

Appendix

A.1. Sample composition

	A: Open-ended, concurrent	B: Open-ended, retrospective	C: Closed, concurrent	D: Closed, retrospective	$\chi^2$	df	$p$
<b>Gender</b>	%	%	%	%			
Male	47	52	51	51	3.10	3	0.376
Female/ non-binary	53	48	49	49			
<b>Education</b>							
Low	41	51	48	46	11.08	6	0.086
High	59	49	52	54			
Unknown	0	0	0	0			
<b>Device used</b>							
PC/Laptop	61	64	65	62	5.03	9	0.832
Tablet	8	9	9	8			
Smartphone	30	27	25	29			
Other/ unknown	0	0	0	0			
<b>Age</b>					F	df	$p$
Mean (in years)	43.6	45.4	45.6	45.1	1.97	3,2180	0.117
SD	14.8	15.0	14.9	15.3			
N	542	545	547	550			

## A.2. Questionnaire

Q1. The following question is about your general life satisfaction. How satisfied are you at present, all in all, with your life? *[Nun geht es um Ihre allgemeine Lebenszufriedenheit. Wie zufrieden sind Sie gegenwärtig, alles in allem, mit Ihrem Leben?]*

Response scale: 1 not at all satisfied, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 totally satisfied, I do not want to answer *[1 überhaupt nicht zufrieden, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 völlig zufrieden, das möchte ich nicht beantworten]*

P1a [open]. Specific probe

The previous question / One of the previous questions was: [Q1]. On a scale from 1 to 11, with 1 indicating “not at all satisfied” and 11 indicating “totally satisfied”, you answered “[response to Q1]”. Which aspects of your life did you consider when answering the question? *[Die Frage soeben lautete: Q1. Auf einer Skala von 1 bis 11, wobei 1 "überhaupt nicht zufrieden" und 11 "völlig zufrieden" bedeutet, haben Sie den Wert „[response to Q1]“ angekreuzt. An welche Aspekte Ihres Lebens haben Sie beim Beantworten der Frage gedacht?]*

P1b [closed]. Specific probe

Probe question identical to P1a.

Response options [multiple choice]: my health, my work life, my family life, my free time, my relationship, other (please insert): [open-ended text field] *[meine Gesundheit, mein Arbeitsleben, mein Familienleben, meine Freizeit, mein Beziehungsleben, anderes (bitte angeben): [open-ended text field]]*

Q2. Please think about your current relationship (marriage or partnership). How satisfied are you at present with your relationship? *[Denken Sie bitte einmal an Ihre partnerschaftliche Beziehung (Ehe oder Freund/in). Wie zufrieden sind Sie zurzeit mit Ihrer Partnerschaft?]*

Response scale: 1 not at all satisfied, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 totally satisfied, I do not want to answer *[1 überhaupt nicht zufrieden, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 völlig zufrieden, das möchte ich nicht beantworten]*

P2a [open]. Specific probe

The previous question / One of the previous questions was: [Q2]. On a scale from 1 to 11, with 1 indicating “not at all satisfied” and 11 indicating “totally satisfied”, you answered “[response to Q2]”. Which aspects of your relationship did you consider when answering the question? *[Die Frage soeben lautete: Q2. Auf einer Skala von 1 bis 11, wobei 1 "überhaupt nicht zufrieden" und 11 "völlig zufrieden" bedeutet, haben Sie den Wert „[response to Q2]“ angekreuzt. An welche Aspekte Ihrer Partnerschaft haben Sie beim Beantworten der Frage gedacht?]*

P2 [closed]. Specific probe

Probe question identical to P2 [open-ended].

Response options [multiple choice]: the commitment in my relationship, the freedom within the relationship, my relationship status, faithfulness, mutual sexuality, mutual free-time activities, other (please insert): [open-ended text field] *[An die Verbindlichkeit meiner Beziehung, das Commitment; An meine Freiräume in der Beziehung; An meinen Beziehungsstatus; An Treue; An die gemeinsame Sexualität; An gemeinsame Freizeitgestaltung und Aktivitäten; An anderes (bitte angeben): (open-ended text field)]*

Q3. How would you rate your overall health? *[Wie ist Ihr Gesundheitszustand im Allgemeinen?]*

Response scale: Very good, Good, Medium, Poor, Very poor *[Sehr gut, Gut, Mittelmäßig, Schlecht, Sehr schlecht]*

P3a [open]. Specific probe.

