

**Offense Analogue Behaviour (OAB)**  
**&**  
**Offence Replacement Behaviour (ORB)**  
  
**Rating Guide**

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# OAB/ORB RATING GUIDE<sup>©</sup>

*Audrey Gordon and Stephen Wong, 2009-2014*

## Overview

- The Offense Analogue Behaviour (OAB) and Offense Replacement Behaviour (ORB) Guide, a supplement to the Violence Risk Scale (VRS; Wong & Gordon, 1999, 2006) was developed to assist assessors in identifying and monitoring OABs and ORBs. OABs are idiosyncratic criminogenic or offense-related behaviours and ORBs are corresponding risk-replacement or pro-social behaviours observable in custodial or other types of controlled environments.
- OABs are the here-and-now observable antisocial behaviours linked to the 20 criminogenic or dynamic risk factors in the VRS. OABs and ORBs should be rated for any VRS dynamic factor rated 2 or 3, that is, the identified high/moderate risk areas or treatment targets.
- Since the reduction in criminogenic risks through treatment or other interventions has been linked to a decrease in violence, reductions in OABs together with an increase in ORBs over the course of treatment should indicate positive treatment effects and a decrease in the risk of violence.
- The frequencies of OABs and ORBs are rated on 5-Point scales ranging from Never (0) to (4)Very Often/Always. All ratings should be made based on convergent staff observations of the offender in routine everyday and treatment related activities such as unstructured ward/unit activities, work, leisure, and treatment group activities etc and not be limited to treatment activities. All staff (e.g. treatment staff, ward/unit staff, work/school supervisors) with reasonable opportunities to observe the offender should be able to contribute to the ratings. The OAB/ORB Guide should be rated at regular intervals such as weekly, monthly or quarterly case reviews or as required. Relevant information used for ratings can be obtained through various means of communication between staff either individually or in groups such as emails, ward rounds etc.
- Changes in the frequency of OAB and ORB characteristics can indicate the effects of various interventions or changes in significant life events (e.g. a change in relationships).
- Additional information on OAB and ORB is available from Gordon, A. & Wong, S.C.P. (2010). *Offense Analogue Behaviours as indicator of criminogenic need and treatment progress in custodial settings*. In Daffern, M., Jones, L. & Shine, J. (Ed.). *Offence Paralleling Behaviour: An Individualized Approach to Offender Assessment and Treatment*. Wiley.

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### OAB/ORB Guide Rating Instructions:

- Place a “✓” in the ‘Not Applicable’ box if the item has not been identified as a treatment target for the individual, that is, the item has not received a 2 or 3 VRS rating.
- Place a “✓” in the “Unable to Assess” box if there is insufficient information available to rate the item or when there are special circumstances that preclude the item from being appropriately rated, such as the individual being placed in segregation or isolation, which would severely restrict opportunities for observations of OABs and/or ORBs.
- For applicable OAB items, place a “✓” in the box beside any of the applicable OAB/ORB descriptors that are provided and/or record any additional or alternative OABs or ORBs that correspond to the particular dynamic factor. *Note that the same ORB can often be applied to a number of dynamic factors. For example, taking a “time out” can have generalized applicability and can be an effective ORB for Impulsivity, Emotional Control and Interpersonal Aggression.*
- Using the guide below, circle a number (0, 1, 2, 3, 4) on the rating scale, ranging from Never to Very/Often Always, to indicate the *overall* rate of occurrence of OABs and/or ORBs observed during the assessment interval.

0	1	2	3	4
Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Very Often/Always

#### During the assessment period:

- Never (0)**                      The behaviours did not occur.
- Seldom (1)**                      The behaviours occurred only very rarely; the behaviours were very scarce, infrequent, uncommon.
- Sometimes (2)**                      The behaviours occurred at a rate higher than “seldom (1)” but lower than “often (3)”.
- Often (3)**                      The behaviours occurred many times and can be described as frequent and quite common. The behaviours were likely but not necessarily observable in a variety of situations and circumstances.
- Very Often/Always (4)**                      The behaviours occurred very frequently, most or all of the time. The behaviours were very likely but not necessarily observable in a variety of situations and circumstances.

# OAB & ORB Rating Guide<sup>©</sup>

## Gordon A. & Wong S.C.P.

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

Client #: \_\_\_\_\_

Rater(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Rating Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Assessment Period: From: \_\_\_\_\_

To: \_\_\_\_\_

### D1 – Violent Lifestyle

**OAB:**

Unable to Assess

Not Applicable

- Use violence or aggression as a lifestyle choice to fulfill needs
- Actual or documented suspicion of involvement in prohibited sub-cultural activities such as drug trade, gangs etc.

