Mechanical Turk

In coding open-ended responses, all misspellings, modifications, synonyms, and identifiable abbreviations of a word were fully credited.
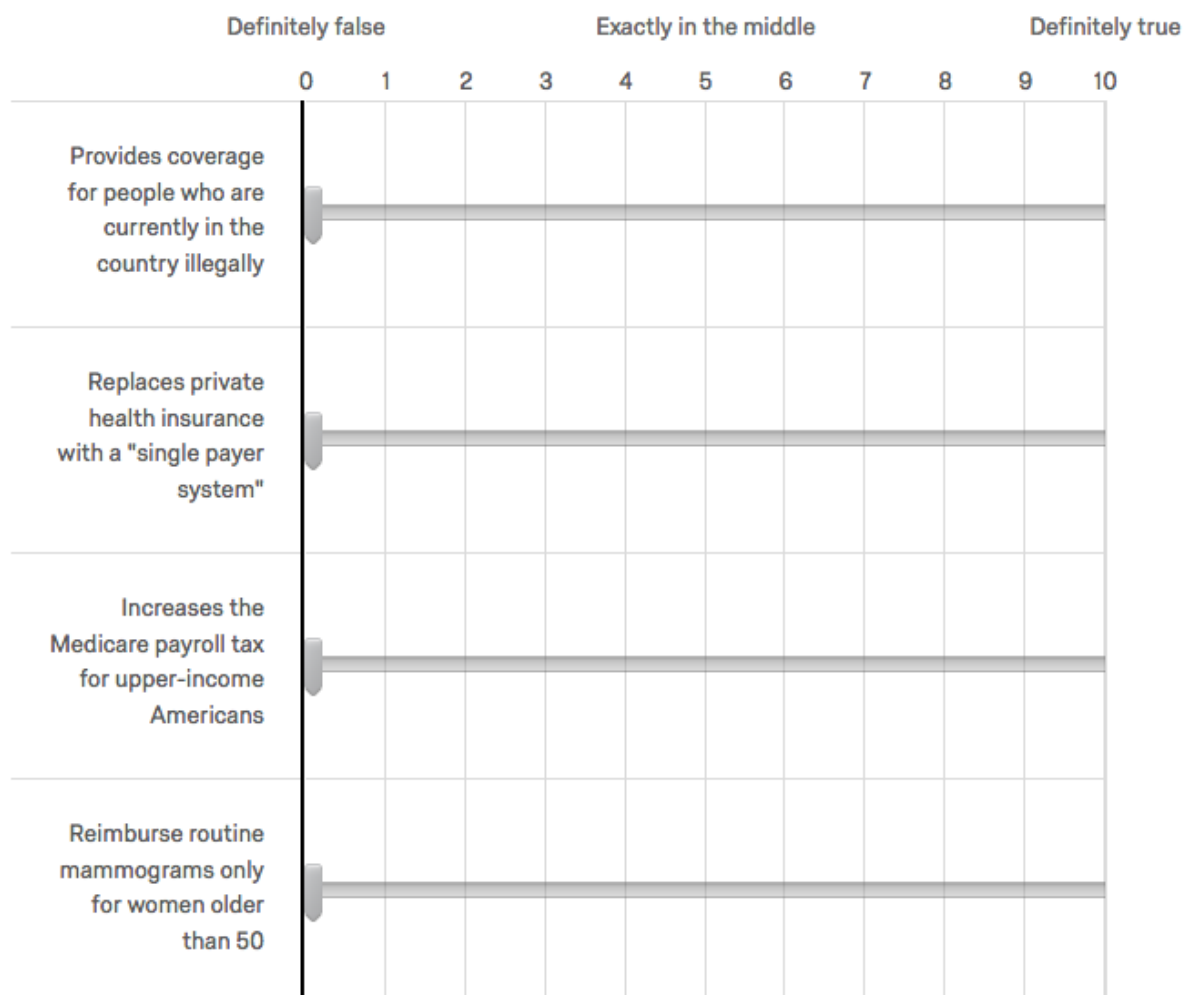
Pledging to Not Look Up Answers

At the beginning of the survey, a random two-thirds of the respondents were asked to commit to not look up the answers or to ask anyone about the answers. Rest one-third of the participants didn't see any message at the start.

Reticence Vs. Guessing, Related Knowledge

One half of the survey respondents got a conventional closed-ended item with five options including the opportunity to mark Don't know. The other half of the respondents had to assess the truth of statements on a scale from definitely false (0) to definitely true (10).

1. Does the Affordable Care Act ...?
   o CE: Provide coverage for people who are currently in the country illegally, Replace private health insurance with a "single payer system", **Increase the Medicare payroll tax for upper-income Americans**, Reimburse routine mammograms only for women older than 50, Don't know (5)
   o Scale: Rating each response option above from definitely false (0) to definitely true (10). Don't know was not included.
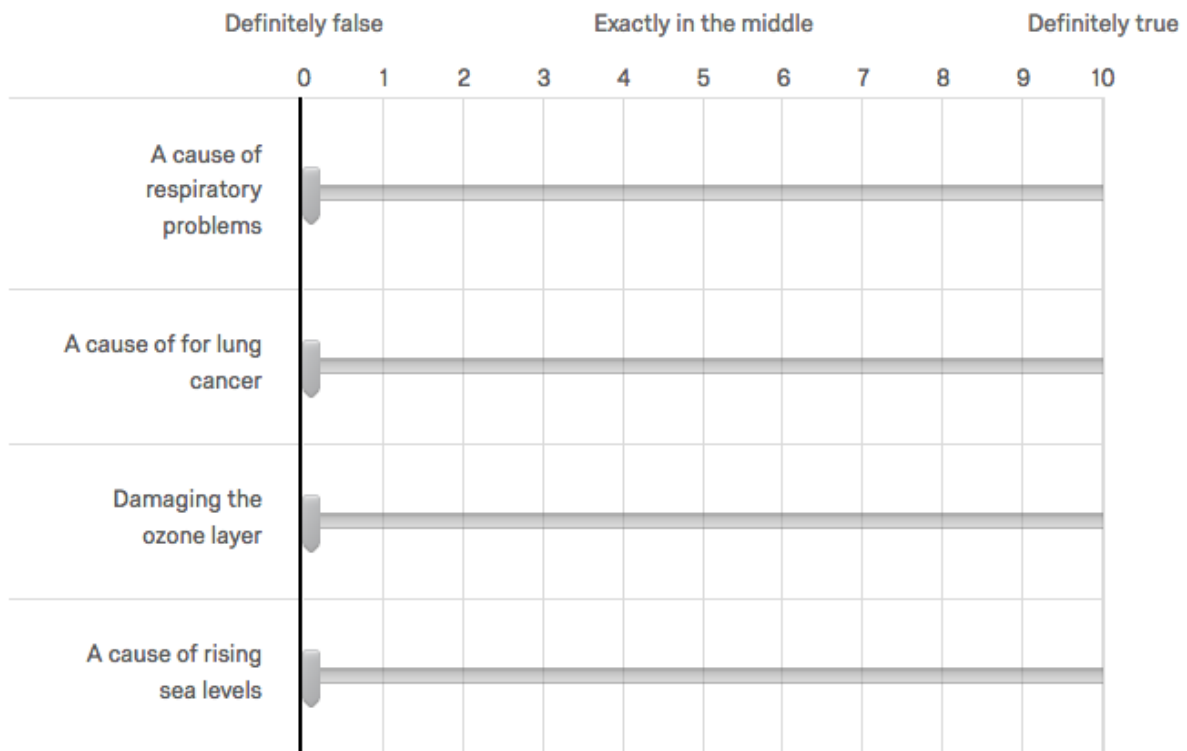
The Affordable Healthcare Act ...

2. Are greenhouse gases ....?
   o CE: A cause of respiratory problems, A cause of for lung cancer, Damaging the ozone layer, **A cause of rising sea levels**, or Don't know
   o Scale: Rating each response option above from definitely false (0) to definitely true (10). Don't know was not included.
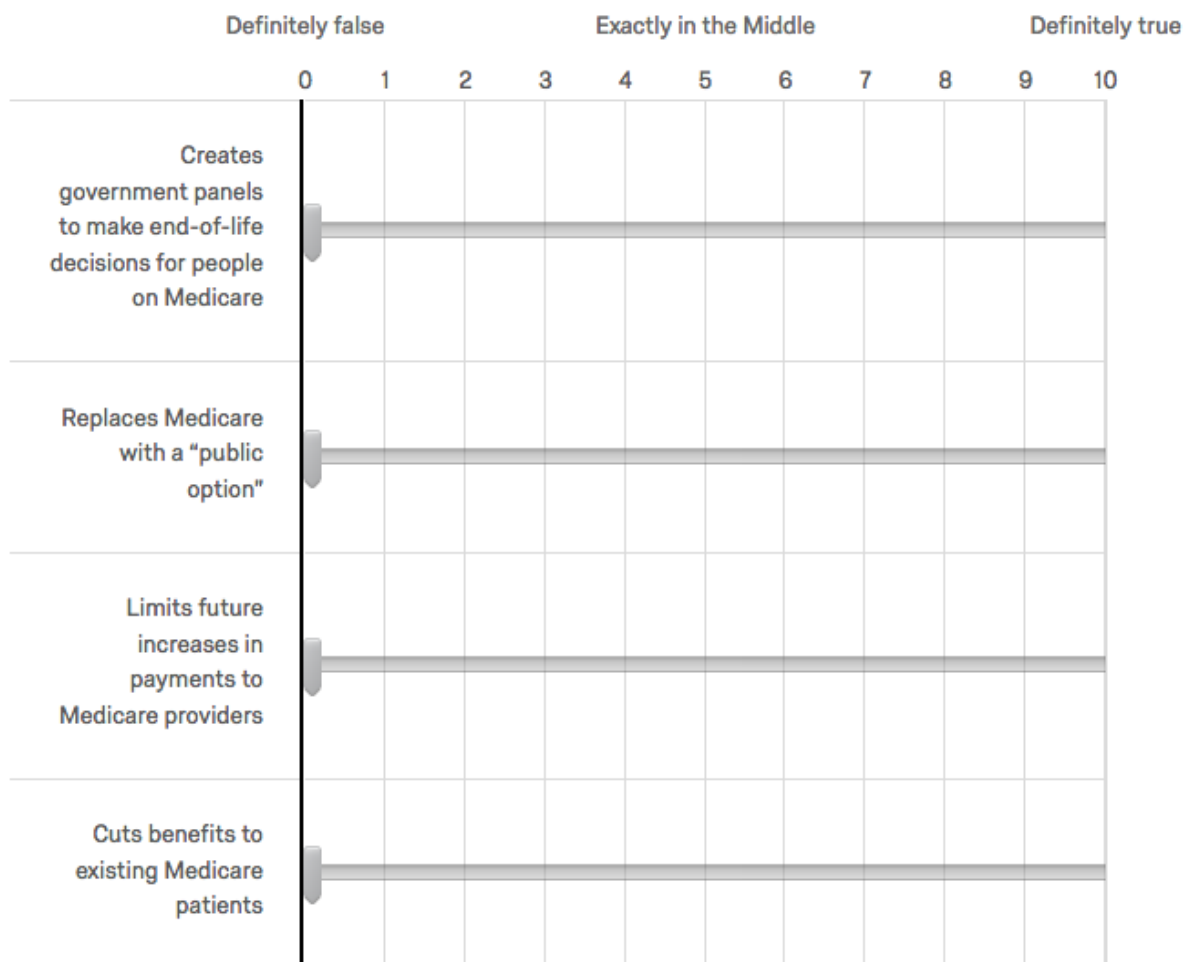
Greenhouse gases are...

	Definitely false					Exactly in the middle					Definitely true
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A cause of respiratory problems											
A cause of for lung cancer											
Damaging the ozone layer											
A cause of rising sea levels											

