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 $0.50 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 $0.50, 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

**Preface**

**IP Standard**

Now we would like to ask you about what people know about politics and public affairs. Here are some questions:

Vs.

**Gold Standard**

Now here are some questions about what you may know about politics and public affairs.

In answering questions like these, 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 we’d like your agreement to just say “don’t know” if you don’t know the answer—without looking anything up or talking with anyone about it. Will you do that for us?

Yes

No

**Obama Citizenship**

**IP Standard**

According to the Constitution, American presidents must be “natural born citizens.” Some people say Barack Obama was not born in the United States, but was born in another country. Do you think Barack Obama was …?

1. Born in the US
2. Born in another country

Vs.

**Gold Standard**

**[Randomize]**

Was Barack Obama born in …?

1. the US
2. Kenya
3. Indonesia
4. Another country
5. Don’t Know

**Obama Religion**

**IP Standard**

Do you personally believe that Barack Obama is a …?

1. Muslim
2. Christian

Vs.

Is Barack Obama a …?

1. Muslim
2. Christian
3. Atheist
4. Buddhist
5. Don’t Know

**ACA Illegal**

**IP Standard**

To the best of your knowledge, would you say the Affordable Care Act…?

1. *Allows* illegal immigrants to receive financial help from the government to buy health insurance
2. *Does not allow* illegal immigrants to receive financial help from the government to buy health insurance

Vs.

**Gold Standard**

Does the Affordable Care Act…?

1. *Allow* illegal immigrants to receive financial help from the government to buy health insurance
2. *Does not allow* illegal immigrants to receive financial help from the government to buy health insurance
3. *Don’t know*

**ACA --- Death Panels**

**IP Standard**

To the best of your knowledge, would you say the Affordable Care Act does or does not establish a government panel to make decisions about end-of-life care …?

1. *Does* establish one
2. *Does not* establish one

Vs.

**Gold Standard**

Does the Affordable Care Act…?

1. Create government panels to make end-of-life decisions
2. Replace Medicare with a public option
3. Limit increases in payments to Medicare providers
4. Require insurance companies to ration health care
5. Don’t Know

**GW---Scientist Agreement**

**IP Standard**

Just your impression, which one of the following statements do you think is most accurate?

1. Most scientists believe that global warming is occurring.
2. Most scientists believe that global warming is NOT occurring.
3. Scientists are more or less equally divided about whether global warming is occurring or not

Vs.

**Gold Standard**

Which one of the following statements is true?

1. Most scientists believe that global warming is occurring.
2. Most scientists believe that global warming is NOT occurring.
3. Scientists are more or less equally divided about whether global warming is occurring or not.
4. Don’t know

**BO---Budget Deficit**

**IP Standard**

**As you may know, the federal government runs a deficit when it spends more than it takes in.** Since 2012, when Barack Obama was re-elected president**, would you say that the annual federal budget deficit has …**

1. **Increased**
2. **Stayed about the same**
3. **Decreased**

Vs.

**Gold Standard**

Since 2012, has**the annual federal budget deficit …**

1. **Increased**
2. **Stayed about the same**
3. **Decreased**
4. **Don’t know**

**Global Warming --- Happening + Causes**

**IP Standard**

Which of the following best fits your view on temperatures around the world? Are they …?

1. Increasing on account of natural variation over time
2. Increasing on account of human activity, like burning coal and gasoline
3. Staying about the same as they have been

Vs.

**Gold Standard**

Are temperatures around the world …?

1. Staying about the same as they have been
2. Increasing on account of natural variation over time
3. Increasing on account of human activity, like burning coal and gasoline
4. Getting colder after getting warmer for a while
5. Getting warmer in the summer but colder in the winter.
6. Don’t Know

**Voter Fraud**

**IP Standard**

As you may know, President Trump has said that he won majority of the votes cast in the 2016 presidential election, if you set aside all the votes that were cast illegally. Do think that that President Trump won the majority of the legally cast votes or not?

1. Won the majority of legally cast votes
2. Did not win the majority of the legally cast votes

Vs.

**Gold Standard**

In the 2016 presidential election, did President Trump win …?

* A majority of the vote
* A majority of the vote, if you set a side all the votes that were cast illegally
* A minority of the vote, even if you set a side all the votes that were cast illegally
* Don’t Know

**Vaccines**

**IP Standard**

Thinking about vaccines given to children for diseases like measles, mumps, and rubella, which of the following is true:

1. They prevent much more illness than they cause.
2. They cause much more illness than they prevent.
3. They prevent and cause illness about equally.

