

**1999 Study of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of
Science and Technology**

February 26, 1999

Question: 1

Hello, my name is _____. I'm calling long distance for the National Science Foundation. We are conducting a national survey of people's opinions about some current issues in the news, and your telephone number has been selected. Have you ever been interviewed for a national opinion survey before? WAIT FOR RESPONSE.

As you may know, the National Science Foundation is a part of the federal government and is responsible for supporting scientific and engineering research. We are interested in learning more about the attitudes of citizens on several important issues and we would like to talk to one person in this household. We will treat your answers with strict confidence.

IF THE RESPONDENT WANTS MORE INFORMATION, TELL THEM THAT THEY CAN WRITE TO **Suzanne H. Plimpton, Division of Administrative Services**, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230.

Question: 3

Now, I would like to speak to the person aged 18 or **older** who had the most recent birthday. What is that person's first name? ENTER NAME.

Question: 4

May I speak to NAME? IF NAME IS NOT AVAILABLE, ASK: What would be the best time to call back and reach [NAME]? AND MAKE AN APPOINTMENT.

Question: 5 Ask if Q2> 1

IF R HAS NOT HEARD INTRODUCTION: Hello, my name is _____. I'm calling long distance for the National Science Foundation. We are conducting a national survey of people's opinions about some current issues in the news, and your telephone number has been selected. Have you ever been interviewed for a national opinion survey before? WAIT FOR RESPONSE.

As you may know, the National Science Foundation is a part of the federal government and is responsible for supporting scientific and engineering research. We will treat your answers with strict confidence.

IF THE RESPONDENT WANTS MORE INFORMATION, TELL THEM THAT THEY CAN WRITE TO OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, Paperwork Reduction Project #xxxx-xxxx, Washington, DC 20503.

Question: 6 Ask if Q2=1

This interview will take between **15 and** 30 minutes, depending largely on your answers. May we begin now? MAKE APPOINTMENT IF NECESSARY. PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE.

Question: 7

Let me start by asking how interested you are in current news events. Would you say that you are very interested, moderately interested, or not at all interested in current news events?

1> very interested

2> moderately interested

3> not at all interested

Question: 8

There are a lot of issues in the news, and it is hard to keep up with every area. I'm going to read you a short list of issues, and for each one -- as I read it -- I would like you to tell me if you are very interested, moderately interested, or not at all interested. First, international and foreign policy issues. Are you very interested, moderately interested, or not at all interested?

1> very interested

2> moderately interested

3> not at all interested

Question: 9

Agricultural and farm issues. Are you very interested, moderately interested, or not at all interested?

1> very interested

2> moderately interested

3> not at all interested

Question: 10

Local school issues. Are you very interested, moderately interested, or not at all interested?

1> very interested

2> moderately interested

3> not at all interested

Question: 11

Issues about new scientific discoveries. Are you very interested, moderately interested, or not at all interested?

1> very interested

2> moderately interested

3> not at all interested

Question: 12

Economic issues and business conditions. Are you very interested, moderately interested, or not at all interested?

1> very interested

2> moderately interested

3> not at all interested

Question: 13

Issues about the use of new inventions and technologies. Are you very interested, moderately interested, or not at all interested?

- 1> very interested
- 2> moderately interested
- 3> not at all interested

Question: 14

Issues about the use of nuclear energy to generate electricity. Are you very interested, moderately interested, or not at all interested?

- 1> very interested
- 2> moderately interested
- 3> not at all interested

Question: 15

Issues about new medical discoveries. Are you very interested, moderately interested, or not at all interested?

- 1> very interested
- 2> moderately interested
- 3> not at all interested

Question: 16

Issues about space exploration. Are you very interested, moderately interested, or not at all interested?

- 1> very interested
- 2> moderately interested
- 3> not at all interested

Question: 17

Issues about environmental pollution. Are you very interested, moderately interested, or not at all interested?

- 1> very interested
- 2> moderately interested
- 3> not at all interested

Question: 18

Issues about military and defense policy. Are you very interested, moderately interested, or not at all interested?

- 1> very interested
- 2> moderately interested
- 3> not at all interested

Question: 19

Now, I'd like to go through this list with you again, and for each issue I'd like you to tell me if you are very well informed, moderately well informed, or poorly informed. First, international and foreign policy issues. Are you very well informed, moderately well informed, or poorly informed?

- 1> very well informed
- 2> moderately well informed
- 3> poorly informed

Question: 20

Agricultural and farm issues. Are you very well informed, moderately well informed, or poorly informed?

