You are being asked to complete a survey that will take approximately 15 minutes. The researchers are interested in seeing how many people know and don’t know various things about politics, government policies, and government.  The data collected will be stored at a secure location, and no identifying information about you will be shared or made public.  The results will be presented in the form of statistical summaries describing how many people, not who, said what, in scholarly journals and/or at academic conferences.

Your participation is voluntary.  You will receive $0.75 for completing the survey, paid through Amazon Mechanical Turk.  There are no known risks associated with participating in this study.  Doing so will not benefit you personally beyond the $0.75, but the research is likely to add to scientific knowledge.

To be eligible to participate, you must be at least 18 years old and be a U.S. citizen.  If you have any questions, please contact Gaurav Sood at gsood07 (at) gmail (dot) com.  If you agree to take the survey, please click “I agree” below.

I agree

I do not agree

**Randomize 50—50**

**Gold-Standard**

Before we begin, we’d like to ask your help.  In answering surveys, people sometimes look up things they don’t know or can’t recall.  But we are trying to measure what people already know and can recall on their own—and are just as interested in what people don’t know as in what they do know.  So will you answer all the following questions—just saying “don’t know” if you don’t know—without looking anything up or talking with anyone about them?

Yes

No

1. Which one of the following is true under the Affordable Care Act …?
   1. Insurance companies must spend at least 80% of premiums on direct medical care.
   2. Insurance companies must provide insurance to illegal immigrants.
   3. Insurance companies must ration health care to contain costs.
   4. Nobody will lose an existing employer sponsored health insurance plan.
   5. Don’t know.
2. And does the Affordable Care Act …?
   1. Create government panels to make end-of-life decisions for people
   2. Replace Medicare with a “public option”
   3. Limit future increases in payments to Medicare providers
   4. Cut benefits to existing Medicare patients
   5. Don’t know
3. The federal government loaned money to banks under the bank bailout program known as TARP, the Troubled Asset Relief Program. How much of that money has been paid back to the government?
   1. Less than half of it
   2. More than half of it
   3. None of it
   4. Don’t know
4. On which of these activities does the U.S. government currently spend the most money? Is it…
   1. Medicare
   2. Interest on the national debt
   3. National defense
   4. Don’t know
5. Assuming global warming is happening, do you think it is…
   1. Caused mostly by human activities
   2. Caused by both human activities and natural changes
   3. Caused mostly by natural changes in the environment
   4. None of the above because global warming isn’t happening
   5. Don’t know
6. Which of these three statements about the Earth’s temperature comes closest to your view?
   1. The Earth is getting warmer mostly because of human activity such as burning fossil fuels
   2. The Earth is getting warmer mostly because of natural patterns in the
   3. Earth’s environment
   4. There is no solid evidence that the Earth is getting warmer
   5. Don’t Know
7. Which comes closer to your own view?
   1. Most scientists think global warming is happening
   2. Most scientists think global warming is not happening
   3. There is a lot of disagreement among scientists about whether global warming is happening
   4. Don't know
8. Are greenhouse gases ….?
   1. Unconnected to burning natural gas
   2. Produced more by burning clean coal than by burning other fossil fuels
   3. Damaging the ozone layer
   4. A cause of rising sea levels
   5. Don’t know
9. There is a federal estate tax – that is, a tax on the money people leave to others when they die. What percentage of Americans leave enough money to others for the federal estate tax to kick in?
   1. About 95 percent of all Americans
   2. About 70 percent of all Americans
   3. About 50 percent of all Americans
   4. About 25 percent of all Americans
   5. Don’t know