3. And does the Affordable Care Act …?
   o CE: Create government panels to make end-of-life decisions for people on Medicare, Replace Medicare with a "public option", **Limit future increases in payments to Medicare providers**, Cut benefits to existing Medicare patients, Don't know
   o Scale: Rating each response option above from definitely false (0) to definitely true (10). Don't know was not included.
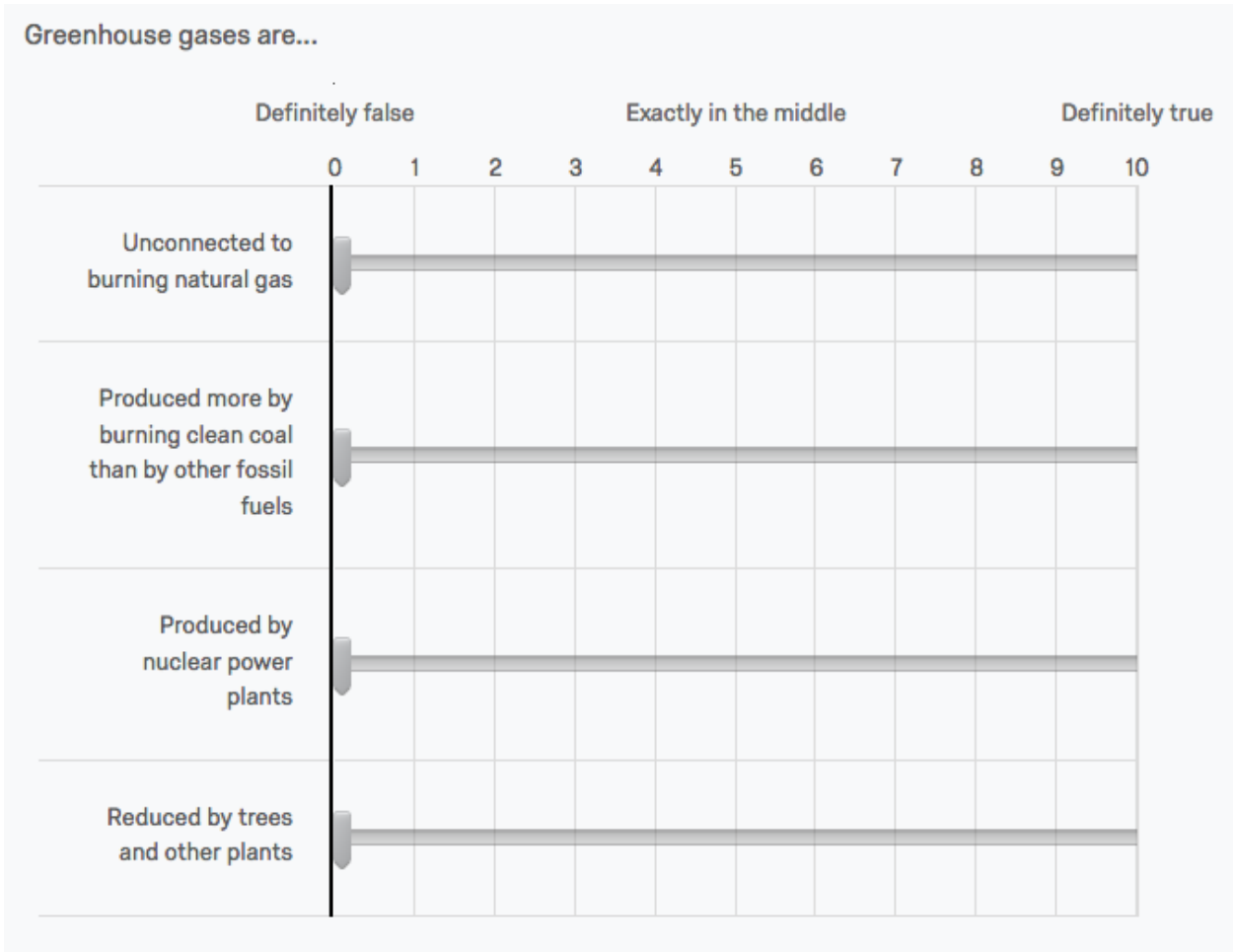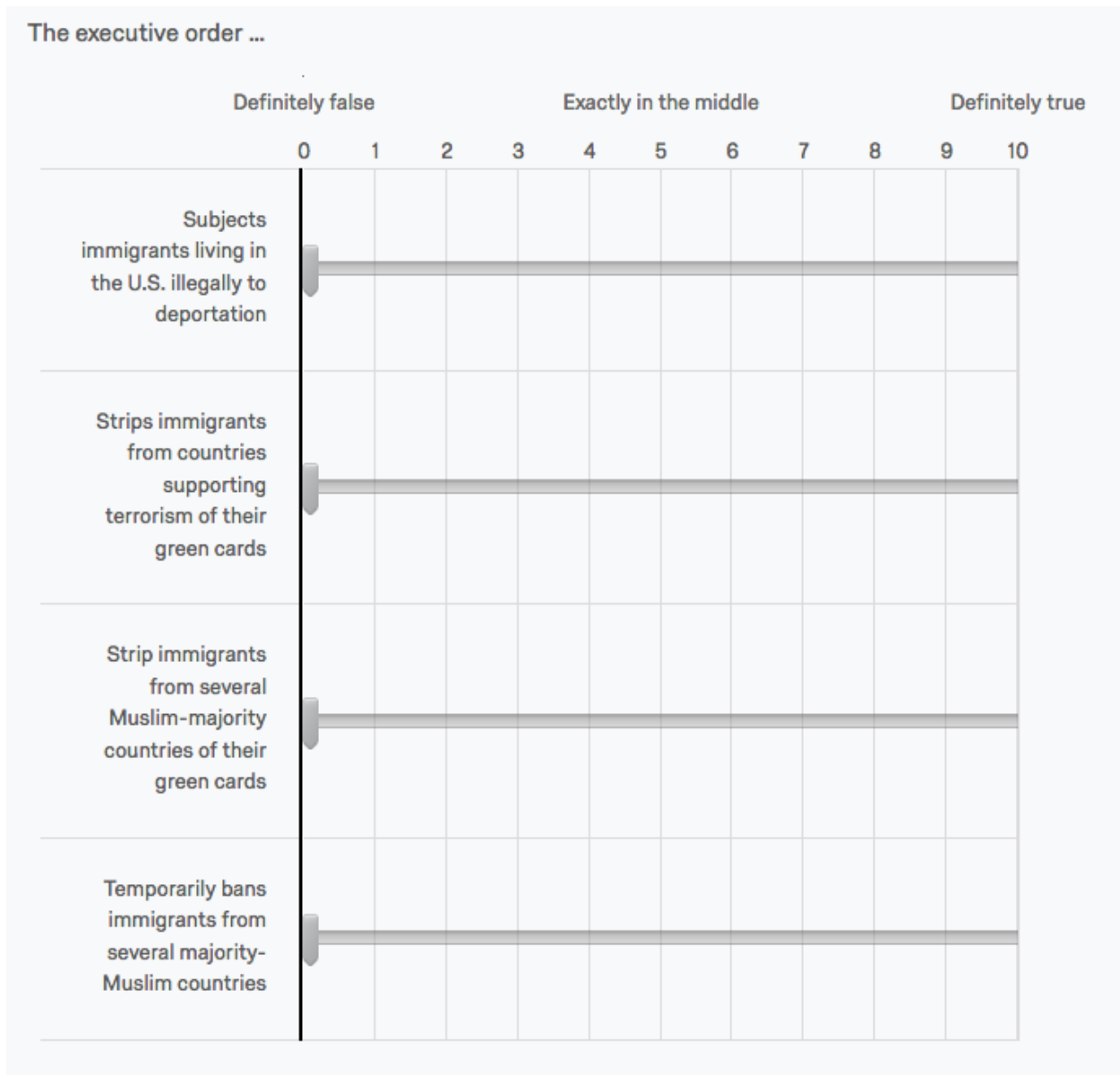
The Affordable Healthcare Act ...

