

## CHAPTER 3: Physical Activity Questionnaire for Adolescents (PAQ-A)

### 3.1 What is the PAQ-A?

The PAQ-A (a slightly modified version of the PAQ-C with the “recess” item removed) is a self-administered, 7-day recall instrument. *It was developed to assess general levels of physical activity for high school students in grades 9 to 12 and approximately 14 to 19 years of age.* The PAQ-A can be administered in a classroom setting and provides a summary physical activity score derived from eight items, each scored on a 5-point scale.

### 3.2 Keys to Successful Administration

1) *When the PAQ-A is administered it is important to stress 2 points:*

- a) Explain it is **NOT A TEST**
- b) Explain you are interested in **ACTUAL** activity during the last **7 DAYS**

2) *To Prevent Missing Data, have the research assistants quickly glance through the questionnaires when they are gathered from the students.*

a) Missing one response for an activity on item 1 has little effect on the overall score, but you don’t want the students missing entire items (ie. not having a response for item 6).

b) Explain to the students that the research assistants are not looking at their activity levels, but rather just making sure they haven’t missed any of the questions.

### Scoring

**Overall process - Find an activity score between 1 and 5 for each item (excluding item 9)**

#### Five Easy Steps

1) *Item 1 (Spare time activity)*

- Take the mean of all activities (“no” activity being a 1, “7 times or more” being a 5) on the activity checklist to form a composite score for item 1.

2) *Item 2 to 7 (PE, lunch, right after school, evening, weekends, describes you best)*

- The answers for each item start from the lowest activity response and progress to the highest activity response

- Simply use the reported value that is checked off for each item (the lowest activity response being a 1 and the highest activity response being a 5).

3) *Item 8*

- Take the mean of all days of the week (“none” being a 1, “very often” being a 5) to form a composite score for item 8.

4) *Item 9*

- Can be used to identify students who had unusual activity during the previous week, but this question is **NOT** used as part of the summary activity score.

5) How to calculate the final PAQ-A activity summary score

- Once you have a value from 1 to 5 for each of the 8 items (items 1 to 8) used in the physical activity composite score, you simply take the mean of these 8 items, which results in the final PAQ-A activity summary score.

### *Physical Activity Questionnaire (High School)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: M \_\_\_\_\_ F \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

We are trying to find out about your level of physical activity from *the last 7 days* (in the last week). This includes sports or dance that make you sweat or make your legs feel tired, or games that make you breathe hard, like tag, skipping, running, climbing, and others.

**Remember:**

3. There are no right and wrong answers — this is not a test.
4. Please answer all the questions as honestly and accurately as you can — this is very important.

1. Physical activity in your spare time: Have you done any of the following activities in the past 7 days (last week)? If yes, how many times? (Mark only one circle per row.)

	No	1-2	3-4	5-6	7 times or more
Skipping .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rowing/canoeing .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In-line skating .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tag .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Walking for exercise .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bicycling .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Jogging or running .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Aerobics .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Swimming .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Baseball, softball .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dance .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Football .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Badminton .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Skateboarding .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Soccer .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Street hockey .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Volleyball .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Floor hockey .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Basketball .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ice skating .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cross-country skiing .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ice hockey/ringette .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other:					
_____ .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
_____ .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2. In the last 7 days, during your physical education (PE) classes, how often were you very active (playing hard, running, jumping, throwing)? (Check one only.)

- I don't do PE .....
- Hardly ever .....
- Sometimes .....
- Quite often .....
- Always .....

3. In the last 7 days, what did you normally do *at lunch* (besides eating lunch)? (Check one only.)

- Sat down (talking, reading, doing schoolwork).....
- Stood around or walked around .....
- Ran or played a little bit .....
- Ran around and played quite a bit .....
- Ran and played hard most of the time .....

4. In the last 7 days, on how many days *right after school*, did you do sports, dance, or play games in which you were very active? (Check one only.)

- None .....
- 1 time last week .....
- 2 or 3 times last week .....
- 4 times last week .....
- 5 times last week .....

5. In the last 7 days, on how many *evenings* did you do sports, dance, or play games in which you were very active? (Check one only.)

- None .....
- 1 time last week .....
- 2 or 3 times last week .....
- 4 or 5 last week .....
- 6 or 7 times last week .....

6. *On the last weekend*, how many times did you do sports, dance, or play games in which you were very active? (Check one only.)

- None .....
- 1 time .....
- 2 — 3 times .....
- 4 — 5 times .....
- 6 or more times .....

7. Which *one* of the following describes you best for the last 7 days? Read *all five* statements before deciding on the *one* answer that describes you.

- F. All or most of my free time was spent doing things that involve little physical effort .....
- G. I sometimes (1 — 2 times last week) did physical things in my free time (e.g. played sports, went running, swimming, bike riding, did aerobics) .....
- H. I often (3 — 4 times last week) did physical things in my free time .....
- I. I quite often (5 — 6 times last week) did physical things in my free time .....
- J. I very often (7 or more times last week) did physical things in my free time .....

8. Mark how often you did physical activity (like playing sports, games, doing dance, or any other physical activity) for each day last week.

	None	Little bit	Medium	Often	Very often
Monday .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tuesday .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wednesday .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Thursday .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Friday .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Saturday .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sunday .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. Were you sick last week, or did anything prevent you from doing your normal physical activities? (Check one.)

- Yes .....
- No .....

If Yes, what prevented you? \_\_\_\_\_

