Appendix to the paper "Reincarnation Revisited"

Item wordings for questions on belief in reincarnation

Religious and Moral Pluralism (RAMP) Project 1999 (Forced-Choice)

What do you think happens to us after death?

1 = Nothing - death is the end.
2 = There is something, but I don't know what.
3 = We go either to heaven or to hell.
4 = We all go to heaven.
5 = We are reincarnated – that is, after our physical death we are born in this world again and again (GB: over and over again).
6 = We merge into some kind of eternal bliss after this life.
7 = Other.
8 = I don't know whether there is anything or not.

European Values Study 1999 & 2008 (single item, wordings identical in both waves)

“Do you believe in re-incarnation, that is, that we are born into this world again?”

1 = yes
2 = no

International Social Survey Project 2008

“Do you believe in: Reincarnation - being reborn in this world again and again?”

1 = Yes, definitely
2 = Yes, probably
3 = No, probably not
4 = No, definitely not
Religiosity in Germany 2006 (two stage design)

First stage (binary rating):

“Many religions address the question whether there is a life after death. We will now mention four different views about life after death. Would you please tell me for each statement whether you personally agree or disagree?”

A) Not only our soul but also our body will resurrect.
B) Only our soul continues to live.
C) There is something but I don't know what.
D) I believe in reincarnation, that is, we are born into this world again.
E) Nothing happens. Death is the end.

Answer categories to all statements:
1 = tend to agree
2 = tend to disagree

Second stage (reduced forced-choice)

You just agreed with [number of statements respondent agreed with] statements about life after death. I will now read these statements again. Could you please tell me which one best describes your personal view?

(only if agreement ( = 1) at first stage)

1 = Not only our soul but also our body will resurrect.
2 = Only our soul continues to live.
3 = There is something but I don't know what.
4 = After our physical death we are born in this world again and again (Reincarnation).
5 = Nothing happens. Death is the end.