- 1> very well informed
- 2> moderately well informed
- 3> poorly informed

Question: 21

Local school issues. Are you very well informed, moderately well informed, or poorly informed?

- 1> very well informed
- 2> moderately well informed
- 3> poorly informed

Question: 22

Issues about new scientific discoveries. Are you very well informed, moderately well informed, or poorly informed?

- 1> very well informed
- 2> moderately well informed
- 3> poorly informed

Question: 23

Economic issues and business conditions. Are you very well informed, moderately well informed, or poorly informed?

- 1> very well informed
- 2> moderately well informed
- 3> poorly informed

Question: 24

Issues about the use of new inventions and technologies. Are you very well informed, moderately well informed, or poorly informed?

- 1> very **well** informed
- 2> moderately well informed
- 3> poorly informed

Question: 25

Issues about the use of nuclear power to generate electricity. Are you very well informed, moderately well informed, or poorly informed?

- 1> very well informed
- 2> moderately well informed
- 3> poorly informed

Question: 26

Issues about new medical discoveries. Are you very well informed, moderately well informed, or poorly informed?

- 1> very well informed
- 2> moderately well informed
- 3> poorly informed

Question: 27

Issues about space exploration. Are you very well informed, moderately well informed, or poorly informed?

- 1> very well informed
- 2> moderately well informed
- 3> poorly informed

Question: 28

Issues about environmental pollution. Are you very well informed, moderately well informed, or poorly informed?

- 1> very well informed
- 2> moderately well informed
- 3> poorly informed

Question: 29

Issues about military and defense policy. Are you very well informed, moderately well informed, or poorly informed?

- 1> very well informed
- 2> moderately well informed
- 3> poorly informed

Question: 30

Now let me change the topic slightly and ask you how you get information. First, how often do you read a newspaper: every day, a few times a week, once a week, or less than once a week?

- 1> every day
- 2> a few times a week
- 3> once a week
- 4> less than once a week

Question: 3 1

Are there any magazines that you read regularly, that is, most of the time? What magazine would that be? ENTER MAGAZINE NAME.

Question: 32

IF R NAMED A MAGAZINE ON THE PREVIOUS SCREEN, ASK: Is there another magazine that you read regularly? What magazine would that be? ENTER MAGAZINE NAME.

Question: 33

IF R NAMED A MAGAZINE ON THE PREVIOUS SCREEN, ASK: Is there another magazine that you read regularly? What magazine would that be? ENTER MAGAZINE NAME.

Question: 34

IF R NAMED A MAGAZINE ON THE PREVIOUS SCREEN, ASK: Is there another magazine that you read regularly? What magazine would that be? ENTER MAGAZINE NAME.

Question: 35

IF R NAMED A MAGAZINE ON THE PREVIOUS SCREEN, ASK: Is there another magazine that you read regularly? What magazine would that be? ENTER MAGAZINE NAME.

Question: 36

Do you ever read any science magazines? What magazine would that be? ENTER MAGAZINE NAME.

Question: 37

IF R NAMED A MAGAZINE ON THE PREVIOUS SCREEN, ASK: Do you read any other science magazines? What magazine would that be? ENTER MAGAZINE NAME.

Question: 38

IF R NAMED A MAGAZINE ON THE PREVIOUS SCREEN, ASK: Do you read any other science magazines? What magazine would that be? ENTER MAGAZINE NAME.

Question: 39

Altogether, on an average day, about how many hours would you say that you watch television? ENTER NUMBER OF HOURS (ROUND TO NEAREST WHOLE HOUR); ENTER ZERO FOR NONE; ENTER .5 FOR 30 MINUTES, ENTER .2 FOR 15 MINUTES; ENTER ZERO FOR LESS THAN 15 MINUTES.

Question: 40 Ask if Q39>0

About how many of those hours are news reports or news shows? ENTER NUMBER OF HOURS (ROUND TO NEAREST WHOLE HOUR); ENTER ZERO FOR NONE; ENTER .5 FOR 30 MINUTES, ENTER .2 FOR 15 MINUTES; ENTER ZERO FOR LESS THAN 15 MINUTES.

Question: 4 1

Do **you** have **cable or satellite** television service in your home?

1> yes

2> no

Question: 43

Do you watch any television shows that focus primarily on science or nature?

1> yes

2> no

Question: 44 Ask if Q43=1

Which science or nature show do you watch most often?

ENTER EXACT RESPONSE. IF "DISCOVERY," PROBE FOR SPECIFIC SHOW.

