ONLINE APPENDIX

"Which level of government is primarily responsible for the following policy areas?"								
Employment Insurance	Federal	Provincial	Municipal					
Healthcare	Federal	Provincial	Municipal					
Primary and Secondary Education	Federal	Provincial	Municipal					
Defence Policy	Federal	Provincial	Municipal					
Public Transit	Federal	Provincial	<u>Municipal</u>					
Sewage and Water	Federal	Provincial	<u>Municipal</u>					

Table A1. Wording of the Question Used to Create Political Knowledge Score

Note: Data drawn from the 2020, 2021 and 2022 Democracy Checkup datasets. The correct answers are indicated in **bold**.

Measuring Political Knowledge

Initially, we attempted to aggregate the six political knowledge items into three composite variables—each representing knowledge of the federal, provincial, or municipal levels of government. However, factor analysis and reliability testing indicated that these items did not load well onto distinct factors, suggesting that level-specific composite scales would not provide a reliable measure of political knowledge.

The factor analysis diagram (Figure A1) illustrates the relationships between knowledge items and three latent factors. While some items showed strong loadings—for example, Healthcare (HEALTH) and Sewage/Water (SEWAT) on ML1, likely reflecting shared dimensions of essential social services—others, such as Employment Insurance (EI) and Defence (DEF), exhibited weak or inconsistent loadings, particularly for ML3. These inconsistencies suggest that the expected groupings by level of government (federal, provincial, municipal) do not cohere as unified constructs. The scree plot (Figure A2) reinforces this conclusion, showing that only one component had an eigenvalue greater than 1, and no meaningful factor structure emerged beyond the first component. Together, these results indicate that the knowledge items reflect distinct dimensions rather than a single unified or level-specific scale.

This theoretical and empirical misalignment led us to evaluate each knowledge item individually. While we recognize that some level-specific pairs of items, such as Healthcare and Schools (provincial), may share conceptual commonalities, their lack of strong factor loadings makes aggregating them unreliable. Moreover, our theoretical framework highlights that gendered knowledge differences may vary not only by level of government but also by policy type, further justifying an item-by-item approach. Evaluating individual items ensures that we capture the nuanced ways gender disparities in political knowledge are tied to specific policy areas and their associated government responsibilities.

Figure A1. Factor Analysis Diagram



Figure A2. Scree Plot of Eigen Values



Policy Area	Gender	% Correct	% Incorrect	% Don't Know
Federal				
Defence Policy	Women	88.76	7.59	3.64
	Men	94.12	4.82	1.06
	Difference	-5.36	2.77	2.58
Employment Insurance	Women	68.39	28.21	3.39
	Men	80.07	18.69	1.23
	Difference	-11.68	9.52	2.16
	Avg. Difference	-8.52	<u>6.15</u>	<u>2.37</u>
Provincial				
Healthcare	Women	71.82	26.00	2.17
	Men	79.76	19.51	.727
	Difference	-7.94	6.49	1.443
K-12 Education	Women	83.46	14.16	2.38
	Men	88.82	10.19	.985
	Difference	-5.36	3.97	1.39
	Avg. Difference	<u>-6.65</u>	5.23	<u>1.42</u>
Municipal				
Public Transit	Women	57.24	40.24	2.52
	Men	61.44	37.64	.921
	Difference	-4.20	2.60	1.59
Sewage and Water	Women	68.75	27.84	3.40
	Men	74.27	24.58	1.14
	Difference	-5.52	3.26	2.26
	Avg. Difference	-4.86	2.93	<u>1.93</u>

Table A2. Distribution of responses to each political knowledge question, by gender.

