Instrument Title: Mate Preferences Questionnaire
Instrument Author: Buss, D.
Factors in Choosing A Mate

Name____________________

Part I: Biographical Data

1. Age:____
2. Sex:__________ (male or female)
3. Religion:_________________
4. Marital status (please circle): single  dating  engaged  married  divorced
5. Class or year:______________
6. Number of brothers:________  Number of sisters:______________

Part II: Evaluative Section
1. At what age would you prefer to marry?____________________
2. What age difference would you prefer between you and your spouse?______years
   Whom would you prefer to be older (please circle): self  spouse
3. Please evaluate the following factors in choosing a mate. If you consider it
   indispensable, give it.....................3 points
   important, but not indispensable...........2 points
   desirable, but not very important........1 point
   irrelevant or unimportant................0 points

   ______ (1) Good cook and housekeeper
   ______ (2) Pleasing disposition
   ______ (3) Sociability
   ______ (4) Similar educational background
   ______ (5) Refinement, neatness
   ______ (6) Good financial prospect
   ______ (7) Chastity (no previous experience in sexual intercourse)
   ______ (8) Dependable character
   ______ (9) Emotional stability & maturity
   ______ (10) Desire for home and children
   ______ (11) Favorable social status or rating
   ______ (12) Good looks
   ______ (13) Similar religious background
   ______ (14) Ambition & industriousness
   ______ (15) Similar political background
   ______ (16) Mutual attraction—love
   ______ (17) Good health
   ______ (18) Education & intelligence
Preferences Concerning Potential Mates

Instructions. Below are listed a set of characteristics that might be present in a potential mate or marriage partner. Please rank them on their desirability in someone you might marry. Give a “1” to the most desirable characteristic in a potential mate; a “2” to the second most desirable characteristic in a potential mate; a “3” to the third most desirable characteristic; and so on down to “13” for the 13th most desired characteristic in a potential mate.

Rank These 13 Characteristics From Most (1) to Least (13) Desired in a Mate

1. kind & understanding
2. religious
3. exciting personality
4. creative & artistic
5. good housekeeper
6. intelligent
7. good earning capacity
8. wants children
9. easygoing
10. good heredity
11. college graduate
12. physically attractive
13. healthy

Source of instrument:

Publications on mate preferences:


