

Appendix table 7-10

Correct answers to specific science literacy questions, by country/region: Most recent year

(Percent)

Questions	United States (2004) (n = 2,010)	United States (2001) (n = 1,574)	EU-25 (2005) (n = 24,895)	EU-15 (2001) (n = 16,029)	China (2001) (n = 8,350)	South Korea (2004) (n = 1,007)	Japan (2001) (n = 2,146)	Malaysia (2000) (n = 5,000)	Russia (2003) (n = 2,107)
<i>The center of the Earth is very hot. (True)</i>	78	80	86	88	39	87	77	74	—
<i>All radioactivity is man-made. (False)</i>	73	76	59	53	46	48	56	33	35
<i>It is the father's gene that decides whether the baby is a boy or a girl. (True)</i>	62	65	64	48	39	59	25	46	22
<i>Lasers work by focusing sound waves. (False)</i>	42	45	47	35	16	31	28	34	24
<i>Electrons are smaller than atoms. (True)</i>	45	48	46	41	24	46	30	42	44
<i>Antibiotics kill viruses as well as bacteria. (False)</i>	54	51	46	40	18	30	23	21	18
<i>The universe began with a huge explosion. (True)</i>	35 ^a	33	—	—	17	67	63	41	35
<i>The continents have been moving their location for millions of years and will continue to move. (True)</i>	77	79	87	82	45	87	83	62	40
<i>Human beings are developed from earlier species of animals. (True)</i>	44 ^a	53	70	69	70	64 ^b	78	61	44
<i>Does the Earth go around the Sun, or does the Sun go around the Earth? (Earth around the Sun)</i>	71	75	66	67	59	86	—	81	—

— = question not asked

EU = European Union

^aThis question asked of slightly >75% of survey respondents.^bDid not include question about evolution. Answer came from South Korea 2002 survey.

SOURCES: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resources Statistics, Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology (2001); University of Michigan, Survey of Consumer Attitudes (2004); Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology, *China Science and Technology Indicators 2002* (2002); Korea Science Foundation, Survey on Public Attitude of Science & Technology 2004 (2004); National Institute of Science and Technology Policy, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, The 2001 Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science & Technology in Japan (2002); Malaysian Science and Technology Information Centre, Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment, *The Public Awareness of Science and Technology Malaysia 2000* (2001); L. Gokhberg and O. Shuvalova, *Russian Public Opinion of the Knowledge Economy: Science, Innovation, Information Technology and Education*, British Council, Russia (2004); European Commission, Research Directorate-General, Eurobarometer 55.2: *Europeans, Science and Technology* (2001); and Eurobarometer 224/Wave 63.1: *Europeans, Science and Technology* (2005).

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