## **Supplementary Materials**

## **Tables of Correlative Statements**

Table 1: Numbered full list of statements.

| Number                                  | Statement   |
|---|---|
|   |   |
| $\frac{1}{2}$                           | Higher consumption of fruits and vegetables is associated with lower risks of heart disease.  |
| 3                                       | Increased physical activity leads to improved mental health.  As educational attainment rises, unemployment rates typically decrease.                                     |
| 4                                       | Greater social media usage is linked with higher levels of anxiety.   |
| 5                                       | Increased sugar intake is associated with a higher risk of type 2 diabetes.   |
| 6                                       | Higher levels of air pollution are correlated with increased respiratory problems.  |
| 7                                       | More frequent reading in childhood is associated with better language skills in adulthood.  |
| 8                                       | As global temperatures rise, ice caps and glaciers melt at a faster rate.   |
| 9                                       | Greater water consumption is linked to improved kidney function.  |
| 10                                      | Higher levels of job satisfaction are associated with lower employee turnover rates.  |
| 11                                      | As the amount of sleep decreases, the risk of obesity increases.  |
| 12                                      | Increased exposure to sunlight is correlated with higher vitamin D levels.  |
| 13                                      | Greater involvement in community activities is linked with higher levels of happiness.  |
| 14                                      | As caffeine consumption increases, so does the average heart rate.  |
| 15                                      | Higher educational investments in a country are associated with better economic growth.   |
| 16                                      | Increased alcohol consumption is linked to higher risks of liver disease.   |
| 17                                      | As screen time increases, physical activity levels tend to decrease.  |
| 18                                      | Greater intake of omega-3 fatty acids is associated with lower inflammation levels.   |
| 19<br>20                                | Higher levels of parental involvement in education are correlated with better student performance.<br>Increased urbanization is linked to higher levels of air pollution. |
|   | •   |
| 21                                      | As personal savings rates rise, financial stability tends to improve.   |
| 22                                      | Greater consumption of processed foods is associated with an increased risk of chronic diseases.  |
| 23<br>24                                | As the use of renewable energy sources increases, greenhouse gas emissions decrease.  |
| $\begin{array}{c} 24 \\ 25 \end{array}$ | Higher stress levels are linked to a greater risk of heart disease.  Increased time spent in nature is associated with improved mental health.                            |
|   |   |
| 26                                      | As the population density increases, the spread of infectious diseases becomes more likely.   |
| 27                                      | Greater frequency of exercise is linked to a lower risk of depression.  |
| 28                                      | Higher dietary fiber intake is associated with lower rates of colorectal cancer.  |
| 29<br>30                                | As water scarcity increases, agricultural yields tend to decrease.  Increased use of antibiotics is linked to the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.           |
| 30                                      | increased use of antibiotics is finact to the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.   |

