

2001 Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology

Question: Intro1

OMB Clearance #3145-0033, expires 2/2002

Hello, my name is _____. I'm calling long distance for the National Science Foundation. We are not calling to sell you anything. We are conducting an important national study of people's opinions about some current issues in the news, and your telephone number has been selected at random. Have you ever been interviewed for a national opinion survey before?
WAIT FOR RESPONSE.

Question: Intro1 used after 3/2/2001

Hello, my name is _____. I'm calling long distance for the National Science Foundation. We are conducting an important national study of people's opinions about some current issues in the news. Your telephone number has been selected at random *and we are not calling to sell you anything.*

Question: Intro2

As you may know, the National Science Foundation is part of the federal government and is responsible for supporting scientific and engineering research. They have conducted a study for about 30 years to track public opinions about some important topics regarding science and technology. This study is anonymous and confidential.

We are interested in learning more about the attitudes of people on several important issues and we would like to talk to one person in the household.

*Question: Intro2 used after 3/2/2001
{deleted}*

Question: Intro3

Now, I would like to speak to the person aged 18 or older who had the most recent birthday. Is that you?

- 1> Yes – continue {skip to Intro7}
- 2> No – Need to Transfer to Correct Respondent

Question: Intro3 used after 3/2/2001

I would like to speak to the person aged 18 or older *in the household* who had the most recent birthday. Is that you?

- 1> Yes – continue {skip to Intro7}
- 2> No – Need to Transfer to Correct Respondent

Question: Intro3a *{to be displayed with call history screen}*

What is that person's first name?

[Interviewer: Please enter respondent identifier such as name, "Dad", initials, etc.]

ENTER NAME.

Question: Intro4

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: Intro5 Ask only if speaking to new person
OMB Clearance #3145-0033, expires 2/2002

Hello, my name is _____. I'm calling long distance for the National Science Foundation. We are not calling to sell you anything. We are conducting an important national study of people's opinions about some current issues in the news, and your telephone number has been selected at random. Have you ever been interviewed for a national opinion survey before?
WAIT FOR RESPONSE.

*Question: Intro5 used after 3/2/2001 Ask only if speaking to new person
OMB Clearance #3145-0033, expires 2/2002*

Hello, my name is _____. I'm calling long distance for the National Science Foundation. We are conducting an important national study of people's opinions about some current issues in the news. Your telephone number has been selected at random *and we are not calling to sell you anything.*

Question: Intro6 Ask only if speaking to new person
As you may know, the National Science Foundation is part of the federal government and is responsible for supporting scientific and engineering research. They have conducted a study for about 30 years to track public opinions about some important topics regarding science and technology. This study is anonymous and confidential.

*Question: Intro6 used after 3/2/2001
{deleted}*

Question: Intro7 Read to everyone
This interview will take between 15 and 25 minutes, depending largely on your answers. Some of your answers may be recorded for quality assurance purposes. Answers to all questions are voluntary, and we will treat your answers with strict confidence.

MAKE APPOINTMENT IF NECESSARY.

*Question: Intro7 used after 3/2/2002
As you may know, the National Science Foundation is part of the federal government and is responsible for supporting scientific and engineering research. They have conducted a study for about 30 years to track public opinions about some important topics regarding science and technology. This study is anonymous and confidential.*

This interview will take between 15 and 25 minutes, depending largely on your answers.

[Interviewer: Be sure to ask for best time to call back if you need to suspend interview!]

Question: Intro8
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: BeginA

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...

Question: A1

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: A2

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: A3

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: A4

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: A5

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: A6

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: A7

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: A8

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: A9

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: A10

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: BeginB

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...

Question: B1

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: B2

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: B3

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: B4

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: B5

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: B6

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: B7

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: B8

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: B9

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: B10

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: C1

We are interested in how people get information about events in the news. Thinking about the kind of issues we have been talking about, where do you get most of your information about current news events?

1>newspaper

2>magazine

3>Internet

4>books/other printed

5>TV

6>radio

7>government agency

8>family

9>friend/colleague

10>other

Question: C2

We are also interested in how people get information about science and technology. Thinking about the kind of issues we have been talking about, where do you get most of your information about science and technology?

1>newspaper

2>magazine

3>Internet

4>books/other printed

5>TV

6>radio

7>government agency

8>family

9>friend/colleague

10>other

Question: D1

Now let me change the topic slightly.

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: D2

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

ENTER MAGZAIN NAME.

Question: D3 Ask if response to D2

Is there another magazine that you read regularly? What magazine would that be?

ENTER MAGAZINE NAME.

Question: D4 Ask if response to D3

Is there another magazine that you read regularly? What magazine would that be?

ENTER MAGAZINE NAME.

Question: D5

Do you ever read any science magazines? What magazine would that be?

ENTER MAGAZINE NAME.

Question: D6 Ask if response to D5

Do you read any other science magazines? What magazine would that be?

ENTER MAGAZINE NAME.

Question: E7a

Do you ever read science fiction books or magazines?

1> Yes

2> No

Question: E7 Ask if E7a=1

How often would you say you read science fiction?

Do you READ science fiction regularly or once in awhile?

1> regularly,

2> once in awhile

Question: D7

How often do you watch television news reports or news shows—every day, a few times a week, once a week, less than once a week, or never?

1>Every day

2>Few times a week

3>Once a week

4>Less than once a week

5>Never

8>Don't know

Question: D8

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

1> cable only

2> satellite only

3> both cable and satellite

4> neither

Question: D9

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

1 > yes

2 > no

Question: D10 Ask if D9 = 1

Which science or nature show do you watch most often?

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

Question: D11 Ask if D8 = 1, 2, 3 or DK/Refused.

On an average week, how many hours do you watch shows on the Discovery Channel?

RECORD RESPONSE

Question: BeginE

Now, I'd like to read you a short list of television shows and ask you to tell me whether you watch each show regularly, that is, most of the time, occasionally, or not at all.

Question: E1

Newsmagazine shows like 60 Minutes, 20/20, or Dateline.

Do you watch them regularly, occasionally, or not at all?

1>regularly, that is, most of the time

2>occasionally

3>not at all

Question: E2

Nova.

Do you watch Nova regularly, occasionally, or not at all?

1>regularly, that is, most of the time

2>occasionally

3>not at all

Question: E3

National Geographic Specials.

Do you watch National Geographic Specials regularly, occasionally, or not at all?

1>regularly, that is, most of the time

2>occasionally

3>not at all

Question: E4

How about public television programs other than Nova.

Do you watch programs other than Nova on PBS regularly, occasionally, or not at all?

1>regularly, that is, most of the time

2> occasionally

3>not at all

Question: E5

Any of the Star Trek series.

Do you watch Star Trek regularly, occasionally, or not at all?

1> regularly, that is, most of the time

2> occasionally

3>not at all

Question: E6

The X-Files.

Do you watch the X-Files regularly, occasionally, or not at all?

1> regularly, that is, most of the time

2> occasionally

3>not at all

Question: BeginF

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...

Question: F1

An art museum.

How many times did you visit an art museum during the last year?

ENTER NUMBER OF VISITS OR ZERO.

Question: F2

A natural history museum.

How many times did you visit a natural history museum during the last year?

ENTER NUMBER OF VISITS OR ZERO.

Question: F3

A zoo or aquarium.

How many times did you visit a zoo or aquarium during the last year?

ENTER NUMBER OF VISITS OR ZERO.

Question: F4

A science or technology museum.

How many times did you visit a science or technology museum during the last year?

ENTER NUMBER OF VISITS OR ZERO (maximum number is 95).

Question: F5

A public library.

How many times did you visit a public library during the last year?

ENTER NUMBER OF VISITS OR ZERO.

Question: BeginG

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.

Question: G1a

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: G1b Ask if G1a = 1, 2

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

Question: G2a

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: G2b Ask if G2a = 1, 2

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

Question G2c Ask if G2a=1, 2

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

Question: G3a

Next, when you read or hear the term the 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: G3b Ask if G3a = 1, 2

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

Question: G4a

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: G4b

Why is it better to test the drug this way?

ENTER EXACT RESPONSE.

Question: BeginH

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?

