

Abridged appendix to
Measuring Misperceptions?

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Note: To comply with appendix page limits, this abridged version of the appendix omits all supplemental analysis and proofs. It includes only the elements required by the journal (ethics disclosures and tables of plotted estimates) and the full text of the survey questions. The unabridged appendix is available as part of the public replication file, which is stored in the APSR Dataverse at <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/SBXFX>.

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A Appendix to Study 1

A.1 Survey information

IRB approval: Yale University Institutional Review Board #2000020387.

Platform: Lucid.

Date: August 2018 (wave 1), September 2018 (wave 2).

Number of subjects: 2,916 (wave 1), 1,749 (wave 2).

Compensation: \$1 (wave 1), \$2 (wave 2). Standard prices set by vendor.

Consent: Prior to data collection, all subjects agreed to participate in a research study using an IRB-approved consent form. There was no deception and no debrief.

Additional screeners: None.

Anti-cheating measures: Pledge.

Full text of question analyzed:

On which of the following does the U.S. federal government currently spend the least?

[Social Security, Medicare, Foreign aid, National defense]

Format of certainty scale: The certainty scale appeared immediately after each respondent chose their answer. Using simple random assignment, respondents were assigned to use the scale from [Graham \(2020\)](#) or [Pasek et al. \(2015\)](#).

Respondents who used the Graham scale were asked, “How certain are you that your answer is correct?” [Not at all certain, Not too certain, Somewhat certain, Very certain, Absolutely certain]

Respondents who used the Pasek scale were asked, “How sure are you about that?” [Not at all sure, Slightly sure, Moderately sure, Very sure, Extremely sure]

A.2 Table of estimates

The table below displays the estimates plotted in main text Figure 2, as well as the referenced separate results for the Graham and Pasek et al. scales.

Table A.1: Estimates plotted in Figure 2

Scale	Response	Certainty	Estimate	SE	CI	N
Graham (2020)	Correct	1	0.333	0.098	(0.130, 0.537)	24
		2	0.549	0.070	(0.408, 0.690)	51
		3	0.658	0.055	(0.549, 0.767)	76
		4	0.740	0.063	(0.614, 0.866)	50
		5	0.667	0.092	(0.477, 0.857)	27
	Incorrect	1	0.410	0.080	(0.249, 0.572)	39
		2	0.512	0.039	(0.435, 0.590)	162
		3	0.473	0.031	(0.413, 0.534)	264
		4	0.471	0.050	(0.372, 0.569)	102
		5	0.419	0.076	(0.265, 0.572)	43
Pasek et al. (2015)	Correct	1	0.588	0.070	(0.448, 0.728)	51
		2	0.583	0.072	(0.439, 0.728)	48
		3	0.667	0.046	(0.575, 0.758)	105
		4	0.750	0.083	(0.579, 0.921)	28
		5	0.895	0.050	(0.793, 0.997)	38
	Incorrect	1	0.475	0.046	(0.383, 0.566)	118
		2	0.481	0.043	(0.395, 0.567)	133
		3	0.492	0.032	(0.429, 0.555)	246
		4	0.602	0.054	(0.495, 0.710)	83
		5	0.443	0.064	(0.314, 0.571)	61
Pooled	Correct	1	0.507	0.058	(0.391, 0.622)	75
		2	0.566	0.050	(0.466, 0.665)	99
		3	0.663	0.035	(0.593, 0.733)	181
		4	0.744	0.050	(0.645, 0.843)	78
		5	0.800	0.050	(0.700, 0.900)	65
	Incorrect	1	0.459	0.040	(0.380, 0.537)	157
		2	0.498	0.029	(0.441, 0.556)	295
		3	0.482	0.022	(0.439, 0.526)	510
		4	0.530	0.037	(0.457, 0.602)	185
		5	0.433	0.049	(0.336, 0.530)	104

B Appendix to Study 2

B.1 Survey information

Study 2a

IRB approval: Yale University Institutional Review Board #2000020387.

Platform: Amazon Mechanical Turk.

Date: June 2019 (wave 1), June 2020 (wave 2).

Number of subjects: 1,242 (wave 1), 466 (wave 2).

Compensation: \$0.80 (wave 1), \$0.50 (wave 2).

Consent: Prior to data collection, all subjects agreed to participate in a research study using an IRB-approved consent form. There was no deception and no debrief. For the second wave, respondents were invited to complete a short follow-up survey, then completed the original consent form again.

Additional screeners: None.

Anti-cheating measures: Pledge, catch question.

Full text of questions:

1. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates the *unemployment rate*, which is the percentage of workers who are looking for a job but cannot find one.

Between April 2018 and April 2019, did the unemployment rate increase or decrease?

[Unemployment went up, Unemployment went down]

2. The amount of money people earn at their jobs is often measured using the *median real wage*. “Median” means the person right in the middle and “real” means adjusted for inflation.

Between Spring 2018 and Spring 2019, did the median real wage in the U.S. go up or down?

[Wages went up, Wages went down]

3. Over the past year, has the percentage of Americans who have health insurance gone up or down?

[Higher percentage has insurance now, Lower percentage has insurance now]

4. When the U.S. buys more products from a country than it sells to the country, the U.S. has a *trade deficit* with that country.

Is the following statement true or false?

In 2018, the U.S. trade deficit with China reached a new record high.

[True, False]

5. Is the following statement true or false?

Before becoming president, Donald Trump was tape recorded saying that he kisses women and grabs them between the legs without their consent.

[True, False]

6. Is the following statement true or false?

While she was Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton used a private email server to send and receive classified information.

[True, False]

7. Robert Mueller was in charge of the special counsel investigation into possible Russian interference in the 2016 election.

Is the following statement true or false?

Robert Mueller's final report stated that there is "undeniable proof" that President Trump personally conspired with Russian agents to influence the 2016 election.

[True, False]

8. Is the following statement true or false?

Barack Obama has never released his birth certificate.

[True, False]

Format of certainty scale: The certainty scale appeared immediately after each respondent chose their answer. Respondents were asked, "How many chances in 100 does your answer have to be correct?" and presented with a quasi-continuous 50 to 100 scale.

Study 2b

IRB approval: Yale University Institutional Review Board #2000026693.

Platform: Amazon Mechanical Turk.

Date: March 2020 (wave 1), August 2020 (wave 2).

Number of subjects: 939 (wave 1), 420 (wave 2).

Compensation: \$1 (wave 1), \$0.50 (wave 2).

Consent: Prior to data collection, all subjects agreed to participate in a research study using an IRB-approved consent form. There was no deception and no debrief. For the second wave, respondents were invited to complete a short follow-up survey, then completed the original consent form again.

Additional screeners: Captcha.

Anti-cheating measures: Pledge, cheating detection script.

Full text of questions:

1. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates the *unemployment rate*, which is the percentage of workers who are looking for a job but cannot find one.

Over the past year, did the unemployment rate increase or decrease?

[Decreased, Increased]

2. The rate of *inflation* measures how quickly prices are rising. Since World War II, the average inflation rate has been about 4 percent.

Over the past year, has inflation been higher or lower than the historical average?

[Above average, Below average]

3. The size of the U.S. economy is usually measured using gross domestic product (GDP). *Economic growth* is the annual rate of change in GDP.

Over the past year, what was the rate of economic growth in the United States?

[Less than 4%, 4% or more]

4. Most years, the U.S. national government spends more than it collects in taxes. In these years, the government has an annual *budget deficit*.

Compared with the 2017 fiscal year, was 2019's budget deficit higher or lower?

[Higher, Lower]

5. Is the following statement true or false?

Before becoming president, Donald Trump was tape recorded saying that he kisses women and grabs them between the legs without their consent.

[True, False]

6. Robert Mueller was in charge of the special counsel investigation into possible Russian interference in the 2016 election.

Is this statement true or false? *Robert Mueller's report stated that President Trump personally conspired with Russia to influence the 2016 election.*

[True, False]

7. Article II of the U.S. Constitution describes the president's powers.

Is this statement true or false? *President Trump has said that Article II gives him the power to do whatever he wants.*

[True, False]

8. In 2014, former President Barack Obama issued an order that would stop most deportations of unauthorized immigrants who have U.S. citizen children.

Is this statement true or false? *About a year earlier, Obama said that he would be ignoring the law if he issued such an order.*

[True, False]

9. What job or political office does John Roberts hold?

[Secretary of Defense, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court]

10. What job or political office does Jerome Powell hold?

[Treasury Secretary, Chairman of the Federal Reserve]

11. Which party currently has the most members in the U.S. House of Representatives?

[Democrats, Republicans]

Format of certainty scale: The certainty scale appeared immediately after each respondent chose their answer. Respondents were randomly assigned to be asked, “How likely is your answer to be correct?” or “How sure are you about that?” and provided a quasi-continuous 50 to 100 scale with labels at 50 and 100. No systematic differences between the scales were found.