- 31 Higher consumption of antioxidants is associated with a lower risk of certain cancers.
- 32 As public transportation usage increases, urban air quality tends to improve.
- 33 Greater exposure to music education is linked to enhanced cognitive development in children.
- 34 Higher levels of social support are associated with better recovery outcomes for mental health conditions.
- 35 Increased consumption of fast food is linked to obesity.
- 36 As voter turnout increases, the representation of public interests in government may improve.
- 37 Greater use of helmets is associated with a lower incidence of head injuries in cyclists.
- 38 Higher minimum wages are linked to reduced poverty rates.
- 39 As the frequency of handwashing increases, the spread of common illnesses decreases.
- 40 Increased green space in urban areas is associated with lower stress levels among residents.
- 41 Higher intake of trans fats is linked to an increased risk of heart disease.
- 42 As the quality of healthcare improves, life expectancy tends to increase.
- 43 Greater exposure to secondhand smoke is associated with higher risks of respiratory diseases.
- 44 Higher levels of job autonomy are linked to increased job satisfaction.
- 45 As access to clean water improves, the incidence of waterborne diseases decreases.
- 46 Increased participation in team sports is associated with better social skills in children.
- 47 Higher alcohol taxes are linked to lower rates of alcohol-related harm.
- 48 As the number of trees in an area increases, air quality tends to improve.
- 49 Greater use of digital devices before bedtime is associated with poorer sleep quality.
- 50 Higher levels of empathy are linked to stronger interpersonal relationships.
- As community safety improves, property values tend to increase.
- 52 Increased intake of saturated fats is associated with higher cholesterol levels.
- 53 Greater frequency of meditation is linked to reduced stress levels.
- 54 As public spending on education increases, literacy rates tend to improve.
- 55 Higher exposure to air conditioning is associated with increased respiratory issues.
- 56 Increased levels of physical fitness are linked to lower mortality rates.
- 57 As soil quality degrades, agricultural productivity tends to decrease.
- 58 Greater consumption of red meat is associated with an increased risk of heart disease.
- 59 Higher levels of civic engagement are linked to a stronger sense of community.
- $\,$  60  $\,$  As the amount of green space increases, urban temperatures tend to decrease.
- 61 Increased exposure to violent media is associated with higher aggression levels.
- 62 Greater intake of calcium is linked to improved bone health.
- 63 As diversity in the workplace increases, innovation and creativity may improve.
- 64 Higher sugar consumption is associated with an increased risk of dental cavities.
- 65 Increased mindfulness practice is linked to lower anxiety levels.
- 66 As the rate of deforestation increases, biodiversity tends to decrease.
- 67 Greater levels of trust in society are associated with lower crime rates.
- 68 Higher frequency of family meals is linked to better eating habits in children.
- 69 Increased physical proximity to parks and recreational areas is associated with higher levels of physical activity.
- 70 As participation in community arts programs increases, local cultural engagement tends to rise.
- 71 Greater daily water intake is linked to enhanced skin hydration and appearance.
- 72 Higher intake of vitamin C is associated with a reduced duration of the common cold.
- 73 As the use of public transit increases, traffic congestion tends to decrease.
- 74 Increased levels of financial literacy are linked to better personal finance management.
- 75 Higher consumption of spicy foods is associated with a lower risk of certain types of cancer.
- 76 As indoor air quality improves, asthma symptoms tend to decrease.
- 77 Greater social connectivity is linked to lower risks of dementia in older adults.
- 78 Higher levels of bilingual education are associated with improved cognitive flexibility.

- 79 Increased frequency of laughter is linked to improved immune system function.
- 80 As the amount of recyclable waste increases, the environmental impact of waste decreases.
- 81 Greater exposure to diverse cultures is associated with more open-minded attitudes.
- 82 Higher attendance at preventive health screenings is linked to earlier detection of diseases.
- 83 As pet ownership increases, levels of stress and loneliness tend to decrease.
- 84 Increased consumption of whole grains is associated with lower risks of heart disease.
- 85 Higher engagement with science and technology education is linked to increased innovation in societies.
- 86 As awareness of mental health issues increases, stigma tends to decrease.
- 87 Greater time spent on hobbies is associated with higher levels of life satisfaction.
- 88 Higher levels of community greenery are linked to reduced urban heat island effect.
- 89 As exposure to natural light during the day increases, sleep quality tends to improve.
- 90 Increased use of energy-efficient appliances is associated with lower electricity bills.
- 91 Greater adherence to a Mediterranean diet is linked to a lower risk of neurodegenerative diseases.
- 92 As pedestrian-friendly infrastructure improves, urban walkability tends to increase.
- 93 Higher consumption of nuts and seeds is associated with reduced risk of cardiovascular diseases.
- 94 Increased engagement in volunteer work is linked to a greater sense of purpose and well-being.
- 95 As the availability of affordable housing increases, homelessness tends to decrease.
- 96 Greater regularity in sleep patterns is associated with improved mental health.
- 97 Higher intake of probiotics is linked to better gut health.
- 98 As cultural preservation efforts increase, community identity and cohesion tend to strengthen.
- 99 Increased practice of gratitude is associated with higher levels of happiness and optimism.
- 100 Higher exposure to interactive educational activities is linked to enhanced learning outcomes for children.

