

# World Database of Happiness



Correlational Findings on  
Happiness and INTERESTS  
Subject Code: I4

© on data collection: Ruut Veenhoven,  
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## *Classification of Findings*

<i>Subject Code</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Nr of Studies on this Subject</i>
I4	INTERESTS	1
I4.1	Interest career	0
I4.2	Current interests	7
I4.3	Attitudes to own interests	0
Appendix 1	Happiness Items used	
Appendix 2	Statistics used	
Appendix 3	About the World Database of Happiness	
Appendix 4	Further Findings in the World Database of Happiness	
Appendix 5	Related Subjects	
Cite as	Veenhoven, R.: Findings on INTERESTS World Database of Happiness, Correlational Findings Internet: <a href="http://worlddatabaseofhappiness.eur.nl">worlddatabaseofhappiness.eur.nl</a> Erasmus University Rotterdam, 2009, Netherlands	

## Correlational finding on Happiness and INTERESTS

Subject code: I4

### Study WEBB 1915/1

*Reported in:* Webb, E.  
Character and Intelligence. An Attempt at an Exact Study of Character.  
Cambridge University Press, 1915, London, UK  
Page in Report: 26

*Population:* Male college students, England, 1912

*Sample:*

*Non-Response:* -

*N:* 194

### Correlate

*Authors label:* Aesthetic feeling (1)

*Our classification:* INTERESTS, code I4

*Measurement:* Trained-peer rating on love for the beautiful for its own sake on a 7-point scale on the basis of observation during 6 months.

### Observed Relation with Happiness

<i>Happiness Measure</i>	<i>Statistics</i>	<i>Elaboration/Remarks</i>
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<u>A-CP/g/rdp/ro/7/a</u>	<u>r=-.07</u>
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## Correlational finding on Happiness and Current interests

Subject code: I4.2

### Study BEISE 1974

*Reported in:* Beiser, M.  
Components and Correlates of Mental Well-Being.  
Journal of Health and Social Behavior, 1974, Vol. 15, 320 - 327 ISSN:0022 1465  
Page in Report: 235

*Population:* 18+ aged, general public, Stirling County, Canada, 1968

*Sample:*

*Non-Response:* 10%

*N:* 112

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## Correlate

*Authors label:* Having hobbies (2)

*Our classification:* Current interests, code I4.2

*Measurement:* Direct question on number of hobbies Weighted score based on number of hobbies and amount of skill involved.

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## Observed Relation with Happiness

<i>Happiness Measure</i>	<i>Statistics</i>	<i>Elaboration/Remarks</i>
<u>A-BB/cq/mq/v/3/a</u>	<u>r =</u>	Index of Positive Affects: $r = +.16$ (05) Index of Negative Affects: $r = +.30$ (01)

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## Correlational finding on Happiness and Current interests

Subject code: I4.2

### Study BRAY 1980

*Reported in:* Bray, D.W.; Howard, A.  
Career Success and Life-Satisfactions of Middle Aged Managers.  
Bond, L.A.; Rosen, J.C.; Eds.: "Competence and Coping during Adulthood", University Press of New England, 1980, London, UK, 258 - 287 ISBN: 0 8745 11 593  
Page in Report: 285

*Population:* 40+ aged, male managers, Bell Telephone Company, 1978

*Sample:* Non-probability purposive-quota sample

*Non-Response:* panel loss at T5: 37%

*N:* 422

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## Correlate

*Authors label:* range of interests (1)

*Our classification:* Current interests, code I4.2

*Measurement:* Rating by 4 experts on the basis of multi-method assessments during stays in assessment-center.

Rater instruction: "To what extent is this person interested in a variety of fields of activity such as science, politics, sports, music, and art and so on?"

Assessed at T5.

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## Observed Relation with Happiness

*Happiness Measure*

*Statistics* *Elaboration/Remarks*

M-PL/c/rc/v/5/a

r=-.09 ns T5 range of interests by T5 happiness.

Later analysis of the full study-group (N=266) showed a non-significant correlation (BRAY 1983:302).

