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1 **Title:** The weight specific adolescent instrument for economic evaluation (WAItE): Psychometric  
2 evaluation using a Rasch model approach

3

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13

14 **Key words:** Obesity; Quality of Life; Economic evaluation; Adolescents; Condition-specific measure;  
15 Rasch analysis; Adults

16

17 **Running title:** A Rasch model approach to validate the WAItE

18

19 **The WAItE is available from the corresponding author upon request**

20

21

22

## 23 INTRODUCTION

24 Paediatric obesity is of global concern currently. Children and adolescents who are above healthy  
25 weight are more likely to become overweight or obese adults and it is well recognised that obesity has  
26 a negative impact on health-related quality of life (HRQoL) [1,2]. Obesity in adulthood adds to the  
27 burden on healthcare budgets through higher risks of morbidity, disability and premature mortality [1].  
28 Dietary and lifestyle interventions are the main approaches to the treatment of paediatric obesity (Ho et  
29 al., 2012), however, policy-makers increasingly require evidence of cost-effectiveness. In the United  
30 Kingdom (UK) and elsewhere, the recommended method of cost-effectiveness analysis is the quality-  
31 adjusted life-year (QALY) [3], typically derived from a generic health-related preference-based  
32 measure (PBM). There are a number of well-established weight-related HRQoL instruments for  
33 younger respondents (e.g. KINDL-Obesity module [4]; Impact of Weight on Quality of Life–Kids  
34 version (IWQOL-Kids) [5]; Moorehead-Ardelt Quality of Life Questionnaire II (M-A-QoL Q) [6];  
35 Sizing Me Up [7]; Youth Quality of Life – Weight (YQOL-W) [8]). However, there is no weight-  
36 specific preference based measure for adolescents with obesity. This is needed as preference values  
37 can be derived for use in the QALY calculation [9]. Accordingly, the **W**eight-specific **A**dolescent  
38 **I**nstrument for **E**conomic-evaluation (**WAItE**) was developed for adolescents living with obesity. The  
39 WAItE is a short, 7-item measure which was developed based on the views and experiences of UK  
40 adolescent girls and boys aged 11 to 18 years. Preliminary psychometric assessments on the final set  
41 of seven items comprising the WAItE have been encouraging [10]. However, further psychometric  
42 investigation is necessary.

43

44 Evidence of measurement properties is critical for the field of patient-reported outcomes as use of  
45 unsuitable or poor quality outcome measurement instruments may introduce bias. Rasch analysis can  
46 be used in the evaluation of the psychometric properties of new and existing instruments. Few of the  
47 existing weight-related tools have employed Rasch analysis in their assessment of measurement  
48 properties [11]. Approaches most frequently used in instrument development and the assessment of  
49 psychometric properties rely on statistical procedures based on Classical Test Theory (CTT). However,  
50 two major conceptual limitations of CTT have been pointed out: the lack of an explicit ordered  
51 continuum of items that represent a unidimensional construct, and the lack of additivity of rating scale  
52 data [12]. Rasch analysis does not suffer from the aforementioned limitations, but instead facilitates  
53 examination of the hierarchical structure, unidimensionality and additivity of HRQOL measures.

54

55 As is the case for adolescents, there currently exists no weight-specific preference based measure (PBM)  
56 for adult with obesity. The resources and time required to create such a tool are significant. Therefore,  
57 if there is evidence to support use of the WAIItE for the adult population via assessments of psychometric  
58 properties, this will diminish the need for the development of a new instrument and the resource  
59 implications attached to this. The aims of the present study therefore were: to assess the performance  
60 of the WAIItE in a sample of adolescents with obesity engaged in weight management and to assess the  
61 applicability and validity of the WAIItE in a general adult sample.