B.2 Tables of plotted estimates

Table B.1: Estimates plotted in Figure 3

Question	Answer	Certainty	Estimate	SE	CI	N
Clinton email	Correct	0.5	0.809	0.046	(0.716, 0.902)	29
		[0.51,0.59]	0.755	0.058	(0.636, 0.875)	26
		[0.6,0.69]	0.772	0.046	(0.675, 0.869)	20
		[0.7,0.79]	0.810	0.043	(0.723, 0.897)	31
		[0.8,0.89]	0.863	0.021	(0.820, 0.905)	62
		[0.9,0.99]	0.942	0.014	(0.915, 0.970)	68
		1	0.960	0.008	(0.944, 0.975)	164
	Incorrect	0.5	0.558	0.171	(0.084, 1.032)	5
		[0.51,0.59]	0.280	0.180	(-2.007, 2.567)	2
		[0.6,0.69]	0.230	0.198	(-0.400, 0.860)	4
		[0.7,0.79]	0.211	0.104	(-0.035, 0.458)	8
		[0.8,0.89]	0.200	0.200	(-2.341, 2.741)	2
		[0.9,0.99]	0.900	0.000	(NA, NA)	1
		1	0.025	0.025	(-0.293, 0.343)	2
Obama birth certificate	Correct	0.5	0.603	0.061	(0.480, 0.727)	32
		[0.51,0.59]	0.579	0.064	(0.449, 0.709)	31
		[0.6,0.69]	0.636	0.075	(0.480, 0.792)	25
		[0.7,0.79]	0.737	0.070	(0.593, 0.881)	26
		[0.8,0.89]	0.750	0.063	(0.621, 0.878)	30
		[0.9,0.99]	0.885	0.037	(0.809, 0.960)	43
		1	0.874	0.028	(0.819, 0.929)	109
	Incorrect	0.5	0.607	0.074	(0.452, 0.762)	20
		[0.51,0.59]	0.559	0.075	(0.404, 0.714)	23
		[0.6,0.69]	0.356	0.136	(0.023, 0.689)	7
		[0.7,0.79]	0.515	0.101	(0.298, 0.732)	15
		[0.8,0.89]	0.565	0.086	(0.384, 0.746)	18
		[0.9,0.99]	0.559	0.111	(0.321, 0.796)	15
		1	0.447	0.075	(0.295, 0.600)	30
Obama DAPA reversal	Correct	0.5	0.488	0.038	(0.408, 0.568)	21
		[0.51,0.59]	0.485	0.049	(0.385, 0.585)	31
		[0.6,0.69]	0.571	0.045	(0.480, 0.662)	32
		[0.7,0.79]	0.438	0.052	(0.332, 0.544)	28

Table B.1: Estimates plotted in Figure 3 (continued)

Question	Answer	Certainty	Estimate	SE	CI	N	
Political knowledge		[0.8,0.89]	0.626	0.052	(0.518, 0.734)	25	
		[0.9,0.99]	0.655	0.079	(0.482, 0.828)	13	
		1	0.739	0.104	(0.510, 0.968)	12	
	Incorrect	0.5	0.475	0.028	(0.419, 0.530)	51	
		[0.51,0.59]	0.513	0.029	(0.454, 0.572)	52	
		[0.6,0.69]	0.508	0.040	(0.426, 0.590)	31	
		[0.7,0.79]	0.514	0.043	(0.427, 0.600)	44	
		[0.8,0.89]	0.607	0.056	(0.492, 0.721)	31	
		[0.9,0.99]	0.514	0.121	(0.240, 0.788)	10	
		1	0.768	0.157	(0.366, 1.171)	6	
	Correct	0.5	0.565	0.024	(0.517, 0.613)	52	
		[0.51,0.59]	0.554	0.020	(0.514, 0.595)	59	
		[0.6,0.69]	0.669	0.045	(0.577, 0.761)	32	
		[0.7,0.79]	0.677	0.046	(0.585, 0.769)	51	
		[0.8,0.89]	0.737	0.038	(0.661, 0.813)	74	
		[0.9,0.99]	0.865	0.026	(0.812, 0.917)	92	
		1	0.982	0.005	(0.973, 0.991)	506	
		Incorrect	0.5	0.453	0.020	(0.413, 0.493)	82
			[0.51,0.59]	0.482	0.038	(0.406, 0.558)	52
			[0.6,0.69]	0.487	0.049	(0.386, 0.588)	33
[0.7,0.79]	0.360		0.053	(0.252, 0.469)	33		
[0.8,0.89]	0.515		0.048	(0.417, 0.612)	42		
[0.9,0.99]	0.647		0.078	(0.479, 0.814)	21		
1	0.766		0.121	(0.481, 1.052)	8		
Trump Article II claim	Correct	0.5	0.587	0.058	(0.463, 0.710)	18	
		[0.51,0.59]	0.588	0.045	(0.495, 0.681)	29	
		[0.6,0.69]	0.678	0.041	(0.593, 0.762)	30	
		[0.7,0.79]	0.631	0.039	(0.551, 0.710)	43	
		[0.8,0.89]	0.793	0.033	(0.727, 0.860)	45	
		[0.9,0.99]	0.780	0.047	(0.684, 0.877)	33	
		1	0.908	0.036	(0.836, 0.980)	46	
	Incorrect	0.5	0.553	0.053	(0.442, 0.664)	17	
		[0.51,0.59]	0.428	0.057	(0.309, 0.547)	22	
		[0.6,0.69]	0.428	0.057	(0.307, 0.549)	19	
		[0.7,0.79]	0.486	0.074	(0.332, 0.640)	20	
		[0.8,0.89]	0.543	0.064	(0.412, 0.675)	26	
		[0.9,0.99]	0.574	0.099	(0.365, 0.784)	18	
		1	0.750	0.062	(0.622, 0.878)	28	
Trump Russia collusion	Correct	0.5	0.533	0.037	(0.459, 0.606)	50	
		[0.51,0.59]	0.570	0.046	(0.476, 0.663)	44	
		[0.6,0.69]	0.475	0.053	(0.367, 0.583)	34	
		[0.7,0.79]	0.635	0.035	(0.565, 0.706)	70	
		[0.8,0.89]	0.677	0.038	(0.600, 0.754)	70	
		[0.9,0.99]	0.704	0.036	(0.632, 0.776)	93	
		1	0.880	0.016	(0.848, 0.912)	227	
	Incorrect	0.5	0.629	0.049	(0.529, 0.729)	30	
		[0.51,0.59]	0.624	0.050	(0.524, 0.725)	37	
		[0.6,0.69]	0.607	0.054	(0.498, 0.716)	33	
		[0.7,0.79]	0.593	0.052	(0.487, 0.700)	33	
		[0.8,0.89]	0.669	0.045	(0.577, 0.760)	43	
		[0.9,0.99]	0.657	0.062	(0.531, 0.783)	31	
		1	0.376	0.094	(0.177, 0.575)	18	
Trump said 'grab them'	Correct	0.5	0.787	0.040	(0.705, 0.869)	30	
		[0.51,0.59]	0.764	0.047	(0.668, 0.860)	32	
		[0.6,0.69]	0.737	0.060	(0.613, 0.860)	23	
		[0.7,0.79]	0.820	0.036	(0.746, 0.893)	45	
		[0.8,0.89]	0.827	0.034	(0.759, 0.895)	68	

Table B.1: Estimates plotted in Figure 3 (continued)

Question	Answer	Certainty	Estimate	SE	CI	N
		[0.9,0.99]	0.893	0.020	(0.853, 0.933)	113
		1	0.944	0.010	(0.924, 0.964)	336
	Incorrect	0.5	0.470	0.056	(0.354, 0.586)	25
		[0.51,0.59]	0.522	0.058	(0.402, 0.642)	26
		[0.6,0.69]	0.418	0.086	(0.234, 0.601)	16
		[0.7,0.79]	0.425	0.077	(0.266, 0.584)	24
		[0.8,0.89]	0.562	0.078	(0.400, 0.723)	25
		[0.9,0.99]	0.635	0.074	(0.482, 0.789)	24
		1	0.640	0.074	(0.488, 0.792)	33

Table B.2: Estimates plotted in Figure 4

Survey	Valence	Response	Certainty	Estimate	SE	CI	N
March-August 2020	Correct ans. is congenial	Correct	0.5	0.566	0.064	(0.429, 0.702)	18
			[0.51,0.59]	0.629	0.042	(0.544, 0.714)	32
			[0.6,0.69]	0.627	0.041	(0.544, 0.710)	39
			[0.7,0.79]	0.718	0.033	(0.652, 0.784)	65
			[0.8,0.89]	0.736	0.033	(0.670, 0.802)	77
			[0.9,0.99]	0.830	0.031	(0.769, 0.891)	77
			1	0.957	0.011	(0.935, 0.979)	203
		Incorrect	0.5	0.401	0.043	(0.310, 0.492)	25
			[0.51,0.59]	0.424	0.049	(0.324, 0.523)	31
			[0.6,0.69]	0.413	0.056	(0.296, 0.529)	26
			[0.7,0.79]	0.463	0.057	(0.347, 0.579)	33
			[0.8,0.89]	0.435	0.066	(0.298, 0.572)	27
			[0.9,0.99]	0.483	0.076	(0.325, 0.641)	23
			1	0.294	0.104	(0.066, 0.522)	12
	Political knowledge	Correct	0.5	0.565	0.024	(0.517, 0.613)	52
			[0.51,0.59]	0.554	0.020	(0.514, 0.595)	59
			[0.6,0.69]	0.669	0.045	(0.577, 0.761)	32
			[0.7,0.79]	0.677	0.046	(0.585, 0.769)	51
			[0.8,0.89]	0.737	0.038	(0.661, 0.813)	74
			[0.9,0.99]	0.865	0.026	(0.812, 0.917)	92
			1	0.982	0.005	(0.973, 0.991)	506
		Incorrect	0.5	0.453	0.020	(0.413, 0.493)	82
			[0.51,0.59]	0.482	0.038	(0.406, 0.558)	52
			[0.6,0.69]	0.487	0.049	(0.386, 0.588)	33
			[0.7,0.79]	0.360	0.053	(0.252, 0.469)	33
			[0.8,0.89]	0.515	0.048	(0.417, 0.612)	42
			[0.9,0.99]	0.647	0.078	(0.479, 0.814)	21
			1	0.766	0.121	(0.481, 1.052)	8
Incorrect ans. is congenial	Correct	0.5	0.499	0.046	(0.402, 0.596)	17	
		[0.51,0.59]	0.521	0.046	(0.427, 0.615)	35	
		[0.6,0.69]	0.560	0.049	(0.460, 0.660)	36	
		[0.7,0.79]	0.563	0.047	(0.468, 0.658)	49	
		[0.8,0.89]	0.710	0.037	(0.636, 0.785)	60	
		[0.9,0.99]	0.757	0.043	(0.670, 0.844)	55	
		1	0.871	0.031	(0.809, 0.933)	79	
	Incorrect	0.5	0.589	0.026	(0.535, 0.642)	36	
		[0.51,0.59]	0.546	0.036	(0.474, 0.619)	48	
		[0.6,0.69]	0.537	0.037	(0.463, 0.611)	48	
		[0.7,0.79]	0.591	0.039	(0.513, 0.668)	63	