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## Correlational finding on Happiness and Current interests Subject code: I4.2

*Study*

**NOELL1977/10**

*Reported in:* Noelle-Neumann, E.  
Politik und Glück. (Politics and Happiness).  
Baier, H.;Ed.: "Freiheit und Sachzwang", West Deutscher Verlag, 1977, Opladen, Germany, 208 - 262. ISBN 3 531 11 44 68  
Page in Report: 233

*Population:* 16-29 aged and pensioners, West-Germany, 1976

*Sample:*

*Non-Response:*

*N:* 855

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## Correlate

*Authors label:* Interest in historical films (1)

*Our classification:* Current interests, code I4.2

*Measurement:* Single direct question: no (0) yes (1)  
'I am very much interested in films about historical events'.

Choosen from a pack of 16 persondescriptions as being descriptive for oneself.

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## Observed Relation with Happiness

<i>Happiness Measure</i>	<i>Statistics</i>	<i>Elaboration/Remarks</i>
<u>A-CA/mh/ri/v/2/b</u>	<u>D%+=</u>	Young (16 - 29) and pensioners only. In both categories the cheerfull claim more interest in historical films.

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## Correlational finding on Happiness and Current interests

Subject code: I4.2

### Study SYMON 1937

*Reported in:* Symonds, P.M.  
Happiness as Related to Problems and Interests.  
Journal of Educational Psychology, 1937, Vol. 28, 290 - 294  
Page in Report: 292

*Population:* High school pupils and college students, USA, 1937

*Sample:*

*Non-Response:* -

*N:* 1651

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## Correlate

*Authors label:* Being interested in manners (1)

*Our classification:* Current interests, code I4.2

*Measurement:* Closed question

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## Observed Relation with Happiness

<i>Happiness Measure</i>	<i>Statistics</i>	<i>Elaboration/Remarks</i>
<u>A-CP/g/sq/v/7/a</u>	<u>SNR= ns</u>	

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## Correlational finding on Happiness and Current interests Subject code: I4.2

### Study UGLAN 2006

*Reported in:* Uglanova, E.  
Analysis of Happiness Variable in Monitoring of Social and Economic Changes in Russia 1993 - 2.  
Data Independent Institute for Social Policy, 2006, Russia <http://sofist.socpol.ru>  
Page in Report: question 97

*Population:* 16+ aged, Russia, 1993

*Sample:* Probability multi-stage cluster sample

*Non-Response:* ?

*N:* 2018

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## Correlate

*Authors label:* Topics for discussion among friends

*Our classification:* Current interests, code I4.2

*Measurement:* What the most often do your friends discuss when they get together?

- a household chores
- b children
- c prices, purchases, lines
- d work matters
- e TV programs, newspaper articles
- f politics
- g sport
- h common friends
- i women (men)
- j entertainments
- k other things
- DK/NA

*Measured Values:* N = a: 46,8% b: 39,5% c: 58,9% d: 10,6% e: 27,9% f: 26,4% g: 4,5% h: 21,6% i: 11,5% j: 9% k: 2,4% DK/NA: 4,2%

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## Observed Relation with Happiness

<i>Happiness Measure</i>	<i>Statistics</i>	<i>Elaboration/Remarks</i>
<u>O-SLW/c/sq/v/4/g</u>	<u>DM=</u>	
		mentioned      not mentioned      differences
	a: M = 2,52	M = 2,52      0,00
	b: M = 2,54	M = 2,50      + 0,04
	c: M = 2,45	M = 2,63      - 0,18
	d: M = 2,55	M = 2,52      + 0,03
	e: M = 2,56	M = 2,51      + 0,05
	f: M = 2,58	M = 2,50      + 0,08
	g: M = 2,85	M = 2,51      + 0,34
	h: M = 2,51	M = 2,52      - 0,01
	i: M = 2,62	M = 2,51      - 0,11
	j: M = 2,69	M = 2,50      + 0,19
	k: M = 2,67	M = 2,52      + 0,15

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## Correlational finding on Happiness and Current interests Subject code: I4.2

Study      UGLAN 2006

*Reported in:* Uglanova, E.  
Analysis of Happiness Variable in Monitoring of Social and Economic Changes in Russia 1993 - 2.  
Data Independent Institute for Social Policy, 2006, Russia <http://sofist.socpol.ru>  
Page in Report: question 97

*Population:* 16+ aged, Russia, 1993

*Sample:* Probability multi-stage cluster sample

*Non-Response:* ?