First...

Question: H1

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: H2

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: H3

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: H4

Even if it brings no immediate benefits, scientific research that 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

Question: H5a Ask random 50% of respondents

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

Else ask...

Question: H5b

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: H6

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: H7

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: H8

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: H9

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: H10

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: H11

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: H12

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

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

Question: H13a Ask if H5a was asked

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

Else ask...

Question: H13b

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: H14

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: H15

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: H16

Some of the unidentified flying objects that have been reported are really space vehicles from other civilizations.

Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

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

Question: H17

Some people possess psychic powers or ESP.

Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

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

Question: H18

There are some good ways of treating sickness that medical science does not recognize.

Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

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

Question: BeginI

Now for a different type of question.

Question: I1

People have frequently noted that scientific research has produced benefits and harmful results. Would you say that, on balance, the benefits of scientific research have outweighed the harmful results, or have the harmful results of scientific research been greater than its benefits?

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

Question: I2a Ask if I1 = 1

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

- 1 > strongly
- 2 > only slightly

Question: I2b Ask if I1 = 3

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

- 1 > strongly
- 2 > only slightly

Question: I3

Some people have argued that modifying existing life forms through genetic engineering research constitutes a serious risk, while other people 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: I4a Ask if I3 = 1

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

- 1 > strongly
- 2 > only slightly

Question: I4b Ask if I3 = 3

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

- 1 > strongly
- 2 > only slightly

Question: I5

Many current issues in science and technology involve judging the relative costs and benefits. Thinking first about the space program, some people 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: I6a Ask if I5 = 1

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

1 > substantially

2 > slightly

Question: I6b Ask if I5 = 3

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

1 > substantially

2 > slightly

Question: BeginJ

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...

Question: J1

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: J2

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: J3

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: J4

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: J5

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: J6

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: J7

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: J8

Helping low-income people.

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

1> too little

2> about the right amount

3> too much

Question: K1

Now I'd like you to consider the following situations.

If you had a daughter, how would you feel if she wanted to be a scientist—would you feel happy, unhappy, or would you not care one way or the other?

1>happy

2>not care

3>unhappy

Question: K2

If you had a son, how would you feel if he wanted to be a scientist—would you feel happy, unhappy, or would you not care one way or the other?

1>happy

2>not care

3>unhappy

Question: K3

Have you ever considered working in a science-related career?

1>yes

2>no

Question: BeginL

Now I'd like to read you some statements about scientists. Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each one. If you feel especially strongly about a statement, please say that you strongly agree or strongly disagree. Okay?

Question: L1

A scientist usually works alone.

Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

1>strongly agree

2>agree

3>disagree

4>strongly disagree

Question: L2

Scientific work is dangerous.

Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

1>strongly agree

2>agree

3>disagree

4>strongly disagree

Question: L3

Scientific researchers are dedicated people who work for the good of humanity.

Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

1>strongly agree

2>agree

3>disagree

4>strongly disagree

Question L4

Scientists don't get as much fun out of life as other people do.

Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

1>strongly agree

2>agree

3>disagree

4>strongly disagree

Question L5

Scientists are helping to solve challenging problems.

Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

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

Question L6

Scientists are apt to be odd and peculiar people.

Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

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

Question: L7

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 L8

Scientists are not likely to be very religious people.

Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

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

Question L9

Scientists have few other interests but their work.

Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

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

Question: BeginM

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.

First...

Question: M1

The center of the Earth is very hot.

Is that true or false?

1> true

2> false

Question: M2

All radioactivity is man-made.

Is that true or false?

1> true

2> false

Question: M3

The oxygen we breathe comes from plants.

Is that true or false?

1> true

2> false

Question: M4

It is the father's gene that decides whether the baby is a boy or a girl.

Is that true or false?

1> true

2> false

Question: M5

Lasers work by focusing sound waves.

Is that true or false?

1> true

2> false

Question: M6

Electrons are smaller than atoms.

Is that true or false?

1> true

2> false

Question: M7

Antibiotics kill viruses as well as bacteria.

Is that true or false?

1> true

2> false

Question: M8

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

1> true

2> false

Question: M9

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: M10

Human beings, as we know them today, developed from earlier species of animals.