Table 2: Pre-test statements that were rated as being strongly correlated.

| Item Number | Statement - Strong Correlation Depicted   |
|-------------|---|
| 1           | Increased exposure to sunlight is correlated with higher vitamin D levels.                    |
| 2           | As caffeine consumption increases, so does the average heart rate.                            |
| 3           | Greater frequency of exercise is linked to a lower risk of depression.                        |
| 4           | Greater use of helmets is associated with a lower incidence of head injuries in cyclists.     |
| 5           | As the quality of healthcare improves, life expectancy tends to increase.                     |
| 6           | As access to clean water improves, the incidence of waterborne diseases decreases.            |
| 7           | Higher levels of empathy are linked to stronger interpersonal relationships.                  |
| 8           | As soil quality degrades, agricultural productivity tends to decrease.                        |
| 9           | Higher levels of civic engagement are linked to a stronger sense of community.                |
| 10          | Higher sugar consumption is associated with an increased risk of dental cavities.             |
| 11          | Higher attendance at preventive health screenings is linked to earlier detection of diseases. |
| 12          | Increased use of energy-efficient appliances is associated with lower electricity bills.      |
| 13          | As pedestrian-friendly infrastructure improves, urban walkability tends to increase.          |
| 14          | Greater regularity in sleep patterns is associated with improved mental health.               |

Table 3: Pre-test statements that were rated as being weakly correlated.

| Item Number | Statement - Weak Correlation Depicted  |
|-------------|--|
| 15          | Greater water consumption is linked to improved kidney function.                                   |
| 16          | As the amount of sleep decreases, the risk of obesity increases.                                   |
| 17          | Greater intake of omega-3 fatty acids is associated with lower inflammation levels.                |
| 18          | Greater exposure to music education is linked to enhanced cognitive development in children.       |
| 19          | Higher exposure to air conditioning is associated with increased respiratory issues.               |
| 20          | Higher frequency of family meals is linked to better eating habits in children.                    |
| 21          | As participation in community arts programs increases, local cultural engagement tends to rise.    |
| 22          | Higher consumption of spicy foods is associated with a lower risk of certain types of cancer.      |
| 23          | Greater adherence to a Mediterranean diet is linked to a lower risk of neurodegenerative diseases. |
| 24          | Higher consumption of nuts and seeds is associated with reduced risk of cardiovascular diseases.   |
| 25          | As cultural preservation efforts increase, community identity and cohesion tend to strengthen.     |

## **Full Defensive Confidence Scale**

Participants answered each item using using a 5 point Likert scale ranging from 1 (not at all characteristic of me) to 5 (extremely characteristic of me).

Table 4: Defensive Confidence Scale items. Reverse scored items are specified.

| Item | Statement   |
|------|---|
| 1    | During discussions of issues I care about I can successfully defend my ideas.   |
| 2    | I have many resources to defend my point of view when I feel my ideas are under attack.   |
| 3    | When I pay attention to the arguments proposed by people who disagree with me I feel confused and cannot  |
|      | think. (reverse-scored)   |
| 4    | When trying to defend my point of view I am not at all articulate. (reverse-scored)   |
| 5    | I have developed ways of 'winning' when I debate issues I care about.   |
| 6    | I could stand by my ideas in front of anybody.  |
| 7    | No matter what I read or hear I am always capable of defending my feelings and opinions.  |
| 8    | I think of myself as somebody who has enough information to defend his or her points of view.   |
| 9    | Compared to most people, I am able to maintain my own opinions regardless of what conflicting information I receive.                                  |
| 10   | Compared to people I know who are very successful at maintaining their point of view, I have somewhat weak, underdeveloped opinions. (reverse-scored) |
| 11   | I can defend my points of view when I want to.  |
| 12   | I am unable to defend my own opinions successfully. (reverse-scored)  |