*N:* 2018

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## Correlate

*Authors label:* Variety of topics for discussion among friends

*Our classification:* Current interests, code I4.2

*Measurement:* What the most often do your friends discuss when they get together?

- a household chores
- b children
- c prices, purchases, lines
- d work matters
- e TV programs, newspaper articles
- f politics
- g sport
- h common friends
- i women (men)
- j entertainments
- k other things
- DK/NA

*Measured Values:* M = 2,59 SD = 0,9

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## Observed Relation with Happiness

<i>Happiness Measure</i>	<i>Statistics</i>	<i>Elaboration/Remarks</i>
<u>O-SLW/c/sq/v/4/g</u>	<u>r=+.05</u> <u>p&lt;.20</u>	

## Correlational finding on Happiness and Current interests Subject code: I4.2

## Study VENTE 1996

*Reported in:* Ventegodt, S.  
Liskvalitet hos 4500 31-33-arige. (The Quality of Life of 4500 31-33-Years-Olds).  
Forskningscenter for Livskvalitet, Forskningscentrets Forlag, København 1996, ISBN  
8790190068 <http://www.livskvalitet.org/t2/index.asp>  
Page in Report: 160

*Population:* 31-33 aged, Denmark 1993, born in University Hospital in Copenhagen

*Sample:* Non-probability chunk sample

*Non-Response:* 39%

*N*: 4500

## Correlate

*Authors label:* current employment status

*Our classification:* Current interests, code I4.2

*Measurement:* current employment status  
1: unemployed  
1.a: unemployment benefits  
1 b: social security recipient  
2: employed  
2 a: private sector  
2 b: public sector

**Measured Values:** N: All:4169; 1: 14%; 1a::9,7%; 1b::4,3%; 2: 86,1%; 2a:47,3%; 2b:38,8%

## Observed Relation with Happiness

## *Happiness Measure*

### *Statistics Elaboration/Remarks*

A-AOL/m/sq/v/5/a      DMt=+      1: Mt=6.97  
                                   1a: Mt=7.25  
                                   1b: Mt=6.35  
                                   2: Mt=7.93  
                                   2a: Mt=8.04  
                                   2b: Mt=7.80

O-SLu/c/sq/v/5/e      DMt=+      1: Mt=6.56  
                                   1a: Mt=6.81  
                                   1b: Mt=5.99  
                                   2: Mt=7.62  
                                   2a: Mt=7.68  
                                   2b: Mt=7.54

O-HL/c/sq/v/5/h      DMt=+      1: Mt=6.41  
                                   1a: Mt=6.59  
                                   1b: Mt=6.01  
                                   2: Mt=7.16  
                                   2a: Mt=7.25  
                                   2b: Mt=7.05

## Appendix 1: Happiness Items used

<i>Happiness Item Code</i>	<i>Full Text</i>
A-AOL/m/sq/v/5/a	Single direct question:  How are you feeling now....? 5 very good 4 good 3 neither good nor poor 2 poor 1 very poor

A-BB/cq/mq/v/3/a

Selfreport on 10 questions:

"During the past few months, have you ever felt..... (often, sometimes, never?"

- A Particularly excited or interested in something?
- B So restless that you couldn't sit long in a chair?
- C Proud because someone complimented you on something you had done?
- D Very lonely or remote from other people?
- E Pleased about having accomplished something?
- F Bored?
- G Depressed or very unhappy?
- H That things were going your way?
- I Upset because someone criticized you?

Answer options and scoring:

0 = no

if yes

3 often

2 sometimes

1 never

Summation:

-Positive Affect Score (PAS): A+C+E+I

-Negative Affect Score (NAS): B+D+F+H+J

-Affect Balance Score (ABS): PAS minus NAS

Possible range: -15 to +12

Name: Bradburn's 'Affect Balance Scale' (standard version)

A-CA/mh/ri/v/2/b

Interviewer-rating of cheerfulness:

Altogether the respondent looks.....