Table B.2: Estimates plotted in Figure 4 (continued)

Survey	Valence	Response	Certainty	Estimate	SE	CI	N
June 2019-2020	Correct ans. is congenial	Correct	[0.8,0.89]	0.634	0.039	(0.556, 0.711)	66
			[0.9,0.99]	0.708	0.054	(0.600, 0.817)	39
			1	0.747	0.049	(0.647, 0.847)	50
			0.5	0.742	0.043	(0.654, 0.830)	50
			[0.51,0.59]	0.766	0.039	(0.688, 0.845)	47
			[0.6,0.69]	0.769	0.040	(0.686, 0.851)	36
			[0.7,0.79]	0.770	0.038	(0.693, 0.847)	55
			[0.8,0.89]	0.835	0.027	(0.781, 0.888)	73
			[0.9,0.99]	0.899	0.021	(0.858, 0.940)	120
			1	0.948	0.009	(0.931, 0.965)	361
			0.5	0.471	0.083	(0.297, 0.645)	19
			[0.51,0.59]	0.481	0.073	(0.326, 0.636)	23
	[0.6,0.69]	0.465	0.141	(0.131, 0.799)	8		
	[0.7,0.79]	0.257	0.070	(0.108, 0.407)	15		
	[0.8,0.89]	0.501	0.093	(0.293, 0.709)	11		
	[0.9,0.99]	0.354	0.144	(0.023, 0.685)	9		
	1	0.332	0.081	(0.164, 0.501)	22		
	Incorrect ans. is congenial	Correct	0.5	0.640	0.037	(0.566, 0.714)	69
			[0.51,0.59]	0.580	0.043	(0.494, 0.667)	64
			[0.6,0.69]	0.604	0.051	(0.500, 0.707)	43
			[0.7,0.79]	0.686	0.042	(0.602, 0.770)	57
			[0.8,0.89]	0.783	0.034	(0.716, 0.850)	78
			[0.9,0.99]	0.805	0.027	(0.751, 0.859)	100
			1	0.849	0.018	(0.813, 0.884)	219
Incorrect			0.5	0.657	0.040	(0.576, 0.738)	44
			[0.51,0.59]	0.617	0.047	(0.522, 0.712)	46
			[0.6,0.69]	0.492	0.071	(0.346, 0.638)	25
			[0.7,0.79]	0.486	0.077	(0.327, 0.645)	25
			[0.8,0.89]	0.664	0.067	(0.526, 0.801)	28
	[0.9,0.99]	0.695	0.080	(0.529, 0.861)	22		
	1	0.570	0.079	(0.405, 0.734)	27		

Table B.3: Estimates plotted in Figure 5

Survey	Category	Valence	Response	Certainty	Estimate	SE	CI	N	
March-August 2020	Political knowledge	Not applicable	Correct	0.5	0.585	0.020	(0.546, 0.623)	143	
				[0.51,0.59]	0.639	0.020	(0.599, 0.680)	132	
				[0.6,0.69]	0.638	0.023	(0.592, 0.683)	101	
				[0.7,0.79]	0.684	0.024	(0.637, 0.732)	128	
				[0.8,0.89]	0.743	0.022	(0.700, 0.786)	168	
				[0.9,0.99]	0.826	0.018	(0.790, 0.862)	206	
				1	0.946	0.006	(0.934, 0.958)	859	
				Incorrect	0.5	0.515	0.017	(0.481, 0.549)	159
					[0.51,0.59]	0.537	0.023	(0.492, 0.583)	121
					[0.6,0.69]	0.554	0.026	(0.502, 0.607)	92
					[0.7,0.79]	0.599	0.026	(0.547, 0.651)	103
					[0.8,0.89]	0.586	0.025	(0.536, 0.636)	129
	[0.9,0.99]	0.599	0.041		(0.517, 0.681)	71			
	1	0.809	0.035		(0.739, 0.879)	42			
	Controversies	Correct ans. is congenial	Correct	0.5	0.568	0.044	(0.477, 0.658)	35	
				[0.51,0.59]	0.618	0.026	(0.567, 0.669)	69	
				[0.6,0.69]	0.627	0.026	(0.574, 0.679)	87	

Table B.3: Estimates plotted in Figure 5 (continued)

Survey	Category	Valence	Response	Certainty	Estimate	SE	CI	N
				[0.7,0.79]	0.707	0.019	(0.669, 0.745)	130
				[0.8,0.89]	0.657	0.022	(0.613, 0.700)	185
				[0.9,0.99]	0.760	0.020	(0.721, 0.799)	173
				1	0.908	0.009	(0.890, 0.927)	406
			Incorrect	0.5	0.542	0.028	(0.486, 0.598)	50
				[0.51,0.59]	0.576	0.026	(0.524, 0.628)	82
				[0.6,0.69]	0.617	0.033	(0.551, 0.683)	64
				[0.7,0.79]	0.602	0.035	(0.532, 0.671)	86
				[0.8,0.89]	0.640	0.032	(0.576, 0.705)	70
				[0.9,0.99]	0.746	0.036	(0.674, 0.818)	63
				1	0.659	0.085	(0.483, 0.835)	25
		Incorrect ans. is congenial	Correct	0.5	0.563	0.024	(0.515, 0.611)	45
				[0.51,0.59]	0.623	0.021	(0.582, 0.665)	82
				[0.6,0.69]	0.632	0.028	(0.577, 0.688)	81
				[0.7,0.79]	0.655	0.025	(0.605, 0.705)	131
				[0.8,0.89]	0.681	0.026	(0.629, 0.733)	135
				[0.9,0.99]	0.755	0.024	(0.708, 0.803)	127
				1	0.888	0.017	(0.853, 0.922)	165
			Incorrect	0.5	0.587	0.024	(0.539, 0.635)	73
				[0.51,0.59]	0.604	0.016	(0.573, 0.635)	119
				[0.6,0.69]	0.639	0.021	(0.597, 0.680)	104
				[0.7,0.79]	0.625	0.022	(0.582, 0.668)	143
				[0.8,0.89]	0.653	0.023	(0.607, 0.699)	137
				[0.9,0.99]	0.735	0.026	(0.682, 0.787)	81
				1	0.782	0.029	(0.725, 0.839)	92
	Economic	Correct ans. is congenial	Correct	0.5	0.546	0.019	(0.508, 0.584)	87
				[0.51,0.59]	0.568	0.018	(0.533, 0.602)	125
				[0.6,0.69]	0.639	0.024	(0.592, 0.686)	103
				[0.7,0.79]	0.656	0.019	(0.619, 0.692)	178
				[0.8,0.89]	0.749	0.018	(0.713, 0.784)	167
				[0.9,0.99]	0.763	0.019	(0.726, 0.801)	166
				1	0.861	0.015	(0.831, 0.890)	222
			Incorrect	0.5	0.500	0.036	(0.426, 0.573)	44
				[0.51,0.59]	0.599	0.024	(0.552, 0.647)	79
				[0.6,0.69]	0.625	0.031	(0.564, 0.687)	57
				[0.7,0.79]	0.608	0.025	(0.557, 0.658)	102
				[0.8,0.89]	0.587	0.027	(0.533, 0.640)	97
				[0.9,0.99]	0.598	0.036	(0.524, 0.671)	61
				1	0.782	0.079	(0.607, 0.956)	13
		Incorrect ans. is congenial	Correct	0.5	0.580	0.029	(0.523, 0.637)	58
				[0.51,0.59]	0.637	0.019	(0.600, 0.675)	107
				[0.6,0.69]	0.635	0.025	(0.586, 0.684)	106
				[0.7,0.79]	0.666	0.019	(0.629, 0.703)	163
				[0.8,0.89]	0.694	0.021	(0.653, 0.735)	178
				[0.9,0.99]	0.751	0.021	(0.709, 0.793)	146
				1	0.886	0.018	(0.850, 0.922)	131
			Incorrect	0.5	0.547	0.026	(0.495, 0.599)	66
				[0.51,0.59]	0.617	0.018	(0.582, 0.653)	108
				[0.6,0.69]	0.631	0.024	(0.584, 0.678)	91
				[0.7,0.79]	0.596	0.028	(0.540, 0.651)	118
				[0.8,0.89]	0.637	0.026	(0.585, 0.688)	113
				[0.9,0.99]	0.667	0.033	(0.600, 0.734)	65
				1	0.695	0.058	(0.577, 0.814)	31

C Appendix to Study 3

C.1 Survey Information

Study 3a

IRB approval: Yale University Institutional Review Board #2000026693.

Platform: Lucid.

Date: Dec. 4-9, 2020 (wave 1), Dec. 15, 2020-Jan. 14, 2021 (wave 2).

Number of subjects: 2,399 (wave 1), 1,016 (wave 2).

Compensation: \$1 (wave 1), \$2 (wave 2). Standard prices set by vendor.

Consent: Prior to data collection, all subjects agreed to participate in a research study using an IRB-approved consent form. There was no deception and no debrief.

Additional screeners: Captcha, attention check.

Anti-cheating measures: Pledge, cheating detection script.

Full text of questions: See below.

Study 3b

IRB approval: George Washington University Institutional Review Board #NCR213434.

