

The Happiness Survey

幸福可以度量吗？

英语学习点: **Statistics Vocabulary** 统计术语

How do you **gauge** a country's well-being?

The usual approach is to look at economic **indicators** like **GDP** or employment **figures**, or social ones like **literacy levels** or crime **rates**.

But in Britain politicians are seeking a much more basic **measure** of the public's well-being: its happiness.



Is this how all British people feel?

From this month, as part of an annual **survey**, 200,000 **households** in Britain will be asked some rather unusual questions. They are:

How happy are you? How happy did you feel yesterday? How anxious did you feel yesterday? To what extent do you feel the things in your life are worthwhile?

The large **sample size** means that researchers are hoping to **minimise** the **questionnaire's margin of error**. **Statisticians** will try to **correlate respondents'** answers about happiness to other **variables**, such as their income or where they live.

The Prime Minister David Cameron has signalled that he may allow his policies to be shaped by the responses to these questions.

But Sheila Lawlor, from the think tank Politeia, thinks that politicians should fix the economy before **probing the national mood**, which is less **measurable**.

"I don't think this [government] should start thinking about well-being and happiness, which are not very easy to measure; it should concentrate on a **framework** so we can have the things that will increase our well-being."

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. How will the government try to measure Britain's well-being?
2. Is it a big survey or a small one?
3. Is this statement true, false or not given? *Government policy will be shaped by the responses to the happiness survey.*
4. Look at the article. Can you see a verb meaning 'to measure'?
5. Look at the article. What is a noun for the person who answers a questionnaire?

Exercise 练习

下面是为了练习而编写的句子，请你从每句话下面的方框中选择一个最合适的词语填入句子的空格处。

1. Researchers are interested in how mental illness _____ to age.

indicates variables correlates measures

2. We've been trying to measure customer satisfaction, but it is very hard to _____.

minimise gauge guage shape

3. Let's put together _____ to probe people's views on town planning.

a respondent a framework a survey some figures

4. How big is the _____ size? This survey needs to be reliable.

framework margin of error correlation sample

5. The minister is going to ask me about crime rates. Can you get me some _____?

figures households indicators variables



Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. How will the government try to measure Britain's well-being? By doing a survey.
2. Is it a big survey or a small one? It is a big one; the article mentions the large sample size.
3. Is this statement true, false or not given? *Government policy will be shaped by the responses to the happiness survey.* Not given – The Prime Minister has signalled that policies may be shaped by the results of the survey.
4. Look at the article. Can you see a verb meaning 'to measure'? To gauge.
5. Look at the article. What is a noun for the person who answers a questionnaire? Respondent.

Exercise 练习

1. Researchers are interested in how mental illness correlates to age.
2. We've been trying to measure customer satisfaction, but it is very hard to gauge.
3. Let's put together a survey to probe people's views on town planning.
4. How big is the sample size? This survey needs to be reliable.
5. The minister is going to ask me about crime rates. Can you get me some figures?

Glossary 词汇表

to gauge something 衡量/测量	indicator 指标
GDP 国内生产总值	figures 数字
literacy levels 文化程度	rates 比率
measure 测量 / 尺度	survey 调查
household 每户人家	sample size 调查人数
to minimise something 缩小到最低程度	questionnaire (调查) 问卷
margin of error 误差	statistician 统计学家
to correlate 联系 / 对应	respondent 接受调查者
variable 变数	to probe the national mood 探测国民情绪
measurable 可以衡量的	a framework 框架 / 架构