The previous question / One of the previous questions was: [Q3]. You answered “[response to Q3]”. Which aspects of your health did you consider when answering the question? *[Die Frage soeben lautete: „Q3“ Ihre Antwort lautete: „[Response Q3]“. An welche Aspekte Ihrer Gesundheit haben Sie beim Beantworten der Frage gedacht?]*

P3b [closed]. Specific probe.

Probe question identical to P3a.

Response options [multiple choice]: Whether I frequently experienced pain (i.e., headaches, pain in the back or limbs); Whether or how often I visited a doctor; My emotional state; Whether or how much medication I took; Whether and which illnesses I had lately; My mental capacity; Other (please insert): [open-ended text field] [*Ob ich häufig unter Schmerzen litt (bspw. Kopf-, Rücken- oder Gliederschmerzen); Ob bzw. wie oft ich einen Arzt/eine Ärztin aufgesucht habe; An mein emotionales Gleichgewicht; Ob bzw. wie viele Medikamente ich eingenommen habe; ob bzw. welche Krankheiten ich in letzter Zeit hatte; An meine geistigen Fähigkeiten; An anderes (bitte angeben): (open-ended text field)*]

### A.3. Coding schemes (substantive codes)

Code name	Definition	Examples
<b>P1. Life satisfaction</b>		
<i>Predefined themes</i>		
Health	Reference to the physical or mental health of the respondent (NOT: health of family members or friends)	Health; health issues; mental health; feelings; depression; illness; chronic disease; wheelchair; addiction; weight
Work	Reference to respondent's work life, unemployment, retirement, or education (NOT: income or financial situation)	Work; job; career; new job; office; job is safe; unemployed; out of work; looking for job; home office; reduced working hours; school; apprenticeship; internship; education; retired
Family	Reference to the family, including health or well-being of family members, death or tragedy in the family, relatives or pets, and desire to have children	Family; how my family is doing; my family is healthy; my uncle died; parents; children; our dog; we want to have a baby
Leisure time	Reference to leisure time and activities, hobbies, friendships, travel, or sport	Free time; friends; social environment; social life; travel; holidays; sport; fitness; training; sport club; hobbies; volunteering; culture; the movies; going out
Relationship	Reference to partner or love life, including lack thereof	Boyfriend; girlfriend; husband; wife; spouse; relationship; sex; love life; love; single
<i>Additional themes</i>		
Financial situation	Reference to the financial situation, including salary, wealth, retirement, or pension	Finances; retirement pension; rent; income; wealth; assets; how much I make
Corona	Direct mention of Covid pandemic and/or its effect on everyday life	Corona; Covid; pandemic; restrictions due to Covid
Living situation	Reference to the living and housing situation	Living situation; neighbourhood; house; apartment; garden; the town; my home
Well-being	Reference to the respondent's subjective well-being	Well-being; happiness; happy with my life; satisfied with life; sense of purpose

(Table A.3 continued)

Code name	Definition	Examples
Future and goals	Reference to the respondent's future plans or goals, worries about the future, but also success, independence and freedom	Future; prospects; goals; plan for the future; success; independence; freedom
Politics, society, environment	Reference to the political or societal environment, including global issues	Politics; society; environment; climate change; state of the world; economic situation; national security; gender debate
Private life	Respondent names "private life", which may encompass family, relationship, friendship and/or leisure time	Private life
Lifestyle, standard of living	Reference to the respondent's lifestyle and standard of living	Standard of living; lifestyle; living circumstances; quality of life; living in Germany
Loneliness and stress	Reference to loneliness or stress, worries or feelings of overburdened	Lonely; along; stress; worries; overstrained; bored; keeping me up at night
Other	Mention of further categories, including everyday routine, household, faith	Faith; everyday life; household duties; taking care of children
<b>P2. Relationship satisfaction</b>		
<i>Predefined themes</i>		
Relationship status	Reference to whether the respondent has a relationship	I don't have a partner; divorced; separated; widow; in a new relationship
Activities	Reference to mutual activities and how much time is spent together	Things we do together; holiday; time spent together; travel; going out; long-distance relationship; quality time; how much contact we have
Sexuality	Reference to sexuality	Sex; sex life; how often sex; intimacy; kissing; physical closeness
Faithfulness	Reference to faithfulness and monogamy, or lack thereof	I am seeing someone on the side; he cheated; faithful
Commitment	Reference to the commitment to the relationship, including emotional support, future planning, and standing side by side	Future plans; we have the same goals; moving in together; engagement; we are a team; on the same side; being there for each other; belong together; we can depend on each other; security
Personal space	Reference to personal freedom within the relationship	Individual freedom; my partner lets me be free; I have my personal space; opportunity to grow