Variable	Employment Insurance	Defence	Health	Schools	Transit	Sewage/Water
(Intercept)	-1.05***	-0.06	-0.58***	0.46***	-0.13	0.57***
	(0.09)	(0.15)	(0.09)	(0.11)	(0.08)	(0.09)
Male	0.38***	0.24***	0.27***	0.22***	0.06*	0.12***
	(0.03)	(0.06)	(0.03)	(0.04)	(0.03)	(0.03)
Age	0.03***	0.05***	0.02***	0.03***	0.01***	0.01***
	(0.001)	(0.002)	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.001)
Some PSE	0.25***	0.70***	0.43***	0.47***	0.28***	0.33***
	(0.04)	(0.07)	(0.04)	(0.05)	(0.04)	(0.04)
Bachelor's or Higher	0.56***	1.21***	0.96***	0.81***	0.53***	0.61***
	(0.05)	(0.08)	(0.05)	(0.06)	(0.04)	(0.04)
Unemployed	-0.03	-0.33**	-0.07	-0.34***	0.02	-0.24***
	(0.08)	(0.11)	(0.07)	(0.09)	(0.07)	(0.07)
Married	0.07*	-0.26***	-0.00	-0.10*	-0.06	0.01
	(0.03)	(0.06)	(0.03)	(0.04)	(0.03)	(0.03)
Community Size	-0.02	-0.04	-0.03	-0.05**	0.05***	-0.05***
	(0.01)	(0.02)	(0.01)	(0.02)	(0.01)	(0.01)
Visible Minority	-0.20***	-0.59***	-0.29***	-0.55***	-0.46***	-0.60***
	(0.05)	(0.07)	(0.05)	(0.06)	(0.04)	(0.05)
Year: 2021	-0.17***	0.09	0.03	0.05	-0.22***	0.03
	(0.05)	(0.08)	(0.04)	(0.06)	(0.04)	(0.04)
Year: 2022	-0.24***	0.03	0.09*	-0.01	-0.32***	-0.17***
	(0.04)	(0.08)	(0.04)	(0.06)	(0.04)	(0.04)
Alberta	0.73***	-0.07	0.28***	0.06	0.80***	0.28***
	(0.06)	(0.09)	(0.06)	(0.07)	(0.05)	(0.06)
BC	0.39***	-0.04	-0.11*	-0.22***	-0.90***	-0.08
	(0.05)	(0.09)	(0.05)	(0.06)	(0.04)	(0.05)
Manitoba	0.20*	0.32	0.14	-0.15	0.22**	-0.27**
	(0.09)	(0.17)	(0.09)	(0.11)	(0.08)	(0.09)
New Brunswick	0.49***	-0.45*	-0.35***	-0.28*	0.17	-0.56***
	(0.12)	(0.18)	(0.10)	(0.13)	(0.10)	(0.10)
NFL	0.86***	-0.65***	-0.12	-0.16	-0.43***	-0.41***
	(0.15)	(0.19)	(0.12)	(0.16)	(0.11)	(0.13)
Nova Scotia	0.62***	-0.23	-0.09	-0.15	0.40***	0.10

Table A3. Determinants of the Gender Gap in Political Knowledge (Excluding 'Don't Know' Responses)

Variable	Employment Insurance	Defence	Health	Schools	Transit	Sewage/Water
	(0.11)	(0.17)	(0.10)	(0.13)	(0.09)	(0.11)
PEI	0.78**	-0.10	-0.23	-0.27	-0.44*	-0.57*
	(0.28)	(0.41)	(0.23)	(0.29)	(0.21)	(0.23)
Quebec	0.57***	0.15	0.83***	0.52***	-0.27***	-0.98***
	(0.04)	(0.08)	(0.05)	(0.06)	(0.04)	(0.04)
Saskatchewan	0.52***	-0.37*	-0.23**	-0.40***	-0.09	-0.41***
	(0.10)	(0.14)	(0.09)	(0.11)	(0.08)	(0.09)
Deviance	23292	9327.8	15943	15210.01	29333	24832
Ν	22035	22035	22035	22035	22035	22035
****p < 0.001; **j	p < 0.01; *p < 0.	.05				

