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Social Awareness and Ideology: Self-Assessment and Socio-Civic Knowledge Competence

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Abstract. “The fundamental cause of the trouble is that in the modern world the stupid are cocksure while the intelligent are full of doubt.” (Russell, 1933, p. 28). One seldom hears doubt in the espousing of socio-civic, cultural, or political pronouncements. While the voices seem to always be “cocksure;” we first ask at what level is their objective knowledge and how well do they self-assess that knowledge? We explore how ideological positioning is related to self-assessment and objective knowledge. We conducted a non-comparative (absolute) quantitative study through an email survey of 330 residents of the U.S. over the age of 18 that examined objective socio-civic knowledge and self-assessed ideology and wokeness. The experimental results confirmed misestimations consistent with Dunning-Kruger Effects.

Keywords. Ideology, Wokeness, Cognitive Bias, Socio-Civic Knowledge, Dunning-Kruger Effect

Social Awareness and Ideology: Self-Assessment and Socio-Civic Knowledge Competence

Bertrand Russell wrote about the growing specter of Nazism in the 1930s. The Nazi self-assessed sense of superiority was grossly evident and never publicly questioned within their sphere of power. If the human catastrophes of Nazi Germany and the second world war rose to such prominence, are similar phenomena engaged in effecting human existence today? Russell (1933, p.28) went on to famously elaborate, “The fundamental cause of the trouble is that in the modern world the stupid are cocksure while the intelligent are full of doubt.” Translating this into more contemporary terms may mean that unfettered elements of *cognitive bias* may be at work on a grand scale. Kahneman & Tversky (1972), defined cognitive bias as an error in thinking that affects decisions and judgments. We include views and ideas on the list of effected decisions and judgments. Russell’s view as described in the 1930s, later researched and systematized by Dunning, Kruger, and others seventy years later coupled with the seeming questionability of much present-day social-civic and -political commentary suggests that people’s self-assessment of their level of related knowledge has been and may continue to be quite poor. This is a notion that strongly appears to be beyond pervasive both then, the 1930s, and now.

Thomas Patterson of Harvard University states that “Sensible interaction with the world around you requires that you have reliable knowledge of how it works” (Patterson, 2019, p.103). He

continues, noting that America's level-headed citizens and leaders are marginalized, that they are outnumbered by those who "hold unyielding or fantastical beliefs" and that extremism drives American socio-political policies and debate. Are we at the effect of cocksure incompetence driving views and opinions?

While observing current, 2020, social, civic, and political positions and views one rarely hears hints of doubt about anything being espoused. Clearly, no one argues with themselves while it seems like everyone is, as Russell put it, "cocksure." Thomas Sowell of Stanford's Hoover Institute observes an emerging phenomenon based on the idea that we're raising whole generations who regard facts as optional and that they are led to think that having a "view" is critical whether or not they know what they're talking about (Sowell, 2020). Facts seem to be beside the point.

We speculate that this self-assessed positivity and assuredness *may* point to a fundamental lack of requisite acquired objective knowledge competence.

Competence is defined by the Merriam-Webster Dictionary as having sufficient knowledge, judgment, skill, or strength to successfully accomplish a task. Herein the term competence is associated with objective knowledge and limited to social, civic, political, and cultural matters. Yet, This lack of knowledge or incompetence in the acquisition and maintenance of that knowledge as a cognitive task is so widespread that it is nearly impossible to put credence in the idea that in 2020 so many individuals lack intelligence or are quite *that* inherently ignorant of factual foundations.

Ignorance and lack of intelligence are not the same thing nor are they synonymous. Ignorance might be characterized as a missing element as it is a lack of knowledge or awareness. Certainly, they are neither mutually exclusive, nor do they stand alone. One need not look much farther than their own experiences to find very intelligent individuals doing and believing all sorts of incredibly ignorant things. Possibly the worst condition is not knowing, and not knowing they do not know, but thinking they do and acting upon it. This has been shown by Dunning and others to be a function of cognitive bias (Kruger & Dunning, 1999, Ehrlinger, Johnson, Banner, Dunning, & Kruger, 2008).

Fernbach, Rodgers, Fox, and Sloman (2013) pointed out the connection with ideologically extremist type thinking being associated with cognitive bias as often described by the Dunning-Kruger Effect. Likewise, cognitive bias appears to play a part in the development of ideology in individuals (Zmigrod, 2020). One might argue that many developed views and opinions abound whether factually substantiated or not.

