

**(MS521) CURRENT EVENTS [TRUTH DECAY AND COGNITIVE BIAS]**

**S1\_intro**

This survey asks you a range of questions about current events and everyday life.

The first set of questions asks you to judge which of two events happens to more people in the U.S.

**S1\_q1**

*[Not required]*

In a typical year, are more people in the U.S. attacked by sharks or killed by lightning?

- ☐ Attacked by sharks (1)
- ☐ Killed by lightning (2)

**S1\_q2**

*[Not required]*

In a typical year, is a person in the U.S. more likely to be struck by lightning or to win the Powerball lottery?

- ☐ Struck by lightning (1)
- ☐ Win the Powerball lottery (2)

**S1\_q3**

*[Not required]*

In a typical year, do more people in the U.S. die from suicide or homicide?

- ☐ Suicide (1)
- ☐ Homicide (2)

**S1\_q4**

*[Not required]*

In a typical year, do more people in the U.S. die from falls on stairs or storms (including hurricanes and tornadoes)?

- ☐ Falls on stairs (1)
- ☐ Storms (including hurricanes and tornadoes) (2)

**S1\_q5**

*[Not required]*

In the U.S., are there more physicians or post-secondary teachers (for example, college professors)?

- ☐ Physicians (1)
- ☐ Post-secondary teachers (2)

**S1\_q6**

[Not required]

In a typical year, do more people in the U.S. die from motor vehicle accidents or poisoning?

- ☐ Motor vehicle accidents (1)
- ☐ Poisoning (2)

**S2\_q1a**

[Not required]

Imagine that recent evidence has shown that a pesticide is threatening the lives of 1,200 endangered animals. Two response options have been suggested:

If Option A is used, 600 animals will be saved for sure.

If Option B is used, there is a 75% chance that 800 animals will be saved, and a 25% chance that no animals will be saved.

Which option would you recommend to use?

- ☐ 1 Definitely would choose A (1)
- ☐ 2 (2)
- ☐ 3 (3)
- ☐ 4 (4)
- ☐ 5 (5)
- ☐ 6 Definitely would choose B (6)

**S2q2a**

[Not required]

Imagine the following situation. You are entertaining a special friend by inviting them for dinner. You are making your favorite lasagna dish with ground beef. Your roommate goes to the grocery store and purchases a package of ground beef for you. The label says 20% fat ground beef.

What's your evaluation of the quality of this ground beef?

- ☐ 1 Very low (1)
- ☐ 2 (2)
- ☐ 3 (3)
- ☐ 4 (4)
- ☐ 5 (5)
- ☐ 6 Very high (6)

**s3\_q1a**

[Not required]

Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following items.

I have a little ritual or superstition I do for my favorite sports team, like wearing a certain shirt or sitting in a particular chair.

- ☐ 0 Strongly disagree (0)
- ☐ 1 (1)
- ☐ 2 (2)
- ☐ 3 (3)
- ☐ 4 (4)
- ☐ 5 Strongly agree (5)
- ☐ Unsure (6)

**s3\_q1b**

[Not required]

Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following items.

Sometimes there can be connections between everyday events that we don't fully understand.

- ☐ 0 Strongly disagree (0)
- ☐ 1 (1)
- ☐ 2 (2)
- ☐ 3 (3)
- ☐ 4 (4)
- ☐ 5 Strongly agree (5)
- ☐ Unsure (6)

**s3\_q1c**

[Not required]

Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following items.

I would feel uncomfortable buying a house where a murder had occurred.

- ☐ 0 Strongly disagree (0)
- ☐ 1 (1)
- ☐ 2 (2)
- ☐ 3 (3)
- ☐ 4 (4)
- ☐ 5 Strongly agree (5)
- ☐ Unsure (6)

**s3\_q1d**

[Not required]

Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following items.

I avoid thinking or saying things that I think might jinx an outcome I want.

