

The English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA)

The self-completion questionnaire

Overall response

Wave	CAPI response, N	Main SCQ response N (response rate, %)
1	12,099	10,991 (91%)
2	9,432	8,360 (89%)
3	9,771	8,244 (85%)
4	11,050	9,342 (85%)
5	10,274	9,030 (88%)
6	10,601	8,997 (85%)
7	9,666	8,197 (85%)
8	8,445	7,222 (86%)
9	8,736	7,502 (86%)

Self-completion questionnaires

	Wave								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Main questionnaire	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Health vignettes			✓						
Work vignettes			✓						
Male sexual activity						✓		✓	
Female sexual activity						✓		✓	
Childhood adversity			✓						
Personal beliefs & wellbeing (Ryff scale)		✓							
Positive affect logbook (ecological momentarily assessment)		✓							

ELSA main SCQ – Core measures

	Wave								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Quality-of-life (CASP-19)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Subjective social status ladder	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Social network and Social support	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Group membership & civic participation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cultural/social participation		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Loneliness		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Satisfaction with life (Diener scale)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Effort-reward imbalance		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Alcohol consumption		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Consumption of fruits and vegs			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Control-demand	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Accessing local amenities & services		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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ELSA main SCQ – ‘Other’ measures									
	Wave								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
GHQ-12	✓		✓						
Neighbourhood perception	✓		✓				✓		
Ageing experiences and perceptions		✓					✓	✓	
TV watching				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Altruism & Sense of collectivism				✓					
Positive and negative affect					✓				
Personality (Big Five)					✓				
Perceived discrimination					✓				
Religiosity & Spirituality					✓				
Internet use						✓	✓	✓	✓
Personal Well-being (ONS Q's)						✓	✓	✓	✓
Generativity								✓	

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Anchoring vignettes									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At wave 3, 1/3 of respondents were randomly selected to complete one of two supplementary self-completion questionnaires. They contained anchoring vignettes, one about health and another about work disability. • Useful for cross-group and cross-country comparisons 									

Sexual Relationships and Activities questionnaire

- Waves 6 and 8 included an additional self-completion questionnaire (with versions specific for men and women).
- These captured information ranging from sexual behaviours and activities to partnership satisfaction.

Useful Resources

<https://www.elsa-project.ac.uk/training-resources>

- How to access the data
- Documentation (measures, sample and weighting)
- Overview of ELSA
- Overview of all areas of study and measures by wave