Platform: MTurk.

Date: April 28-May 3, 2021 (wave 1), May 26, 2021-Jun. 15, 2021 (wave 2).

Number of subjects: 2,602 (wave 1), 1,983 (wave 2).

Compensation: \$0.50 (wave 1), \$0.75 (wave 2).

Consent: Prior to data collection, all subjects agreed to participate in a research study using an IRB-approved consent form. There was no deception and no debrief.

Additional screeners: Captcha, attention check.

Anti-cheating measures: Pledge, cheating detection script.

Full text of questions: See below.

Preanalysis plan: Available at <https://osf.io/7rmau>. Hypotheses 1-3 are tested in Study 4. Hypotheses 4-6 are tested in Study 3.

Full text of questions

Controversies, Studies 3a and 3b:

- Which statement is most likely to be true?

[Most scientific evidence shows that childhood vaccines cause autism., Most scientific evidence shows that childhood vaccines **do not** cause autism.]

- Which statement is most likely to be true?

[World temperatures **have risen** on average over the past 100 years., World temperatures **have not risen** on average over the past 100 years.]

- As an alternative to the official COVID-19 death toll, researchers can compare the total number of deaths this year to the number that occurred at the same time last year. The resulting statistic is an estimate of *excess deaths* due to COVID-19.

Which statement is most likely to be true?

[Excess death analysis suggests that **more** people have died than the official number., Excess death analysis suggests that **fewer** people have died than the official number.]

Controversies, Study 3a only:

- Which statement is most likely to be true?

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Trump administration secured cuts to the CDC's funding., Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Trump administration **did not** secure cuts to the CDC's funding.]

Controversies, Study 3b only:

- Which statement is most likely to be true?

[Most scientific evidence shows genetically modified foods are safe to eat., Most scientific evidence shows genetically modified foods are **not** safe to eat.]

- Which statement is most likely to be true?

[There is **not** clear scientific evidence that the anti-malarial drug hydroxychloroquine is a safe and effective treatment for COVID-19., There is clear scientific evidence that the anti-malarial drug hydroxychloroquine is a safe and effective treatment for COVID-19.]

Knowledge, Studies 3a and 3b:

- Which statement is most likely to be true?

[Electrons are **larger** than atoms., Electrons are **smaller** than atoms.]

- Which statement is most likely to be true?

[Antibiotics kill viruses as well as and bacteria., Antibiotics only kill bacteria.]

- Which statement is most likely to be true?

[It is the **father's** gene that decides whether a baby is a boy or a girl., It is the **mother's** gene that decides whether a baby is a boy or a girl.]

- Which statement is most likely to be true?

[The continents on which we live **have been moving** their locations for millions of years and will continue to move in the future., The continents on which we live **have not moved** their locations in millions of years and are not expected to move in the future.]

Knowledge, Study 3a only:

- Which statement is most likely to be true?

[The Earth goes around the Sun., The Sun goes around the Earth.]

Knowledge, Study 3b only:

- Which statement is most likely to be true?

[All radioactivity is man-made., Radioactivity can occur naturally.]

- Which statement is most likely to be true?

[Lasers work by focusing sound waves., Lasers **do not** work by focusing sound waves.]

C.2 Tables of plotted estimates

Table C.1: Estimates plotted in Figure 6

Category	Question	Response	Certainty	Estimate	SE	CI	N			
Controversies	All questions	Correct	0.5	0.604	0.014	(0.577, 0.631)	322			
			[0.51,0.59]	0.633	0.010	(0.614, 0.652)	680			
			[0.6,0.69]	0.669	0.009	(0.651, 0.687)	700			
			[0.7,0.79]	0.700	0.007	(0.686, 0.713)	1562			
			[0.8,0.89]	0.772	0.006	(0.760, 0.785)	1935			
			[0.9,0.99]	0.854	0.006	(0.842, 0.865)	2147			
			1	0.929	0.004	(0.920, 0.937)	2542			
			Incorrect	0.5	0.462	0.022	(0.418, 0.505)	150		
				[0.51,0.59]	0.527	0.013	(0.501, 0.553)	393		
		[0.6,0.69]		0.532	0.015	(0.502, 0.562)	349			
		[0.7,0.79]		0.571	0.013	(0.547, 0.596)	674			
		[0.8,0.89]		0.547	0.015	(0.519, 0.576)	664			
		[0.9,0.99]		0.650	0.016	(0.618, 0.683)	517			
		1		0.771	0.019	(0.734, 0.808)	404			
		Autism/vaccines			Correct	0.5	0.709	0.031	(0.646, 0.771)	55
						[0.51,0.59]	0.654	0.026	(0.603, 0.705)	98
			[0.6,0.69]			0.680	0.023	(0.635, 0.725)	130	
			[0.7,0.79]			0.719	0.016	(0.688, 0.751)	254	
[0.8,0.89]	0.785		0.012			(0.761, 0.810)	393			
[0.9,0.99]	0.888		0.008			(0.872, 0.904)	638			
1	0.962		0.005			(0.952, 0.972)	772			
Incorrect	0.5		0.407			0.069	(0.258, 0.556)	14		
	[0.51,0.59]		0.473			0.036	(0.400, 0.546)	50		
	[0.6,0.69]		0.436		0.041	(0.353, 0.519)	52			
	[0.7,0.79]		0.580		0.031	(0.518, 0.642)	97			
	[0.8,0.89]		0.599		0.034	(0.531, 0.667)	99			
	[0.9,0.99]		0.675		0.037	(0.601, 0.749)	93			

Table C.1: Estimates plotted in Figure 6 (continued)

Category	Question	Response	Certainty	Estimate	SE	CI	N			
CDC budget		Correct	1	0.776	0.054	(0.668, 0.884)	46			
			0.5	0.578	0.042	(0.493, 0.663)	43			
			[0.51,0.59]	0.495	0.032	(0.431, 0.559)	54			
			[0.6,0.69]	0.498	0.034	(0.430, 0.566)	59			
			[0.7,0.79]	0.508	0.039	(0.430, 0.587)	67			
			[0.8,0.89]	0.531	0.049	(0.433, 0.630)	56			
			[0.9,0.99]	0.642	0.063	(0.514, 0.770)	36			
			1	0.620	0.060	(0.499, 0.741)	48			
			Incorrect	0.5	0.542	0.051	(0.436, 0.647)	26		
		[0.51,0.59]		0.641	0.023	(0.595, 0.688)	98			
		[0.6,0.69]		0.661	0.026	(0.610, 0.713)	77			
		[0.7,0.79]		0.672	0.028	(0.617, 0.728)	115			
		[0.8,0.89]		0.723	0.036	(0.652, 0.794)	80			
		[0.9,0.99]		0.773	0.036	(0.700, 0.845)	72			
		1		0.862	0.026	(0.811, 0.913)	118			
		Climate change			Correct	0.5	0.606	0.042	(0.518, 0.694)	23
						[0.51,0.59]	0.700	0.021	(0.658, 0.742)	112
			[0.6,0.69]			0.743	0.019	(0.705, 0.781)	107	
[0.7,0.79]	0.774		0.012			(0.751, 0.797)	345			
[0.8,0.89]	0.841		0.009			(0.824, 0.858)	492			
[0.9,0.99]	0.899		0.007			(0.885, 0.913)	587			
1	0.957		0.004			(0.948, 0.966)	886			
Incorrect	0.5		0.452			0.095	(0.233, 0.671)	9		
	[0.51,0.59]		0.361			0.061	(0.235, 0.488)	22		
	[0.6,0.69]		0.370		0.057	(0.253, 0.487)	28			
	[0.7,0.79]		0.529		0.042	(0.446, 0.612)	60			
	[0.8,0.89]		0.403		0.043	(0.317, 0.489)	66			
	[0.9,0.99]		0.391		0.056	(0.279, 0.503)	47			
	1		0.541		0.073	(0.392, 0.689)	34			
	COVID deaths				Correct	0.5	0.579	0.025	(0.530, 0.627)	105
						[0.51,0.59]	0.618	0.017	(0.585, 0.652)	209
[0.6,0.69]						0.658	0.019	(0.620, 0.695)	184	
[0.7,0.79]						0.670	0.014	(0.643, 0.698)	388	
[0.8,0.89]		0.733		0.014		(0.706, 0.760)	400			
[0.9,0.99]		0.748		0.017		(0.714, 0.782)	322			
1		0.823		0.016		(0.792, 0.855)	310			
Incorrect		0.5		0.461		0.031	(0.399, 0.524)	68		
		[0.51,0.59]		0.495		0.025	(0.447, 0.544)	127		
		[0.6,0.69]		0.502	0.027	(0.448, 0.556)	109			
		[0.7,0.79]		0.522	0.023	(0.476, 0.568)	187			
		[0.8,0.89]		0.444	0.031	(0.383, 0.505)	144			
		[0.9,0.99]		0.650	0.033	(0.586, 0.715)	123			
		1		0.741	0.036	(0.669, 0.814)	98			
		GM food			Correct	0.5	0.581	0.038	(0.505, 0.658)	35
						[0.51,0.59]	0.643	0.022	(0.600, 0.687)	107
[0.6,0.69]						0.699	0.020	(0.658, 0.739)	119	
[0.7,0.79]						0.711	0.014	(0.683, 0.738)	287	
[0.8,0.89]	0.770		0.014			(0.743, 0.797)	338			
[0.9,0.99]	0.858		0.013			(0.831, 0.884)	283			
1	0.923		0.013			(0.898, 0.948)	187			
Incorrect	0.5		0.508			0.064	(0.373, 0.643)	19		
	[0.51,0.59]		0.580			0.035	(0.508, 0.651)	42		
	[0.6,0.69]		0.601		0.041	(0.518, 0.684)	42			
	[0.7,0.79]		0.566		0.029	(0.508, 0.625)	115			
	[0.8,0.89]		0.552		0.031	(0.491, 0.614)	123			
	[0.9,0.99]		0.652		0.038	(0.577, 0.726)	93			
	1		0.787		0.042	(0.703, 0.872)	64			

