The Systems and Individual Responsibility for Poverty (SIRP) Scale

Instructions:
Think for a moment about people who are affected by poverty and the society in which we live. While we know that there are many reasons why people end up in poverty, what is your understanding regarding most people living in poverty?

Examine the following list of statements and indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each statement.

Response options:

1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree

Items:

Individual Blame Scale

Individual Blame- Being in Poverty Subscale
  If you are experiencing poverty in the United States, it is the result of your own choices.
  If you are experiencing poverty in the United States, it is the result of your own attitudes.
  If you are experiencing poverty in the United States, it is the result of your own skills and abilities.
  If you are experiencing poverty in the United States, it is the result of your priorities.

Individual Blame- Not Getting out of Poverty Subscale
  If you work hard enough, you can get out of poverty.
  If you are motivated enough, you can get out of poverty.
  If you are willing to accept support from friends and family, you can get out of poverty.
  If you are willing to accept support from social services, you can get out of poverty.

Systems Blame Scale
  If you are experiencing poverty in the United States, it is the result of problems in our system of education.
  If you are experiencing poverty in the United States, it is the result of problems in our system of government.
  If you are experiencing poverty in the United States, it is the result of problems in our economic system.
  If you are experiencing poverty in the United States, it is the result of the behavior of everyone in society.
  Wealthy people are responsible for the amount of poverty in the United States.
  Government policies are responsible for the amount of poverty in the United States.
  Government politics are responsible for the amount of poverty in the United States.
  Discrimination causes poverty in the United States.
  Policies related to the workplace (e.g. minimum wage, child care, health care) cause poverty in the United States.