62

## 63 **METHODS**

### 64 *Data: Participants and procedures*

#### 65 *Adolescent sample*

66 Adolescents (females n= 155 & males n= 123; mean (SD) age = 13.3 yrs (1.7 yrs) and 13.1 yrs (1.7 yrs)  
67 respectively) were enrolled on two weight management programmes in north of England between 2012  
68 and 2015 (the More Life [13] and Watch It [14] weight management programmes). Both programmes  
69 were multicomponent lifestyle interventions (i.e. included educational, dietary and physical activity  
70 components). Adolescents came from all over the United Kingdom through a range of sources,  
71 including self/parental referral, medical referral, or referral from social services, primary care trusts  
72 (PCTs) or educational organizations. Weight status and acceptance into the weight management  
73 programme was contingent on having an age and gender adjusted body mass index (BMI) indicating  
74 overweight or obesity [15]. In the main, health screening was performed by the family general  
75 practitioner [16]. All adolescents were eligible for inclusion in the study unless the staff delivering the  
76 weight management intervention indicated otherwise (e.g. unable to self-complete the questionnaire  
77 due to learning difficulties). Staff explained to families that completion of the WAItE was optional and  
78 was administered at two time points to consenting participants: baseline (T1) and at the end of the  
79 programme (follow-up T2). As per the consenting procedures employed within their own organisations,  
80 firstly implicit consent from all parents was obtained by weight management staff as part of the baseline  
81 face-to-face meeting with families. After that adolescents who chose to participate and gave their  
82 consent were given the opportunity to complete the WAItE at the two time points. Details regarding  
83 the weight and height of each study participant were obtained from the records kept by the weight  
84 management service and was accessed after parents and adolescents gave consent for the records to be  
85 shared with the research team. In the main, data were inputted by weight management staff including  
86 data on descriptive characteristics, weight status and response to the WAItE and an anonymised  
87 database was then provided. No identifiable information was sent to researchers.

88

89 *Adult sample*

90 An adult sample (females n= 236 & males n= 231; mean (SD) age = 41.2 yrs (13.9 yrs) & 44.3 yrs (14.3  
91 yrs) respectively) completed a web-based survey incorporating an electronic version of the WAItE in  
92 2012. Participants were recruited from a consumer panel. All were over 18 years and recruitment was  
93 based on quotas in terms of gender and age in order to obtain a balanced sample of respondents. Weight  
94 status of the adult sample were as follows: mean BMI = 27.8, from which 33.6% were classified as  
95 overweight and 25.1% with obesity. After obtaining consent from participants, questions on descriptive  
96 characteristics, self-report weight and height and the WAItE instrument were administered. Participants  
97 completing the survey were given a nominal payment of £1.75 by the survey company if they fully  
98 completed the survey.

99

100 Ethical approval was provided by the University of Leeds, School of Medicine Research Ethics  
101 Committee for both the adolescents and adult studies (Ref: HSLTLM/11/049).

102

103 *Measures* The Weight-specific Adolescent Instrument for Economic-evaluation (WAItE) was  
104 developed in conjunction with adolescents living in the UK. Adolescents' views were crucial to the  
105 development of the content of the WAItE in order to focus on aspects of life affected by weight that  
106 were important to them. There were 2 phases to the development of the WAItE and the study by  
107 Oluboyede et al. provides details of this [10].

108

109 The WAItE comprises seven items: 1) I get tired, 2) I struggle to keep up when I am walking around  
110 with others, 3) I avoid doing sports, 4) I struggle to concentrate on my studies/work, 5) I feel  
111 embarrassed shopping for clothes, 6) I feel unhappy because I am unable to do the same things as others  
112 and 7) People treat me differently when I go out. There was a five-level response scale: Never, Almost  
113 never, Sometimes, Often and Always.

114

115

116 *Analysis*

117 A Rasch analysis was undertaken using *Winsteps* version 3.81.1 software [17]. Rasch models [18,19]  
118 are a family of probabilistic logistic models which map item difficulty or location, person measure or  
119 score along the same latent trait. The Partial Credit Model (PCM) [19] was applied to the data. This is  
120 a Rasch model for ordinal items and is appropriate for analysing polytomous data where response  
121 categories are reversed (i.e. problematic level orderings where responders find it difficult to distinguish  
122 between item response levels. In the context of Rasch analysis response categories are reversed in  
123 situations in which the scale locations of incremental item threshold parameters do not monotonically  
124 increase) or differ across items. The following steps were employed in the analysis:

125

- 126 1. Category disordering was assessed through an analysis of the response categories for each item.  
127 The assumption within the model is that the level of latent trait increases monotonically with  
128 response categories for each item. Category disordering occurs when this monotonic  
129 relationship breaks down and response categories may be combined to overcome this problem.  
130 Disordering may occur where the number of responses per category is low. Therefore, the  
131 number of responses <10 were noted for each item category.  
132
- 133 2. Secondly, item fit to the Rasch model was evaluated. The most commonly used statistics to  
134 determine item fit are the infit and outfit mean squares which are Chi-squared statistics divided  
135 by the degrees of freedom. The expected value of the mean squares is 1. Mean squares greater  
136 than 1 indicate misfit to the model, whereas values less than 1 indicate overfit. A range of 0.7  
137 to 1.3 is usually used to assess fit [20].  
138
- 139 3. A principal components analysis was subsequently applied to the residuals to determine  
140 whether the domains constituted a unidimensional structure, i.e. whether there were any  
141 additional dimensions present. An eigenvalue <2 for the first contrast, i.e. once the variance  
142 explained by the Rasch structure has been factored out, and >50% of the variance explained by  
143 the Rasch structure are indicative of a unidimensional structure [17,21].

144 4. Uniform Differential Item Functioning (DIF) was assessed to determine whether the items  
145 performed equally across gender (male/female) and age group (2 levels for the adolescent's  
146 sample (age 11-14 and 15-18) and 3 for the adults (age 18-34, 35-54, and 54+). The Welch t-  
147 test was used to evaluate DIF: item location parameters were estimated separately for a  
148 reference group and focal group(s) through logistic regression. The difference between these  
149 estimates was then tested for statistical significance [22]. The Bonferroni correction was  
150 applied to account for multiple testing ( $p \leq 0.01$  after adjustment). A criterion of a difference  
151 between item location estimates of  $\leq 0.5$  logits was also used to evaluate DIF [23]. The impact  
152 of any DIF was evaluated by estimating the person measures separately comparing those  
153 derived from the entire sample with those derived using items displaying DIF.

154

155 Steps 1-4 were repeated for the two datasets from adolescent's responses, as well as the adult dataset.  
156 The difference between item locations for the two time points in the adolescent's datasets was used to  
157 evaluate the stability of the item location estimates: a difference  $< 0.5$  logits was deemed to be evidence  
158 of item stability. The change in person measures over time was also evaluated for the adolescent's  
159 dataset using a paired t-test. Cronbach's alphas were derived as a measure of internal reliability ( $> 0.7$   
160 indicating good internal reliability)

161



## 162 **RESULTS**

### 163 *Adolescent sample*

164 Cronbach's alpha was 0.80 for the combined (T1 and T2) adolescent data, suggesting good degree of  
165 internal reliability. Category disordering was observed for only one item, namely item 1, "I get tired."  
166 At time 1 this was observed for response category 2 "Almost never", and at time 2 this was observed  
167 for response category 5 *Always*. However, in both instances the number of responses per category >10.  
168 The datasets from the two time points were therefore combined and the analysis re-run. No category  
169 disordering was observed for the combined sample. For time 1 the eigenvalues in the first contrast  
170 amounted to 1.91. For time 2 this value was 1.73 suggesting no further dimensionality was present in  
171 the factor structure. Item fit is shown in Table 1. All items fit fell within the criterion range both at time  
172 1 and time 2 indicating no item misfit. Table 2 shows the results of the DIF analysis. No DIF was  
173 displayed by any other items either by gender or by age except for a single item (item 1). Item 1, which  
174 displayed a small degree of DIF, was more easily endorsed by younger adolescents (<11 ages) at time  
175 1. Differences in item locations for time 1 and 2 are shown in Table 1. There was minimal change in  
176 item locations over time with all differences <0.5 logits. The mean person measure at time 1 was -0.48  
177 (standard deviation (SD) = 1.12) and -0.78 at time 2 (SD = 1.15) indicating a reduction in scores over  
178 time. This difference was statistically significant:  $t(277) = 5.66, p < 0.001$  (mean difference = -0.30, SD  
179 of the difference = 0.87).

