dependent - self-sufficient).

In the present sample, and also the New Zealand and New South Wales samples, the score on factor H is particularly low, indicating shyness and aloofness. It is not surprising that criminals should be withdrawn. Many of them have known disturbed family relationships during their childhood, and as adults they may be withdrawn because they lack the capacity to form or to sustain satisfactory relations with the people around them; or they may not wish to be seen and recognised by former acquaintances; or they may keep to themselves to avoid detection.

Cattell (1957) comments that criminals obtain high scores on factor Q2, indicating that they are self-sufficient, independent and resourceful. The Q2 scores for the three prisoner groups under consideration do not deviate substantially from the mean. However there are differences between the groups, the Tasmanian prisoners scoring below the mean, the New Zealand and New South Wales prisoners scoring above the mean, indicating a degree of self-sufficiency.

Statistical tests of significance have failed to reveal any significant differences in the E.P.I. and 16 P.F. extraversion scores of the various sub-groups. Nevertheless there are certain trends in the scoring. The 'three or more terms' group obtained a lower score than the 'one term' group on the E.P.I. extraversion scale. The 16 P.F. extraversion scores are almost identical for the two groups. However in the New Zealand study the habitual offenders obtained a lower score than the first offenders on the 16 P.F. second order extraversion. These findings suggest that in the main recidivists may be more introverted than first offenders. Franks (1956) has suggested that the majority of recidivists are slightly introverted in personality. Blackler (1968) puts forward the hypothesis that recidivism is correlated with an increasing isolation from society.

The 'violence' group has higher scores than the 'dishonesty' and 'sex' groups on the extraversion scales of

both personality questionnaires. Looking at this group's scores on the 16 P.F. component factors, the score on factor E is above the mean, that is, in the direction of assertiveness and aggressiveness. These indications that those who commit crimes of violence against the person are more extraverted and aggressive suggest that the tests are sensitive to these personality differences among the prisoners.

The prisoners obtained above average scores on both the E.P.I. neuroticism scale and the 16 P.F. second order anxiety factor. The 16 P.F. anxiety score is also high for the New Zealand and New South Wales prisoners.

The component factors of the 16 P.F. second order anxiety are factors L (trusting - suspicious), O (placid - apprehensive), Q4 (relaxed - tense), C (low ego strength - high ego strength), H (shy - venturesome), and Q3 (casual - controlled).

The Tasmanian prisoners obtained a low score on factor Q3 - indicating a casual attitude with uncertainty and indecision, a low score on factor H - indicating shyness and aloofness and a slightly elevated score on factor L - indicating a suspicious attitude and a tendency towards paranoid thinking. These scoring trends are also present in the New Zealand and New South Wales groups, and in addition these groups deviate substantially from the mean on the other three component factors of second order anxiety.

The low C score indicates low ego strength and neurotic emotionality; the high O score indicates insecurity and feelings of apprehension; the high Q4 score indicates tension and excitability.

Because of these deviations the second order anxiety scores are much higher for the New Zealand and New South Wales prisoners, suggesting that the members of these samples are more neurotic and disturbed than the members of the Tasmanian sample. There is a noteworthy difference in the scores on factor C. The Tasmanian score is just above the mean - indicating that ego strength and stability are at about the average level, while the New Zealand and New South Wales scores are considerably below the mean - indicating low ego strength with neurotic instability and emotionality. Cattell (1957) states that the C score tends to be high in criminals as opposed to neurotics. The difference in the scores on factor O is also pronounced. The Tasmanian score is slightly below the mean - indicating that feelings of security and confidence are at about the average level, while the New Zealand and New South Wales scores are well above the mean - indicating feelings of insecurity and inadequacy.

Again statistical tests of significance do not reveal any significant differences in either the E.P.I. neuroticism scores or the 16 P.F. anxiety scores of the sub-groups. However there is a consistent trend in the

direction of a higher level of neuroticism in the persistent offenders. The 'three or more terms' group obtained higher scores than the 'one term' group on both E.P.I. neuroticism and 16 P.F. anxiety. In the New Zealand study the habitual offenders obtained a higher score than the first offenders on the 16 P.F. second order anxiety.

Higher L scores are noted in the 'three or more terms' group and the 'violence' group, suggesting a more pronounced paranoid tendency in the persistent offender and the offender who commits crimes of violence against the person.