1. Which of the following countries is the leading producer of Carbon Dioxide?
   1. USA
   2. China
   3. India
   4. Saudi Arabia
   5. Don’t Know
2. What is your best guess of the percentage of federal income tax revenue that comes from the top 1 percent of earners?
   1. Less than 1%
   2. Between 1 and 25%
   3. Between 1
3. Does President Trump’s most recent executive order on immigration …?
   1. Subject immigrants living in the U.S. illegally to deportation
   2. Strip immigrants from countries supporting terrorism of their green cards
   3. Strip immigrants from several Muslim-majority countries of their green cards
   4. Temporarily ban immigrants from several majority-Muslim countries
4. During the time Barack Obama was president, the federal deficit:
   1. Increased
   2. Remained about the same
   3. Decreased
   4. Don’t know
5. During the time Barack Obama was president, the number of deportations:
   1. Increased
   2. Remained about the same
   3. Decreased
   4. Don’t know
6. Under the immigration law passed in Arizona in 2010, what could law enforcement officials do?
   1. Can ask people suspected of being illegal immigrants for their papers only when stopping them for other reasons.
   2. Can ask anyone they suspect of being an illegal immigrant for their papers
   3. Do not have to read illegal immigrants their rights when arresting them
   4. Can escort illegal immigrants back across the border
   5. Don’t Know
7. What proportion of auto bailout program for Chrysler and General Motors was returned to the government?
   1. Less than half
   2. More than half
   3. Don’t Know
8. Partisan Cue or Not
9. Stereotypical cue or not
10. Explicit DK or not
11. DK encouraging or discouraging
12. Opinion Versus Fact
13. No. of options
14. Asymmetric info. or not
15. Randomize response options

Gold Standard:

1. DK Encouraging
2. Closed-ended --- 4+ options
   1. Greater number of options -🡪 reduce inference (people picking between oh this one or that one)
   2. Reduce
3. Matter of fact
4. No information, no cues
5. Partisan Balance in incorrect options

Iron Pyrite standard:

* 1. DK neutral
  2. Closed-ended w/ few options
  3. Matter of opinion --- what’s your personal belief
  4. Partisan imbalance (with 2--- you always have one that congenial to one side.)

**(1-2) Response Options**

**[Randomly Select One of Q1A through Q1E]**

Q1A. Under the immigration law passed in Arizona in 2010, what can law enforcement officials do?

1. Can ask people suspected of being illegal immigrants for their papers only when stopping them for other reasons.
2. Can ask anyone they suspect of being an illegal immigrant for their papers.
3. Couldn’t say.

Q1AB Under the immigration law passed in Arizona in 2010, what can law enforcement officials do?

1. Can ask people suspected of being illegal immigrants for their papers only when stopping them for other reasons.
2. Can ask anyone they suspect of being an illegal immigrant for their papers.
3. Do not have to read illegal immigrants their rights when arresting them.
4. Couldn’t say.

Q1AC Under the immigration law passed in Arizona in 2010, what could law enforcement officials do?

1. Can ask people suspected of being illegal immigrants for their papers only when stopping them for other reasons.
2. Can ask anyone they suspect of being an illegal immigrant for their papers.
3. Do not have to read illegal immigrants their rights when arresting them.
4. Can escort illegal immigrants back across the border.
5. Couldn’t say.

Q1AD Under the immigration law passed in Arizona in 2010, what could law enforcement officials do?

1. Can ask people suspected of being illegal immigrants for their papers only when stopping them for other reasons.
2. Can ask anyone they suspect of being an illegal immigrant for their papers.
3. Do not have to read illegal immigrants their rights when arresting them.
4. Can escort illegal immigrants back across the border.
5. Can impound vehicles of illegal immigrants.
6. Couldn’t say.

Q1E Under the immigration law passed in Arizona in 2010, what could law enforcement officials do? **[Open-Ended, Record Full Response]**

**Agg. Hypothesis**

From 2009 to 2016, did income inequality increase, decrease, or remain the same

During the period when Barack Obama was president, between 2009 and 2016, did the income inequality increase, decrease, or remain the same

**Conditional hypothesis**

From 2009 to 2016, did the GDP increase, decrease, or remain the same

During the period when Barack Obama was president, between 2009 and 2016, did the GDP increase, decrease, or remain the same

**[Randomly Select One of Q2A through Q2E]**

Q2A. Did the bailout program for Chrysler and General Motors occur under President George W. Bush?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don’t know

Q2B. Did the bailout program for Chrysler and General Motors occur under President Barack Obama?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don’t know

Q2C. Did the bailout program for Chrysler and General Motors occur under President George W. Bush or President Barack Obama?