Regardless of the particular ideological stance, frequently a self-assessed sense of superiority is strongly present. Not Maoist, Nazi, nor Bolshevik, publicly ever considered that they were not completely right nor completely superior. More currently the Very Liberal do not just think that their version of *political correctness* is right—they KNOW it. Likewise, the Very Conservative KNOWS that their foundational views are absolute and therefore, correct, regardless of the source. The belief, the *illusion of superiority*, apparently reigns over both polarized modes of thought.

We initiated our inquiry to find out how Sowell's, Patterson's, and Russell's statements may apply in today's contexts of socio-civic and political media commentary and to drill down into the phenomena. Specifically, we wanted to explore how ideological positioning is related to objective knowledge competence and self-assessment. Does any stance on the spectrum of ideologies demonstrate better knowledge-based competence than any other and how accurate is their self-assessment?

The importance of this situation may prove to be critical. When considered as an interacting and interlocking set, "illusory" superiority, "cocksureness," and extremism form the demand to

know just how competent those individuals touting their ideologies are—or are not. We can only base such estimates upon some acceptable objectively determined level of related knowledge competence.

Theoretical Foundations

Wilke & Mata, (2012) further elaborated that cognitive bias is a systematic pattern of deviation from norm or rationality in judgment. Individuals create their own "subjective reality" from their perceptions of the input (Haselton, Nettle, & Andrews, 2005; Kahneman & Tversky, 1972). Objective facts may or may not impact the adoption of the constructed or fabricated reality. Acceptance of a notion may be predicated upon what *should be* rather than *what is*. So, it may be considered to be based on what an individual may think is true and not necessarily upon a factually accurate state of conditions. Rationality may have little to do with the perception, judgment, or accepted idea.

The list of possible cognitive biases listed in the literature numbers well past 100. Examples among recorded sources of these phenomena are Illusory correlation, assuming a correlation between a cause and an effect when it does not exist; Confirmation bias, accepting data that matches or confirms a preconception; In-group bias, accepting correlations due to perceived attributes of members or activities in one's self-identified group; and Exposure bias, accepting correlations simply due to exposure or familiarity (Benson & Manojian, 2020; Wilke & Mata, 2012). Certain aspects of these cognitive bias phenomena were examined by Kruger and Dunning in their 1999 seminal study.

Kruger and Dunning (1999) conducted a study that provided their explication of how individuals inaccurately over-estimate their abilities or task competences. Since then, dozens of studies have elaborated upon and expanded what has become known as the Dunning-Kruger Effect. This effect has been shown to be consistently present across a myriad of circumstances, domains, and settings. (e.g. (Ehrlinger, Johnson, Banner, Dunning, & Kruger, 2008; Pavel, Robertson & Harrison, 2012; Dunning, & Helzer, 2014; Mahmood, 2016; Anson, 2018) "By now this phenomenon (Dunning-Kruger Effect) has been demonstrated even for everyday tasks, about which individuals have likely received substantial feedback regarding their level of knowledge and skill." (Ehrlinger, Johnson, Banner, Dunning, & Kruger, 2008, p. 24). Herein the "tasks" should be considered the acquisition and maintenance of objective knowledge.

With current media bombardment being what it is in 2020, we elected to base our inquiries on the notion that the establishment and maintenance of an individual's ideological stance and their personal sense of being woke, no matter who they are, can be fairly characterized as everyday occurrences accompanied by vast requisite feedback elements as indicated by Erlinger, et al; (2008).

Since Dunning and Kruger (1999) the research base expanded into examining comparisons between how an individual objectively performs on a wide variety of tasks, how that performance is self-assessed, and how the performance compares to peer performances. Consistent with Bertram Russell's, Sowell's and Patterson's observations, Dunning (2011) explains that rather than focusing on *meta-intelligence* that *meta-ignorance* may be more revealing. "As empirical evidence of meta-ignorance, I describe the Dunning–Kruger Effect, in which poor performers in many social and intellectual domains seem largely unaware of just how deficient their expertise is." (Dunning, 2011 p. 248). David Dunning wrote about his observations in which individuals with notable weaknesses in their competence regarding a given domain show their inability to recognize those deficits. Yet, they think they are competent regardless of the fact that they are not. In 2014, Dunning and Helzer described how the Dunning–Kruger effect "suggests that poor performers are not in a position to recognize the

shortcomings in their performance.” Rather than the individuals in question not knowing what they don’t know, pretty much an accepted premise, they may be deluded by surreptitious, but not necessarily deliberate, conditioning to a point that they are positive (“cocksure”) they know what, in fact, they do not. Does this not knowing and being “cocksure” run over into ideological, cultural, and political stances and opinions?

