

Kassin, S. M., Goldstein, C. C., & Savitsky, K. (2003). Behavioral confirmation in the interrogation room: On the dangers of presuming guilt. *Law and Human Behavior, 27*, 187-203.

**I. Interrogation Questions Checklist – Ratings of the Guilt-Presumptiveness of Each Question**

| Interrogation Questions                                                              | <i>M</i> | <i>SD</i> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| 1. Where were you and what were you doing during the past hour?                      | 2.97     | 2.18      |
| 2. Were you in Room 100 of Miller House earlier today?                               | 4.18     | 2.59      |
| 3. Why were you in Room 100 of Miller House earlier today?                           | 6.58     | 2.50      |
| 4. Do you know anything about the locked cabinet in Room 100?                        | 5.18     | 2.58      |
| 5. Tell me about the basket that's in the locked cabinet in Room 100.                | 7.67     | 2.29      |
| 6. Do you know anything about the key that was hidden behind the VCR?                | 5.64     | 2.46      |
| 7. How did you find the key that was hidden behind the VCR?                          | 8.72     | 1.28      |
| 8. Do you know anything about the \$100 that was taken from Room 100?                | 5.02     | 2.53      |
| 9. You stole the \$100 from Room 100, didn't you?                                    | 9.15     | 1.67      |
| 10. Was there anyone else in Room 100 when you were there earlier?                   | 7.02     | 1.80      |
| 11. You were seen before by a fellow student who was in Room 100; did you know that? | 7.69     | 1.92      |
| 12. It's not a big deal if someone took the money; do you know who did it?           | 5.52     | 2.36      |
| 13. It's not a big deal if you took the money, so why don't you just admit it?       | 9.21     | 1.62      |

*Note.* Each question was rated on a scale from 1 to 10 (1 = not at all presuming guilt, 10 = very much presuming guilt).

## II. Interrogation Techniques Checklist - Ratings of the Coerciveness of Each Technique

| Interrogation Techniques                                                                                                                                                 | <i>M</i> | <i>SD</i> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| 1. Appeal to the suspect's moral character and conscience.                                                                                                               | 4.48     | 2.51      |
| 2. Appeal to God and religion--and the need to confess one's sins.                                                                                                       | 4.62     | 2.42      |
| 3. Tell the suspect that there is independent evidence of his or her guilt (e.g. surveillance tapes, witnesses, or fingerprints)--so that he or she may as well confess. | 8.39     | 1.75      |
| 4. Underplay the seriousness of the crime by convincing the suspect that it is no big deal, something that others do all the time.                                       | 6.31     | 1.93      |
| 5. Offer sympathy and understanding, and lead the suspect to believe that he or she can trust you.                                                                       | 6.34     | 2.06      |
| 6. Pick apart the suspect's story by pointing out the inconsistencies and contradictions.                                                                                | 6.51     | 2.18      |
| 7. Make repeated accusations and let the suspect know that you will not accept any denials.                                                                              | 7.57     | 2.10      |
| 8. Threaten to bring the police into the investigation if the suspect does not confess.                                                                                  | 7.74     | 1.81      |
| 9. Convince the suspect that "cooperating" would be in his or her best interest.                                                                                         | 6.75     | 1.87      |
| 10. Minimize the seriousness of the offense by suggesting to the suspect that it was not planned, just something that he or she did on the spur of the moment.           | 6.11     | 1.81      |
| 11. Intimidate the suspect by overplaying the seriousness of the offense.                                                                                                | 6.68     | 2.28      |
| 12. Offer the suspect leniency in exchange for a confession.                                                                                                             | 7.54     | 1.95      |
| 13. Tell the suspect that the questioning will stop once he or she confesses.                                                                                            | 7.10     | 2.20      |

*Note.* Each technique was rated on a scale from 1 to 10 (1 = not at all coercive, 10 = very coercive).