Variable	Employment Insurance	Defence	Health	Schools	Transit	Sewage/Water
(Intercept)	-1.54***	-1.21***	-0.98***	-0.17	-0.54***	0.09
	(0.08)	(0.12)	(0.08)	(0.10)	(0.09)	(0.10)
Male	0.43***	0.46***	0.31***	0.29***	0.06	0.13***
	(0.03)	(0.05)	(0.03)	(0.04)	(0.03)	(0.03)
Age	0.04***	0.05***	0.02***	0.03***	0.01***	0.01***
	(0.001)	(0.002)	(0.001)	(0.001)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Some PSE	0.32***	0.75***	0.49***	0.54***	0.30***	0.34***
	(0.04)	(0.06)	(0.04)	(0.05)	(0.04)	(0.04)
Bachelor's or Higher	0.64***	1.29***	1.01***	0.90***	0.53***	0.64***
	(0.04)	(0.07)	(0.04)	(0.05)	(0.04)	(0.04)
Unemployed	-0.01	-0.19*	-0.08	-0.34***	-0.01	-0.26***
	(0.07)	(0.10)	(0.07)	(0.08)	(0.07)	(0.07)
Married	0.08**	-0.21***	0.01	-0.10*	-0.05	0.02
	(0.03)	(0.05)	(0.03)	(0.04)	(0.03)	(0.03)
Community Size	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	-0.04**	0.04***	-0.05***
	(0.01)	(0.02)	(0.01)	(0.02)	(0.01)	(0.01)
Visible Minority	-0.19***	-0.61***	-0.29***	-0.56***	-0.45***	-0.57***
	(0.05)	(0.07)	(0.05)	(0.05)	(0.04)	(0.05)
Year: 2021	0.16***	1.00***	0.27***	0.49***	-0.02	0.30***
	(0.04)	(0.06)	(0.04)	(0.05)	(0.04)	(0.04)
Year: 2022	0.08*	0.94***	0.32***	0.42***	-0.13***	0.11**
	(0.04)	(0.06)	(0.04)	(0.05)	(0.04)	(0.04)
Alberta	0.75***	0.05	0.30***	0.09	0.77***	0.24***
	(0.06)	(0.08)	(0.05)	(0.07)	(0.05)	(0.06)
BC	0.42***	0.05	-0.07	-0.15**	-0.86***	-0.05
	(0.05)	(0.08)	(0.05)	(0.06)	(0.04)	(0.05)
Manitoba	0.23**	0.34*	0.13	-0.14	0.21**	-0.28***
	(0.09)	(0.15)	(0.09)	(0.10)	(0.08)	(0.08)
New Brunswick	0.40***	-0.40**	-0.38***	-0.32**	0.15	-0.53***
	(0.11)	(0.15)	(0.10)	(0.12)	(0.10)	(0.10)
NFL	0.76***	-0.54**	-0.13	-0.19	-0.42***	-0.44***

Table A4. Determinants of the Gender Gap in Political Knowledge (Coding 'Don't Know'

 Responses as Incorrect)

Variable	Employment Insurance	Defence	Health	Schools	Transit	Sewage/Water
	(0.14)	(0.17)	(0.12)	(0.15)	(0.11)	(0.12)
Nova Scotia	0.55***	-0.21	-0.08	-0.13	0.35***	0.09
	(0.10)	(0.15)	(0.09)	(0.12)	(0.09)	(0.11)
PEI	0.75**	-0.03	-0.21	-0.08	-0.33	-0.48*
	(0.26)	(0.36)	(0.23)	(0.29)	(0.21)	(0.23)
Quebec	0.59***	0.15*	0.78***	0.47***	-0.25***	-0.94***
	(0.04)	(0.07)	(0.04)	(0.06)	(0.04)	(0.04)
Saskatchewan	0.52***	-0.21	-0.18*	-0.32**	-0.07	-0.33***
	(0.09)	(0.13)	(0.09)	(0.10)	(0.08)	(0.09)
Deviance	25004	10855.82	24868	17819	30861	26488
Ν	22887	11661	22887	22887	22887	22887
$p^{***} p < 0.001; p^{**} p$	< 0.01; *p < 0.05					

Variable	Employment Insurance	Defence	Health	Schools	Transit	Sewage/Water
(Intercept)	-1.59***	-0.22	-0.95***	-0.09	-0.24*	0.56***
	(0.11)	(0.19)	(0.11)	(0.14)	(0.09)	(0.11)
Male	0.29***	0.17**	0.18***	0.13**	0.03	0.10**
	(0.03)	(0.06)	(0.03)	(0.04)	(0.03)	(0.03)
Age	0.03***	0.05***	0.02***	0.02***	0.01***	0.01***
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Some PSE	0.21^{***}	0.67***	0.41***	0.46***	0.27***	0.31***
	(0.05)	(0.07)	(0.04)	(0.05)	(0.04)	(0.04)
Bachelor's or Higher	0.48***	1.18***	0.91***	0.76***	0.50***	0.60***
	(0.05)	(0.08)	(0.05)	(0.06)	(0.04)	(0.05)
Unemployed	-0.00	-0.41***	-0.09	-0.31***	-0.01	-0.28***
	(0.08)	(0.11)	(0.08)	(0.09)	(0.07)	(0.08)
Married	0.05	-0.25***	-0.02	-0.14**	-0.05	0.03
	(0.03)	(0.06)	(0.04)	(0.04)	(0.03)	(0.03)
Financial Situation	0.03	-0.12***	-0.02	0.02	-0.02	-0.07***
	(0.02)	(0.03)	(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.02)
Community Size	-0.03*	-0.04	-0.03*	-0.06**	0.05***	-0.05***
	(0.01)	(0.02)	(0.01)	(0.02)	(0.01)	(0.01)
Visible Minority	-0.19***	-0.56***	-0.29***	-0.55***	-0.46***	-0.59***
	(0.05)	(0.07)	(0.05)	(0.06)	(0.04)	(0.05)
Political Interest	0.07^{***}	0.05***	0.08^{***}	0.06***	0.02**	0.02^{*}
	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)
News Exposure	0.07^{***}	0.09^{***}	0.04^{**}	0.10***	0.04**	0.05**
	(0.02)	(0.03)	(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.01)	(0.01)
Year: 2021	-0.11*	0.20^{*}	0.07	0.12	-0.19***	0.04
	(0.05)	(0.08)	(0.05)	(0.06)	(0.04)	(0.05)
Year: 2022	-0.17***	0.14	0.14^{**}	0.07	-0.30***	-0.15***
	(0.05)	(0.08)	(0.05)	(0.06)	(0.04)	(0.04)
Alberta	0.76***	-0.10	0.27^{***}	0.08	0.80^{***}	0.26***
	(0.06)	(0.09)	(0.06)	(0.07)	(0.05)	(0.06)
BC	0.41***	-0.01	-0.12*	-0.21***	-0.89***	-0.09
	(0.05)	(0.09)	(0.05)	(0.06)	(0.04)	(0.05)
Manitoba	0.19*	0.32	0.12	-0.15	0.23**	-0.30***