	Definitely false				Exactly in the Middle					Definitely true	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Creates government panels to make end-of-life decisions for people on Medicare											
Replaces Medicare with a "public option"											
Limits future increases in payments to Medicare providers											
Cuts benefits to existing Medicare patients											

4. Are greenhouse gases ....?
   Note: We decided not to use this question as we think there are two correct answers (which we highlight below). The mistake was a result of a last-minute edit, during which we switched 'produced by trees and other plants' to 'reduced by ...'
   - o CE: Unconnected to burning natural gas, **Produced more by burning clean coal than by burning other fossil fuels**, Produced by nuclear power plants, **Reduced by trees and other plants**, Don't know
   - o Scale: Rating each response option above from definitely false (0) to definitely true (10). Don't know was not included.

5. Does President Trump's most recent executive order on immigration …?
   - o CE: Subject immigrants living in the U.S. illegally to deportation, Strip immigrants from countries supporting terrorism of their green cards, Strip immigrants from several Muslim-majority countries of their green cards, **Temporarily ban immigrants from several majority-Muslim countries**, Don't know
   - o Scale: Rating each response option above from definitely false (0) to definitely true (10). Don't know was not included.

The executive order …

If the close-ended questions 3, 4, and 5 were not answered with Don't know the respondents received one of two a follow- up question:

- o OE: What made you choose that response?
- o CE: What made you choose that response? I asked someone I know, I looked it up, I've read, seen, or heard that, It makes me feel good to think that, It makes sense, in view of other things I know, I just thought I'd take a shot

Inference

The following close-ended two deficit related questions were presented to all survey participants.

1. During the time Barack Obama was president, the federal deficit: **Increased**, Remained about the same, Decreased, Don't Know
2. During the time George W. Bush was president, the federal deficit: **Increased**, Remained about the same, Decreased, Don't Know

Both questions were followed by a probe. For one half of the respondents this probe was open and for the other one the probe was closed.
- OE: What made you choose that response?
- CE: What made you choose that response? I asked someone I know, I looked it up, I've read, seen, or heard that, It makes me feel good to think that, It makes sense, in view of other things I know, I just thought I'd take a shot