The Tasmanian, New Zealand and New South Wales prisoners scored low on factor B of the 16 P.F., the factor measuring mental capacity.

The 16 P.F. profile of the Tasmanian group of prisoners is not as deviant as the profiles of the prisoner groups in New Zealand and New South Wales, and not as deviant as the profile presented in the I.P.A.T. Information Bulletin No. 8 (1963) for American prisoners. The Tasmanian profile differs from the others in the scores on factors C and O, the Tasmanian scores indicating that ego strength and confidence are at the average level.

The Questionnaires

The results from the general questionnaire reveal that 73% of the prisoners come from urban areas, 76% work in unskilled or semi-skilled occupations and 30% were unemployed at the time of committing their last offence. These findings, together with the test scores, suggest a sub-culture which might be described as a working class area, where the educational standard is on the low side and the unemployment level is high.

The figures on religious denomination reveal that the proportion of Roman Catholics drops by 13% and the proportion of "Other Protestants" drops by 12% in moving from the 'one term' to the 'three or more terms' group. On the other hand there is a rise of 23% in the proportion of Church of England prisoners in the 'three or more terms' group. It might be postulated that greater numbers of Roman Catholics and members of the smaller Protestant Churches practice their religion and that early religious training is a deterrent to continuance in a life of crime. This is an area that requires further investigation.

A quarter of the 'three or more terms' group had been inmates of Ashley Home for Boys. This may mean that a number of the boys admitted to the Home were potential recidivists, and the Home has been unable to effect permanent changes in their attitudes and behaviour. This

is another area in which research is needed.

The health questionnaire reveals that 32% of the 189 prisoners interviewed stated that they had been heavy drinkers. It is interesting to note that this figure agrees with figures from a previous study of Tasmanian offenders by Daunton - Fear (1967). In her study 32% of 269 convicted offenders, and 32% of 145 prisoners, were classified as heavy drinkers on the basis of records at the Police Department and the Probation Service. This agreement in the findings on the two occasions may be an indication of the truthfulness of the prisoners in answering questions put to them by the Medical Officer and the Medical Orderly.

In the present study the figure of 32% rises to 50% for the 'three or more terms' group. The 'three or more terms' group has higher percentages than the 'one term' group on all items relating to drinking behaviour, suggesting that recidivism may be correlated with an increasing consumption of alcohol.

58% of the prisoners stated that they were drinking just prior to committing the offence, and 46% stated that they were "under the influence" when committing the offence. The figures for the members of the sample belonging to the violence sub-group are exceptionally high - 86% stating that they were drinking, and 74% stating that they were "under the influence".

Shupe (1954) reports on the urine alcohol concentration found in 882 persons arrested during or immediately after the commission of an offence in Columbus, Ohio. He regards an alcohol concentration of .10% as a critical level, which may be associated with the release of inhibitions. He reports that 65% of the sample had an alcohol concentration of at least .10%, and the figure for the members of the sample who committed crimes of violence is 79%. He points out that the figures are only for those who were caught at their crime, and so may be misleading.

Grigsley (1963) studied the relationship between alcohol and crime at the Raiford State Prison, Ohio. His findings are based on a sample of 351 prisoners. He gives the prisoner version and the official version of the percentage of the prisoners who were drinking, drunk, or under the influence of alcohol at the time they committed their offences. The prisoners version is 38.7%; the official version is 29.9%.

Blackler (1968) reports on a sample of English prisoners, comprising 438 first sentence men and 242 second sentence men. 25% of the first group, and 32% of the second group claimed that the offence was committed under the influence of drink or drugs.

There is probably a tendency for prisoners to overstate the amount of alcohol consumed and the effects it had on their behaviour at the time the offence was committed,

believing that this lessens their responsibility for their actions. The Raiford figures suggest that this tendency may not be pronounced. The extent to which the figures from the present study are an overstatement is not known. The figures are very high, and a careful study of this aspect of criminal behaviour is needed.

There are several items in the health questionnaire that may have bearing on the important question of the incidence of brain damage among prisoners. The items are those that deal with blackouts, fits, memory loss, boxing experience, involvement in road accidents, concussion, head injury, heavy drinking and alcoholism. The 'three or more terms' has higher percentages than the 'one term' group on all these items, suggesting that recidivism may be correlated with an increasing incidence of brain damage.