In yet another early article, *A newer look: Motivated social cognition and the schematic representation of social concepts*, Dunning (1999) discusses motivations and the development of what he defines as “self-flattering images of the self.” He contends that individuals create schemata that ensconce their self-image into categories where they flatter themselves and enhance their perspectives of self-value. Some criticism of these ideas suggests that the schemata may simply be a sort of protective element that only appears to self-flatter (Krueger, 1998; Krueger & Wright, 2011). Rather than being protective in the sense that these schematic image constructions forego or circumvent intellectual confrontation, they may serve to self-enhance and improve the established self-image. Krueger and Wright (2010) further comment that 65% of their study respondents believed themselves to be above average, an impossibility. Other criticism of Dunning-Kruger suggests that the phenomena described is a function of improperly manipulated statistical methods and is the result specifically of a regression to the mean error (Krueger & Mueller, 2002). While the contrarian theory may have merit, it does not seem to be practically applicable in the context of absolute type assessment analysis. Are ideological views substantiated by knowledge competence?

We interpret and theorize that the above constructions as protective and/or self-enhancing by demonstrating that the group with which the individual is self-aligned includes those tenets with which the individual self-identifies. That is, “my group thinks that way and I am one of them.” As examples, consider the Chinese Red Guard or Hitler’s Youth Corp and the Brown Shirts. Similarly, does the espousal of being Liberal, Feminist, Conservative, an Aryan Brother, or a member of the Sierra Club may provide the fodder for such self-flattering constructions. Whether, in fact, one actually agrees with the group tenets, just having the association (view) may provide such a flattering validation of their self-image for the individual and a tacit sense of being both protected by the group identification and sense that they are *right* in their self-identification—factual evidence being irrelevant.

Another example of misestimation, in this case, derived from the digital world, suggests another aspect of cognitive bias effect and may serve to illustrate how individuals presume competence regarding their knowledge or lack thereof. That is, individuals may have an erroneous notion that because they use the Internet, texting, gaming, and cellular devices, extensively that their expertise in these areas transfers to the multitude of other digital devices and applications when, in fact, they only possess expertise in a very small slice of technology among technology’s vast universe. This idea develops from what they adopt and accept as “known” and derive from assumedly “correct” information/misinformation and re-enforcement thereof in their realms with which they are deeply and widely immersed (Maderick, Zhang, Hartley, & Marchand, 2016). While an individual may indeed be classified as an expert in smartphone usage, thinking that it extends to expertise with specifically not learned database management has been shown to be false.

Considering the constant and consistent self-determined declarations of the media, it may not be a stretch to see how faulty views and biases may be created. Then when faced with conflicting or counter views or factual evidence may not be seen or heard. If seen or heard it may be ignored by the individuals hearing it. They may hear it sufficiently to accept what they hear as true and since it conforms to what they already have absorbed or decided is true, they accept it as conforming to their views. They may not see or hear the errors and do not question

the veracity. Based upon this accepted and acquired information the individuals self-construct levels of competency they assume to be accurate and that they know more than they do. Suffice it to say that one does not have to go far to find blatant demonstrations elsewhere where Russell's "cocksure" standings and "illusory" superiority appear to be pervasive.

Prior to conducting our survey, we considered these ideas of errant cognition to be outside of our purview. However, in a parallel way, this notion became notable from the survey's results. In any case, these theoretical notions may or may not provide valid explanations of the occurrence of the over and underestimations of knowledge performance. Whether they explain the Dunning Kruger Effect phenomena or not, the objective performance scores remain. We return to this below.

The relentless pounding of news and opinion media provides much questionable material in this regard as being subjected to errant influences. The over-arching pervasive, strong rhetoric and opinions of social, civic, political, and cultural issues begged us to examine them for the Dunning-Kruger Effect. What we initially sought was an expansion of the recent work of Anson (2018). In that study, the research conducted a dichotomous examination of Left and Right through the lens of Democrat and Republican identification and five topical objective knowledge items. The study found that cognitive bias was consistent with the parameters of the Dunning-Kruger Effect. Through the use of topical but objective testing, he parsed the responses to the survey items into quartiles. As in the many other studies, the lowest quartile tended to overestimate and the top quartile tended to underestimate their knowledge competence. In this case, it was knowledge of "political issues."

