

Table : Personality items in the SOEP questionnaires

Personality trait	Question in the SOEP
Big-5 Personality Traits	Personal Characteristic
Openness	Lively imagination Introduce new ideas Importance of esthetics
Extraversion	Communicative Am outgoing/sociable Reserved (inverted)
Conscientiousness	Carryout duties efficiently Work carefully Am lazy (inverted)
Agreeableness	Can forgive others Considerate, friendly Abrasive towards others (inverted)
Neuroticism	Often worry Am nervous Be relaxed, no stress (inverted)
Locus of Control	Opinion
Internal Locus of Control	Success Through Working Hard Control Over My Own Destiny Soc., Pol. Activity Makes A Difference Doubt Myself Faced Difficulties (inverted) Have Little Control Over My Life (inverted)
External Locus of Control	In Comparison Do Not Have What I Deserve What You Achieve Is A Question Of Luck Others Have Often Controlled My Life Opportunities Depend On Soc. Circumstance Talents You Have At Birth Are V. Import.