(Table A.3 continued)

Code name	Definition	Examples
<i>Additional themes</i>		
Feeling of trust and happiness	Reference to trust or emotional closeness and feeling of happiness	Trust; familiarity; connectedness; warmth; feeling of happiness; he/she makes me happy; feeling of well-being when together
Harmony and arguments	Reference to how well the couple gets along, both positively and negatively	Get along perfectly; arguments; difference of opinion; criticism; relationship crisis; problems; good / bad atmosphere; harmony; stress due to outer circumstance
Feeling of love and affection	Reference to emotional attachment, love, being in love	Love; true love; in love; I feel loved; affection; emotional state; romance
Daily life	Reference to daily life as a couple and living together	Life together; living together; household; responsibility; distribution of chores; equality; daily life; daily routing; boredom; variety; spontaneity
Treatment and interaction	Reference to how the couple treats each other and interacts with each other	Considerateness; understanding; appreciation; how he treats me; respect; accepts me how I am; attention; empathetic; feel taken seriously
Communication and humour	Reference to communication within the relationship, including humor	Communication; discussions; honesty; listening to the other person; talking a lot; open and honest; exchange; problem solving; humor; fun; laugh together
Character and attitudes	Reference to the partner's character and attitudes	Values; opinions; attitudes; sharing the same beliefs; things we have in common; mutual interests; character; change in character; our strengths complement each other; compatibility
Being family and friends	Reference to partner as part of one's family or the partner as a best friend	My wife is my family; friendship is the basis of a relationship; our marriage and children
Other	Reference to further distinct themes, including housing situation, working together, partner's health, or Covid restrictions	Living space; living situation; finances; we work together; my husband is ill; I take care of my wife; Covid; age difference; what he looks like

(Table A.3 continued)

Code name	Definition	Examples
<b>P3. Subjective health</b>		
<i>Predefined themes</i>		
Illness	Reference to acute or chronic illnesses or operations	Chronic disease; Covid; the flu; cancer; I am sick; high blood pressure
Pain	Reference to acute or chronic pain, including pain location	In pain; back hurts; chronic headaches; migraine; muscle pain
Emotional Health	Reference to emotional health including mental health	Psychological health; mourning; depression; burn out; bipolar; mobbing; panic attacks; anxiety
Mental Fitness	Reference to mental capacity or fitness	Mental fitness; memory; mental state; mental training
Doctor visits	Reference to doctor visits or other medical specialists	Doctor appointment; check ups; sick days; waiting time
Medication	Reference to medication	Medication; pills; I don't take meds; opioids; eight different pills
<i>Additional themes</i>		
Afflictions	Complaints or absence of complaints	Impairment; affliction; discomfort; health problems; minor ailments
Fitness and sports	Reference to physical fitness, activity or sport	Fitness; fit; physical fitness; sports; physical activity; training; yoga; tennis; moving a lot; I can't walk; condition; energy
Age and independence	Reference to respondent's age, age-dependent health, mobility or independence	Age; symptoms of old age; good for my age; I am getting old; age-typical symptoms; compared to others my age; I can live independently; mobility; I can't stand for long; rollator; menopause; losing hair
Weight, diet, alcohol, smoking	Reference to weight, diet, and health-related behaviours	Weight; I weigh too much; BMI; I want to loose weight; diet; nutrition; I don't eat healthily; smoking; quit smoking; I drink too much; I could live more healthily
Body & psyche	Respondent refers to the unity of physical and psychological health	Mental and physical health; physical and psychological; emotional and bodily state or well-being
Well-being	Reference to general well-being, that is reference to how well one feels; vague whether it refers to physical or psychological factors	Well-being; how I feel; general feeling



(Table A.3 continued)

Code name	Definition	Examples
Stress	Reference to stress, lack of sleep, negative environmental influences such as work-related stress or risks	Too much stress; tired; exhaustion; fatigue; weakness; sleep; sleep problems; no time for myself; my environment is toxic; too much work; pain due to working from home
Physical health	Explicit reference to physical health (exclusion of or no mention of psychological health)	My body; physical health; how I am built; from head to toe
Handicap	Reference to a handicap or a handicap status	Handicap; physical handicap; multiple disabilities; degree of disability [with %]; deaf; blind
Other	Reference to other health-related themes, including immune system or injury	immune system; tendency to get ill; pregnancy; injured; broken bone; artificial joint