2 quite cheerfull

1 not too cheerful

- difficult to say

Part of the 8 item Allensbacher Ausdrücktest which also involves ratings of cheerful appearance in: look, mouth, posture, movements, eyes, elbows and lips. This general rating is the last item in the test.

A-CP/g/rdp/ro/7/a

Peer rating on single question (based on contact during 6 months):

Rater instruction: "personal qualities are named and briefly annotated in this schedule. If you have any doubt as to the meaning of any of them, please ask me (investigator)

2. In the columns under each subject's name, place one of the marks for each of the qualities specified (+3, +2, +1, 0, -1, -2, -3) To avoid errors, please put the + sign as well as the -

'General tendency to be 'cheerful' (as opposed to being depressed and low spirited)

+3 very high compared to average

+2 distinctly above average

+1 slightly above average

0 average

-1 slightly below average

-2 distinctly below average

-3 lowest as compared to average

A-CP/g/sq/v/7/a

Selfreport on single question:

"Check one of the following groups of adjectives which best describes you."

7 full of deep joy, excitedly happy, enthusiastic, thrilled

6 cheerful, successful, optimistic, lighthearted

5 satisfied, comfortable, life goes smoothly, peaceful

4 contented at times and at other times discontented, life has both favorable and unfavorable features

3 restless, impatient, uncertain, dull, cross, confined

2 anxious, irritated, discouraged, disappointed, discontented

1 gloomy, miserable, a failure, no pleasure in anything

M-PL/c/rc/v/5/a

Clinical rating by 4 experts on the basis of multi-method assessments during periodical stays in assessment center.

Rater instruction:

"To what extend does this person find pleasure in life at the present time.....?"

1 low

2

3 average

4

5 high

O-HL/c/sq/v/5/h

Selfreport on single question

'How happy are you now?'  
5 very happy  
4 happy  
3 neither happy nor unhappy  
2 unhappy  
1 very unhappy

Original text in Danish:

'Hvor lykkelig er du for tiden?'  
5 meget lykkelig  
4 lykkelig  
3 hverken eller  
2 ulykkelig  
1 meget ulykkelig

O-SLu/c/sq/v/5/e

Selfreport on single question:

'How satisfied are you with your life now?'  
5 very satisfied  
2 satisfied  
3 neither satisfied nor dissatisfied  
2 dissatisfied  
1 very dissatisfied

Original text in Danish:

'Hvor tilfreds er du med dit liv for tiden?'  
5 meget tilfreds  
4 tilfreds  
3 hverken tilfreds eller utilfreds  
2 utilfreds  
1 meget utilfreds

O-SLW/c/sq/v/4/g

Selfreport on single question:

How satisfied are you with your life as a whole these days?  
4 quite satisfied  
3 rather satisfied  
2 rather unsatisfied  
1 not at all satisfied  
- no answer  
- hard to say

## Appendix 2: Statistics used

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Explanation</i>
D%	<p><b>DIFFERENCE in PERCENTAGES</b>  Type: descriptive statistic only.  Measurement level: Correlate level: dichotomous, but nominal or ordinal theoretically possible as well. Happiness level: dichotomous  Range: [-100; +100]</p> <p>Meaning: the difference of the percentages happy people at two correlate levels.</p>
DM	<p><b>DIFFERENCE of MEANS</b>  Type: descriptive statistic only.  Measurement level: Correlate: dichotomous, Happiness: metric  Range: depending on the happiness rating scale of the author; range symmetric about zero.</p> <p>Meaning: the difference of the mean happiness, as measured on the author's rating scale, between the two correlate levels.</p>
DMt	<p><b>DIFFERENCE of MEANS AFTER TRANSFORMATION</b>  Type: descriptive statistic only.  Measurement level: Correlate: dichotomous, Happiness: metric  Theoretical range: [-10; +10]</p> <p>Meaning: the difference of the mean happiness (happiness measured at a 0-10 rating scale) between the two correlate levels.</p>
r	<p><b>PRODUCT-MOMENT CORRELATION COEFFICIENT</b> (Also "Pearson's correlation coefficient" or simply 'correlation coefficient')  Type: test statistic.  Measurement level: Correlate: metric, Happiness: metric  Range: [-1; +1]</p> <p>Meaning:  <math>r = 0</math> « no correlation ,  <math>r = 1</math> « perfect correlation, where high correlate values correspond with high happiness values, and  <math>r = -1</math> « perfect correlation, where high correlate values correspond with low happiness values.</p>
SNR	Statistic Not Reported