Table C.1: Estimates plotted in Figure 6 (continued)

Category	Question	Response	Certainty	Estimate	SE	CI	N	
Knowledge	Hydroxychloroquine	Correct	0.5	0.583	0.032	(0.520, 0.647)	61	
			[0.51,0.59]	0.633	0.022	(0.589, 0.677)	100	
			[0.6,0.69]	0.664	0.023	(0.618, 0.711)	101	
			[0.7,0.79]	0.656	0.021	(0.615, 0.696)	221	
			[0.8,0.89]	0.737	0.018	(0.702, 0.772)	256	
			[0.9,0.99]	0.824	0.017	(0.791, 0.858)	281	
			1	0.921	0.011	(0.899, 0.944)	339	
		Incorrect	0.5	0.311	0.073	(0.153, 0.470)	14	
			[0.51,0.59]	0.472	0.034	(0.404, 0.540)	54	
			[0.6,0.69]	0.529	0.045	(0.438, 0.620)	41	
			[0.7,0.79]	0.571	0.030	(0.512, 0.630)	100	
			[0.8,0.89]	0.577	0.028	(0.521, 0.633)	152	
			[0.9,0.99]	0.662	0.039	(0.584, 0.740)	89	
			1	0.740	0.057	(0.626, 0.854)	44	
		All questions	Correct	0.5	0.581	0.012	(0.557, 0.606)	419
				[0.51,0.59]	0.624	0.009	(0.607, 0.641)	731
	[0.6,0.69]			0.660	0.011	(0.639, 0.682)	643	
	[0.7,0.79]			0.698	0.008	(0.683, 0.714)	1383	
	[0.8,0.89]			0.770	0.008	(0.755, 0.785)	1747	
	[0.9,0.99]			0.859	0.006	(0.847, 0.871)	2138	
	1			0.955	0.003	(0.950, 0.960)	4739	
	Incorrect		0.5	0.511	0.013	(0.486, 0.535)	320	
			[0.51,0.59]	0.509	0.012	(0.486, 0.532)	489	
			[0.6,0.69]	0.524	0.014	(0.495, 0.552)	443	
			[0.7,0.79]	0.549	0.012	(0.526, 0.572)	808	
			[0.8,0.89]	0.590	0.013	(0.565, 0.615)	826	
			[0.9,0.99]	0.611	0.016	(0.580, 0.642)	613	
			1	0.688	0.019	(0.650, 0.726)	437	
	Bacteria		Correct	0.5	0.640	0.045	(0.547, 0.732)	29
				[0.51,0.59]	0.665	0.025	(0.615, 0.716)	91
		[0.6,0.69]		0.669	0.029	(0.611, 0.728)	97	
		[0.7,0.79]		0.707	0.020	(0.667, 0.747)	206	
[0.8,0.89]		0.753		0.017	(0.719, 0.787)	320		
[0.9,0.99]		0.864		0.012	(0.840, 0.888)	418		
1		0.954		0.006	(0.942, 0.966)	788		
Incorrect		0.5	0.572	0.048	(0.475, 0.670)	35		
		[0.51,0.59]	0.513	0.035	(0.442, 0.584)	71		
		[0.6,0.69]	0.537	0.033	(0.470, 0.603)	82		
		[0.7,0.79]	0.563	0.025	(0.513, 0.613)	174		
		[0.8,0.89]	0.601	0.025	(0.552, 0.649)	188		
		[0.9,0.99]	0.614	0.031	(0.553, 0.675)	152		
		1	0.694	0.037	(0.621, 0.767)	111		
Child's sex		Correct	0.5	0.585	0.020	(0.546, 0.625)	91	
			[0.51,0.59]	0.623	0.019	(0.585, 0.660)	148	
	[0.6,0.69]		0.674	0.023	(0.629, 0.720)	113		
	[0.7,0.79]		0.723	0.016	(0.692, 0.754)	262		
	[0.8,0.89]		0.818	0.014	(0.790, 0.845)	317		
	[0.9,0.99]		0.884	0.013	(0.859, 0.909)	348		
	1		0.965	0.005	(0.956, 0.974)	942		
	Incorrect	0.5	0.493	0.022	(0.449, 0.538)	88		
		[0.51,0.59]	0.527	0.029	(0.470, 0.584)	86		
		[0.6,0.69]	0.497	0.035	(0.428, 0.566)	64		
		[0.7,0.79]	0.538	0.030	(0.479, 0.597)	115		
		[0.8,0.89]	0.568	0.035	(0.499, 0.638)	107		
		[0.9,0.99]	0.562	0.048	(0.466, 0.658)	72		
		1	0.671	0.051	(0.568, 0.773)	66		

Table C.1: Estimates plotted in Figure 6 (continued)

Category	Question	Response	Certainty	Estimate	SE	CI	N
Continental drift		Correct	0.5	0.699	0.033	(0.632, 0.766)	46
			[0.51,0.59]	0.704	0.021	(0.662, 0.745)	111
			[0.6,0.69]	0.717	0.021	(0.676, 0.758)	132
			[0.7,0.79]	0.768	0.014	(0.741, 0.795)	307
			[0.8,0.89]	0.816	0.012	(0.792, 0.840)	388
			[0.9,0.99]	0.891	0.009	(0.873, 0.909)	521
			1	0.969	0.004	(0.962, 0.977)	927
		Incorrect	0.5	0.411	0.060	(0.288, 0.535)	23
			[0.51,0.59]	0.457	0.046	(0.364, 0.550)	44
			[0.6,0.69]	0.374	0.044	(0.285, 0.462)	44
			[0.7,0.79]	0.395	0.037	(0.322, 0.469)	74
			[0.8,0.89]	0.448	0.038	(0.372, 0.525)	85
			[0.9,0.99]	0.484	0.054	(0.376, 0.593)	50
			1	0.581	0.076	(0.427, 0.735)	32
Earth/Sun		Correct	0.5	0.640	0.174	(0.156, 1.124)	5
			[0.51,0.59]	0.623	0.051	(0.517, 0.729)	25
			[0.6,0.69]	0.771	0.041	(0.685, 0.857)	18
			[0.7,0.79]	0.662	0.054	(0.552, 0.772)	39
			[0.8,0.89]	0.732	0.044	(0.643, 0.821)	54
			[0.9,0.99]	0.879	0.024	(0.832, 0.926)	123
			1	0.954	0.008	(0.938, 0.969)	525
		Incorrect	0.5	0.350	0.350	(-4.097, 4.797)	2
			[0.51,0.59]	0.477	0.065	(0.338, 0.616)	15
			[0.6,0.69]	0.649	0.139	(0.321, 0.977)	8
			[0.7,0.79]	0.577	0.054	(0.468, 0.687)	37
			[0.8,0.89]	0.679	0.072	(0.530, 0.828)	26
			[0.9,0.99]	0.530	0.069	(0.390, 0.671)	35
			1	0.591	0.071	(0.447, 0.735)	44
Electron/atom		Correct	0.5	0.554	0.019	(0.516, 0.592)	105
			[0.51,0.59]	0.580	0.017	(0.547, 0.613)	163
			[0.6,0.69]	0.630	0.025	(0.580, 0.680)	120
			[0.7,0.79]	0.635	0.019	(0.598, 0.672)	252
			[0.8,0.89]	0.722	0.020	(0.684, 0.761)	239
			[0.9,0.99]	0.830	0.015	(0.800, 0.860)	314
			1	0.929	0.008	(0.914, 0.945)	736
		Incorrect	0.5	0.462	0.026	(0.409, 0.515)	70
			[0.51,0.59]	0.468	0.025	(0.420, 0.517)	117
			[0.6,0.69]	0.522	0.029	(0.464, 0.581)	94
			[0.7,0.79]	0.524	0.026	(0.472, 0.576)	156
			[0.8,0.89]	0.550	0.030	(0.491, 0.609)	153
			[0.9,0.99]	0.598	0.036	(0.527, 0.669)	125
			1	0.715	0.040	(0.635, 0.795)	96
Lasers		Correct	0.5	0.525	0.023	(0.480, 0.569)	92
			[0.51,0.59]	0.544	0.023	(0.499, 0.588)	115
			[0.6,0.69]	0.528	0.032	(0.464, 0.591)	85
			[0.7,0.79]	0.589	0.028	(0.533, 0.645)	119
			[0.8,0.89]	0.707	0.024	(0.660, 0.754)	170
			[0.9,0.99]	0.737	0.028	(0.683, 0.792)	156
			1	0.933	0.011	(0.912, 0.954)	315
		Incorrect	0.5	0.577	0.020	(0.537, 0.617)	76
			[0.51,0.59]	0.595	0.024	(0.548, 0.642)	110
			[0.6,0.69]	0.606	0.029	(0.548, 0.664)	91
			[0.7,0.79]	0.633	0.022	(0.590, 0.676)	164
			[0.8,0.89]	0.668	0.023	(0.622, 0.714)	168
			[0.9,0.99]	0.746	0.030	(0.687, 0.806)	109
			1	0.786	0.041	(0.705, 0.867)	61
Radioactivity	Correct	0.5	0.589	0.031	(0.527, 0.651)	51	

Table C.1: Estimates plotted in Figure 6 (continued)