180

### 181 *Adult sample*

182 Cronbach's alpha was 0.83 for the adult data sample, suggesting good degree of internal reliability. A  
183 small degree of category disordering was observed for item 1 between the first (-2.36 logits) and second  
184 response categories (-2.38 logits). This was not associated with low item category responses (>10). The  
185 amount of variance explained by the first contrast was <2.0 suggesting a unidimensional structure. No  
186 item misfit was observed for any of the 7 items (Table 3). Although 3 items did demonstrate statistically  
187 significant DIF by gender (items 1, 4 and 5) the difference between item locations did not exceed the

188 <0.5 logits threshold. It may therefore be concluded that no DIF was observed by gender (Table 4).  
189 Three items demonstrated DIF by age category, namely items 3, 5 and 7 (Table 4). For instance, item 3  
190 was more easily endorsed by individuals aged 55+ compared to those in the 18 to 34 age group  
191 categories. The average differences in person estimates for the 35-54 group and the 55+ age group were  
192 small: -0.08 logits (SD 0.16) and -0.09 (SD 0.18), respectively although they were statistically  
193 significant ( $t(220) = 7.49, p < 0.001$ ) and  $t(97) = 5.20, p < 0.001$ ).

194

### 195 *Adolescents and Adults*

196 The variance explained by the Rasch structure amounted to 49.5%, 50.7% and 59.8% for the adolescents  
197 (time 1 and 2) and adults, respectively.

198

## 199 **DISCUSSION**

200 The aims of this study were to further extend the psychometric assessment of the WAItE in adolescents  
201 with obesity and to determine the applicability of the WAItE in an adult population. The results  
202 demonstrated that the WAItE has a unidimensional structure (both for adolescents and adults). Item  
203 misfit has the potential to distort the measurement properties of an instrument, in other words to  
204 negatively impact on the accuracy of the measures or scores produced by respondents. The results  
205 showed there was no item misfit observed for either samples and no differential item functioning was  
206 present by age or gender for the adolescents. For the adolescent sample stable item locations were  
207 observed over time. These assessments of the measurement properties of the WAItE indicate favourable  
208 findings in terms of the psychometric evaluation and tests of reliability that have been performed. The  
209 tool can be used in the accurate assessment of weight specific QoL with adolescents. Further research  
210 assessing other measurement properties such as external validity are underway. We observed that there  
211 might be a potential issue with item 1 in terms of category disorder (further research can be undertaken  
212 to determine which if any categories need to be collapsed). Some DIF was also observed in the adult  
213 sample (3 items), although this appeared to have little or no impact on the person measure estimates.

214

215 Existing studies show that instruments can be appropriate for use with a group for which the measure  
216 was not directly involved in its development [24]. For example, a recent study by Ratcliffe et al., 2012  
217 found that the CHU9D, a generic instrument originally developed with young people aged 7–11 years,  
218 demonstrated properties of reliability and validity when used with was adolescents aged 11–17 years.  
219 Given that the content of the WAIte was developed with 11-18 year olds, the feasibility of using the  
220 tool with and older age groups was therefore also evaluated. The findings from this study on the  
221 performance of the WAIte for adults are promising. In future work it would be beneficial to supplement  
222 these findings with qualitative interviews with adults to serve as a further check on the appropriateness  
223 of the WAIte content. Future qualitative work would benefit from including adults with obesity  
224 engaged in weight management.

225

226 Only a minority of the well-known generic QoL instruments for adolescents have employed Rasch  
227 analysis in their assessment of measurement properties. The KIDSCREEN52 [25] and Paediatric  
228 Quality of Life Inventory (PedsQL) [26] have been subjected to item-response-theory analysis. Rasch  
229 analysis is yet to be performed on any of the existing weight-specific tools where the content has been  
230 informed by adolescents. The WAIte therefore is the only weight specific measurement of QoL that  
231 has been developed with adolescents and whose internal structure has been confirmed by Rasch  
232 analysis. Its value will become apparent from use in future assessments of weight management services  
233 that engage adolescents with obesity.

234

235 In terms of study limitations, for the adolescent participant sample recruitment was limited to one  
236 geographical location within the UK. This, together with a lack of information on the socio-economic  
237 status of adolescent participants, might have implications on generalisability of findings. Similarly, this  
238 sample did not include adolescents with severe obesity who require treatment in a hospital setting.  
239 However, the applicability of the WAIte in these adolescents is something that can be tested in future  
240 research. A key strength of the study was that all adolescents were engaged with and recruited from

241 community-based weight management services. Potential limitations pertaining to the adult  
242 participants include concerns about data quality due to the web-based method of administration of the  
243 survey. However, it has been noted that potential problems that might arise from a web-based mode of  
244 administration are not unique as they may also arise with self-report pen and paper surveys [24]. Key  
245 advantages of a web-based method of survey administration are the ability to recruit from a wide  
246 geographical distribution and to set recruitment quotas reflective of background characteristics, for  
247 example, recruiting to achieve an even split across gender.

248

249

250 Faced with finite and decreasing budgets, decision makers are tasked with ensuring efficiency in the  
251 allocation of resources. As it stands, the WAItE can be implemented in assessments of cost-  
252 effectiveness of weight management interventions aimed at both adolescents and adults to derive an  
253 incremental cost per WAItE score calculation. The WAItE score can be calculated to evaluate whether  
254 there is in an improvement or deterioration between the intervention groups being compared. Future  
255 research involving a preference valuation study [9] to elicit weight-specific utility values for states  
256 described by the WAItE will be needed to facilitate cost-utility analysis of weight management  
257 interventions for adolescents and adults.

258

259 Overall, given the results from the Rasch analysis, the WAItE showed sufficient psychometric  
260 properties to encourage further use in adolescents and adults with obesity.

261

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326

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## ETHICAL APPROVAL

All procedures performed in studies involving human participants were in accordance with the ethical standards of the institutional and/or national research committee and with the 1964 Helsinki declaration and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards.

Ethical approval was provided by the University of Leeds, School of Medicine Research Ethics Committee for both the adolescents and adult studies (Ref: HSLTLM/11/049).

**Informed consent:** Both of the weight management services followed their own procedures for obtaining consent. All parents and carers of adolescents provided written or oral consent for adolescents to complete the WAItE. If parents did not object then written or oral assent (under 16 years) /consent (16 years plus) for all participating adolescents was obtained. Anonymised datasets were provided directly from weight management organisations who adhered to strict security protocols.

Adult participants who were recruited from a consumer panel provided consent to the market research company to be approached and complete web surveys.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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# TABLES

**Table 1. Item fit for adolescent sample - Combined for T1 & T2**

<b>Item<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Location time 1</b>	<b>IN.MSQ<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>OUT.MSQ<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>Location time 2</b>	<b>IN.MSQ</b>	<b>OUT.MSQ</b>	<b>Difference T1-T2</b>
<b>WAItE_1</b>	-1.08	1.06	1.07	-0.85	1.02	1.05	0.23
<b>WAItE_2</b>	0.20	1.06	1.05	0.35	1.03	0.98	0.15
<b>WAItE_3</b>	0.60	1.17	1.19	0.32	0.99	1.01	-0.28
<b>WAItE_4</b>	0.04	1.18	1.13	-0.05	1.20	1.25	-0.09
<b>WAItE_5</b>	-0.13	0.87	0.84	-0.01	0.92	1.05	0.12
<b>WAItE_6</b>	-0.11	0.71	0.67	-0.09	0.73	0.71	0.02
<b>WAItE_7</b>	0.47	0.98	0.87	0.35	1.07	1.09	-0.12

<sup>a</sup>WAItE\_1 = Tired; WAItE\_2 = Walking; WAItE\_3 = Sports; WAItE\_4 = Concentrate;

WAItE\_5 = Embarrassed; WAItE\_6 = Unhappy; WAItE\_7 = Treated differently

<sup>b</sup> Misfit Indices: IN.MSQ = Infit Mean Square; OUT.MSQ = Outfit Mean Square