While we do not contest the results or conclusions of the study in any way, we do argue that the dichotomous separation was a bit too narrow in the scope of the spectrum upon which individuals may fall. That is, the spectrum of ideologies goes far beyond the simplicity of U. S. political party affiliation. We argue that expanding the spectrum of ideological stance better serves to illustrate the breadth of social, civic, political, and cultural positioning among the subject population. The ideological spectrum is wide and yet fuzzy. The demarcation lines between centrist and slightly left or slightly right can be cloudy and even shifting. Likewise, the border between Liberal and Very Liberal is just as obscure as the difference between Conservative and Very Conservative. We argue that comparing the border between Republican and Democrat is insufficient and might better be served through the lens of the scope of borders between levels of ideologies. Rather than being either a simple 1 or 2 as a nominal variable, we argue that a wider range, one through seven, might provide a clearer picture of ideological stance. The presumption that one cannot be measurably more Republican or more Democrat, one can be measurably identified as more liberal or measurably more conservative.

While it is clear that the notion of maintaining flattering self-image positions is logical, there is an accompanying element called "illusory superiority" as explained by Dunning (1999). It may account for much of the misestimation effects. As noted above, one does not need to go far to find declarations on a given social, civic, political, or cultural "hot topic." The media is fraught with opinions and views on every imaginable aspect of these domains. What may be in play is that the loud voices hold the notion that they *think* what they think is right and therefore have the confidence that it *IS* right. Since they are confident in being right the other opinion or view must be wrong thus my view is superior. Could the sense of being superior contribute to the misestimation of knowledge?

Methodology

We began an inquiry into the parameters necessary to do a Dunning-Kruger type examination of a given ideological position and objective knowledge competence.

While designing the survey we decided upon the following four research questions and their related hypotheses.

- RQ 1: What is the relationship between self-identified ideological stance and performance on an objective test of socio-civics knowledge? Does any stance on the spectrum of ideologies demonstrate better knowledge-based competence than any other?
- H₁: There is no difference in scores across positions on the ideological spectrum.
- H₀₁: There is a significant difference between the scores of positions on the ideological spectrum.
- RQ 2: Is there evidence of the Dunning-Kruger Effect between quartile scores of Objective civics knowledge test items among each of the seven ideological positions on the spectrum?
- H₂: The fourth quartile scores of each of the seven ideological positions will indicate an over-estimation of self-assessed civic test scores.
- H₀₂: The fourth quartile scores of each of the seven ideological positions will indicate no over-estimation of self-assessed civic test scores.
- RQ3: What is the relationship between self-assessed levels of socio-cultural awareness, “wokeness” and performance on objective tests of socio-civics knowledge competence? Does any stance on the spectrum of socio-cultural awareness demonstrate better knowledge-based competence than any other?
- H₃: There is a significant difference in scores across self-assessed levels of “wokeness” and performance on an objective test of civics knowledge competence.
- H₀₃: There is no difference in scores across self-assessed levels of “wokeness” and performance on an objective test of civics knowledge competence.
- RQ4: Is there evidence of the Dunning-Kruger Effect between quartile scores of objective civics knowledge test items among each of the six self-assessed of socio-cultural awareness, “wokeness?”
- H₄: The fourth quartile scores of each of the seven ideological positions will indicate an over-estimation of self-assessed civic test scores.
- H₀₄: The fourth quartile scores of each of the seven ideological positions will indicate no over-estimation of self-assessed civic test scores.

Complying with Institutional Review Board mandates a digital survey was constructed including demographic, objective knowledge, and opinion items. The survey questions provided an absolute, as opposed to a comparative, survey quiz. The survey was blind, intentionally containing no individual participant identifying items. The survey and recruitment were administered with Qualtrics via email and specific online participation sites operated via Facebook. The analysis was conducted with IBM SPSS Statistics (Version 27).

The study was centered on four main variables. They are the score on a test of objective knowledge competence, self-assessment of performance on the test of objective knowledge competence, self-identified ideology, and self-assessed level of socio-cultural awareness, “wokeness.” While the survey did not define either ideology or wokeness for the participants since we intended that the positions be self-estimated and self-defined. For discussion and clarity purposes we assumed ideology to be the foundation upon which social, cultural, and political ideas are based for an individual or group. (Merriam-Webster, 2020). Wokeness is

derived from African American Vernacular English argot meaning closely-held awareness and attention to events and circumstances regarding injustice or racism (Merriam-Webster, 2020).