- ☐ 0 Strongly disagree (0)
- ☐ 1 (1)
- ☐ 2 (2)
- ☐ 3 (3)
- ☐ 4 (4)
- ☐ 5 Strongly agree (5)
- ☐ Unsure (6)

**s3\_q1e**

[Not required]

Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following items.

Some ancient peoples may have known secrets about the universe that we don't know today.

- ☐ 0 Strongly disagree (0)
- ☐ 1 (1)
- ☐ 2 (2)
- ☐ 3 (3)
- ☐ 4 (4)
- ☐ 5 Strongly agree (5)
- ☐ Unsure (6)

**s3\_q1f**

[Not required]

Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following items.

I think sometimes things really happen for a reason.

- ☐ 0 Strongly disagree (0)
- ☐ 1 (1)
- ☐ 2 (2)
- ☐ 3 (3)
- ☐ 4 (4)
- ☐ 5 Strongly agree (5)
- ☐ Unsure (6)

**s3\_q1g**

[Not required]

Please indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following items.

I have sometimes sensed an evil presence in a specific place where I was, like a particular room in a house.

- ☐ 0 Strongly disagree (0)
- ☐ 1 (1)
- ☐ 2 (2)
- ☐ 3 (3)
- ☐ 4 (4)
- ☐ 5 Strongly agree (5)
- ☐ Unsure (6)

#### S4\_q1

[Not required]

On this list are various groups of people. Please indicate any that you would not like to have as neighbors.

@media (min-width: 641px){.cf-grid-layout\_\_row-text { flex-grow: 3; max-width:none; }}

	Would not like (1)	Would not mind (2)
Drug addicts (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
People of a different race (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
People who have AIDS (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Immigrants/foreign workers (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
People who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
People of a different religion (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Heavy drinkers (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Unmarried couples living together (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
People who speak a different language (9)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
People of different political views (10)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

#### S5\_intro

Now we're going to ask you a series of nine questions involving numbers. Please do not use a calculator or get help from anyone or anything else. It is important that you answer these questions by yourself. If you do not know the answer just give your best guess. At the end of this section we will ask you how many you think you answered correctly.

**Please note: Content suppressed for questions (s5\_q1-s5\_q8).**

#### S5\_q9

[Not required]

A certain town is served by two hospitals. In the larger hospital about 45 babies are born each day, and in the smaller hospital about 15 babies are born each day. As you know, about 50% of all babies are boys. The exact percentage of baby boys, however, varies from day to day. Sometimes it may be higher than 50%, sometimes lower. For a period of 1 year, each hospital recorded the days on which more than 60% of the babies born were boys. Which hospital do you think recorded more such days?

- ☐ Larger hospital (1)
- ☐ Smaller hospital (2)

### S5\_f1

[Open Text ♦ Numeric ♦ Not required ♦ Lower limit type=GreaterOrEqual ♦ Upper limit type=SmallerOrEqual ♦ Total Digits=6 ♦ Decimal places=2]

Considering the nine questions involving numbers that you just answered, how many do you think you got correct?

`input[type=number]::-webkit-outer-spin-button, input[type=number]::-webkit-inner-spin-button { -webkit-appearance: none; margin: 0; } input[type=number] { -moz-appearance:textfield; }`

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

### S5\_f2

[Open Text ♦ Numeric ♦ Not required ♦ Lower limit type=GreaterOrEqual ♦ Upper limit type=SmallerOrEqual ♦ Total Digits=6 ♦ Decimal places=2]

Considering the nine questions involving numbers that you just answered, what percent of ALP panelists do you think you scored better than?

`input[type=number]::-webkit-outer-spin-button, input[type=number]::-webkit-inner-spin-button { -webkit-appearance: none; margin: 0; } input[type=number] { -moz-appearance:textfield; }`

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

### S6\_intro

Please select the correct answer for the following questions from the options provided. If you are not certain, please provide your best assessment.

### S6\_q1

[Not required]

A researcher has subjects put together a jigsaw puzzle either in a cold room with a loud radio or in a warm room with no radio. Subjects solve the puzzle more quickly in the warm room with no radio.