Table A5. Determinants of the Gender Gap in Political Knowledge (Expanded Model - Excluding 'Don't Know' Responses)

Variable	Employment Insurance	Defence	Health	Schools	Transit	Sewage/Water
	(0.09)	(0.18)	(0.09)	(0.11)	(0.08)	(0.09)
New Brunswick	0.53^{***}	-0.45*	-0.33**	-0.27*	0.18	-0.56***
	(0.12)	(0.18)	(0.10)	(0.14)	(0.10)	(0.11)
NFL	0.90^{***}	-0.63***	-0.08	-0.08	-0.40***	-0.45***
	(0.15)	(0.19)	(0.13)	(0.16)	(0.11)	(0.13)
Nova Scotia	0.61***	-0.25	-0.11	-0.14	0.40^{***}	0.10
	(0.11)	(0.17)	(0.10)	(0.13)	(0.09)	(0.11)
PEI	0.79^{**}	-0.10	-0.10	-0.14	-0.39	-0.55*
	(0.28)	(0.42)	(0.24)	(0.31)	(0.21)	(0.24)
Quebec	0.55^{***}	0.22^{**}	0.84^{***}	0.54^{***}	-0.25***	-0.95***
	(0.04)	(0.08)	(0.05)	(0.06)	(0.04)	(0.04)
Saskatchewan	0.55^{***}	-0.32*	-0.23**	-0.37***	-0.08	-0.41***
	(0.10)	(0.15)	(0.09)	(0.11)	(0.08)	(0.09)
Deviance	22282.86	8940.74	22157.20	15210.01	28213.67	23829.23
Ν	22035	22035	22035	22035	22035	22035
****p < 0.001; **p <	: 0.01; *p < 0.05					

Variable	Employment Insurance	Defence	Health	Schools	Transit	Sewage/Water
(Intercept)	-2.09***	-1.49***	-1.38***	-0.75***	-0.54***	0.09
	(0.10)	(0.16)	(0.10)	(0.13)	(0.09)	(0.10)
Male	0.32***	0.31***	0.21***	0.17***	0.06	0.13***
	(0.03)	(0.06)	(0.03)	(0.04)	(0.03)	(0.03)
Age	0.03^{***}	0.05***	0.02^{***}	0.02***	0.01***	0.01***
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Some PSE	0.26^{***}	0.69***	0.45^{***}	0.50^{***}	0.30***	0.34***
	(0.04)	(0.06)	(0.04)	(0.05)	(0.04)	(0.04)
Bachelor's or Higher	0.53***	1.20***	0.94***	0.82***	0.53***	0.64***
	(0.05)	(0.07)	(0.05)	(0.06)	(0.04)	(0.04)
Unemployed	0.03	-0.25*	-0.09	-0.30***	-0.01	-0.26***
	(0.07)	(0.10)	(0.07)	(0.08)	(0.07)	(0.07)
Married	0.06	-0.19***	-0.01	-0.13**	-0.05	0.02
	(0.03)	(0.05)	(0.03)	(0.04)	(0.03)	(0.03)
Financial Situation	0.03	-0.11***	-0.01	0.02	-0.03	-0.06**
	(0.02)	(0.03)	(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.02)
Community Size	-0.03*	-0.04	-0.03*	-0.06***	0.04***	-0.05***
	(0.01)	(0.02)	(0.01)	(0.02)	(0.01)	(0.01)
Visible Minority	-0.18***	-0.58***	-0.29***	-0.56***	-0.45***	-0.57***
	(0.05)	(0.07)	(0.05)	(0.06)	(0.04)	(0.05)
Political Interest	0.08***	0.10***	0.08^{***}	0.08^{***}	0.03***	0.03***
	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)
News Exposure	0.08^{***}	0.08^{***}	0.05^{***}	0.11***	0.04**	0.05^{***}
	(0.01)	(0.02)	(0.01)	(0.02)	(0.01)	(0.01)
Year: 2021	0.20^{***}	1.07^{***}	0.30***	0.54***	-0.02	0.30***
	(0.04)	(0.07)	(0.04)	(0.05)	(0.04)	(0.04)
Year: 2022	0.13**	1.01***	0.37***	0.49***	-0.13***	0.11**
	(0.04)	(0.06)	(0.04)	(0.05)	(0.04)	(0.04)
Alberta	0.78***	0.02	0.28***	0.10	0.77^{***}	0.24***
	(0.06)	(0.09)	(0.06)	(0.07)	(0.05)	(0.06)
BC	0.44***	0.07	-0.08	-0.15*	-0.86***	-0.05
	(0.05)	(0.08)	(0.05)	(0.06)	(0.04)	(0.05)