Question: 45 Ask if Q43=1

About how many times a month do you watch this show?

ENTER NUMBER OR ZERO IF R CAN'T NAME SHOW.

Question: 46 Ask if Q45 > 0

Is there another science or nature show that you watch sometimes?

1> yes

2> no

Question: 47 Ask if Q46=1

What is the name of that show?

ENTER EXACT RESPONSE. IF "DISCOVERY," PROBE FOR SPECIFIC SHOW.

Question: 48 Ask if Q46=1
About how many times a month do you watch this show?
ENTER NUMBER OR ZERO IF R CAN'T NAME SHOW.

Question: 49 Ask if Q48 > 0
Is there another science or nature show that you watch sometimes?
1> yes
2> no

Question: 50 Ask if Q49=1
What is the name of that show?
ENTER EXACT RESPONSE. IF "DISCOVERY," PROBE FOR SPECIFIC SHOW.

Question: 51 Ask if Q49=1
About how many times a month do you watch this show?
ENTER NUMBER OR ZERO IF R CAN'T NAME SHOW.

Question: 52
On an average day, about how many hours would you say that you listen to a radio? ENTER NUMBER OF HOURS.

Question: 53 Ask if Q52>0
About how many of those hours are news reports or news shows? ENTER NUMBER OF HOURS (ROUND TO NEAREST WHOLE HOUR); ENTER ZERO FOR NONE; ENTER .5 FOR 30 MINUTES, ENTER .2 FOR 15 MINUTES; ENTER ZERO FOR LESS THAN 15 MINUTES).

Question: 54
Now, let me ask you about your use of museums, zoos, and similar institutions. I am going to read you a short list of places and ask you to tell me how many times you visited each type of place during the last year, that is, the last 12 months. If you did not visit any given place, just say none. First, an art museum. How many times did you visit it during the last year? ENTER NUMBER OF VISITS OR ZERO.

Question: 55
Next, a natural history museum. How many times did you visit it during the last year? ENTER NUMBER OF VISITS OR ZERO.

Question: 56
A zoo or aquarium. How many times did you visit it during the last-year? ENTER NUMBER OF VISITS OR ZERO.

Question: 57
A science or technology museum. How many times did you visit it during the last year? ENTER NUMBER OF VISITS OR ZERO (maximum number is 95).

Question: 58a
A public library. How many times did you visit it during the last year? ENTER NUMBER OF VISITS OR ZERO.

Question: 58b Ask if Q58a>0

During the last 12 months, did you borrow any books from the public library?

1> yes

2> no

Question: 58c Ask if Q58b=1

About how many books did you borrow during the last year?

ENTER NUMBER.

Question: 58d Ask if Q58a>0

During the last 12 months, did you borrow any video tapes from the public library? IF YES, ASK:

About how many?

ENTER NUMBER OR ZERO.

Question: 59a

During the last 12 months, did you buy any books?

1> yes

2> no

Question: 59b Ask if Q59a=1

About how many books did you buy during the last year?

ENTER NUMBER.

Question: 59c Ask if Q59a=1

Were any of those books about science, mathematics, or technology, including computers or computer use? IF YES, ASK: About how many?

ENTER NUMBER OR ZERO.

Question: 60

Now, for a different type of question. All things considered, would you say that the world is better off, or worse off, because of science?

1> better off

2> about equal (CODE BUT DO NOT OFFER)

3> worse off

Question: 61

Now, let me turn to a slightly different type of question. When you read news stories, you see certain sets of words and terms. We are interested in how many people recognize certain kinds of terms, and I would like to ask you a few brief questions in that regard. First, some articles refer to the results of a **scientific study**. When you read or hear the term **scientific study** do you have a clear understanding of what it means, a general sense of what it means, or little understanding of what it means?

1> clear understanding

2> general sense

3> little understanding

Question: 62 Ask if Q61=1 or Q61=2

In your own words, could you tell me what it means to **study something scientifically**? ENTER EXACT RESPONSE.

Question: 63

Next, the **Internet**. When you read or hear **the** term **the Internet**, do you have a clear understanding of what it means, a general sense of what it means, or little understanding of what it means?

1 > clear understanding

2 > general sense

3 > little understanding

Question: 64 Ask if Q63=1 or Q63=2

Please tell me, in your own words, what is the **Internet**? ENTER EXACT RESPONSE.

Question: 65

Next, in articles and on television news shows, the term **DNA** has been used. When you hear the term **DNA**, do you have a clear understanding of what it means, a general sense of what it means, or little understanding of what it means?