A seven-point Likert scale was developed for determining self-identified ideology positioning and a second, six-point, Likert scale was developed to determine self-identified socio-cultural awareness otherwise named, “wokeness.”

The third variable required the development or acquisition of objective knowledge scores. A 25 item multiple-choice civics/history quiz was constructed. A second quiz was added and integrated being composed of a 20-item objective multiple-choice quiz specifically derived from each of five major opinion topics. These topics were Climate Change, Abortion, Race, Health Care, and LGBTQ. Each of the five topics had two opinion-based items.

We neither agree nor disagree with any perspective on the chosen final five topical opinion items we selected. We do not proselytize any position whatsoever. The ten opinion items were included for the sole purpose of providing a base from which to provide additional objective knowledge competence items to cover social and cultural areas of objective knowledge related to current topics in the forefront of U.S. public opinion and not covered under the heading of civics.

The fourth variable was a zero to 100 self-assessed estimated percentage correct score on the multiple-choice items.

Participants

The subject pool was drawn from three sources. First, students who were enrolled in education classes at a major southwestern tier-one public research university were presented an opportunity to participate. While the students were required to enroll in research studies to acquire participation credits toward graduation requirements, they were afforded a variety of alternative studies from which to choose. This choice was limited only by the number of research studies in progress during the particular semester. A total of 144 of these research pool students participated in the survey. The second and third groups were collected from a widespread publicly available email recruitment effort and from online social media sites dedicated to providing research study-participants, Facebook, and SurveyCircle.com. The email solicitations returned 124 responses. The remaining 218 responses were the result of social media postings requesting participation in the anonymous survey. This resulted in a total of 486 respondents. After cleaning the responses for incomplete surveys, non-US residents, and those who opted to not participate but submitted blank surveys, a total of 332 respondents remained. Upon further examination, two corrupt responses were revealed. One participant's responses suggested deliberate errors in the answers provided. The second corrupt response was an underage student. The final participant count was 330 and limited to residents of the United States, 18 years of age or older.

In all recruitment items, the disclosure section, and introduction to the survey it was stated that the survey was completely blind and anonymous with no tracing record being collected whatsoever. Qualtrics randomly coded assigned subject identifiers to responses and then converted to randomly codified numerical identifiers as a simple list after the responses were listed. No connections remained in the data collection.

While the study was not interested in demographics beyond ideology and wokeness, participants were asked to provide age, ethnicity, education, state of residence, their main source of news acquisition, size of residence town, and gender. See Appendix A for a complete distribution of the collected demographics. The major points are a 60% - 38% split of females to males, 70.91% preponderance of White participants, 59.7% were between the age of 18 and 40 while ranging from 18 to more than 80 years of age, 94.85% had some college or more, and

91% were natural-born U.S. citizens. The remaining demographics bore no appreciable relation to the study.

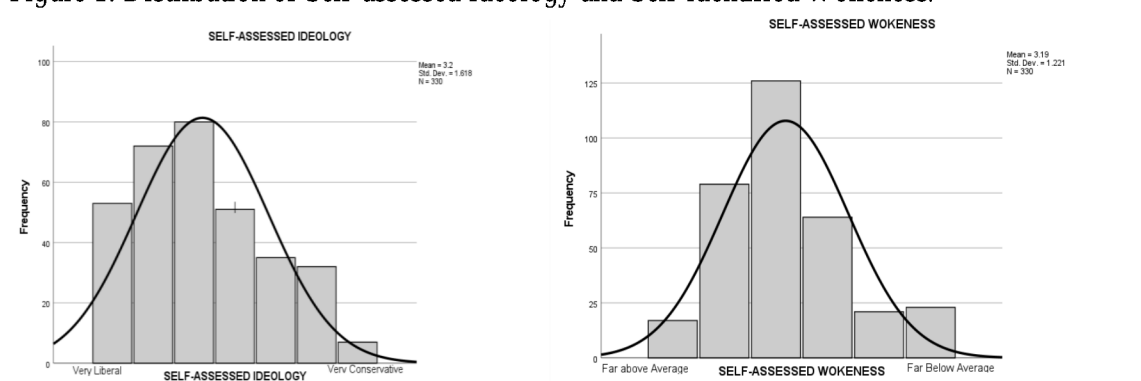
Instrumentation Self-Identification

To explore the premises of ideology and socio-cultural awareness, “wokeness”, we developed two main questions for the survey. The first was a seven-point Likert item that parsed self-assessed ideological stance from Very Liberal at one extreme to Very Conservative at the other with Centrist as the center choice. Note that no definition was offered and relied solely upon the participant’s self-identification with and definition of the seven positions on the ideology spectrum.