## Appendix 3: About the World Database of Happiness

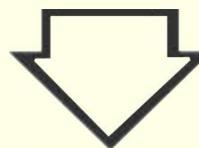
## Structure of the collections

The World Database of Happiness is an ongoing register of scientific research on the subjective enjoyment of life.

It brings together findings that are scattered throughout many studies and provides a basis for synthetic work.

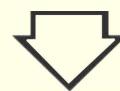
World literature on Happiness

Selection on subject



Bibliography and Directory

Selection of empirical studies



Selection on valid measurement: Item

Bank

Abstracting and classification of findings



How happy people are, distributional findings  
Happiness in Nations , Happiness in Publics

What goes together with happiness  
Correlational Findings



Listing of comparable findings in Nations



States of Nations , Trends in Nations

Size of the collections

1226 Happiness measures (Item Bank)

4258 Nations surveys in 206 Nations

149 Distinguished publics in 1199 studies

12032 Correlational findings in 1196 studies

## Appendix 4 Further Findings in the World Database of Happiness

<i>Main Subjects</i>	<i>Subject Description</i>	<i>Number of Studies</i>
A1	ACTIVITY: LEVEL (how much one does)	58
A2	ACTIVITY: PATTERN (what one does)	32
A3	AFFECTIVE LIFE	48

A4	AGE	400
A5	AGGRESSION	12
A6	ANOMY	32
A7	APPEARANCE (good looks)	15
A8	ATTITUDES	6
A9	AUTHORITARIANISM	4
B1	BIRTH CONTROL	1
B2	BIRTH HISTORY (own birth)	201
B3	BODY	77
C1	CHILDREN	1
C2	CHILDREN: WANT FOR (Parental aspirations)	6
C3	CHILDREN: HAVING (parental status)	195
C4	CHILDREN: CHARACTERISTICS OF ONE'S CHILDREN	25
C5	CHILDREN: RELATION WITH ONE'S CHILDREN	8
C6	CHILDREN: REARING OF ONE'S CHILDREN (parental behavior)	26
C7	COMMUNAL LIVING	9
C8	CONCERNS	18
C9	COPING	43
C10	CREATIVENESS	6
C11	CULTURE (Arts and Sciences)	8
D1	DAILY JOYS & HASSLES	5
E1	EDUCATION	302
E2	EMPLOYMENT	363
E3	ETHNICITY	98
E4	EXPRESSIVE BEHAVIOR	12
F1	FAMILY OF ORIGIN (earlier family for adults, current for young)	236
F2	FAMILY OF PROCREATION	58
F3	FAMILY OF RELATIVES	157
F4	FARMING	25
F5	FREEDOM	32
F6	FRIENDSHIP	152
G1	GENDER	370
G2	GRIEF	1
H1	HABITS	1
H2	HANDICAP	25
H3	HAPPINESS: VIEWS ON HAPPINESS	49
H4	HAPPINESS: DISPERSION OF HAPPINESS	10
H5	HAPPINESS: CAREER	191
H6	HAPPINESS: CORRESPONDENCE OF DIFFERENT MEASURES	310