1 > clear understanding

2 > general sense

3 > little understanding

Question: 66 Ask if Q65=1 or Q65=2

Please tell me, in your own words, what is **DNA**? ENTER EXACT RESPONSE.

Question: 66a Ask if Q65=1 or Q65=2

If you wanted to find DNA in the human body, where would you expect to find it?

Question: 67

Next, when you read or hear the term **molecule**, do you have a clear understanding of what it means, a general sense of what it means, or little understanding of what it means?

1 > clear understanding

2 > general sense

3 > little understanding

Question: 68 Ask if Q67=1 or Q67=2

Please tell me, in your own words, what is a **molecule**? ENTER EXACT RESPONSE.

Question: 69

Next, when you read or hear the term **radiation**, do you have a clear understanding of what it means, a general sense of what it means, or little understanding of what it means?

1 > clear understanding

2 > general sense

3 > little understanding

Question: 70 Ask if Q69=1 or Q69=2

Please tell me, in your own words, what is **radiation**? ENTER EXACT RESPONSE.

Question: 79

Now, please think about this situation. Two scientists want to know if a certain drug is effective against high blood pressure. The first scientist wants to give the drug to a 1000 people with high blood pressure and see how many of them experience lower blood pressure levels. The second scientist wants to give the drug to 500 people with high blood pressure, and not give the drug to another 500 people with high blood pressure, and see how many in both groups experience lower blood pressure levels. Which is the better way to test this drug?

- 1> All 1000 get the drug
- 2> 500 get the drug; 500 don't

Question: 80

Why is it better to test the drug this way? ENTER EXACT RESPONSE.

Question: 81

I'm going to read to you some statements such as those you might find in a newspaper or magazine article. For each statement, please tell me if *you generally agree* or *generally disagree*. If you feel especially strongly about a statement, please tell me that you *strongly agree* or *strongly disagree*. Ok? PRESS ENTER.

Question: 82

First, science and technology are making our lives healthier, easier, and more comfortable. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

- 1> strongly agree
- 2> agree
- 3> disagree
- 4> strongly disagree

Question: 83

The quality of science and mathematics education in American schools is inadequate. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

- 1> strongly agree
- 2> agree
- 3> disagree
- 4> strongly disagree

Question: 84

In general, computers and factory automation will create more jobs than they will eliminate. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

- 1> strongly agree
- 2> agree
- 3> disagree
- 4> strongly disagree

Question: 85

We depend too much on science and not enough on faith. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

- 1> strongly agree
- 2> agree
- 3> disagree
- 4> strongly disagree

Question: 86

Even if it brings no immediate benefits, scientific research which advances the frontiers of knowledge is necessary and should be supported by the federal government. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

- 1> strongly agree
- 2> agree
- 3> disagree
- 4> strongly disagree

There will be a split ballot regarding the order of questions 87 and 96b. Version A will ask about “dogs and chimpanzees” in question 87 and about “mice” in question 96b. Version B will ask about “mice” in question 87 and “dogs and chimpanzees” in question 96b.

Question: 87

Scientists should be allowed to do research that causes pain and injury to animals like dogs and chimpanzees **if** it produces new information about human health problems. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

- 1> strongly agree
- 2> agree
- 3> disagree
- 4> strongly disagree

Question: 88

It is not important for me to know about science in my daily life. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

- 1> strongly agree
- 2> agree
- 3> disagree
- 4> strongly disagree

Question: 89

The American space program should build a space station large enough to house scientific and manufacturing experiments. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

- 1> strongly agree
- 2> agree
- 3> disagree
- 4> strongly disagree

Question: 90

Some numbers are especially lucky for some people. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

- 1 > strongly agree
- 2> agree
- 3> disagree
- 4> strongly disagree

Question: 91

Science makes our way of life change too fast. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

- 1> strongly agree
- 2> agree
- 3> disagree
- 4> strongly disagree

Question: 92

Most scientists want to work on things that will make life better for the average person. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

- 1> strongly agree
- 2> agree
- 3> disagree
- 4> strongly disagree

Question: 93

Technological discoveries will eventually destroy the earth. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

- 1> strongly agree
- 2> agree
- 3> disagree
- 4> strongly disagree

Question: 94

With the application of science and new technology, work will become more interesting. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

- 1 > strongly agree
- 2> agree
- 3> disagree
- 4> strongly disagree

Question: 95

Because of science and technology, there will be more opportunities for the next generation. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

- 1> strongly agree
- 2> agree
- 3> disagree
- 4> strongly disagree

Question: 96

Technological development creates an artificial and inhuman way of living. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