Table A6. Determinants of the Gender Gap in Political Knowledge (Expanded Model - Coding

 'Don't Know' Responses as Incorrect)

Variable	Employment Insurance	Defence	Health	Schools	Transit	Sewage/Water
Manitoba	0.22^{*}	0.35*	0.12	-0.15	0.21**	-0.28***
	(0.09)	(0.16)	(0.09)	(0.10)	(0.08)	(0.08)
New Brunswick	0.47^{***}	-0.36*	-0.34***	-0.29*	0.15	-0.53***
	(0.11)	(0.16)	(0.10)	(0.12)	(0.10)	(0.10)
NFL	0.83***	-0.50**	-0.10	-0.13	-0.42***	-0.44***
	(0.14)	(0.17)	(0.12)	(0.15)	(0.11)	(0.12)
Nova Scotia	0.55^{***}	-0.23	-0.09	-0.11	0.35^{***}	0.09
	(0.10)	(0.15)	(0.10)	(0.12)	(0.09)	(0.11)
PEI	0.86^{**}	0.18	-0.09	0.08	-0.33	-0.48*
	(0.28)	(0.40)	(0.24)	(0.31)	(0.21)	(0.23)
Quebec	0.58^{***}	0.22**	0.80^{***}	0.50^{***}	-0.25***	-0.94***
	(0.04)	(0.07)	(0.05)	(0.06)	(0.04)	(0.04)
Saskatchewan	0.55^{***}	-0.17	-0.17*	-0.29**	-0.07	-0.33***
	(0.10)	(0.13)	(0.09)	(0.10)	(0.08)	(0.09)
Deviance	23698.40	10855.82	23523.76	16753.07	29546.86	25270.73
Num. obs.	22887	22887	22887	22887	22887	22887
****p < 0.001; **p <	< 0.01; *p < 0.05					



Figure A3. Average Gender Gap Across Knowledge Items by Level of Government (based on estimates in Table A4)



Figure A4. Average Gender Gap Across Knowledge Items by Level of Government (based on estimates in Table A5)



Figure A5. Average Gender Gap Across Knowledge Items by Level of Government (based on estimates in Table A6)

Variable Coding

Dependent variable: Political knowledge 1 = Correct; 0 = Incorrect

Individual-level independent variables:

Gender - Male = 1; Female = 0

Education - 1 = No Post-Secondary Education; 2 = Some Post-Secondary Education; 3 = Bachelor's degree or Higher

Community Size - Defined in terms of the 2021 census population in each census metropolitan area or census agglomeration, ranges from 1 = "less than 10,000 people" to 5 = "1,500,000 + people"

Ethnicity - 1 = Visible Minority; 0 = White

Married/cohabiting - dummy variable, ref: single/widow/divorced

Financial Situation - "Where would you place your current financial situation on the scale...", ranges from 1 = "the worst life you can imagine" to 5 = "the best life you can imagine"

Unemployed - dummy variable, ref: employed

Age - in years

Political Interest - ranges from 0 = "no interest at all" to 10 = "a great deal of interest"

News Exposure - "on average, how much time do you usually spend watching, reading, and listening to news each day?", ranges from 1 = "none" to 6 = "more than 2 hours"

Province - dummy variable, ref: Ontario

Year – dummy variable, ref: 2020