

## Resource 2.4: Question formats

Open questions		
Description	Examples	Further information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The interviewer reads the question.</li> <li>- The participant answers in his/her own words.</li> <li>- The interviewer writes down the answer(s).</li> </ul> <p>For multiple-response questions: If the participant keeps silent after a response, the interviewer asks ‘Anything else?’ Only when the participant responds ‘No’, the interviewer proceeds to the next question.</p>	<p><i>Single-response question:</i> What is the single most important reason to collect your drinking and cooking water at the arsenic safe well? .....</p> <p><i>Multiple-response question:</i> What are the advantages of collecting your drinking and cooking water at the arsenic safe well? ..... .....</p>	<p>Advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We get the participant's own answers.</li> <li>• Allows exploration of the range of possible topics arising from an issue, including those that we had not anticipated.</li> </ul> <p>Disadvantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time-consuming for the participant and the interviewer.</li> <li>• Answers are difficult to code and compare.</li> <li>• Time-consuming for the data processing, as the responses have to be categorized.</li> <li>• Open multiple-response questions: Difficult to analyse.</li> </ul>

Open questions with given response options		
Description	Examples	Further information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The interviewer reads the question.</li> <li>- The participant answers in his/her own words.</li> <li>- Based on the answer(s), the interviewer selects the corresponding response</li> </ul>	<p><i>Single-response question:</i> What is the single most important reason to collect your drinking and cooking water at the arsenic safe well?</p> <p><sup>1</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Taste <sup>2</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Distance <sup>88</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Other.....</p>	<p>Advantage compared to the previous format: Responses are pre-categorized to facilitate data gathering, entry, and processing.</p> <p>Prerequisite: knowledge about the most common responses.</p> <p>Disadvantage of open multiple-response questions:</p>

<p>option(s). For multiple-response questions: If the participant keeps silent after a response, the interviewer asks 'Anything else?' Only when the participant responds 'No', the interviewer proceeds to the next question.</p>	<p><i>Multiple-response question:</i> What are the advantages of collecting your drinking and cooking water at the arsenic safe well? <sup>1</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Taste <sup>2</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Distance <sup>88</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Other.....</p>	<p>Difficult to analyse.</p>
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Closed questions with rating scales		
Description	Examples	Further information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The interviewer reads the question and the response options.</li> <li>- The participant chooses a response option.</li> <li>- The interviewer ticks the chosen response option.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Unipolar:</i> How much do you think that collecting all your drinking and cooking water at the arsenic safe well is tiring or not tiring?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <sup>1</sup> <input type="checkbox"/>      <sup>2</sup> <input type="checkbox"/>      <sup>3</sup> <input type="checkbox"/>      <sup>4</sup> <input type="checkbox"/>      <sup>5</sup> <input type="checkbox"/>                      Not tiring      A little tiring      Quite tiring      Tiring      Very tiring                 </p>	<p>Advantage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Precise and explicit responses</li> <li>• Easy and quick to gather</li> <li>• Easy to compare and analyse</li> <li>• Easy to report</li> </ul> <p>Disadvantage: unknown responses or aspects are not detectable.</p>