- 1> strongly agree
- 2> agree
- 3> disagree
- 4> strongly disagree

Question: 96b

Scientists should be allowed to do research that causes pain and injury to animals like mice **if** it produces new information about human health problems. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

- 1> strongly agree
- 2> agree
- 3> disagree
- 4> strongly disagree

Question: 97a

New inventions will always be found to counteract any harmful consequences of technological development. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

- 1> strongly agree
- 2> agree
- 3> disagree
- 4> strongly disagree

Question: 97b

People would do better by living a simpler life without so much technology. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

- 1> strongly agree
- 2> agree
- 3> disagree
- 4> strongly disagree

Question: 98

Now for a different type of question. People have frequently noted that scientific research has produced 'both beneficial and harmful consequences. Would you say that, on balance, the benefits of scientific research have outweighed the harmful results, **are about equal, or** have the harmful results of scientific research been greater than its benefits?

- 1> beneficial results greater
- 2> about equal
- 3> harmful results greater

Question: 99 Ask if Q98=1

Would you say that the balance has been strongly in favor of beneficial results, or only slightly?

- 1> strongly
- 2> only slightly

Question: 100 Ask if Q98=3

Would you say that the balance has been strongly in favor of harmful results, or only slightly?

- 1 > strongly
- 2> only slightly

There will be a split ballot on question 101 to examine two alternate forms of wording. Version A will include the words "the creation of new life forms" and version B will include the words "the modification of existing life forms."

Question: 101

Some persons have argued that the creation of new life forms [modification of existing life forms] through genetic engineering research constitutes a serious risk, while other persons have argued that this research may yield major benefits for society. In your opinion, have the benefits of genetic engineering research outweighed the harmful results, or have the harmful results of genetic engineering research been greater than its benefits?

- 1> benefits greater
- 2> about equal
- 3> harms greater

Question: 102 Ask if Q101=1

Would you say that the balance has been strongly in favor of beneficial results, or only slightly?

- 1> strongly
- 2> slightly

Question: 103 Ask if Q101=3

Would you say that the balance has been strongly in favor of harmful results, or only slightly?

- 1> strongly
- 2> slightly

Question: 104

In the current debate over the use of nuclear reactors to generate electricity, there is broad agreement that there are some risks and some benefits associated with nuclear power. In your opinion, have the benefits associated with nuclear power outweighed the harmful results, or have the harmful results associated with nuclear power been greater than its benefits?

- 1> benefits greater
- 2> about equal
- 3> harms greater

Question: 105 Ask if Q104=1

Would you say that the balance has been strongly in favor of beneficial results, or only slightly?

- 1> strongly
- 2> slightly

Question: 106 Ask if Q104=3

Would you say that the balance has been strongly in favor of harmful results, or only slightly?

- 1> strongly
- 2> slightly

Question: 107

Many current issues in science and technology may be viewed as a judgment of relative costs and benefits. Thinking **first** about the space program, some persons have argued that the costs of the space program may have exceeded its benefits, while other people have argued that the benefits of space exploration have exceeded its costs. In your opinion, have the costs of space exploration exceeded its benefits, or have the benefits of space exploration exceeded its costs?

- 1> benefits greater
- 2> about equal
- 3> costs greater

Question: 108 Ask if Q107=1

Would you say that the benefits have substantially exceeded the costs, or only slightly exceeded the costs?

1> substantially

2> slightly

Question: 109 Ask if Q107=3

Would you say that the costs have substantially exceeded the benefits, or only slightly exceeded the benefits?

1> substantially

2> slightly

Question: 110

We are faced with many problems in this country. I'm going to name some of these problems, and for each one, I'd like you to tell me if you think that the government is spending too little money on it, about the right amount, or too much. First, exploring space. Is the government spending too little, about the right amount, or too much on exploring space?

1> too little

2> about the right amount

3> too much

Question: 111

Next, reducing pollution. Is the government spending too little, about the right amount, or too much on reducing pollution?

1> too little

2> about the right amount

3> too much

Question: 112

Improving health care. Is the government spending too little, about the right amount, or too much on improving health care?

1> too little

2> about the right amount

3> too much

Question: 113

Supporting scientific research. Is the government spending too little, about the right amount, or too much on supporting scientific research?

1> too little

2> about the right amount

3> too much

Question: 114

Improving education. Is the government spending too little, about the right amount, or too much on improving education?

1> too little

2> about the right amount

3> too much

Question: 115

Helping older people. Is the government spending too little, about the right amount, or too much on helping older people?