**Table 2. Differential Item Functioning (DIF) adolescents**

<b>Gender (t1)</b>												
<b>Item</b>	<b>Item location (Girls)</b>	<b>SE<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Item location (Boys)</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>CONTRAST<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Joint SE</b>	<b>t<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>df<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>p<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>MH X2<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>p (MH)<sup>a</sup></b>	
WAItE_T1_1	-1.12	0.12	-1.03	0.13	-0.09	0.18	-0.49	257	0.62	0.34	0.56	
WAItE_T1_2	0.17	0.09	0.24	0.11	-0.07	0.14	-0.52	256	0.61	0.44	0.51	
WAItE_T1_3	0.54	0.09	0.68	0.11	-0.14	0.14	-1.00	256	0.32	0.81	0.37	
WAItE_T1_4	0.19	0.09	-0.14	0.10	0.32	0.13	2.43	260	0.02	6.54	0.01	
WAItE_T1_5	-0.19	0.08	-0.04	0.09	-0.14	0.12	-1.17	256	0.24	1.81	0.18	
WAItE_T1_6	-0.11	0.08	-0.13	0.09	0.02	0.13	0.16	258	0.87	0.28	0.60	
WAItE_T1_7	0.47	0.09	0.44	0.10	0.02	0.13	0.19	255	0.85	0.03	0.87	
<b>Age group<sup>b</sup> (t1)</b>												
<b>Item</b>	<b>Item location (11-14)</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>Item location (15-18)</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>CONTRAST</b>	<b>Joint SE</b>	<b>t</b>	<b>df</b>	<b>p</b>	<b>MH X2</b>	<b>p (MH)</b>	
WAItE_T1_1	-0.95	0.10	-1.48	0.18	0.53	0.21	2.59	105	0.01	9.69	0.00	
WAItE_T1_2	0.18	0.08	0.28	0.15	-0.10	0.17	-0.63	102	0.53	0.05	0.83	
WAItE_T1_3	0.63	0.08	0.50	0.14	0.13	0.16	0.78	104	0.44	0.66	0.42	
WAItE_T1_4	0.04	0.08	0.00	0.14	0.04	0.16	0.29	103	0.77	0.02	0.90	
WAItE_T1_5	-0.17	0.07	0.01	0.13	-0.18	-0.14	1.23	103	0.22	1.74	0.19	
WAItE_T1_6	-0.11	0.07	-0.09	0.13	-0.02	0.15	-0.14	103	0.89	0.42	0.52	
WAItE_T1_7	0.43	0.07	0.57	0.13	-0.13	0.15	-0.87	103	0.39	1.70	0.19	
<b>Gender (t2)</b>												
<b>Item</b>	<b>Item location (Girls)</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>Item location (Boys)</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>CONTRAST</b>	<b>Joint SE</b>	<b>t</b>	<b>df</b>	<b>p</b>	<b>MH X2</b>	<b>p (MH)</b>	
WAItE_T2_1	-0.94	0.11	-0.75	0.13	-0.19	0.17	-1.11	258	0.27	0.46	0.50	
WAItE_T2_2	0.39	0.10	0.30	0.11	0.09	0.15	0.59	261	0.56	0.14	0.71	
WAItE_T2_3	0.32	0.10	0.32	0.11	0.00	0.15	0.00	260	1.00	0.00	0.98	
WAItE_T2_4	0.10	0.09	-0.24	0.10	0.33	0.14	2.41	262	0.02	4.46	0.03	
WAItE_T2_5	-0.19	0.08	0.24	0.10	-0.43	0.13	-3.26	249	0.0013	11.90	0.00	
WAItE_T2_6	-0.12	0.09	-0.07	0.10	-0.05	0.13	-0.36	258	0.72	0.08	0.77	

WAIte_T2_7	0.46	0.10	0.21	0.10	0.26	0.14	1.84	264	0.07	2.86	0.09
<b>Age group (t2)</b>											
<b>Item</b>	<b>Item location (11-14)</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>Item location (15-18)</b>	<b>SE</b>	<b>CONTRAST</b>	<b>Joint SE</b>	<b>t</b>	<b>df</b>	<b>p</b>	<b>MH X2</b>	<b>p (MH)</b>
WAIte_T2_1	-0.77	0.10	-1.14	0.17	0.37	0.20	1.88	103	0.06	3.87	0.05
WAIte_T2_2	0.31	0.09	0.46	0.16	-0.14	0.18	-0.79	101	0.43	0.41	0.52
WAIte_T2_3	0.29	0.09	0.39	0.15	-0.10	0.18	-0.55	102	0.58	0.29	0.59
WAIte_T2_4	-0.01	0.08	-0.18	0.14	0.17	0.16	1.05	104	0.30	0.50	0.48
WAIte_T2_5	-0.04	0.07	0.09	0.13	-0.13	0.15	-0.87	102	0.39	0.55	0.46
WAIte_T2_6	-0.13	0.08	0.03	0.14	-0.16	-0.16	1.03	102	0.30	1.69	0.19
WAIte_T2_7	0.38	0.08	0.27	0.14	0.11	0.16	0.67	107	0.50	0.36	0.55