VI. Summary

In order to investigate the personality characteristics of Tasmanian prisoners a sample of 197 prisoners at Risdon Male Prison was studied by means of psychological tests and two questionnaires.

The ages of the prisoners ranged from 16 to 60, with close on two-thirds in the 16-25 age group. The Otis Higher Intelligence Test was administered to 180 of the prisoners. The mean I.Q. was 89.1, with 5% of the group scoring at the mentally defective level, that is, scoring 69 or less. It is suggested that this figure would be nearer to 10% if the prisoners who were unable to read had been assessed with an alternative test. Tests of educational level revealed that about 40% of the prisoners were educationally backward, and 10% were illiterate or near-illiterate. 76% of the sample worked in unskilled or semi-skilled occupations.

Two personality tests were used - the Eysenck Personality Inventory (Form A) and the Sixteen Personality Factor Questionnaire (Form C). There is substantial agreement in the findings from the two tests. There is no support for the contention that prisoners are extraverted in personality, the E.P.I. indicating neither an introversive or an extraversive trend for the group, and the 16 P.F. indicating introversion. The E.P.I. indicates a slightly above average level of neuroticism and the 16 P.F. indicates a slightly above average level of anxiety in this group of

prisoners.

The 16 P.F. profile for the group reveals aloofness and suspicion, and marked uncertainty and indecision. Neurotic features are not as pronounced as in the 16 P.F. profiles of some other prisoner groups.

There are no significant differences in the intelligence and personality test scores of the 'one prison term' and 'three or more prison terms' groups, or in the scores of the groups based on type of crime; certain trends in the scoring are noted.

The study suggests that recidivism may be correlated with:-

1. An increasing isolation from society.
2. An increasing degree of neuroticism.
3. An increasing consumption of alcohol.
4. An increasing incidence of brain damage.

APPENDIX A

Classification of Offences

- Using the List of Offences

in the 1966-67 Report of the

Controller of Prisons

Crimes of Dishonesty

Stealing.

Break a building other than a dwelling house.

Unlawfully use motor vehicle.

False pretences.

Housebreaking.

Uttering.

Imposition.

Forgery.

Receiving.

Burglary.

Unlawful possession.

Robbery with violence.

Attempt to steal.

Fraud.

Attempted break a building other than a dwelling house.

Robbery.

Crimes of Violence

Assault.

Assault a police officer.

Assault a female.

Robbery with violence.

Manslaughter.

Unlawful act intended to cause bodily harm.

Sex Crimes

Indecent assault.

Indecent exposure.

Indecent practices between male persons.

Defilement.

Rape.

Unnatural carnal knowledge.

Assault a female child with indecent intent.

Carnal knowledge.

APPENDIX B

Frequency Tables for Prisoners'
Scores on the Word Knowledge
Test, the Literacy Test and
the Otis Intelligence Test

A.C.E.R. Word Knowledge Test (Adult Form B) -

Distribution of Scores for Different Groups of Prisoners -

Classified According to the Number of Prison Terms.

Range of Scores (centile rank)	One Term (N=102)	Two Terms (N=20)	Three or more Terms (N=60)	Total Group (N=182)
91 - 100	1	-	-	1
81 - 90	7	1	6	14
71 - 80	1	1	2	4
61 - 70	4	2	5	11
51 - 60	13	2	5	20
41 - 50	8	1	4	13
31 - 40	12	1	10	23
21 - 30	11	1	5	17
11 - 20	23	4	6	33
1 - 10	22	7	17	46

NOTE: There are no scores for 9 subjects who were unable to read, 2 who had language difficulty, and 4 who were poorly motivated.

A.C.E.R. Word Knowledge Test (Adult Form B) -

Distribution of Scores for Different Groups of Prisoners -

Classified According to Type of Crime.