Category	Question	Response	Certainty	Estimate	SE	CI	N
			[0.51,0.59]	0.675	0.026	(0.623, 0.727)	78
			[0.6,0.69]	0.700	0.028	(0.645, 0.755)	78
			[0.7,0.79]	0.701	0.019	(0.664, 0.737)	198
			[0.8,0.89]	0.758	0.018	(0.722, 0.793)	259
			[0.9,0.99]	0.851	0.015	(0.820, 0.881)	258
			1	0.964	0.006	(0.952, 0.975)	506
		Incorrect	0.5	0.523	0.046	(0.428, 0.618)	26
			[0.51,0.59]	0.429	0.035	(0.358, 0.499)	46
			[0.6,0.69]	0.505	0.041	(0.424, 0.587)	60
			[0.7,0.79]	0.543	0.035	(0.473, 0.613)	88
			[0.8,0.89]	0.618	0.034	(0.550, 0.685)	99
			[0.9,0.99]	0.597	0.046	(0.506, 0.688)	70
			1	0.672	0.081	(0.506, 0.839)	27

Table C.2: Estimates plotted in Figure 7

Characteristic	Level	Response	Certainty	Estimate	SE	CI	N
Age	Above median	Correct	0.5	0.610	0.018	(0.574, 0.645)	165
			[0.51,0.59]	0.650	0.013	(0.624, 0.676)	331
			[0.6,0.69]	0.665	0.014	(0.637, 0.692)	347
			[0.7,0.79]	0.690	0.010	(0.670, 0.710)	750
			[0.8,0.89]	0.757	0.009	(0.738, 0.775)	993
			[0.9,0.99]	0.845	0.009	(0.828, 0.863)	1028
		1	0.920	0.007	(0.907, 0.933)	1262	
		Incorrect	0.5	0.462	0.032	(0.398, 0.526)	66
			[0.51,0.59]	0.529	0.019	(0.491, 0.567)	205
			[0.6,0.69]	0.542	0.022	(0.498, 0.585)	184
			[0.7,0.79]	0.569	0.017	(0.536, 0.603)	346
			[0.8,0.89]	0.520	0.020	(0.480, 0.559)	362
	[0.9,0.99]		0.650	0.023	(0.604, 0.695)	267	
	1	0.773	0.027	(0.719, 0.827)	185		
	Below median	Correct	0.5	0.598	0.021	(0.555, 0.640)	157
			[0.51,0.59]	0.617	0.014	(0.590, 0.645)	349
			[0.6,0.69]	0.674	0.012	(0.650, 0.697)	353
			[0.7,0.79]	0.708	0.009	(0.690, 0.727)	812
			[0.8,0.89]	0.789	0.008	(0.772, 0.805)	942
			[0.9,0.99]	0.861	0.008	(0.846, 0.876)	1119
		1	0.937	0.005	(0.927, 0.947)	1280	
		Incorrect	0.5	0.461	0.031	(0.400, 0.523)	84
			[0.51,0.59]	0.526	0.018	(0.490, 0.561)	188
			[0.6,0.69]	0.521	0.021	(0.479, 0.562)	165
[0.7,0.79]			0.574	0.019	(0.537, 0.610)	328	
[0.8,0.89]			0.580	0.021	(0.539, 0.621)	302	
[0.9,0.99]	0.651		0.024	(0.605, 0.698)	250		
1	0.769	0.025	(0.719, 0.819)	219			
Gender	Female	Correct	0.5	0.612	0.018	(0.577, 0.647)	189
			[0.51,0.59]	0.648	0.012	(0.623, 0.672)	392
			[0.6,0.69]	0.669	0.012	(0.645, 0.693)	406
			[0.7,0.79]	0.701	0.009	(0.684, 0.719)	859
			[0.8,0.89]	0.784	0.008	(0.767, 0.800)	1017
			[0.9,0.99]	0.856	0.008	(0.841, 0.872)	1113
			1	0.932	0.005	(0.921, 0.942)	1326

Table C.2: Estimates plotted in Figure 7 (continued)

Characteristic	Level	Response	Certainty	Estimate	SE	CI	N
Attentiveness	Male	Incorrect	0.5	0.438	0.032	(0.375, 0.501)	79
			[0.51,0.59]	0.533	0.017	(0.501, 0.566)	243
			[0.6,0.69]	0.534	0.019	(0.496, 0.572)	199
			[0.7,0.79]	0.584	0.018	(0.549, 0.619)	341
			[0.8,0.89]	0.562	0.021	(0.521, 0.603)	326
			[0.9,0.99]	0.646	0.025	(0.596, 0.696)	239
		1	0.781	0.024	(0.733, 0.828)	211	
		Correct	0.5	0.593	0.022	(0.548, 0.637)	133
			[0.51,0.59]	0.614	0.015	(0.584, 0.643)	287
			[0.6,0.69]	0.670	0.014	(0.643, 0.697)	294
			[0.7,0.79]	0.697	0.011	(0.676, 0.718)	700
			[0.8,0.89]	0.759	0.010	(0.740, 0.778)	915
	[0.9,0.99]		0.851	0.008	(0.834, 0.867)	1032	
	1	0.924	0.007	(0.911, 0.937)	1200		
	Failed one or both	Incorrect	0.5	0.488	0.031	(0.427, 0.549)	71
			[0.51,0.59]	0.517	0.021	(0.475, 0.560)	150
			[0.6,0.69]	0.529	0.025	(0.480, 0.578)	150
			[0.7,0.79]	0.558	0.018	(0.523, 0.593)	333
			[0.8,0.89]	0.533	0.020	(0.493, 0.573)	338
			[0.9,0.99]	0.654	0.021	(0.612, 0.696)	278
		1	0.760	0.029	(0.703, 0.817)	193	
		Correct	0.5	0.623	0.079	(0.448, 0.799)	18
			[0.51,0.59]	0.582	0.043	(0.495, 0.670)	48
			[0.6,0.69]	0.668	0.041	(0.584, 0.752)	39
[0.7,0.79]			0.627	0.039	(0.548, 0.706)	77	
[0.8,0.89]			0.741	0.045	(0.650, 0.833)	51	
[0.9,0.99]	0.729		0.043	(0.641, 0.817)	65		
1	0.850	0.040	(0.769, 0.931)	85			
Passed both	Incorrect	0.5	0.452	0.027	(0.389, 0.515)	11	
		[0.51,0.59]	0.461	0.050	(0.357, 0.564)	37	
		[0.6,0.69]	0.506	0.050	(0.401, 0.610)	26	
		[0.7,0.79]	0.475	0.050	(0.373, 0.576)	60	
		[0.8,0.89]	0.535	0.060	(0.412, 0.657)	44	
		[0.9,0.99]	0.607	0.058	(0.488, 0.726)	40	
	1	0.576	0.083	(0.405, 0.748)	34		
	Correct	0.5	0.607	0.029	(0.550, 0.665)	83	
		[0.51,0.59]	0.629	0.017	(0.595, 0.663)	200	
		[0.6,0.69]	0.626	0.020	(0.587, 0.665)	193	
		[0.7,0.79]	0.721	0.014	(0.693, 0.749)	309	
		[0.8,0.89]	0.786	0.013	(0.760, 0.812)	411	
[0.9,0.99]		0.880	0.011	(0.858, 0.901)	425		
1	0.921	0.008	(0.905, 0.938)	646			
Educational attainment	Associate's or less	Incorrect	0.5	0.522	0.039	(0.443, 0.600)	51
			[0.51,0.59]	0.582	0.020	(0.542, 0.621)	167
			[0.6,0.69]	0.595	0.024	(0.548, 0.642)	135
			[0.7,0.79]	0.675	0.021	(0.634, 0.716)	174
			[0.8,0.89]	0.684	0.030	(0.624, 0.744)	114
			[0.9,0.99]	0.740	0.033	(0.675, 0.805)	111
		1	0.813	0.026	(0.761, 0.865)	169	
		Correct	0.5	0.609	0.020	(0.569, 0.649)	165
			[0.51,0.59]	0.639	0.014	(0.611, 0.667)	337
			[0.6,0.69]	0.659	0.014	(0.632, 0.687)	328
			[0.7,0.79]	0.695	0.010	(0.675, 0.715)	695
			[0.8,0.89]	0.775	0.010	(0.756, 0.795)	727
[0.9,0.99]	0.845		0.009	(0.827, 0.864)	779		
1	0.921	0.007	(0.907, 0.935)	974			

Table C.2: Estimates plotted in Figure 7 (continued)

