

Methodology File

Mate Standards

Many people have an idea of the kind of marriage partner they want. For each of the attributes listed below, please use a scale from 0-10 to indicate the **minimum level** of the characteristic a person would **need** to have for you to consider him/her an **acceptable marriage partner**.

For example, if the characteristic is “good-looking and sexy,” a “0” indicates that a person would not need to be at all good-looking and sexy, a “5” indicates that a person would need to be somewhat good-looking and sexy (about average), and a “10” indicates that a person would need to be extremely good-looking and sexy.

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Not at all					Somewhat					Extremely

1. Emotionally stable (e.g., able to control anger, not overly moody)
2. Kind and understanding
3. Well-educated
4. Has healthy and fit body
5. Has well-paying job/good career prospects
6. Intelligent
7. Adventurous and fun personality
8. Ambitious and hard-working
9. Good-looking and sexy
10. Dependable (e.g., follows through on commitments, handles money responsibly)
11. Warm and emotionally expressive
12. Unselfish
13. Outgoing and sociable
14. Honest and trustworthy
15. Financially stable/good financial prospects

Perceived Mate Value

1. Thinking of the qualities that people consider necessary or desirable in a spouse, how would you rate yourself as a marriage partner at this point in time?

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I'd make a terrible partner										I'd be a great catch

2. Once they got to know me, most men/women would consider me a desirable partner in a long-term relationship.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Strongly Disagree						Strongly Agree

3. I have more to offer as a romantic partner than most men/women my age.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Strongly Disagree						Strongly Agree

4. Thinking about the qualities that most people want or require in a spouse, how desirable would you be as a marriage partner compared to most of the unmarried men/women in your community?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Much less desirable						Much more desirable

Perceived Mate Availability

1. Overall, how available are single men/women who would generally make good marriage partners?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Very few available						More than enough available

2. I rarely encounter desirable men/women who are available for a long-term relationship.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Strongly Disagree						Strongly Agree

3. In general there are a quite a few men/women available who I could potentially pursue for a long-term relationship (e.g., who are single, of an appropriate age, etc.).

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Strongly Disagree						Strongly Agree

4. There are a lot of single men/women around my age in my community.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Strongly Disagree						Strongly Agree

Relationship Events

Have any of the following relationship events happened to you in the time since you completed the previous follow-up [in Month, Year]? Please check ALL events that you experienced:

1. You began a new romantic relationship
2. You got engaged
3. You got married
4. You broke up with a romantic partner [who you were not married to]
5. You got divorced
6. Your romantic partner was sexually unfaithful to you