1. George Bush
2. Barack Obama
3. Don’t know

Q2D. Did the bailout program for Chrysler and General Motors occur under President George Bush, President Barack Obama, or both Presidents?

1. George Bush
2. Barack Obama
3. Both presidents
4. Don’t know

Q2E. What president did the bailout program for Chrysler and General Motors occur under? **[Open-Ended, Record Full Response]**

**[DID the people repay the bail out money?]**

**(3-4) Partisan Inference:**

**[Randomly Select One of Q3A through Q3C]**

Q3A. Since the 2010 midterm elections, has the unemployment rate gone up, gone down, or remained the same? Or couldn’t you say?

1. Gone up
2. Gone down
3. Stayed the same
4. Couldn’t say

Q3B. Since the 2010 midterm elections when Republicans regained control of the U.S. Congress, has the unemployment rate gone up, gone down, or remained the same? Or couldn’t you say?

1. Gone up
2. Gone down
3. Stayed the same
4. Couldn’t say

Q3C. Since the 2010 midterm elections when the Democrats retained control of the Senate, has the unemployment rate gone up, gone down, or remained the same? Or couldn’t you say?

1. Gone up
2. Gone down
3. Stayed the same
4. Couldn’t say

**[Randomly Select One of Q4A through Q4C]**

Q4A. Since the 2010 midterm elections, has the federal budget deficit gone up, gone down, or remained the same? Or couldn’t you say?

1. Gone up
2. Gone down
3. Stayed the same
4. Couldn’t say

Q4B. Since the 2010 midterm elections when Republicans regained control of the U.S. Congress, has the federal budget deficit gone up, gone down, or remained the same? Or couldn’t you say?

1. Gone up
2. Gone down
3. Stayed the same
4. Couldn’t say

Q4C. Since the 2010 midterm elections when the Democrats retained control of the Senate, has the federal budget deficit gone up, gone down, or remained the same? Or couldn’t you say?

1. Gone up
2. Gone down
3. Stayed the same
4. Couldn’t say

**(5-6) Opinion versus Fact**

**[Randomly Select One of Q5A through Q5D]**

Q5A. Since the 2010 midterm elections, has the unemployment rate gone up, gone down, or remained the same? Or couldn’t you say?

1. Gone up
2. Gone down
3. Stayed the same
4. Couldn’t say

Q5B. To the best of your knowledge, since the 2010 midterm elections, has the unemployment rate gone up, gone down, or remained the same? Or couldn’t you say?

1. Gone up
2. Gone down
3. Stayed the same
4. Couldn’t say

Q5C. Based on what you have heard, since the 2010 midterm elections, has the unemployment rate gone up, gone down, or remained the same? Or couldn’t you say?

1. Gone up
2. Gone down
3. Stayed the same
4. Couldn’t say

Q5D. As far as you know, since the 2010 midterm elections, has the unemployment rate gone up, gone down, or remained the same? Or couldn’t you say?

1. Gone up
2. Gone down
3. Stayed the same
4. Couldn’t say

**[Randomly Select One of Q6A through Q6E]**

**Find the Most Common and Use those:**

**Do you think**

**Based on what you have heard**

**Personal Belief**

Q6A. Since January 2009, have federal taxes increased, decreased, or remained the same.

1. Increased
2. Decreased
3. Remained the same
4. Couldn’t say

Q6B. Since Barack Obama took office, have federal taxes increased, decreased, or remained the same.

1. Increased
2. Decreased
3. Remained the same
4. Couldn’t say

Q6C. As far as you know, since Barack Obama took office, have federal taxes increased, decreased, or remained the same.

1. Increased
2. Decreased
3. Remained the same
4. Couldn’t say

Q6D. Based on what you have heard, since Barack Obama took office, have federal taxes increased, decreased, or remained the same.

1. Increased
2. Decreased
3. Remained the same
4. Couldn’t say

Q6E. To the best of your knowledge, since Barack Obama took office, have federal taxes increased, decreased, or remained the same.