Characteristic	Level	Response	Certainty	Estimate	SE	CI	N
Coursework in stats/probability	Bachelor's or more	Incorrect	0.5	0.473	0.033	(0.408, 0.538)	89
			[0.51,0.59]	0.533	0.018	(0.496, 0.569)	208
			[0.6,0.69]	0.535	0.021	(0.493, 0.577)	187
			[0.7,0.79]	0.568	0.017	(0.535, 0.602)	312
			[0.8,0.89]	0.610	0.023	(0.564, 0.656)	239
			[0.9,0.99]	0.655	0.028	(0.600, 0.709)	190
		1	0.779	0.028	(0.724, 0.835)	189	
		Correct	0.5	0.599	0.019	(0.561, 0.636)	157
			[0.51,0.59]	0.627	0.013	(0.601, 0.653)	343
			[0.6,0.69]	0.678	0.012	(0.654, 0.702)	372
			[0.7,0.79]	0.703	0.009	(0.685, 0.722)	867
			[0.8,0.89]	0.770	0.008	(0.754, 0.786)	1208
	[0.9,0.99]		0.858	0.007	(0.844, 0.873)	1368	
	1	0.933	0.005	(0.923, 0.943)	1568		
	No	Incorrect	0.5	0.445	0.027	(0.390, 0.500)	61
			[0.51,0.59]	0.521	0.019	(0.484, 0.558)	185
			[0.6,0.69]	0.528	0.022	(0.484, 0.572)	162
			[0.7,0.79]	0.574	0.018	(0.538, 0.610)	362
			[0.8,0.89]	0.512	0.018	(0.476, 0.548)	425
			[0.9,0.99]	0.648	0.020	(0.607, 0.688)	327
		1	0.763	0.025	(0.714, 0.813)	215	
		Correct	0.5	0.601	0.018	(0.566, 0.636)	193
			[0.51,0.59]	0.627	0.013	(0.603, 0.652)	422
			[0.6,0.69]	0.672	0.012	(0.648, 0.696)	402
			[0.7,0.79]	0.717	0.009	(0.700, 0.735)	817
			[0.8,0.89]	0.786	0.008	(0.770, 0.802)	951
	[0.9,0.99]		0.865	0.007	(0.850, 0.879)	1056	
	1	0.928	0.006	(0.916, 0.939)	1373		
	Yes	Incorrect	0.5	0.456	0.030	(0.397, 0.515)	93
			[0.51,0.59]	0.536	0.017	(0.503, 0.568)	243
[0.6,0.69]			0.540	0.020	(0.501, 0.580)	193	
[0.7,0.79]			0.578	0.017	(0.545, 0.610)	334	
[0.8,0.89]			0.591	0.022	(0.548, 0.634)	277	
[0.9,0.99]			0.691	0.025	(0.642, 0.741)	214	
1		0.790	0.024	(0.743, 0.837)	245		
Correct		0.5	0.609	0.023	(0.564, 0.653)	129	
		[0.51,0.59]	0.643	0.015	(0.613, 0.672)	258	
		[0.6,0.69]	0.666	0.014	(0.638, 0.694)	298	
		[0.7,0.79]	0.680	0.010	(0.659, 0.700)	745	
		[0.8,0.89]	0.759	0.009	(0.740, 0.777)	984	
	[0.9,0.99]	0.843	0.009	(0.826, 0.860)	1091		
1	0.929	0.006	(0.918, 0.941)	1169			
At least one correct	Incorrect	0.5	0.470	0.033	(0.405, 0.536)	57	
		[0.51,0.59]	0.514	0.021	(0.471, 0.556)	150	
		[0.6,0.69]	0.521	0.024	(0.474, 0.568)	156	
		[0.7,0.79]	0.565	0.019	(0.528, 0.603)	340	
		[0.8,0.89]	0.516	0.019	(0.478, 0.554)	387	
		[0.9,0.99]	0.621	0.022	(0.579, 0.664)	303	
	1	0.741	0.030	(0.682, 0.801)	159		
	Correct	0.5	0.608	0.016	(0.576, 0.641)	188	
		[0.51,0.59]	0.658	0.012	(0.635, 0.681)	363	
		[0.6,0.69]	0.684	0.012	(0.660, 0.709)	361	
		[0.7,0.79]	0.731	0.009	(0.713, 0.748)	833	
		[0.8,0.89]	0.788	0.008	(0.771, 0.804)	1046	
[0.9,0.99]		0.887	0.006	(0.876, 0.899)	1326		
1	0.947	0.004	(0.938, 0.955)	1653			
Cognitive reflection test	At least one correct	Incorrect	0.5	0.445	0.028	(0.389, 0.502)	78

Table C.2: Estimates plotted in Figure 7 (continued)

Characteristic	Level	Response	Certainty	Estimate	SE	CI	N
Need for closure	None correct	Correct	[0.51,0.59]	0.532	0.019	(0.494, 0.570)	191
			[0.6,0.69]	0.555	0.023	(0.509, 0.601)	157
			[0.7,0.79]	0.597	0.019	(0.560, 0.634)	308
			[0.8,0.89]	0.595	0.021	(0.553, 0.636)	315
			[0.9,0.99]	0.670	0.024	(0.622, 0.718)	229
			1	0.803	0.025	(0.754, 0.851)	202
		Incorrect	0.5	0.598	0.024	(0.550, 0.646)	134
			[0.51,0.59]	0.605	0.015	(0.574, 0.635)	317
			[0.6,0.69]	0.653	0.014	(0.627, 0.680)	339
			[0.7,0.79]	0.664	0.011	(0.643, 0.685)	729
			[0.8,0.89]	0.754	0.010	(0.735, 0.773)	889
			[0.9,0.99]	0.799	0.011	(0.777, 0.821)	821
	Above median	Correct	1	0.895	0.009	(0.878, 0.912)	889
			0.5	0.479	0.035	(0.409, 0.549)	72
			[0.51,0.59]	0.523	0.018	(0.487, 0.558)	202
			[0.6,0.69]	0.513	0.020	(0.473, 0.553)	192
			[0.7,0.79]	0.550	0.017	(0.517, 0.583)	366
			[0.8,0.89]	0.504	0.020	(0.465, 0.544)	349
		Incorrect	[0.9,0.99]	0.635	0.022	(0.591, 0.679)	288
			1	0.739	0.028	(0.684, 0.794)	202
			0.5	0.602	0.020	(0.562, 0.643)	153
			[0.51,0.59]	0.627	0.014	(0.599, 0.655)	331
			[0.6,0.69]	0.685	0.013	(0.660, 0.710)	323
			[0.7,0.79]	0.698	0.010	(0.678, 0.717)	693
Below median	Correct	[0.8,0.89]	0.767	0.009	(0.749, 0.785)	908	
		[0.9,0.99]	0.834	0.009	(0.816, 0.852)	1003	
		1	0.925	0.006	(0.913, 0.938)	1222	
		0.5	0.447	0.036	(0.375, 0.518)	66	
		[0.51,0.59]	0.544	0.020	(0.506, 0.583)	164	
		[0.6,0.69]	0.565	0.022	(0.521, 0.608)	161	
	Incorrect	[0.7,0.79]	0.592	0.019	(0.555, 0.629)	281	
		[0.8,0.89]	0.526	0.022	(0.483, 0.570)	299	
		[0.9,0.99]	0.631	0.024	(0.584, 0.678)	262	
		1	0.715	0.030	(0.656, 0.774)	199	
		0.5	0.605	0.019	(0.567, 0.643)	169	
		[0.51,0.59]	0.639	0.013	(0.613, 0.665)	349	
Above median	Correct	[0.6,0.69]	0.656	0.013	(0.630, 0.682)	377	
		[0.7,0.79]	0.701	0.009	(0.682, 0.720)	869	
		[0.8,0.89]	0.777	0.008	(0.761, 0.794)	1026	
		[0.9,0.99]	0.872	0.007	(0.859, 0.886)	1142	
		1	0.932	0.006	(0.921, 0.943)	1320	
		0.5	0.473	0.028	(0.417, 0.529)	84	
	Incorrect	[0.51,0.59]	0.515	0.018	(0.480, 0.550)	229	
		[0.6,0.69]	0.506	0.021	(0.464, 0.548)	187	
		[0.7,0.79]	0.556	0.017	(0.523, 0.589)	392	
		[0.8,0.89]	0.563	0.019	(0.525, 0.602)	364	
		[0.9,0.99]	0.669	0.023	(0.624, 0.714)	254	
		1	0.825	0.022	(0.782, 0.869)	205	
Generic conspiracy beliefs	Above median	Correct	0.5	0.613	0.049	(0.511, 0.715)	33
			[0.51,0.59]	0.610	0.027	(0.556, 0.664)	93
			[0.6,0.69]	0.604	0.027	(0.549, 0.658)	98
			[0.7,0.79]	0.682	0.022	(0.638, 0.726)	176
			[0.8,0.89]	0.771	0.021	(0.730, 0.812)	184
	Incorrect	[0.9,0.99]	0.802	0.023	(0.757, 0.848)	186	
		1	0.847	0.023	(0.801, 0.893)	202	
		0.5	0.551	0.068	(0.404, 0.698)	20	
		[0.51,0.59]	0.572	0.030	(0.513, 0.632)	78	

Table C.2: Estimates plotted in Figure 7 (continued)