1> too little

2> about the right amount

3> too much

Question: 116

Improving national defense. Is the government spending too little, about the right amount, or too much on improving national defense?

1> too little

2> about the right amount

3> too much

Question: 117

Helping low-income persons. Is the government spending too little, about the right amount, or too much on helping low-income persons?

1> too little

2> about the right amount

3> too much

Question: 119

Now, I would like to ask you a few short quiz-type questions such as you might see on a television game show. For each statement that I read, please tell me if it is true or false. If you don't know or aren't sure, just tell me so and we will skip to the next question. Remember: true, false, or don't know. PRESS ENTER.

Question: 120

First, the center of the Earth is very hot. Is that true or false?

1> true

2> false

Question: 121

All radioactivity is man-made. Is that true or false?

1> **true**

2> false

Question: 122

The oxygen we breathe comes from plants. Is that true or false?

1> true

2> false

Question: 123

It is the father's gene which decides whether the baby is a boy or a girl. Is that true or false?

1> **true**

2> false

Question: 124

Lasers work by focusing sound waves. Is that true or false?

1> **true**

2> false

Question: 125

Electrons are smaller than atoms. Is that true or false?

1> **true**

2> false

Question: 126

Antibiotics kill viruses as well as bacteria. Is that true or false?

1> true

2> false

Question: 127

The universe began with a huge explosion. Is that true or false?

1> **true**

2> false

Question: 128

The continents on which we live have been moving their location for millions of years and will continue to move in the future. Is that true or false?

1> **true**

2> false

Question: 129

Human beings, as we know them today, developed from earlier species of animals. Is that true or false?

1> **true**

2> false

Question: 130

Cigarette smoking causes lung cancer. Is that true or false?

1> **true**

2> false

Question: 131

The earliest humans lived at the same time as the dinosaurs. Is that true or false?

1> **true**

2> false

Question: 132

Radioactive milk can be made safe by boiling it. Is that true or false?

1> true

2> false

Question: 133

Which travels faster: light or sound?

1> light

2> sound

3> both the same

Question: 134

Does the Earth go around the Sun, or does the Sun go around the Earth?

1> Earth goes around Sun

2> Sun goes around Earth

Question: 135 Ask if Q134=1

How long does it take for the Earth to go around the Sun: one day, one month, or one year?

1> one day

2> one month

3> one year

4> other time period (CODE BUT DO NOT OFFER)

Question: 136

Now, think about this situation. A doctor tells a couple that their *genetic makeup* means that they've got one *in four chances* of having a child with an inherited illness. Does this mean that if their first three children are healthy, the fourth will have the illness?

1> yes

2> no

Question: 137

Does this mean that if their first child has the illness, the next three will not?

1> yes

2> no

Question: 138

Does this mean that each of the couple's children will have the same risk of suffering from the illness?

1> yes

2> no

Question: 139

Does this mean that if they have only three children, none will have the illness?

1> yes

2> no

Question: 140

Now, a new subject. Do you ever read a horoscope or your personal astrology report?

1> yes

2> no

Question: 141 Ask if Q140=1

Do you read an astrology report every day, quite often, just occasionally, or almost never?

1> every day

2> quite often

3> just occasionally

4> almost never

Question: 142

Would you say that astrology is very scientific, sort of scientific, or not at all scientific?

- 1> very scientific
- 2> sort of scientific
- 3> not at all scientific

Question: 143

Now, let me change the subject. During the last year, have you written or spoken to any public official or legislator about *any political issue or problem*?

- 1> *yes*
- 2> no

Question: 144 Ask if Q143=1

Can you recall an issue that you made a contact about? ENTER EXACT RESPONSE. IF R MENTIONS A PIECE OF LEGISLATION BY NUMBER, PROBE FOR CONTENT OF BILL.

Question: 145 Ask if Q143=1

IF R NAMED AN ISSUE ON THE PREVIOUS SCREEN, ASK: Can you recall another issue that you made a contact about? ENTER EXACT RESPONSE.

Question: 146

IF R NAMED AN ISSUE ON THE PREVIOUS SCREEN, ASK: Can you recall another issue that you made a contact about? ENTER EXACT RESPONSE.

Question: 147

Now, let me ask you a few brief questions about yourself. First, are you currently married, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

- 1> married
- 2> widowed
- 3> divorced
- 4> separated
- 5> never married

Question: 147a

How many adults 18 years of age or older regularly live in your home? ENTER NUMBER OF ADULTS

Question: 148

Do you have any children? IF YES, ASK: How many? ENTER NUMBER OF CHILDREN OR ZERO FOR NONE.