H7	HAPPINESS OF OTHERS	0
H8	HAPPINESS: REPUTATION OF HAPPINESS	19
H9	HEALTH-BEHAVIOR	25
H10	HELPING	5
H11	HOPE	8
H12	HOUSEHOLD: COMPOSITION	137
H13	HOUSEHOLD: WORK	32
H14	HOUSING	106
I1	INCOME	552
I2	INSTITUTIONAL LIVING	43
I3	INTELLIGENCE	71
I4	INTERESTS	8
I5	INTERVIEW	73
I6	INTIMACY	103
L1	LANGUAGE	2
L2	LEADERSHIP	8
L3	LEISURE	206
L4	LIFE APPRAISALS: OTHER THAN HAPPINESS	368
L5	LIFE CHANGE	35
L6	LIFE EVENTS	86
L7	LIFE GOALS	75
L8	LIFE HISTORY	2
L9	LIFE STYLE	22
L10	LOCAL ENVIRONMENT	374
L11	LOTTERY	8
L12	LOVE-LIFE	31
M1	MARRIAGE: MARITAL STATUS CAREER	64
M2	MARRIAGE: CURRENT MARITAL STATUS	543
M3	MARRIAGE: RELATIONSHIP	115
M4	MARRIAGE: PARTNER	46
M5	MEANING	23
M6	MEDICAL TREATMENT	81
M7	MENTAL HEALTH	218
M8	MIGRATION: TO OTHER COUNTRY	29
M9	MIGRATION: MOVING WITHIN COUNTRY (residential mobility)	17
M10	MIGRATION: MIGRANT WORK	3
M11	MILITARY LIFE	7
M12	MODERNITY	6
M13	MOOD	246

M14	MOTIVATION	7
N1	NATION: NATIONALITY	29
N2	NATION: ERA (temporal period)	41
N3	NATION: NATIONAL CHARACTER (modal personality)	29
N4	NATION: CONDITION IN ONE'S NATION	430
N5	NATION: POSITION OF ONE'S NATION	1
N6	NATION: ATTITUDES TO ONES NATION	152
N7	NATION: LIVABILITY OF ONE'S NATION	17
N8	NATION i: ATTITUDES IN	1
N9	REGION IN NATION	59
N10	NUTRITION	23
N21	ERA	0
O1	OCCUPATION	178
O2	ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION	17
P1	PERSONALITY: HISTORY	48
P2	PERSONALITY: CHANGE	10
P3	PERSONALITY: CURRENT ORGANIZATION	7
P4	PERSONALITY: CURRENT TRAITS	462
P5	PERSONALITY: LATER	23
P6	PHYSICAL HEALTH	427
P7	PLANNING	11
P8	POLITICAL BEHAVIOUR	231
P9	POPULARITY	26
P10	POSSESSIONS	60
P11	PRISON	1
P12	PROBLEMS	25
P13	PSYCHO-SOMATIC COMPLAINTS	62
P14	PETS	3
R1	RELIGION	251
R2	RESOURCES	9
R3	RETIREMENT	89
R4	ROLES	23
S1	SCHOOL	129
S2	SELF-IMAGE	237
S3	SEX-LIFE	61
S4	SLEEP	16
S5	SOCIAL MOBILITY	17
S6	SOCIAL PARTICIPATION: PERSONAL CONTACTS	69
S7	SOCIAL PARTICIPATION : VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATIONS	131

S8	SOCIAL PARTICIPATION: TOTAL (personal + associations)	34
S9	SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS	154
S10	SOCIAL SUPPORT: RECEIVED	62
S11	SOCIAL SUPPORT: PROVIDED	6
S12	SPORTS	38
S13	STIMULANTS	49
S14	SUICIDE	8
S15	SUMMED DETERMINANTS	92
T1	TIME	53
T2	THERAPY	38
T3	TOLERANCE	37
V1	VALUES: CAREER	8
V2	VALUES: CURRENT PREFERENCES (own)	73
V3	VALUES: CLIMATE (current values in environment)	7
V4	VALUES: SIMILARITY (current fit with others)	12
V5	VICTIM	14
W1	WAR	5
W2	WISDOM	2
W3	WORK: CAREER	2
W4	WORK: CONDITIONS	68
W5	WORK: ATTITUDES	347
W6	WORK: PERFORMANCE (current)	29
W7	WORRIES	31
XX	UNCLASSIFIED	25

## Appendix 5: Related Subjects

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Related Subject(s)</i>
I4 INTERESTS	C8 CONCERNs
I4 INTERESTS	L3.3.2 Specific leisure activities
I4 INTERESTS	L7.2.2 Object of life-goals
I4 INTERESTS	M13.3.8.3 . feeling interested
I4 INTERESTS	P4.59 Interested

A report of the World Database of Happiness, Correlational Findings