1. Increased
2. Decreased
3. Remained the same
4. Couldn’t say

**(7-9) Asymmetric Response Option Congeniality**

**[Randomly Select One of Q7A through Q7C]**

Q7A. The current unemployment rate is closest to?

1. 9%
2. 14%
3. 20%
4. 24%
5. Don’t know

Q7B. The current unemployment rate is closest to?

1. 5%
2. 9%
3. 14%
4. 20%
5. Don’t know

Q7C. The current unemployment rate is closest to?

1. 3%
2. 5%
3. 9%
4. 14%
5. Don’t know

**[Randomly Select One of Q8A and Q8B]**

Q8A.

Q8B. Under the Affordable Care Act, recently upheld by the Supreme Court, insurance companies must do which of the following?

1. Spend at least 80% of premiums on direct medical care.
2. Provide drug benefits comparable to those currently provided by Medicare.
3. Increase premiums at rates below that of inflation.
4. Submit executive bonus plans to the federal government for review.
5. Don’t know.

**[Randomly Select One of Q9A and Q9F]**

Q9A. Under the Affordable Care Act, recently upheld by the Supreme Court, insurance companies must do which of the following?

1. Spend at least 80% of premiums on direct medical care.
2. Provide insurance to illegal immigrants.
3. Ration health care to keep costs at levels set by the government.
4. Submit executive bonus plans to the federal government for review.
5. Don’t know.

Q9B. Under the Affordable Care Act passed by President Obama and recently upheld by the Supreme Court, insurance companies must do which of the following?

1. Spend at least 80% of premiums on direct medical care.
2. Provide insurance to illegal immigrants.
3. Ration health care in order to keep costs at levels set by the government.
4. Submit executive bonus plans to the federal government for review.
5. Don’t know.

Q9C. Under the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare and recently upheld by the Supreme Court, insurance companies must do which of the following?

1. Spend at least 80% of premiums on direct medical care.
2. Provide insurance to illegal immigrants.
3. Ration health care in order to keep costs at levels set by the government.
4. Submit executive bonus plans to the federal government for review.
5. Don’t know.

Q9D. As far as you know, under the Affordable Care Act, recently upheld by the Supreme Court, insurance companies must do which of the following?

1. Spend at least 80% of premiums on direct medical care.
2. Provide insurance to illegal immigrants.
3. Ration health care in order to keep costs at levels set by the government.
4. Submit executive bonus plans to the federal government for review.
5. Don’t know.

Q9E. As far as you know, under the Affordable Care Act passed by President Obama and recently upheld by the Supreme Court, insurance companies must do which of the following?

1. Spend at least 80% of premiums on direct medical care.
2. Provide insurance to illegal immigrants.
3. Ration health care in order to keep costs at levels set by the government.
4. Submit executive bonus plans to the federal government for review.
5. Don’t know.

Q9F. As far as you know, under the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare and recently upheld by the Supreme Court, insurance companies must do which of the following?

1. Spend at least 80% of premiums on direct medical care.
2. Provide insurance to illegal immigrants.
3. Ration health care in order to keep costs at levels set by the government.
4. Submit executive bonus plans to the federal government for review.
5. Don’t know.

One more type–

**Give the baseline, but leave it as open-ended. You can do better, same, worse kind of scoring with this type.**

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics counts a person as unemployed if the person is not employed at any job and is looking for work. By this definition, 4.7 percent of Americans were unemployed in 2001 [at the beginning of President Bush's first term in office].

Each year, the United States Census Bureau reports an estimate of the number of Americans without health insurance. The Census Bureau classifies people as uninsured if they were not covered by any type of health insurance at any time during the year. By this definition, 14.1 percent of Americans did not have health insurance in 2001[, the year President Bush took office]. According to the latest estimate (for 2006), what percentage of Americans do not have health insurance?

The outstanding public debt of the United States is the total amount of money owed by the federal government. Every year the government runs a deficit, the size of the public debt grows. Every year the government runs a surplus, the size of the public debt shrinks. In January of 2001, [when President Bush took office,] the outstanding public debt of the United States was approximately 5.7 trillion dollars. Which of the following responses is closest to the outstanding public debt today?