True or False? The scientist cannot tell if the radio caused subjects to solve the puzzle more slowly.

- ☐ True (1)
- ☐ False (2)

### S6\_q2

[Not required]

A researcher has a group of subjects play a competitive game. Each subject's goal is to make money by buying and selling tokens. Subjects are paid a flat fee for participating in the experiment.

True or False? The researcher can confidently state that the behavior in the experiment reflects real-life buying and selling behavior.

- ☐ True (1)
- ☐ False (2)

### **S6\_q3**

*[Not required]*

Subjects in an experiment must press a button whenever a blue dot flashes on their computer screen. At first, the task is easy for subjects. But as they continue to perform the task, they make more and more errors.

True or False? The blue dot must flash more quickly as the task progresses.

- ☐ True (1)
- ☐ False (2)

### **S6\_q4**

*[Not required]*

A researcher develops a new method for measuring the surface tension of liquids. This method is more consistent than the old method.

True or False? The new method must also be more accurate than the old method.

- ☐ True (1)
- ☐ False (2)

### **S6\_q5**

*[Not required]*

How likely do you think it is that the universe began with the Big Bang?

- ☐ Very likely (1)
- ☐ Likely (2)
- ☐ Equally likely or unlikely (3)
- ☐ Unlikely (4)
- ☐ Very unlikely (5)

### **S6\_q6**

*[Not required]*

How likely do you think it is that humans evolved from another species of animal?

- ☐ Very likely (1)
- ☐ Likely (2)
- ☐ Equally likely or unlikely (3)
- ☐ Unlikely (4)
- ☐ Very unlikely (5)

**S6\_q7**

[Not required]

In general, how safe do you think genetically modified foods are for human consumption?

- ☐ Very safe (1)
- ☐ Somewhat safe (2)
- ☐ Equally safe or unsafe (3)
- ☐ Somewhat unsafe (4)
- ☐ Very unsafe (5)

**S6\_q8**

[Not required]

In general, how safe do you think vaccines are?

- ☐ Very safe (1)
- ☐ Somewhat safe (2)
- ☐ Equally safe or unsafe (3)
- ☐ Somewhat unsafe (4)
- ☐ Very unsafe (5)

**S6\_q9**

[Not required]

In general, do you think homeopathic remedies are effective for treating illness?

Homeopathic remedies are characterized by the following:

Medicines can cure a sick person if it can cause a similar sickness in a healthy person The lower the dose of the medication, the greater its effectiveness.

- ☐ Very effective (1)
- ☐ Somewhat effective (2)
- ☐ Equally effective or ineffective (3)
- ☐ Somewhat ineffective (4)
- ☐ Very ineffective (5)

**S6\_q10**

[Not required]

How likely do you think it is that human activities have contributed to the recent rise in global temperature?

- ☐ Very Likely (1)
- ☐ Likely (2)
- ☐ Equally likely or unlikely (3)
- ☐ Unlikely (4)



- ☐ Very Unlikely (5)
- ☐ I do not believe that there is evidence for a recent rise in global temperature (6)

**S7\_q1a**

*[Not required]*

Using a scale from 0 to 6, how would you rate your willingness to accept the recommendations or information provided by a member of one of the following groups when they are advising within their area of expertise, where 0 indicates complete unwillingness and 6 equals complete willingness?

Scientists

- ☐ 0 Completely Unwilling (0)
- ☐ 1 (1)
- ☐ 2 (2)
- ☐ 3 (3)
- ☐ 4 (4)
- ☐ 5 (5)
- ☐ 6 Completely Willing (6)

**S7\_q1b**

*[Not required]*

Using a scale from 0 to 6, how would you rate your willingness to accept the recommendations or information provided by a member of one of the following groups when they are advising within their area of expertise, where 0 indicates complete unwillingness and 6 equals complete willingness?