Characteristic	Level	Response	Certainty	Estimate	SE	CI	N	
	Below median	Correct	[0.6,0.69]	0.590	0.031	(0.528, 0.652)	70	
			[0.7,0.79]	0.604	0.037	(0.531, 0.678)	79	
			[0.8,0.89]	0.583	0.041	(0.501, 0.664)	79	
			[0.9,0.99]	0.713	0.035	(0.642, 0.784)	86	
			1	0.729	0.049	(0.632, 0.826)	81	
			0.5	0.609	0.033	(0.542, 0.676)	68	
			[0.51,0.59]	0.626	0.021	(0.585, 0.667)	155	
		[0.6,0.69]	0.654	0.024	(0.607, 0.700)	133		
		[0.7,0.79]	0.720	0.018	(0.684, 0.755)	210		
		[0.8,0.89]	0.788	0.016	(0.757, 0.820)	277		
		[0.9,0.99]	0.895	0.011	(0.874, 0.916)	303		
		1	0.937	0.008	(0.921, 0.953)	528		
		Incorrect	0.5	0.489	0.035	(0.418, 0.561)	42	
			[0.51,0.59]	0.552	0.025	(0.502, 0.601)	126	
	[0.6,0.69]		0.580	0.029	(0.521, 0.638)	90		
	[0.7,0.79]		0.632	0.028	(0.578, 0.687)	150		
	[0.8,0.89]		0.717	0.037	(0.644, 0.791)	77		
	[0.9,0.99]		0.693	0.049	(0.595, 0.790)	64		
	1		0.794	0.032	(0.730, 0.858)	124		
	Political partisanship	All others	Correct	0.5	0.605	0.016	(0.573, 0.638)	234
				[0.51,0.59]	0.634	0.011	(0.612, 0.656)	470
				[0.6,0.69]	0.674	0.011	(0.652, 0.695)	458
				[0.7,0.79]	0.707	0.009	(0.690, 0.724)	893
				[0.8,0.89]	0.795	0.007	(0.781, 0.810)	1051
				[0.9,0.99]	0.868	0.007	(0.855, 0.882)	1145
				1	0.932	0.005	(0.922, 0.942)	1361
			Incorrect	0.5	0.471	0.025	(0.421, 0.521)	115
				[0.51,0.59]	0.538	0.016	(0.508, 0.569)	253
[0.6,0.69]				0.525	0.019	(0.486, 0.563)	209	
[0.7,0.79]				0.570	0.016	(0.538, 0.602)	353	
[0.8,0.89]				0.578	0.021	(0.536, 0.620)	281	
[0.9,0.99]				0.653	0.026	(0.602, 0.704)	191	
1				0.840	0.022	(0.796, 0.883)	194	
Strong partisans		Correct	0.5	0.600	0.026	(0.548, 0.652)	88	
			[0.51,0.59]	0.630	0.019	(0.593, 0.667)	210	
			[0.6,0.69]	0.661	0.017	(0.629, 0.694)	242	
			[0.7,0.79]	0.690	0.011	(0.668, 0.712)	669	
			[0.8,0.89]	0.745	0.010	(0.724, 0.765)	884	
			[0.9,0.99]	0.837	0.010	(0.818, 0.856)	1002	
			1	0.924	0.007	(0.911, 0.937)	1181	
		Incorrect	0.5	0.429	0.048	(0.331, 0.527)	35	
			[0.51,0.59]	0.507	0.024	(0.460, 0.555)	140	
			[0.6,0.69]	0.543	0.025	(0.494, 0.592)	140	
			[0.7,0.79]	0.573	0.019	(0.535, 0.611)	321	
			[0.8,0.89]	0.525	0.020	(0.486, 0.563)	383	
			[0.9,0.99]	0.649	0.021	(0.607, 0.691)	326	
			1	0.707	0.029	(0.651, 0.764)	210	
Interest in politics	Less interested	Correct	0.5	0.593	0.014	(0.565, 0.622)	256	
			[0.51,0.59]	0.629	0.011	(0.609, 0.650)	537	
			[0.6,0.69]	0.671	0.010	(0.651, 0.691)	552	
			[0.7,0.79]	0.697	0.008	(0.681, 0.713)	1167	
			[0.8,0.89]	0.771	0.007	(0.757, 0.786)	1371	
			[0.9,0.99]	0.855	0.007	(0.842, 0.869)	1365	
			1	0.928	0.005	(0.919, 0.938)	1449	
	Incorrect	0.5	0.468	0.027	(0.415, 0.521)	112		
		[0.51,0.59]	0.532	0.015	(0.503, 0.561)	297		
		[0.6,0.69]	0.522	0.017	(0.489, 0.556)	267		

Table C.2: Estimates plotted in Figure 7 (continued)

Characteristic	Level	Response	Certainty	Estimate	SE	CI	N	
Political knowledge	Very interested	Correct	[0.7,0.79]	0.552	0.014	(0.523, 0.580)	502	
			[0.8,0.89]	0.553	0.017	(0.520, 0.586)	449	
			[0.9,0.99]	0.645	0.020	(0.605, 0.685)	320	
			1	0.770	0.025	(0.719, 0.820)	190	
			0.5	0.645	0.038	(0.569, 0.722)	66	
		Incorrect	[0.51,0.59]	0.647	0.023	(0.602, 0.693)	143	
			[0.6,0.69]	0.664	0.021	(0.623, 0.705)	148	
			[0.7,0.79]	0.707	0.014	(0.680, 0.735)	395	
			[0.8,0.89]	0.774	0.012	(0.751, 0.797)	564	
			[0.9,0.99]	0.851	0.011	(0.830, 0.871)	782	
		1	0.929	0.007	(0.915, 0.943)	1093		
		0 to 3 correct	Correct	0.5	0.442	0.039	(0.363, 0.522)	38
				[0.51,0.59]	0.511	0.028	(0.455, 0.568)	96
				[0.6,0.69]	0.563	0.034	(0.495, 0.632)	82
				[0.7,0.79]	0.629	0.025	(0.579, 0.679)	172
	[0.8,0.89]			0.535	0.028	(0.479, 0.590)	215	
	Incorrect		[0.9,0.99]	0.659	0.028	(0.605, 0.714)	197	
			1	0.772	0.027	(0.718, 0.826)	214	
			0.5	0.577	0.043	(0.489, 0.666)	47	
			[0.51,0.59]	0.603	0.023	(0.558, 0.648)	130	
			[0.6,0.69]	0.629	0.027	(0.576, 0.682)	105	
	4 or more correct		Correct	[0.7,0.79]	0.675	0.023	(0.630, 0.720)	174
				[0.8,0.89]	0.758	0.020	(0.719, 0.797)	209
				[0.9,0.99]	0.819	0.021	(0.778, 0.861)	189
				1	0.871	0.019	(0.833, 0.910)	217
				0.5	0.478	0.045	(0.386, 0.570)	32
		Incorrect	[0.51,0.59]	0.505	0.028	(0.449, 0.560)	95	
			[0.6,0.69]	0.528	0.031	(0.466, 0.590)	71	
			[0.7,0.79]	0.549	0.034	(0.481, 0.617)	110	
			[0.8,0.89]	0.554	0.045	(0.464, 0.644)	76	
[0.9,0.99]			0.631	0.045	(0.540, 0.721)	72		
1		0.687	0.049	(0.589, 0.785)	72			
4 or more correct		Correct	0.5	0.639	0.033	(0.572, 0.706)	54	
			[0.51,0.59]	0.639	0.023	(0.593, 0.686)	117	
			[0.6,0.69]	0.637	0.024	(0.589, 0.685)	126	
			[0.7,0.79]	0.725	0.018	(0.691, 0.760)	212	
	[0.8,0.89]		0.800	0.016	(0.768, 0.832)	252		
	Incorrect	[0.9,0.99]	0.885	0.013	(0.860, 0.910)	301		
		1	0.929	0.010	(0.910, 0.948)	513		
		0.5	0.543	0.047	(0.445, 0.641)	30		
		[0.51,0.59]	0.608	0.026	(0.557, 0.659)	108		
		[0.6,0.69]	0.623	0.029	(0.565, 0.682)	89		
	4 or more correct	[0.7,0.79]	0.690	0.024	(0.642, 0.738)	124		
		[0.8,0.89]	0.725	0.033	(0.658, 0.791)	82		
		[0.9,0.99]	0.772	0.035	(0.703, 0.842)	79		
		1	0.812	0.032	(0.748, 0.876)	133		

D Appendix to Study 4

The same surveys are analyzed in Studies 3 and 4. For survey information, see the appendix to Study 3.

D.1 Full text of training exercise

The training exercise asked respondents to interact with four vignettes, which were displayed in a random order. Vignette 1 is printed in the main text. This section contains the full text of vignettes 2-4 and a description of the randomization procedure for the names.

Vignette 2

[Name] gets the question,

Nationwide, is the average price of gas above or below \$2.00?

[She/He] knows that the answer is “above \$2.00” because [s/he] saw this fact in the news.

How sure is [Name] that the answer is “above \$2.00”?

- 60 percent sure
- 80 percent sure
- 99 percent sure

[DISPLAYS AFTER CLICK:] The best choice is 99 percent sure. [Name] knows for a fact that gas costs more than \$2.00. When you make your choices, it’s important not to pick high levels of certainty unless you are extremely confident in your answer.

Vignette 3

[Name] gets the question,

Nationwide, is the average price of gas above or below \$2.00?

[She/He] knows gas costs more than \$2.00 in [her/his] area, but [s/he]’s not sure about the rest of the country.

How sure is [Name] that the answer is “above \$2.00”?

- 70 percent sure
- 95 percent sure

[DISPLAYS AFTER CLICK:] The best choice is 70 percent sure. [Name] knows something that allows [her/him] to make a pretty good guess, but [s/he] doesn’t know nearly enough to be 95 percent certain.

When you’re only somewhat confident in your choice, it’s important to pick a middling level of certainty.

Vignette 4

[Name] gets the question,

Nationwide, is the average price of gas above or below \$2.00?

[Name] knows gas prices have gone up a lot since [s/he] sold [her/his] car back in the mid-1990s, but isn't sure how much. [She/He] chooses "above \$2.00" but isn't too confident in [her/his] guess.

How certain is [Name] that the answer is "above \$2.00"?

- 50 percent sure
- 55 percent sure
- 85 percent sure

[DISPLAYS AFTER CLICK:] The best choice is 55 percent sure. [Name] has something to go on, so it's not quite a coin flip, but the things [s/he] thought about weren't too helpful either.

Randomization of names

Names for the vignettes were randomly assigned at the individual level using the Fisher-Yates shuffle.

For vignettes 1-3, three random names were drawn from the Social Security Administration's (SSA) top 20 male and female names of the 1980s: Michael, Christopher, Matthew, Joshua, David, James, Daniel, Robert, John, Joseph, Jason, Justin, Andrew, Ryan, William, Brian, Brandon, Jonathan, Nicholas, Anthony, Jessica, Jennifer, Amanda, Ashley, Sarah, Stephanie, Melissa, Nicole, Elizabeth, Heather, Tiffany, Michelle, Amber, Megan, Amy, Rachel, Kimberly, Christina, Lauren, Crystal.

For vignette 4, one random name was drawn from the SSA's top 20 male and female names of the 1920s: Robert, John, James, William, Charles, George, Joseph, Richard, Edward, Donald, Thomas, Frank, Harold, Paul, Raymond, Walter, Jack, Henry, Kenneth, Arthur, Mary, Dorothy, Helen, Betty, Margaret, Ruth, Virginia, Doris, Mildred, Frances, Elizabeth, Evelyn, Anna, Marie, Alice, Jean, Shirley, Barbara, Irene, Marjorie.