#### A.4. Distribution of predefined themes by experimental condition

(Basis: substantive responses)

	A: Open-ended, concurrent	B: Open-ended, retrospective	C: Closed, concurrent	D: Closed, retrospective
<b>P1: Life satisfaction</b>				
N	436	410	538	531
	%	%	%	%
Health	41 <sup>c,d</sup>	38 <sup>c,d</sup>	64 <sup>a,b</sup>	58 <sup>a,b</sup>
Work	39 <sup>c,d</sup>	43 <sup>c,(d)</sup>	53 <sup>a,b</sup>	51 <sup>a,(b)</sup>
Family	34 <sup>c,d</sup>	29 <sup>c,d</sup>	51 <sup>a,b</sup>	51 <sup>a,b</sup>
Leisure time	25 <sup>c,d</sup>	21 <sup>c,d</sup>	51 <sup>a,b</sup>	49 <sup>a,b</sup>
Relationship	16 <sup>b,c,d</sup>	26 <sup>a,c,d</sup>	49 <sup>a,b</sup>	48 <sup>a,b</sup>
<b>P2: Relationship satisfaction</b>				
N	374	357	537	534
	%	%	%	%
Relationship status	31 <sup>c,d</sup>	32 <sup>c,d</sup>	62 <sup>a,b</sup>	56 <sup>a,b</sup>
Activities	10 <sup>c,d</sup>	10 <sup>c,d</sup>	45 <sup>a,b</sup>	44 <sup>a,b</sup>
Sexuality	9 <sup>c,d</sup>	10 <sup>c,d</sup>	34 <sup>a,b</sup>	34 <sup>a,b</sup>
Faithfulness	7 <sup>c,d</sup>	7 <sup>c,d</sup>	39 <sup>a,b,(d)</sup>	31 <sup>a,b,(c)</sup>
Commitment	16 <sup>(b),c,d</sup>	9 <sup>(a),c,d</sup>	31 <sup>a,b</sup>	30 <sup>a,b</sup>
Personal space	1 <sup>c,d</sup>	1 <sup>c,d</sup>	34 <sup>a,b</sup>	30 <sup>a,b</sup>
<b>P3: Subjective health</b>				
N	389	377	539	537
	%	%	%	%
Illness	41 <sup>c,d</sup>	38 <sup>c,d</sup>	54 <sup>a,b</sup>	52 <sup>a,b</sup>
Pain	16 <sup>c,d</sup>	18 <sup>c,d</sup>	60 <sup>a,b</sup>	55 <sup>a,b</sup>
Emotional Health	7 <sup>c,d</sup>	6 <sup>c,d</sup>	44 <sup>a,b</sup>	43 <sup>a,b</sup>
Mental Fitness	1 <sup>c,d</sup>	1 <sup>c,d</sup>	31 <sup>a,b</sup>	28 <sup>a,b</sup>
Doctor visits	2 <sup>c,d</sup>	22 <sup>c,d</sup>	28 <sup>a,b</sup>	25 <sup>a,b</sup>
Medication	1 <sup>c,d</sup>	1 <sup>c,d</sup>	26 <sup>a,b</sup>	25 <sup>a,b</sup>

*Letters in superscript indicate significant differences as per chi-square test of independence at level  $p < .05$  after Bonferroni correction. Letters in brackets were significant prior to Bonferroni correction.*

### A.5. Distribution of additional themes by experimental condition

(Basis: substantive responses)