Question: 149 Ask if Q148>0

Do you have any children under age 18 who currently live with you? IF YES, ASK: How many? ENTER NUMBER OF CHILDREN OR ZERO FOR NONE.

Question: 150

What is the highest level of education you completed? DO NOT READ OPTIONS!

- 0> Grade 6 or less
- 1> Grade 7 through 9
- 2> Grade 10 or 11
- 3> High school **diploma/GED**
- 4> Vocational less than 2 years
- 5> Associate (AA,AS)
- 6> Baccalaureate (**BA,BS**)
- 7> Masters (**MA,MS**)
- 8> Doctorate (Ph.D.,Ed.D.)
- 9> Professional (**medical,dental,legal**)
- 10> Other

Question: 150a Ask if Q150=10

ENTER R DESCRIPTION OF HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION.

Question: 151 Ask if Q150>4 and not-10

In what field was the degree? ENTER EXACT RESPONSE.

Question: 152 Ask if Q150>2

Have you ever taken any college-level science courses? IF YES: How many?

ENTER NUMBER OF COURSES OR ZERO FOR NONE.

Question: 153 Ask if Q150>1

Now, let me ask you to think about the courses you took in high school. What was the highest level of math that you completed in high school? DO NOT READ OPTIONS!

- 0> no math in HS; didn't go to HS
- 1> general math, business or vocational math
- 2> pre-algebra
- 3> one year of algebra
- 4> two years of algebra
- 5> geometry (plane or solid or both)
- 6> trigonometry/linear programming/analysis
- 7> pre-calculus
- 8> calculus
- 9> statistics/probability
- 10> Other

Question: 154 Ask if Q153=10

ENTER OTHER MATH CLASS HERE. PROBE FOR SUBJECT MATTER IF NECESSARY

Question: 155 Ask if Q150>1

Did you take a high school biology course?

- 1> yes
- 2> no

Question: 156 Ask if Q150>1

Did you take a high school chemistry course?

- 1> yes
- 2> no

Question: 157 Ask if Q150>1

Did you take a high school physics course?

1> yes

2> no

Question: 158

Are you currently enrolled in school?

1> yes

2> no

Question: 159 Ask if Q158=1

What program are you enrolled in? ENTER EXACT RESPONSE.

PROBE IF NECESSARY: WHAT DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE DO YOU EXPECT TO EARN?

Question: 160

Last week, were you working full-time, working part-time, going to school, or what? IF R SAYS GOING TO SCHOOL AND WORKING, ASK HOW MANY HOURS OF WORK PER WEEK AND CODE AS FULL-TIME (35 HOURS OR MORE) OR PART-TIME WORK.

1> working full-time

2> working part-time

3> has job, but on vacation or strike

4> retired

5> unemployed, laid off, or looking for work

6> in school (full-time)

7> keeping house

8> other, disabled, not looking for work

Question: 161 Q160>0 Q160<5

What is/was your job called?

DESCRIBE OCCUPATION. PROBE FOR FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES.

Ask if Q 160>0 and Q 160<5

Are/were you employed by a unit of government, a private corporation, or are you self-employed?

1> a unit of government

2> a private corporation

3> self-employed

4> other

Question: 163 Q160>0 160<5

research?

1> yes

2> no

Question: 164 Ask if Q 160>0 and Q 160<4

Do you use a computer in your work?

1> yes

2> no

Question: 165a Ask if Q164=1

About how many hours do you personally use your work computer in a typical week? ENTER EXACT RESPONSE TO NEAREST WHOLE HOUR.

Question: 165b Ask if Q164=1

Do you have an e-mail address for use at work?

1> yes

2> no

Question: 165c Ask if Q164=1

Do you have access to the World Wide Web through your work computer?

1> yes

2> no

Question: 165d Ask if Q165c=1

During the last month, about how many hours have you spent on the Web at work?

ENTER NUMBER OF HOURS

Question: 166a

Do you presently have a home computer in your household?

1> yes

2> no

Question: 166b Ask if Q166a=1

Do you have more than one computer in your household?

1> yes

2> no

Question: 166c Ask if Q166b=1

How many computers do you have in your household that are in working order?

ENTER NUMBER OF COMPUTERS

Question: 167 Ask if Q166=1

About how many hours do you personally use your home computer in a typical week? ENTER EXACT RESPONSE TO NEAREST WHOLE HOUR.