Range of Scores (centile ranks)	Dis-honesty (N=98)	Vio-lence (N=21)	Sex (N=17)	Mis-cellaneous (N=46)	Total Group (N=182)
91 - 100	1	-	-	-	1
81 - 90	6	2	2	4	14
71 - 80	2	1	-	1	4
61 - 70	4	3	2	2	11
51 - 60	13	1	-	6	20
41 - 50	7	1	2	3	13
31 - 40	9	3	1	10	23
21 - 30	7	2	3	5	17
11 - 20	21	5	3	4	33
1 - 10	28	3	4	11	46

NOTE: There are no scores for 9 subjects who were unable to read, 2 who had language difficulty, and 4 who were poorly motivated.

Army Literacy Test (Form LB) - Distribution of Scores for Different
Groups of Prisoners -
Classified According to the Number of Prison Terms.

	One Term (N=107)	Two Terms (N=23)	Three or More Terms (N=62)	Total Group (N=192)
S	66	13	40	119
EB	32	5	17	54
NI	5	3	4	12
I	4	2	1	7

- S - satisfactory
- EB - educationally backward
- NI - near-illiterate
- I - illiterate

NOTE: There are no scores for 2 subjects who had language difficulty, and 3 who were poorly motivated.

Army Literacy Test (Form LB) - Distribution of Scores for Different
Groups of Prisoners -
Classified According to Type of Crime.

	Dis- honesty (N=104)	Violence (N=23)	Sex (N=19)	Miscell- aneous (N=46)	Total Group (N=192)
S	60	16	10	33	119
EB	31	4	7	12	54
NI	8	1	2	1	12
I	5	2	-	-	7

- S - satisfactory
- EB - educationally backward
- NI - near-illiterate
- I - illiterate

NOTE: There are no scores for 2 subjects who had language difficulty, and 3 who were poorly motivated.

Otis Higher Intelligence Test (Form C) - Distribution of Scores for
Different Groups of Prisoners -
Classified According to the Number of Prison Terms.

Range of Scores (I.Q.'s)	One Term (N=100)	Two Terms (N=20)	Three or More Terms (N=60)	Total Group (N=180)
120-129	1	-	-	1
110-119	4	1	1	6
100-109	19	3	9	31
90- 99	25	4	23	52
80- 89	26	7	13	46
70- 79	20	4	11	35
60- 69	5	1	3	9

NOTE: 21 subjects at the low end of the scale are represented by extrapolated scores.

There are no scores for 11 subjects who had reading difficulty, 2 who had language difficulty, and 4 who were poorly motivated.

Otis Higher Intelligence Test (Form C) - Distribution of Scores
for Different Groups of Prisoners - Classified According to Type
of Crime.

Range of Scores (I.Q's.)	Dishonesty (N=96)	Violence (N=20)	Sex (N=18)	Miscellaneous (N=46)	Total Group (N=180)
120-129	-	-	-	1	1
110-119	3	1	-	2	6
100-109	17	5	3	6	31
90-99	21	6	3	22	52
80-89	28	4	9	5	46
70-79	21	4	3	7	35
60-69	6	-	-	3	9

Note:

21 subjects at the low end of the scale are represented by extrapolated scores.

There are no scores for 11 subjects who had reading difficulty, 2 who had language difficulty, and 4 who were poorly motivated.

APPENDIX C

Eysenck Personality Inventory
and Sixteen Personality Factor
Questionnaire - Means and
Standard Deviations

Eysenck Personality Inventory (Form A) - Means and Standard Deviations for Different Groups of Prisoners - Classified According to the Number of Prison Terms.

		One Term (N = 94)	Two Terms (N = 19)	Three or more Terms (N = 52)	Total Group (N = 165)
E	M	13.17	11.42	12.50	12.76
	S.D.	4.26	3.82	3.96	4.16
N	M	9.81	12.26	11.22	10.53
	S.D.	5.19	4.29	5.65	5.32
L	M	3.59	3.21	3.02	3.36
	S.D.	1.86	1.44	1.91	1.85

E extraversion

N neuroticism

L lie scale

Note: The questionnaire results of 9 subjects who failed to reach a score of 7 on the reading comprehension section of the Literacy Test or a score of 70 I.Q. on the Otis Test, are excluded.

There are no scores for 15 subjects who had reading difficulty, 2 who had language difficulty, and 6 who were poorly motivated.

Eysenck Personality Inventory (Form A) - Means and Standard Deviations for Different Groups of Prisoners - Classified According to Type of Crime.