	A: Open-ended, concurrent	B: Open-ended, retrospective	C: Closed, concurrent	D: Closed, retrospective
<b>P1: Life satisfaction</b>				
N	436	410	538	531
	%	%	%	%
Financial situation	28 <sup>c,d</sup>	27 <sup>c,d</sup>	3 <sup>a,b</sup>	2 <sup>a,b</sup>
Corona	22 <sup>c,d</sup>	18 <sup>c,d</sup>	1 <sup>a,b</sup>	1 <sup>a,b</sup>
Living situation	11 <sup>c,d</sup>	12 <sup>c,d</sup>	1 <sup>a,b</sup>	1 <sup>a,b</sup>
Well-being	7 <sup>c,d</sup>	7 <sup>c,d</sup>	– <sup>a,b</sup>	0 <sup>a,b</sup>
Future and goals	5 <sup>c,d</sup>	7 <sup>c,d</sup>	0 <sup>a,b</sup>	0 <sup>a,b</sup>
Politics, society, environment	5 <sup>c,d</sup>	5 <sup>c,d</sup>	1 <sup>a,b</sup>	1 <sup>a,b</sup>
Private life	7 <sup>c,d</sup>	5 <sup>c,d</sup>	– <sup>a,b</sup>	– <sup>a,b</sup>
Lifestyle, standard of living	3 <sup>(b),c,d</sup>	6 <sup>c,d</sup>	– <sup>a,b</sup>	– <sup>a,b</sup>
Loneliness and stress	2 <sup>c,d</sup>	3 <sup>c,d</sup>	– <sup>a,b</sup>	– <sup>a,b</sup>
Other	5 <sup>c,d</sup>	6 <sup>c,d</sup>	0 <sup>a,b</sup>	0 <sup>a,b</sup>
<b>P2: Relationship satisfaction</b>				
N	374	357	537	534
	%	%	%	%
Feeling of trust and happiness	15 <sup>c,d</sup>	14 <sup>c,d</sup>	– <sup>a,b</sup>	0 <sup>a,b</sup>
Harmony and arguments	13 <sup>c,d</sup>	15 <sup>c,d</sup>	– <sup>a,b</sup>	0 <sup>a,b</sup>
Feeling of love and affection	11 <sup>c,d</sup>	13 <sup>c,d</sup>	– <sup>a,b</sup>	0 <sup>a,b</sup>
Daily life	10 <sup>c,d</sup>	13 <sup>c,d</sup>	0 <sup>a,b</sup>	– <sup>a,b</sup>
Treatment and interaction	11 <sup>(b),c,d</sup>	6 <sup>(a),c,d</sup>	0 <sup>a,b</sup>	– <sup>a,b</sup>
Communication and humour	9 <sup>c,d</sup>	7 <sup>c,d</sup>	– <sup>a,b</sup>	– <sup>a,b</sup>
Character and attitudes	5 <sup>c,d</sup>	6 <sup>c,d</sup>	1 <sup>a,b</sup>	1 <sup>a,b</sup>
Being family and friends	4 <sup>c,d</sup>	2 <sup>(c),(d)</sup>	– <sup>a,(b)</sup>	– <sup>a,(b)</sup>
Other	3 <sup>c,d</sup>	6 <sup>c,d</sup>	0 <sup>a,b</sup>	1 <sup>a,b</sup>

(Table A.5 continued)

	A: Open-ended, concurrent	B: Open-ended, retrospective	C: Closed, concurrent	D: Closed, retrospective
<b>P3: Subjective health</b>				
N	389	377	539	537
	%	%	%	%
Afflictions	16 <sup>c,d</sup>	17 <sup>c,d</sup>	– <sup>a,b</sup>	– <sup>a,b</sup>
Fitness and sports	14 <sup>c,d</sup>	12 <sup>c,d</sup>	1 <sup>a,b</sup>	1 <sup>a,b</sup>
Age and independence	7 <sup>c,d</sup>	10 <sup>c,d</sup>	1 <sup>a,b</sup>	0 <sup>a,b</sup>
Weight, diet, alcohol, smoking	9 <sup>c,d</sup>	8 <sup>c,d</sup>	0 <sup>a,b</sup>	1 <sup>a,b</sup>
Body & psyche	7 <sup>c,d</sup>	7 <sup>c,d</sup>	0 <sup>a,b</sup>	0 <sup>a,b</sup>
Well-being	6 <sup>c,d</sup>	7 <sup>c,d</sup>	– <sup>a,b</sup>	0 <sup>a,b</sup>
Stress	6 <sup>c,d</sup>	5 <sup>c,d</sup>	0 <sup>a,b</sup>	– <sup>a,b</sup>
Physical health	3 <sup>c,(d)</sup>	4 <sup>c,d</sup>	0 <sup>a,b</sup>	0 <sup>(a),b</sup>
Handicap	2 <sup>(d)</sup>	2 <sup>(c),(d)</sup>	1 <sup>(b)</sup>	0 <sup>(a),(b)</sup>
Other	4 <sup>c,d</sup>	5 <sup>c,d</sup>	1 <sup>a,b</sup>	– <sup>a,b</sup>

Letters in superscript indicate significant differences as per chi-square test of independence at level  $p < .05$  after Bonferroni correction. Letters in brackets were significant prior to Bonferroni correction.