<sup>a</sup> S.E = Standard Error; CONTRAST = difference in logits between the two measures; t = Wald t-statistic; df = Degrees of freedom; p = p-value; MH X2 = Mantel-Haenszel Chi-squared; p (MH) = Mantel-Haenszel p-value

<sup>b</sup>1) =11-14 year olds; 2) = 15-18 year olds

**Table 3. Item fit for adult sample**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Item location</b>	<b>IN.MSQ</b>	<b>OUT.MSQ</b>
<b>WAIte_1</b>	-1.78	1.13	1.15
<b>WAIte_2</b>	0.44	0.85	0.84
<b>WAIte_3</b>	-0.85	1.38	1.55
<b>WAIte_4</b>	0.20	1.13	1.10
<b>WAIte_5</b>	0.44	0.96	0.93
<b>WAIte_6</b>	0.43	0.64	0.63
<b>WAIte_7</b>	1.12	0.88	0.86

**Table 4. DIF Adults**

Items	Item location (Males)	SE	Item location (Females)	SE	CONTRAST	SE	t	df	p	MH X2	p (MH)
WAITE_1	-1.55	0.11	-2.00	0.10	0.44	0.15	3.00	481	0.003	10.50	0.00
WAITE_2	0.44	0.09	0.44	0.08	0.00	0.12	0.00	481	1.000	0.12	0.73
WAITE_3	-0.88	0.07	-0.82	0.07	-0.05	0.10	-0.52	482	0.603	0.07	0.79
WAITE_4	0.00	0.09	0.38	0.09	-0.38	-0.12	3.05	482	0.002	7.52	0.01
WAITE_5	0.64	0.09	0.28	0.08	0.36	0.11	3.14	475	0.002	11.45	0.00
WAITE_6	0.37	0.08	0.49	0.08	-0.11	-0.11	1.01	482	0.313	3.14	0.08
WAITE_7	1.04	0.09	1.19	0.09	-0.15	-0.13	1.20	481	0.230	2.35	0.13

  

CLASS	Group	Item difficulties 1	SE	CLASS	Item difficulties 2	SE 1	CONTRAST	SE 2	t	df	p	X2 (MH)	p
WAITE_1	18-34	-1.81	0.12	35-54	-1.73	0.11	-0.08	0.17	-0.46	366	0.644	0.31	0.58
WAITE_1	18-34	-1.81	0.12	55+	-1.84	0.16	0.03	0.21	0.15	200	0.881	0.12	0.73
WAITE_2	18-34	0.78	0.10	35-54	0.44	0.09	0.34	0.14	2.47	357	0.014	5.38	0.02
WAITE_2	18-34	0.78	0.10	55+	-0.15	0.13	0.93	0.16	5.66	215	0.000	27.37	0.00
WAITE_3	18-34	-0.38	0.09	35-54	-0.95	0.08	0.57	0.12	4.84	361	0.000	19.53	0.00
WAITE_3	18-34	-0.38	0.09	55+	-1.44	0.12	1.06	0.15	7.17	199	0.000	40.96	0.00
WAITE_4	18-34	-0.23	0.10	35-54	0.28	0.09	-0.51	-0.14	3.67	367	0.000	14.45	0.00
WAITE_4	18-34	-0.23	0.10	55+	0.82	0.15	-1.05	-0.18	5.87	190	0.000	29.36	0.00
WAITE_5	18-34	0.17	0.09	35-54	0.44	0.09	-0.27	-0.12	2.16	370	0.031	5.15	0.02
WAITE_5	18-34	0.17	0.09	55+	0.98	0.14	-0.81	-0.17	4.8	177	0.000	18.50	0.00
WAITE_6	18-34	0.45	0.10	35-54	0.43	0.08	0.02	0.13	0.17	363	0.869	0.34	0.56
WAITE_6	18-34	0.45	0.10	55+	0.43	0.13	0.02	0.16	0.13	199	0.895	0.07	0.80
WAITE_7	18-34	0.88	0.10	35-54	1.12	0.09	-0.24	-0.14	1.73	371	0.084	4.37	0.04
WAITE_7	18-34	0.88	0.10	55+	1.58	0.16	-0.71	-0.19	3.77	175	0.000	12.05	0.00