

Appendix table 7-6
Correct answers to scientific literacy questions, by respondent characteristic: 2006
 (Percent)

Characteristic	<i>The center of the Earth is very hot.</i> (True)	<i>All radioactivity is man-made.</i> (False)	<i>Lasers work by focusing sound waves.</i> (False)	<i>Electrons are smaller than atoms.</i> (True)	<i>The universe began with a huge explosion.</i> (True)	<i>The continents on which we live have been moving their location for millions of years and will continue to move in the future.</i> (True)	<i>Does the Earth go around the Sun, or does the Sun go around the Earth? (Earth around Sun)</i>	<i>How long does it take for the Earth to go around the Sun: one day, one month, or one year? (One year)</i>	<i>It is the father's gene that decides whether the baby is a boy or a girl.</i> (True)	<i>Antibiotics kill viruses as well as bacteria.</i> (False)	<i>Human beings, as we know them today, developed from earlier species of animals.</i> (True)
All adults (n = 1,864).....	80	70	45	53	33	80	76	55	64	56	43
Sex											
Male.....	85	77	62	61	40	85	82	66	55	50	47
Female.....	75	64	32	48	27	75	71	46	72	61	40
Formal education											
<High school (n = 227).....	64	42	21	36	22	68	51	33	53	24	26
High school graduate (n = 1,115).....	80	69	44	49	28	77	74	52	63	53	38
Baccalaureate (n = 346).....	81	77	54	69	44	89	86	67	69	73	57
Graduate/professional (n = 176).....	92	91	64	74	53	93	92	79	72	77	66
Science/mathematics education ^a											
Low (n = 1,042).....	76	62	37	42	26	74	68	43	59	45	36
Middle (n = 359).....	85	76	47	59	38	81	81	64	66	61	48
High (n = 408).....	87	85	65	80	46	94	93	81	77	80	59
Family income (quartile)											
Top (n = 311).....	85	79	54	58	41	88	80	61	68	69	55
Second (n = 420).....	83	77	48	59	35	82	83	60	66	63	46
Third (n = 419).....	82	72	46	53	28	81	75	57	66	50	40
Bottom (n = 462).....	72	61	37	45	30	76	65	44	57	44	38
Age (years)											
18–24 (n = 157).....	85	66	49	61	28	90	83	71	58	51	53
25–34 (n = 341).....	83	65	42	57	31	79	74	59	65	53	45
35–44 (n = 382).....	82	68	50	54	35	80	80	58	69	60	45
45–54 (n = 386).....	80	78	46	56	35	82	80	58	67	62	43
55–64 (n = 272).....	75	72	50	54	36	82	73	48	66	59	42
65+ (n = 321).....	71	67	32	37	30	68	63	37	55	48	33
Minor children at home											
Yes (n = 588).....	81	65	45	52	31	77	78	58	68	57	41
No (n = 1,276).....	79	72	45	54	34	81	74	53	63	56	44

^aLow = ≤5 high school and college science/math courses; middle = 6–8 courses; high = ≥9 courses.

SOURCE: University of Chicago, National Opinion Research Center, General Social Survey (2006).