

Psychometric structure and scoring system for a part of the Questionnaire

KNOWLEDGE subscores scales

SUBSCALE variables	No. items	Score range	Score calculation from items
Plastics 1 (P1), Overall characteristics	6	from -1 to +1	$(Q10 + Q12a + Q12b + Q12c + Q12d + Q12e)/6$
Plastics 2 (P2), Advantages	5	from -1 to +1	$(Q11a + Q11b + Q11c + Q11d + Q11g)/5$
Plastics 3 (P3), disadvantages	4	from -1 to +1	$(Q11e + Q11f + Q11h + Q13)/4$
Plastics 4 (P4), pittogrammes	4	from -1 to +1	$(Q37 + Q38 + Q39 + Q40) / 4$
Micro/Nanoplastics (MN1), definition and sources	10	from -1 to +1	$(Q16a + Q16b + Q16c + Q16d + Q16e + Q16f + Q16g + Q16h + Q16i + Q16j)/10$
Micro/Nanoplastics (MN2), contaminated environmental matrices	6	from -1 to +1	$(Q17a + Q17b + Q17c + Q17d + Q17e + Q17f)/6$
Micro/Nanoplastics (MN3), contaminated foods	8	from -1 to +1	$(Q18a + Q18b + Q18c + Q18d + Q18e + Q18f + Q18g + Q18h)/8$
Micro/Nanoplastics (MN4), way to enter in human body and general toxicity	4	from -1 to +1	$(Q21a + Q21b + Q21c + Q21d + Q22)/4$
Micro/Nanoplastics (MN5), organs and body systems toxicity (Microplastics)	7	from -1 to +1	$(Q23a + Q23b + Q23c + Q23d + Q23e + Q23f + Q23g)/7$
Micro/Nanoplastics (MN6), organs and body systems toxicity (Nanoplastics)	7	from -1 to +1	$(Q24a + Q24b + Q24c + Q24d + Q24e + Q24f + Q24g)/7$
Micro/Nanoplastics (MN7), risk of carcinogenicity	3	from -1 to +1	$(Q25 + Q26 + Q27)/3$

Categories of correctness for knowledge subscales used in comparison analyses:

Excellent	score > +0.50
Good	+0.25 < score ≤ +0.50
Moderate	0.00 < score ≤ +0.25
Poor	-0.25 < score ≤ 0.00
Very Poor	score ≤ -0.25

RISK PERCEPTION subscales scores

SUBSCALES variables	No. items	Score range	Score calculation
DREAD	3	from 1 to 5	$(Q35c + Q35d + Q35e) / 3$
KNOWLEDGE	5	from 1 to 5	$(Q35a + Q35b + Q35g + Q35h + Q35i) / 5$

Note: from the original structure of Question #35, after internal consistency analysis (Cronbac's Alpha) and Explorative Factor Analysis, three items were excluded (Q35f, Q35j, Q35k) as explained in the manuscript (Table 3).