Is that true or false?

- 1> true
- 2> false

Question: M11

Cigarette smoking causes lung cancer.

Is that true or false?

- 1> true
- 2> false

Question: M12

The earliest humans lived at the same time as the dinosaurs.

Is that true or false?

- 1> true
- 2> false

Question: M13

Radioactive milk can be made safe by boiling it.

Is that true or false?

- 1> true
- 2> false

Question: BeginN

Thank you. Now...

Question: N1

Which travels faster: light or sound?

- 1> light
- 2> sound
- 2> both the same

Question: N2

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: N3 Ask if N2 = 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> DO NOT READ: other time period

Question: BeginO

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.

Question: O1

Does this mean that if their first three children are healthy, the fourth will have the illness?

- 1> Yes/True
- 2> No/False

Question: O2

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

- 1> Yes/True
- 2> No/False

Question: O3

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

- 1> Yes/True
- 2> No/False

Question: O4

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

- 1> Yes/True
- 2> No/False

Question: P1

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

- 1> yes
- 2> no

Question: P2 Ask if P1 = 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: P3

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: P4

Have you heard of magnetic therapy, or the use of magnets to cure pain and illness?

- 1>yes
- 2>no

Question: P5 Ask if P4 = 1

Based on what you've read or heard, would you say that magnetic therapy is very scientific, sort of scientific, or not at all scientific?

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

Question: P6

Have you ever seen, heard or read about the theory of global warming – that average temperatures are rising slowly and will continue to rise mainly because of the burning of coal, oil and other fuels?

- 1>Yes, have seen, heard or read
- 2>No

Question: P7 Ask if P6 = 1 *{note the combined DK/Refused category here!}*

Do you believe the theory that increased carbon dioxide and other gases released into the atmosphere will, if unchecked, lead to global warming and an increase in average temperatures?

- 1>Believe
- 2>Do not believe
- 3>Not sure/Refused

Question: P8 *{note the combined DK/Refused category here!}*

Do you think that the possibility of global warming should be treated as a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a serious problem?"

- 1>Very serious
- 2>Somewhat serious
- 3>Not a serious problem
- 4>Not sure/Refused

Question: P9

As you may know, some food products and medicines are being developed using new scientific techniques. The general area is called "biotechnology" and includes tools such as genetic engineering and genetic modification of food.

Question: P10

How much have you heard or read about this issue—a great deal, some, not much or nothing at all?

- 1>A great deal
- 2>Some
- 3>Not much
- 4>Nothing at all
- 5>No opinion

Question: P11a

I'm going to name three types of biotechnology applications. I'd like you to tell me if you strongly support, moderately support, moderately oppose, or strongly oppose these uses of biotechnology.

Question: P11

Using modern biotechnology in the production of foods, for example, to make them higher in protein, keep longer, or taste better.

Overall would you say you strongly support, moderately support, moderately oppose, or strongly oppose this use of biotechnology?

- 1>Strongly support
- 2> Moderately support
- 3> Moderately oppose
- 4>Strongly oppose
- 5>No opinion

Question: P12

Using genetic testing to detect diseases we might have inherited from our parents, such as cystic fibrosis.

Overall would you say you strongly support, moderately support, moderately oppose, or strongly oppose this use of biotechnology?

- 1>Strongly support
- 2> Moderately support
- 3> Moderately oppose
- 4>Strongly oppose
- 5>No opinion

Question: P13

Cloning animals such as sheep whose milk can be used to make drugs and vaccines.

Overall would you say you strongly support, moderately support, moderately oppose, or strongly oppose this use of biotechnology?

- 1>Strongly support
- 2> Moderately support
- 3> Moderately oppose
- 4>Strongly oppose
- 5>No opinion

Question: P14

If you wanted to learn more about a scientific issue such as global warming or biotechnology, how would you get more information?

- 1>newspaper
- 2>magazine
- 3>Internet
- 4>books/other printed
- 5>TV
- 6>radio
- 7>government agency
- 8>family
- 9>friend/colleague
- 10>other

Question: Q1

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: Q2

Do you have access to the World Wide Web at your residence?