	Dishonesty (N=89)	Violence (N=19)	Sex (N=16)	Miscellaneous (N=41)	Total Group (N=165)
E M	12.93	13.84	12.69	11.90	12.76
S.D.	3.89	3.87	4.47	4.55	4.16
N M	10.73	10.37	10.44	10.22	10.53
S.D.	5.40	4.09	4.36	5.37	5.32
L M	3.44	2.90	3.75	3.27	3.36
S.D.	1.93	1.59	1.30	1.91	1.85

E extraversion

N neuroticism

L lie scale

Note: The questionnaire results of 9 subjects who failed to reach a score of 7 on the reading comprehension section of the Literacy Test, or a score of 70 I.Q. on the Otis Test, are excluded.

There are no scores for 15 subjects who had reading difficulty, 2 who had language difficulty, and 6 who were poorly motivated.

Sixteen Personality Factor Questionnaire (Form C) - Means and Standard Deviations for Different Groups of Prisoners - Classified according to the Number of Prison Terms.

	One Term (N=94)		Two Terms (N = 18)		Three or more Terms (N = 50)		Total Group (N = 162)	
	M	S.D.	M	S.D.	M	S.D.	M	S.D.
A	4.8	2.5	4.2	1.9	4.5	2.3	4.7	2.5
B	4.2	1.8	4.1	1.6	4.0	1.7	4.1	1.7
C	5.9	2.8	5.9	2.5	5.5	2.2	5.8	2.3
E	5.0	2.0	4.8	1.2	5.7	1.9	5.2	1.9
F	4.9	2.2	3.3	1.6	4.6	2.3	4.7	2.2
G	5.2	2.3	5.3	1.6	5.0	2.2	5.1	2.2
H	3.9	1.5	3.2	1.6	3.8	2.1	3.8	1.7
I	5.2	2.0	5.0	2.1	5.1	2.2	5.2	2.1
L	6.4	2.1	7.6	2.1	7.3	2.5	6.7	2.3
M	4.6	2.0	5.6	2.1	6.1	2.0	5.2	2.1
N	5.9	2.4	5.9	2.1	6.3	1.9	6.0	2.2
O	6.0	2.2	5.4	1.9	5.0	2.4	5.1	2.2
Q1	4.7	2.0	5.3	1.7	5.0	2.1	4.8	2.0
Q2	4.9	2.4	4.6	2.4	5.1	2.2	4.9	2.3
Q3	3.9	1.8	2.6	1.9	3.4	1.8	3.6	1.9
Q4	6.2	1.9	7.1	1.4	6.6	2.0	6.4	1.9
M.D.	4.8	2.1	4.7	1.7	4.2	2.5	4.6	2.2
EXT.	4.4	1.8	3.3	1.4	4.3	2.1	4.2	1.9
ANX.	6.4	1.7	7.2	1.7	6.7	1.7	6.6	1.7

M.D. motivational distortion scale.

EXT. second order extraversion.

ANX. second order anxiety.

Note: The questionnaire results of 5 subjects who failed to reach a score of 7 on the reading comprehension section of the Literacy Test, or a score of 70 I.Q. on the Otis Test, are excluded.

There are no scores for 22 subjects who had reading difficulty, 2 who had language difficulty, and 6 who were poorly motivated.

(The figure of 22 includes those who because of slowness, could not complete the test in the time available).

Sixteen Personality Factor Questionnaire (Form C) - Means and Standard Deviations for Different Groups of Prisoners - Classified according to Type of Crime.