Medical Doctors

- ☐ 0 Completely Unwilling (0)
- ☐ 1 (1)
- ☐ 2 (2)
- ☐ 3 (3)
- ☐ 4 (4)
- ☐ 5 (5)
- ☐ 6 Completely Willing (6)

**S7\_q1c**

*[Not required]*

Using a scale from 0 to 6, how would you rate your willingness to accept the recommendations or information provided by a member of one of the following groups when they are advising within their area of expertise, where 0 indicates complete unwillingness and 6 equals complete willingness?

Government officials

- ☐ 0 Completely Unwilling (0)
- ☐ 1 (1)
- ☐ 2 (2)

- ☐ 3 (3)
- ☐ 4 (4)
- ☐ 5 (5)
- ☐ 6 Completely Willing (6)

**S7\_q1d**

*[Not required]*

Using a scale from 0 to 6, how would you rate your willingness to accept the recommendations or information provided by a member of one of the following groups when they are advising within their area of expertise, where 0 indicates complete unwillingness and 6 equals complete willingness?

Business leaders

- ☐ 0 Completely Unwilling (0)
- ☐ 1 (1)
- ☐ 2 (2)
- ☐ 3 (3)
- ☐ 4 (4)
- ☐ 5 (5)
- ☐ 6 Completely Willing (6)

**S7\_q1e**

*[Not required]*

Using a scale from 0 to 6, how would you rate your willingness to accept the recommendations or information provided by a member of one of the following groups when they are advising within their area of expertise, where 0 indicates complete unwillingness and 6 equals complete willingness?

Religious leaders

- ☐ 0 Completely Unwilling (0)
- ☐ 1 (1)
- ☐ 2 (2)
- ☐ 3 (3)
- ☐ 4 (4)
- ☐ 5 (5)
- ☐ 6 Completely Willing (6)

**S7\_q1f**

*[Not required]*

Using a scale from 0 to 6, how would you rate your willingness to accept the recommendations or information provided by a member of one of the following groups when they are advising within their area of expertise, where 0 indicates complete unwillingness and 6 equals complete willingness?

Journalists

- ☐ 0 Completely Unwilling (0)

- ☐ 1 (1)
- ☐ 2 (2)
- ☐ 3 (3)
- ☐ 4 (4)
- ☐ 5 (5)
- ☐ 6 Completely Willing (6)

**S7\_q1g**

*[Not required]*

Using a scale from 0 to 6, how would you rate your willingness to accept the recommendations or information provided by a member of one of the following groups when they are advising within their area of expertise, where 0 indicates complete unwillingness and 6 equals complete willingness?

Lawyers

- ☐ 0 Completely Unwilling (0)
- ☐ 1 (1)
- ☐ 2 (2)
- ☐ 3 (3)
- ☐ 4 (4)
- ☐ 5 (5)
- ☐ 6 Completely Willing (6)

**S7\_q1h**

*[Not required]*

Using a scale from 0 to 6, how would you rate your willingness to accept the recommendations or information provided by a member of one of the following groups when they are advising within their area of expertise, where 0 indicates complete unwillingness and 6 equals complete willingness?

Scholars of history, philosophy, or English

- ☐ 0 Completely Unwilling (0)
- ☐ 1 (1)
- ☐ 2 (2)
- ☐ 3 (3)
- ☐ 4 (4)
- ☐ 5 (5)
- ☐ 6 Completely Willing (6)

**S7\_q2\_intro**

For the following questions, please select the choice that best answers the question. If you are unsure, please select your best estimate.

**S7\_q2**

[Not required]

Is the number of immigrants illegally in the U.S. increasing or decreasing over time?

- ☐ Increasing (1)
- ☐ Staying the same (2)
- ☐ Decreasing (3)

**S7\_q3**

[Not required]

Over the past ten years, have violent crime rates in the U.S. generally been increasing or decreasing?

- ☐ Increasing (1)
- ☐ Staying the same (2)
- ☐ Decreasing (3)

**S7\_q4**

[Not required]

Recent <sup>f(FLScientificFederal)</sup> estimates suggest that <sup>f(FLScientificFederal2)</sup> people died in Puerto Rico as a result of Hurricane Maria. Do you think that this estimate is too high, approximately right, or too low?