- 1> Yes
- 2> No

Question: Q3

How many telephone numbers ring to your household? [If Needed: "I'd like to know about the telephone NUMBERS, not telephone extensions, that ring to this household"]

RECORD RESPONSE: {range 1-5, 9=DK/R}

Question: Q4

Now, let me ask you a few general 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: Q5

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: Q6

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

Question: Q7

Do you have any children?

- 1> Yes
- 2> No

Question Q8 Ask if Q7 = 1

How many children do you have?
ENTER NUMBER OF CHILDREN OR ZERO FOR NONE.

Question: Q9 Ask if Q8 > 0 or DK

Do you have any children under age 18 who currently live with you?

- 1> Yes
- 2> No

Question: Q10

How many children under age 18 currently live with you?
ENTER NUMBER OF CHILDREN OR ZERO FOR NONE.

Question: Q11

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: Q11spec Ask if Q11 = 10(other)

ENTER R DESCRIPTION OF HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION.

Question: Q12 Ask if Q11 > 4 and not = 10

In what field was the degree? ENTER EXACT RESPONSE.

Question: Q13 Ask if Q11 > 2

Have you ever taken any college-level science courses?

- 1> Yes
- 2> No

Question: Q14 Ask if Q13 = 1

How many college-level science courses have you taken?
ENTER NUMBER OF COURSES OR ZERO FOR NONE.

Question: Q15 Ask if Q11>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: Q15spec Ask if Q15 = 10

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

Question: Q16 Ask if Q11>1

Did you take a high school biology course?

- 1> yes
- 2> no

Question: Q17 Ask if Q11>1

Did you take a high school chemistry course?

- 1> yes
- 2> no

Question: Q18 Ask if Q11>1

Did you take a high school physics course?

- 1> yes
- 2> no

Question: Q19

Are you currently enrolled in school?

- 1> yes
- 2> no

Question: Q20 Ask if Q19 = 1

What program are you enrolled in?

ENTER EXACT RESPONSE. PROBE IF NECESSARY: WHAT DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE
DO YOU EXPECT TO EARN?

Question: Q21

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 (35 or more hours/week)
- 2> working part-time (under 35 hours/week)
- 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: Q22 Ask if Q21>0 and Q21<5

What kind of work do/did you normally do? What is/was your job called?
DESCRIBE OCCUPATION. PROBE FOR FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES.

Question: Q23 Ask if Q21>0 and Q21<5

Which of the following were you employed by?

- 1> a unit of government
- 2> a private, for profit company or business
- 3> a private, not for profit, tax-exempt, or charitable organization
- 4> self-employed
- 5> DO NOT READ: other

Question: R1

Have you ever looked for information about a scientific or technological topic or problem on the Internet or the World Wide Web?

- 1> Yes
- 2> No

Question: R2

Could you describe that topic or problem to me?
ENTER EXACT RESPONSE.

Question: S1

What is the ZIP code of your residence?
ENTER ZIP CODE BELOW (5 DIGITS ONLY).

Question: S2

Would you describe the area in which you live as being a city, town, suburban area, or a rural area?

- 1> City
- 2> Town
- 3> Suburban Area
- 4> Rural Area

Question: S4

Are you Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino?

[DO NOT READ CATEGORIES]

- 1> Yes – Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino (incl: Chicano, Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican)
- 2> No – none of these categories apply

Question: S5

What is your race? Would you say...

[MULTIPLE RESPONSES ALLOWED]

[READ MAJOR CATEGORIES HEADINGS ONLY]

- 1> White,
- 2> Black,
- 3> Asian, (incl:Asian Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese)
- 4> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, (incl: Chamorro, Filipino, Guamanian, Samoan)
- 5> American Indian, Alaska Native,
- 6> Or some other race?

Question: S5spec Ask if S5=5

SPECIFY OTHER RESPONSE:

Question: S6

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: S7

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

Question: Post1

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: Post2

PLEASE RATE THE LEVEL OF RESPONDENT SERIOUSNESS:

- 1> VERY SERIOUS
- 2> MODERATELY SERIOUS
- 3> NOT SERIOUS