Question: 170 Ask if Q166=1

Do you have a CD-ROM reader in your home computer?

1> yes

2> no

Question: 171 Ask if Q166=1

Do you have a modem in your home computer?

1> yes

2> no

Question: 173 Ask if Q171=1

Do you presently subscribe to any network service like **Compuserve**, Prodigy, America Online, or any other dial-in service?

1> yes

2> no

Question: 174a Ask if Q173=1

About how many hours a month do you use a dial-in or network service?

ENTER EXACT NUMBER TO NEAREST WHOLE HOUR.

Question: 174b Ask if Q165b=1

Do you have an e-mail address that you use with your home computer, separate from your e-mail address at work?

1> yes

2> no

Question: 174c Ask if Q165b=2

Do you have an e-mail address that you can use with your home computer?

1> yes

2> no

Question: 174d

Do you have WEB television in your home? That is, do you have access to the World Wide Web through your television?

>1 yes

>2 no

Question: 175a Ask if Q173=1 or Q174d=1

Do you ever access the World Wide Web through your home computer?

1> yes

2> no

Question: 175b Ask if Q175a=1

During the last month, about how many hours have you spent on the Web at home?

ENTER NUMBER OF HOURS

Question 175c Ask if Q175a=1 or Q165c=1 or Q174d=1

Have you ever tried to get information about a specific topic or problem on the Internet or the World Wide Web either at work or home, or do you usually just browse to see what you can find?

1> Have tried to get specific information

2> Usually just browse

Question 175d Ask if Q175c=1

Can you recall the most recent topic or problem that you looked for information about on the Internet or the World Wide Web? IF YES: Could you describe that topic or problem to me? ENTER EXACT RESPONSE.

Question 175e Ask if Q175d=YES

Have you ever looked for information about a scientific or technological topic or problem on the Internet or the World Wide Web? IF YES: Could you describe that topic or problem to me? ENTER EXACT RESPONSE.

Question 175f Ask if Q175e=YES

Have you looked for information about another scientific or technological topic or problem on the Internet or the World Wide Web? IF YES: Could you describe that topic or problem to me? ENTER EXACT RESPONSE.

Question 175g Ask if Q175f=YES

Have you looked for information about another scientific or technological topic or problem on the Internet or the World Wide Web? IF YES: Could you describe that topic or problem to me? ENTER EXACT RESPONSE.

Question: 176a

Do you smoke?

1> yes

2> no

Question: 176b Ask if Q16a=1

On an average day, about how many cigarettes, cigars, or pipes do you smoke?
ENTER NUMBER.

Question: 177a

What is the ZIP code of your residence?

ENTER ZIP CODE BELOW (5 DIGITS ONLY).

Question: 177b

Do you live in a city, town, or village, or do you live in an unincorporated area?

1> city, town, or village

2> unincorporated area

Question: 177c Ask if Q177b=1

What is the name of your city, town, or village?

ENTER NAME. ASK FOR SPELLING IF UNCERTAIN.

Question: 179

What race do you consider yourself?

ENTER EXACT RESPONSE. IF R IS UNSURE, OR SAYS "AMERICAN", ASK:

Which of the following Census categories do you consider yourself: African American, Hispanic American, White/Caucasian, Asian or Pacific Islander, or American Indian or Alaskan Native?

Question: 180

IF RESPONDENT DID NOT INDICATE THAT THEY WERE HISPANIC IN THE PREVIOUS QUESTION, ASK THIS QUESTION: Are you of Hispanic origin or descent?

1> yes

2> no

Question: 18 1

In what year were you born? ENTER ALL FOUR DIGITS OF BIRTH YEAR. IF R WON'T GIVE EXACT YEAR ASK FOR DECADE, AND ENTER MIDPOINT. EXAMPLE: 1940s IS ENTERED AS 1945.

Question: 182

This completes our interview. Thank you for taking the time to talk with me. Have a good day/evening.

CODE RESPONDENT GENDER. IF UNSURE, ASK: "I have to read every question on my screen and now my computer wants me to ask if you are male or female."

1> male

2> female

Question: 183

PLEASE RATE THE LEVEL OF RESPONDENT COMPREHENSION OF THE QUESTIONS:

1> HIGH LEVEL OF COMPREHENSION

2> MODERATE LEVEL OF COMPREHENSION

3> LOW LEVEL OF COMPREHENSION

Question: 184

PLEASE RATE THE LEVEL OF RESPONDENT SERIOUSNESS:

1> VERY SERIOUS

2> MODERATELY SERIOUS

3> NOT SERIOUS