- ☐ Too high (1)
- ☐ Approximately right (2)
- ☐ Too low (3)

**S7\_q5**

[Not required]

Between 2008 and 2012, did U.S. drone strikes in Afghanistan kill more enemy combatants or innocent people?

- ☐ More enemy combatants (1)
- ☐ About the same number of each (2)
- ☐ More innocent people (3)

**S7\_q6**

[Not required]

At present are there more Muslims or Jews living in the United States?

- ☐ More Muslims (1)
- ☐ About the same number of each (2)
- ☐ More Jews (3)

**S7\_q7**

[Not required]

Based on existing forecasts, in how many years will the size of the minority population in the United States surpass the size of the white population?

- ☐ 5-10 years (1)
- ☐ 11-20 years (2)
- ☐ 21-30 years (3)

**S7\_q8a**

[Not required]

For each of the items below, please indicate how much you agree, using a scale of 0 to 5, where 0 indicates strongly disagree and 5 equals strongly agree.

The US government caused or let the 9/11 attack happen on purpose.

- ☐ 0 Strongly disagree (0)
- ☐ 1 (1)
- ☐ 2 (2)
- ☐ 3 (3)
- ☐ 4 (4)
- ☐ 5 Strongly agree (5)
- ☐ Unsure (6)

**S7\_q8b**

[Not required]

For each of the items below, please indicate how much you agree, using a scale of 0 to 5, where 0 indicates strongly disagree and 5 equals strongly agree.

Barack Obama was not born in the United States.

- ☐ 0 Strongly disagree (0)
- ☐ 1 (1)
- ☐ 2 (2)
- ☐ 3 (3)
- ☐ 4 (4)
- ☐ 5 Strongly agree (5)
- ☐ Unsure (6)

**S7\_q8c**

[Not required]

For each of the items below, please indicate how much you agree, using a scale of 0 to 5, where 0 indicates strongly disagree and 5 equals strongly agree.

At least some moon landings didn't actually happen and were instead faked productions in Hollywood.

- ☐ 0 Strongly disagree (0)
- ☐ 1 (1)
- ☐ 2 (2)
- ☐ 3 (3)
- ☐ 4 (4)
- ☐ 5 Strongly agree (5)
- ☐ Unsure (6)

**S7\_q8d**

*[Not required]*

For each of the items below, please indicate how much you agree, using a scale of 0 to 5, where 0 indicates strongly disagree and 5 equals strongly agree.

The assassination of John F. Kennedy was part of a larger conspiracy.

- ☐ 0 Strongly disagree (0)
- ☐ 1 (1)
- ☐ 2 (2)
- ☐ 3 (3)
- ☐ 4 (4)
- ☐ 5 Strongly agree (5)
- ☐ Unsure (6)

**S7\_q8e**

*[Not required]*

For each of the items below, please indicate how much you agree, using a scale of 0 to 5, where 0 indicates strongly disagree and 5 equals strongly agree.

^f('FLTupacElvis')^ is not actually dead, and is still seen periodically in the United States.

- ☐ 0 Strongly disagree (0)
- ☐ 1 (1)
- ☐ 2 (2)
- ☐ 3 (3)
- ☐ 4 (4)
- ☐ 5 Strongly agree (5)
- ☐ Unsure (6)

**S7\_q9a**

*[Not required]*

For each of the items below, please indicate how much you agree, using a scale of 0 to 5, where 0 indicates strongly disagree and 5 equals strongly agree.

When applicable, the scientific method is the best way we have for understanding the natural world.

- ☐ 0 Strongly disagree (0)
- ☐ 1 (1)
- ☐ 2 (2)
- ☐ 3 (3)
- ☐ 4 (4)
- ☐ 5 Strongly agree (5)
- ☐ Unsure (6)

**S7\_q9b**

[Not required]

For each of the items below, please indicate how much you agree, using a scale of 0 to 5, where 0 indicates strongly disagree and 5 equals strongly agree.