	Dis-honesty (N=87)		Violence (N = 19)		Sex (N=16)		Miscellaneous (N = 40)		Total Group (N=162)	
	M	S.D.	M	S.D.	M	S.D.	M	S.D.	M	S.D.
A	4.6	2.4	5.5	2.6	4.8	2.3	4.4	2.2	4.7	2.5
B	4.1	1.8	3.9	1.5	3.8	1.6	4.4	1.6	4.1	1.7
C	5.8	2.4	5.1	2.0	5.5	2.2	6.1	2.3	5.8	2.3
E	5.3	1.9	6.2	1.8	4.4	1.7	4.8	2.0	5.2	1.9
F	4.6	1.9	4.9	2.4	4.4	2.3	4.6	2.6	4.7	2.2
G	5.4	3.2	4.3	2.3	5.4	2.0	4.9	2.2	5.1	2.2
H	3.8	1.7	4.4	2.1	3.6	1.9	3.6	1.4	3.8	1.7
I	5.4	2.0	4.8	2.4	4.8	2.2	5.1	1.9	5.2	2.1
L	6.6	2.2	7.6	2.0	6.4	2.7	6.8	2.2	6.7	2.3
M	5.2	2.2	5.7	1.9	5.5	1.8	4.8	2.2	5.2	2.1
N	5.8	2.2	6.5	2.6	5.1	1.9	6.6	2.0	6.0	2.2
O	5.2	2.2	4.5	2.4	4.9	2.2	5.3	2.3	5.1	2.2
Q1	5.0	2.0	4.7	1.9	4.2	1.4	4.8	2.1	4.8	2.0
Q2	4.8	2.3	5.2	2.5	4.8	2.4	5.1	2.3	4.9	2.3
Q3	3.9	1.8	3.1	1.6	3.2	1.9	3.4	1.8	3.6	1.9
Q4	6.4	1.9	6.3	1.9	6.3	1.9	6.6	1.8	6.4	1.9
MD	4.8	2.4	3.6	2.1	5.1	1.9	4.5	1.8	4.6	2.2
EXT	4.2	1.7	5.0	2.4	3.9	2.1	3.9	1.9	4.2	1.9
ANX	6.6	1.7	6.5	1.6	6.5	2.0	6.7	1.4	6.6	1.7

M.D. motivational distortion scale.

EXT. second order extraversion.

ANX. second order anxiety.

Note:-

The questionnaire results of 5 subjects who failed to reach a score of 7 on the reading comprehension section of the Literacy Test, or a score of 70 I.Q. on the Otis Test, are excluded.

There are no scores for 22 subjects who had reading difficulty, 2 who had language difficulty, and 6 who were poorly motivated. (The figure of 22 includes those who, because of slowness, could not complete the test in the time available).

APPENDIX D

The General Questionnaire

SURNAME..... Christian Names.....
Date of birth..... Age years.
Date

Father's occupation

Your occupation

How many brothers and sisters did you have?

Where did you come in the family?

Were your parents separated?

How old were you when they separated?

Who looked after you when you were young (mother, step-mother, foster-mother, State Home) ?

Were you ever sent to Wybra Hall?

Were you ever sent to Ashley Home?

Are you married?

When were you married (year) ?

No. of children?

Where is your home now (suburb or town) ?

Where were you living at the time you committed the offence that led to this imprisonment (suburb or town) ?

Did you have a job at the time?

How long had you been out of work?

What is your religion?

Are you a church-goer?

APPENDIX E

The Health Questionnaire

SURNAME..... Christian Names.....

Date of birth/...../..... Age years.

Date/...../.....

HEALTH

Are you in good health?

What serious illnesses have you had?

Do you suffer from blackouts?

fits of any kind?

loss of memory?

stomach ulcers?

skin conditions?

asthma?

bed-wetting?

any other disability?

Have you done any boxing?

Number of motor car accidents

Number of accidents when you were the driver

Number of motor bike accidents

Number of accidents when you were the driver

Number of times you have been knocked
unconscious for any reason

How long were you unconscious?

1)

2)

3)

How long were you in hospital and did you have a head operation?

1)

2)

3)

Are there any lasting results from head injury?

Have you had an examination for a nervous condition ("bad nerves") ?

When? Where?

Have you had treatment for a nervous condition?

When?Where?

Have you been a heavy drinker

Has your home life been affected by your drinking?

Has your work been affected by your drinking?

Have you had "blackouts" when drinking?

Do you regard yourself as an alcoholic?

Have you had treatment for alcoholism?

When? Where?

Single, married, widowed, separated, divorced or de-facto wife?

Members of family (father, mother, brother, sister, wife, children) who have had:-

1) A gaol sentence

2) Treatment for a nervous condition

3) Treatment for alcoholism

Were you alone when you committed the offence that led to this imprisonment?

Were you drinking just before you committed the offence?

Or drinking within an hour of committing the offence?

Or drinking within two hours of committing the offence?

Were you "under the influence" when you committed the offence?

How many cigarettes did you smoke per day?

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