**Gold Standard**

Thinking about vaccines given to children for diseases like measles, mumps, and rubella, which of the following is true:

1. They don’t do much to prevent disease beyond what has been achieved by better hygiene and sanitation.
2. They protect everyone who gets vaccinated.
3. They prevent much more illness than they cause.
4. They make no difference to the probability of getting the disease.
5. Increase the probability of bone cancer.
6. Don’t Know
7. Partisan Cue or Not
8. Stereotypical cue or not
9. Explicit DK or not
10. **DK encouraging** or discouraging
11. **Opinion Versus Fact**
12. No. of options
13. Asymmetric info. or not
14. Randomize response options
15. Providing information --- incorrect response encouraging.

**Criminal Illegals**

**IP Standard**

"Generally, do you think immigrants are more likely to be involved in criminal activity than people born here, less likely, or isn't there much difference?"

http://www.pollingreport.com/immigration3.htm

"Compared to American citizens, how likely do you think ILLEGAL immigrants are to commit crimes? Are illegal immigrants more likely, less likely, or about as likely to commit crimes as American citizens?"

http://www.pollingreport.com/immigration.htm

**Incorrect Response Encouraging**

1. Do you think Barack Obama was …?
2. Born in the US
3. Born in another country
4. Do you think that…?
   1. Most scientists agree that global warming is happening
   2. There is a lot of disagreement among scientists about this
5. **Since Barack Obama became president in 2009, would you say that the annual federal budget deficit has:**
   1. **Increased**
   2. **Stayed about the same**
   3. **Decreased**

**DYT dimension**

1. According to the Constitution, American presidents must be “natural born citizens.” Some people say Barack Obama was not born in the United States, but was born in another country. Was Barack Obama …?
2. Born in the US
3. Born in another country
4. Is Barack Obama a …?
   1. Muslim
   2. Christian
5. Does the Affordable Care Act…?
   1. *Allow* undocumented immigrants to receive financial help from the government to buy health insurance
   2. *Not allow* undocumented immigrants to receive financial help from the government to buy health insurance
6. Do most scientists …?
   1. Agree with one another about whether or not global warming is happening
   2. Disagree with one another on this issue
7. Does the Affordable Care Act establish a government panel to make decisions about end-of-life care or not…?
   1. *Does* establish one
   2. *Does not* establish one
8. **As you may know, the federal government runs a deficit when it spends more than it takes in during a given year.** Since 2012, when Barack Obama was re-elected president**, has the annual federal budget deficit has:**
   1. **Increased**
   2. **Stayed about the same**
   3. **Decreased**

**Explicit DK + DK Encouraging**

1. According to the Constitution, American presidents must be “natural born citizens.” Some people say Barack Obama was not born in the United States, but was born in another country. Do you think Barack Obama was …?
2. Born in the US
3. Born in another country
4. Don’t Know
5. Do you personally believe that Barack Obama is a …?
   1. Muslim
   2. Christian
   3. Don’ t Know
6. To the best of your knowledge, would you say the Affordable Care Act…?
   1. *Allows* undocumented immigrants to receive financial help from the government to buy health insurance
   2. *Does not allow* undocumented immigrants to receive financial help from the government to buy health insurance
   3. Don’t Know
7. Do you think that…?
   1. Most scientists agree with one another about whether or not global warming is happening
   2. There is a lot of disagreement among scientists on this issue
   3. Don’t Know
8. To the best of your knowledge, would you say the Affordable Care Act does or does not establish a government panel to make decisions about end-of-life care …?
   1. *Does* establish one
   2. *Does not* establish one
   3. Don’t Know
9. **As you may know, the federal government runs a deficit when it spends more than it takes in during a given year.** Since 2012, when Barack Obama was re-elected president**, would you say that the annual federal budget deficit has:**
   1. **Increased**
   2. **Stayed about the same**
   3. **Decreased**
   4. **Don’t know**

**Number of Options**

1. According to the Constitution, American presidents must be “natural born citizens.” Some people say Barack Obama was not born in the United States, but was born in another country. Do you think Barack Obama was born in…?

* the US
* Kenya
* Canada
* Great Britain

1. Do you personally believe that Barack Obama is a …?
   1. Muslim
   2. Christian
   3. Atheist
   4. Buddhist

**Partisan Cue**

1. **As you may know, the federal government runs a deficit when it spends more than it takes in during a given year. Since Barack Obama became president in 2009, would you say that the annual federal budget deficit has:**
   1. **Increased**
   2. **Stayed about the same**
   3. **Decreased**
2. **As you may know, the federal government runs a deficit when it spends more than it takes in during a given year.** Since 2012, **would you say that the annual federal budget deficit has:**
   1. **Increased**
   2. **Stayed about the same**
   3. **Decreased**
3. **Since 2012, with the Republicans having a majority of the seats in the House, has the annual federal budget deficit …**