Additional/alternative OAB: \_\_\_\_\_

0	1	2	3	4
Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Very Often/Always

**ORB:**

Unable to Assess

Not Applicable

- Use pro-social rather than violence or aggression to fulfil needs.
- Avoids prohibited sub-cultural activities as above

Additional/alternative ORB: \_\_\_\_\_

0	1	2	3	4
Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Very Often/Always





### D6 – Interpersonal Aggression

**OAB:** Unable to Assess  Not Applicable

- Verbal aggression (e.g., swearing and shouting) and/or physical aggression directed at others
- Aggression directed at things (e.g. slamming doors, throwing, punching, or kicking things)
- Passive aggressive behaviours (isolate oneself from others, silent treatment)
- Engage in violent/aggressive fantasies and/or stalking

**Additional/alternative OAB:** \_\_\_\_\_

0	1	2	3	4
Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Very Often/Always

**ORB:** Unable to Assess  Not Applicable

- Use pro- rather than antisocial approaches such as time outs, perception-checking, consequential thinking, conflict resolution etc to deal with and reduce the incidence of aggression (as above).

**Additional/alternative ORB:** \_\_\_\_\_

0	1	2	3	4
Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Very Often/Always

### D7 – Emotional Control

**OAB:** Unable to Assess  Not Applicable

- Under-controlling emotional reactions: excessive emotional reactions to provocations, e.g., highly reactive or irritable, anger outbursts, flying off the handle easily or over-controlling emotional reactions, e.g. bottles up feelings only to react strongly or explode later.

**Additional/alternative OAB:** \_\_\_\_\_

0	1	2	3	4
Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Very Often/Always

**ORB:** Unable to Assess  Not Applicable

- Takes time-outs, talks with staff, uses relaxation, mindfulness or other emotional management skills successfully when emotionally distressed.

**Additional/alternative ORB:** \_\_\_\_\_

0	1	2	3	4
Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Very Often/Always





**D12 – Substance Abuse****OAB**Unable to Assess Not Applicable 

- Use, craving for or attempts to gain access to drugs; possession of substance-use paraphernalia
- Involvement or documented suspicion of involvement with known drug users or institutional drug trade
- Positive drug test results or non-compliance with drug testing
- Justifies, denies, or minimizes substance abuse issues, does not adhere to recommended interventions

**Additional/alternative OAB:** \_\_\_\_\_

0                      1                      2                      3                      4  
 Never                Seldom                Sometimes                Often                Very Often/Always

**ORB:**Unable to Assess Not Applicable 

- Distancing oneself from those involved in substance use or drug trade;
- Repeat negative drug test results & absence of drug-seeking behaviours, e.g. use medication as directly;
- Use relevant skills to decrease reliance on substances use, e.g., participation in substance use programmes, seek support from positive peers, staff etc.

**Additional/alternative ORB:** \_\_\_\_\_

0                      1                      2                      3                      4  
 Never                Seldom                Sometimes                Often                Very Often/Always

**D13 – Stability of Relationships with Significant Others****OAB:**Unable to Assess Not Applicable 

- No awareness of the importance of positive relationships
- Justifies or maintains dysfunctional relationships that are abusive, manipulative, exploitative, controlling etc.
- Ongoing use of intimidation or control tactics of significant others during phone calls, letters, or visits

**Additional/alternative OAB:** \_\_\_\_\_

0                      1                      2                      3                      4  
 Never                Seldom                Sometimes                Often                Very Often/Always

**ORB:**Unable to Assess Not Applicable 

- Implements skills and strategies to mitigate aggressive/controlling tendencies towards significant others as evidenced by appropriate interactions through letters, phone calls, visits etc
- Does not defend, justify, or minimize aggressive or controlling tendencies toward significant others

**Additional/alternative ORB:** \_\_\_\_\_

0                      1                      2                      3                      4  
 Never                Seldom                Sometimes                Often                Very Often/Always

**D14 – Community Support****OABs**Unable to Assess Not Applicable 

- Denies or minimizes the need to establish positive community support or refuses to work with staff to identify and establish community support such as accommodation, treatment/employment/vocation/education opportunities etc.

Additional/alternative OAB: \_\_\_\_\_

0	1	2	3	4
Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Very Often/Always

**ORB:**Unable to Assess Not Applicable 

- Working actively to develop positive support in the place of relocation or the community

Additional/alternative ORB: \_\_\_\_\_

0	1	2	3	4
Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Very Often/Always

**D15 – Released to High-Risk Situations****OAB:**Unable to Assess Not Applicable 

- Work to reduce the risk associated with such releases
- Failure to identify or use appropriate relapse prevention strategies to avoid or manage high-risk situations at the point of release

Additional/alternative OAB: \_\_\_\_\_

0	1	2	3	4
Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Very Often/Always

**ORB:**Unable to Assess Not Applicable 

- Acknowledge high risk situations and avoids release to or uses relevant skills to manage high-risk situations appropriately

Additional/alternative ORB: \_\_\_\_\_

0	1	2	3	4
Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Very Often/Always





