Scoring Instructions for the DOSPERT Scale (from Blais & Weber, 2006)

1. The DOSPERT scale contains three separate response scales: 'Risk-Taking', 'Risk-Perceptions', and 'Expected Benefits'. Coefficients from the latter two can be used to assess risk-attitude (see "Risk attitude within a risk-return framework" on page 2). Each response scale uses the same items from the five or six domain subscales show in Table 1 below.
2. Each DOSPERT scale item is labeled 'E', 'F' (see *Note*), 'H/S', 'R', or 'S' (remove these labels prior to administering DOSPERT to participants). These letters indicate the subscale to which the item belongs. E = Ethical, F = Financial, H/S = Health/Safety, R = Recreational, and S = Social. *Note:* Optionally, the six financial items can be split into three gambling items (F/G) and three investment items (F/I).
3. Add rating scores across all items of a given subscale (i.e. 'E', "F', 'H/S', 'R', or 'S') to obtain the domain score. Either use this sum or divide the domain score by the number of items (i.e. three or six) in the given subscale.

Table 1

Domain subscale	Item text
Ethical (E)	6. Taking some questionable deductions on your income tax return. (E)
	9. Having an affair with a married man/woman. (E)
	10. Passing off somebody else's work as your own. (E)
	16. Revealing a friend's secret to someone else. (E)
	29. Leaving your young children alone at home while running an errand. (E)
	30. Not returning a wallet you found that contains $200. (E)
Financial (Investment/Gambling) (F/I, F/G)	12. Investing 5% of your annual income in a very speculative stock. (F/I)
	4. Investing 10% of your annual income in a moderate growth mutual fund. (F/I)
	18. Investing 10% of your annual income in a new business venture. (F/I)
	3. Betting a day's income at the horse races. (F/G)
	14. Betting a day's income on the outcome of a sporting event (F/G)
	8. Betting a day's income at a high-stake poker game. (F/G)
Health/Safety (H/S)	5. Drinking heavily at a social function. (H/S)
	15. Engaging in unprotected sex. (H/S)
	17. Driving a car without wearing a seat belt. (H/S)
	20. Riding a motorcycle without a helmet. (H/S)
	23. Sunbathing without sunscreen. (H/S)
	26. Walking home alone at night in an unsafe area of town. (H/S)
Recreational (R)	2. Going camping in the wilderness. (R)
	11. Going down a ski run that is beyond your ability. (R)
	13. Going whitewater rafting at high water in the spring. (R)
	19. Taking a skydiving class. (R)
	24. Bungee jumping off a tall bridge. (R)
	25. Piloting a small plane. (R)
Social (S)	1. Admitting that your tastes are different from those of a friend. (S)
	7. Disagreeing with an authority figure on a major issue. (S)
	21. Choosing a career that you truly enjoy over a more prestigious one. (S)
	22. Speaking your mind about an unpopular issue in a meeting at work. (S)
	27. Moving to a city far away from your extended family. (S)
	28. Starting a new career in your mid-thirties. (S)

Scoring instructions for risk—return interpretation of domain-specific risk-taking scale

Risk attitude can be conceptualized in the risk-return framework of risky choice used in finance. In this framework, people's preference for risky options is assumed to reflect a tradeoff between an option's expected benefit, usually equated to expected value (EV), and its riskiness. In finance, riskiness of an option is equated to its variance, but psychological risk-return models treat perceived riskiness as a variable that can differ between individuals and as a function of content and context:

$$\text{Preference (X)} = a(\text{Expected Benefit(X)}) + b(\text{Perceived Risk(X)}) + c$$

1. To find the coefficients *a*(Expected Benefit(X)) and *b*(Perceied Risk(X)), regress "Expected Benefits" and "Risk-Perceptions" on "Risk-Taking" for each participant, using corresponding scores from each item, as shown in Table 2 below. *Note:* A positive coefficient *b* indicates risk-seeking behavior and a negative coefficient *b* indicates risk-aversion behavior.
2. Calculate risk-attitude using the formula above.

DOSPERT data in ANOVA or general linear model

Some groups may differ in risk-perceptions and expected benefits. Get the coefficients *a*(Expected Benefits(X)) and *b*(Perceived Risk(X)) for each participant and use them as dependent measures. Analyze using ANOVA or a general linear model.

Table 2

Domain subscale	X	*a*(Expected Benefits(X))	*b*(Perceived Risk(X))
Ethical (E)	6. Taking some questionable deductions on your income tax return. (E)	*a*(Expected Benefits score for item #6)	*b*(Perceived Risk score for item #6)
	9. ""	""	""
	10. ""	""	""
	16. ""	""	""
	29. ""	""	""
	30. ""	""	""
Financial (Investment/Gambling) (F/I, F/G)	12. ""	""	""
	4. ""	""	""
	18. ""	""	""
	3. ""	""	""
	14. ""	""	""
	8. ""	""	""
Health/Safety (H/S)	5. ""	""	""
	15. ""	""	""
	17. ""	""	""
	20. ""	""	""
	23. ""	""	""
	26. ""	""	""
Recreational (R)	2. ""	""	""
	11.""	""	""
	13. ""	""	""
	19. ""	""	""
	24. ""	""	""
	25. ""	""	""
Social (S)	1. ""	""	""
	7. ""	""	""
	21. ""	""	""
	22. ""	""	""
	27. ""	""	""
	28. Starting a new career in your mid-thirties. (S)	*a*(Expected Benefits score for item #6)	*b*(Perceived Risk score for item #28)