There are objective standards for what is right and wrong.

- ☐ 0 Strongly disagree (0)
- ☐ 1 (1)
- ☐ 2 (2)
- ☐ 3 (3)
- ☐ 4 (4)
- ☐ 5 Strongly agree (5)
- ☐ Unsure (6)

**S8\_q1b**

[Not required]

Please answer the following two questions using the numerical scales below.

Imagine that recent evidence has shown that a pesticide is threatening the lives of 1,200 endangered animals. Two response options have been suggested:

If Option A is used, 600 animals will be lost for sure.

If Option B is used, there is a 75% chance that 400 animals will be lost, and a 25% chance that 1,200 animals will be lost.

Which option do you recommend to use?

- ☐ 1 Definitely would choose A (1)
- ☐ 2 (2)
- ☐ 3 (3)
- ☐ 4 (4)
- ☐ 5 (5)
- ☐ 6 Definitely would choose B (6)

**S8\_q2b**

[Not required]

Imagine the following situation. You are entertaining a special friend by inviting them for dinner. You are making your favorite lasagna dish with ground beef. Your roommate goes to the grocery store and purchases a package of ground beef for you. The label says 80% lean ground beef.

What's your evaluation of the quality of this ground beef?

- ☐ 1 Very low (1)
- ☐ 2 (2)
- ☐ 3 (3)
- ☐ 4 (4)
- ☐ 5 (5)
- ☐ 6 Very high (6)

### S9\_q1

[Not required]

You will now be shown a series of statements that have been taken from news stories. Regardless of how knowledgeable you are about the topic, would you consider this statement to be a statement that could be verified using facts (regardless of whether you think it is accurate or not) OR a statement that relies on values or opinion (regardless of whether you agree with it or not)?

@media (min-width: 641px){.cf-grid-layout\_\_row-text { flex-grow: 3; max-width:none; }}

	Verifiable using Facts (1)	Relies on Values or Opinion (2)
Immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally have some rights under the Constitution (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Government is almost always wasteful and inefficient (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Spending on Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid make up the largest portion of the U.S. federal budget (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increasing the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour is essential for the health of the U.S. economy (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally are a very big problem for the country today (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Health care costs per person in the U.S. are the highest in the developed world (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### S10\_q1

[Not required]

Please choose the answer that best fits your religious affiliation.

What is your religion?

- ☐ Catholic (1)
- ☐ Orthodox Christian (2)
- ☐ Baptist (3)
- ☐ Methodist (4)
- ☐ Lutheran (5)
- ☐ Presbyterian (6)



- ☐ Episcopalian/Anglican (7)
- ☐ Evangelical Christian (8)
- ☐ Christian unspecified (9)
- ☐ Nondenominational Christian (10)
- ☐ Pentecostal (11)
- ☐ Mormon/Latter Day Saints (12)
- ☐ Jehovah's Witness (13)
- ☐ Seventh Day Adventist (14)
- ☐ Jewish (15)
- ☐ Muslim (16)
- ☐ Hindu (17)
- ☐ Buddhist (18)
- ☐ Other religion (19)
- ☐ No religion (20)
- ☐ Agnostic (21)
- ☐ Atheist (22)
- ☐ Don't know (23)

#### **S10\_q2**

*[Not required]*

How often do you attend religious services?

- ☐ Never (1)
- ☐ Less than once a year (2)
- ☐ Once a year (3)
- ☐ Several times a year (4)
- ☐ Once a month (5)
- ☐ Two to three times a month (6)
- ☐ Nearly every week (7)
- ☐ Every week (8)
- ☐ More than once a week (9)

#### **CS\_001 - CS\_001**

*[Not required]*

Could you tell us how interesting or uninteresting you found the questions in this interview?

- ☐ Very interesting (1)
- ☐ Interesting (2)
- ☐ Neither interesting nor uninteresting (3)
- ☐ Uninteresting (4)
- ☐ Very uninteresting (5)