The second requested a self-assessed level of being “woke.” This was parsed into a six-level Likert scale ranging from “Far Above Average” to “Far Below Average.” Likewise, note that no definition of the term was offered in the survey, thus relying on the participant’s personal interpretation and identification. No central level was offered to force a response to disallow a non-position response of neutrality.

The distribution of the two variables, ideology, and wokeness, are illustrated in the following graphs. See Figure 1.

Figure 1: Distribution of Self-assessed Ideology and Self-identified Wokeness.



A third distractor opinion was added regarding the likelihood of a U.S. civil war and discarded in the analysis.

Topical Opinion and Topical Knowledge Items

While the media of any sort provide a myriad of contentious or at least controversial topics we began the process of identifying those that were at the forefront of contemporary public attention. Multiple searches on the Internet via Google and Bing returned many responses on the question of which topics were the most prevalent in the Fall and Winter months of 2019/2020. They ranged from those considered in the Presidential State of the Union Address (Trump, 2019) to those from Pew Research surveys on American life (Pew, 2019, 2020). Several “hot” topics emerged as the main areas of concern for US residents/citizens. The top results were, in no particular order, Gun Control, Abortion, LGBTQ rights, Racial issues, Climate Change, Immigration, Economics on multiple levels, Violence, Police Brutality, China, military actions and war involvement, Sexism, the Middle East, and Iran, Israel, Trump in multiple ways, the pending 2020 election, and Health Care. All of these were gleaned from the Internet and media outlets long before the social and cultural eruptions regarding incidents in

Minneapolis, Atlanta, and elsewhere and far earlier than the beginning emergence and awareness of the Covid-19 virus.

While the screening of these 18 topic areas had a variety of positive and negative qualities for inclusion, the number of possible topics for the purpose of this study was unwieldy. In conducting a review of these in the light of practicality and definitive salience, five were chosen because they were pervasive across the entire social and cultural order, had an enduring quality at the forefront, and had a modicum of a higher probability of personal interest for potential study participants. Several studies in the literature examined the larger list of topical issues utilizing topics that we chose to replicate. (Anson, 2018, Ramseyer & Rasmusen, 2016). The process of electing possible variable items reduced the study to Climate Change, Race, Abortion, Health Care, and LGBTQ Rights. These five topics were among the most frequent subjects of public and media reporting and in many cases political attention. There appeared to be adequate exposure and were sufficiently contentious to allow a variety of opinions to emerge. Further, they appeared in multiple related articles that turned up on Google and Bing searches to the question, "What are the most important socio-political topics of 2019." We must emphasize that the opinions and related topical objective responses are not intended to serve as explanatory items. We elected to allow the topical items to serve simply as opinions and touchstones to collect data on related objective knowledge items. The opinions were intended to be nominal only regardless of the intensity or nature of the subjective topical item. Following the lead of Anson (2018), all 20 of the objective topical questions, four for each of the five related contentious opinion items, were drawn from accepted and reliable websites directly related to the substance of each topic. These were intended to provide the topical knowledge competence items. See Appendix B.

Objective Civics Items

We intended the study to have sufficient breadth of objective knowledge questions, therefore we devised an objective test/quiz readily derived from several sources that would cover current and historical aspects of civics and social studies of the U.S. We compiled an inventory list of questions from a variety of commonly available sources. The questions were collected from the following venues: the practice test for citizenship as offered by the U.S. Naturalization and Immigration Service (2020), *The 2003-2010 State of Oregon Department of Education 8th grade Proficiency Examination for Social Sciences (Sample Test)*(Oregon, 2019), directly from the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, the websites of the U.S. Supreme Court, the White House, the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and one from *The Journal of the American Revolution* (Andrlik, 2014). (See Appendix B for specific question sources.) A finalized list of 25 multiple-choice civics questions was chosen from the compiled inventory.

The design and development used no trickery or overly arcane items. We want to acknowledge certain criticisms regarding the ostensible difficulty of the test. While the survey is derived from U.S. history and civics, common items in American life, contemporary conditions, and issues regularly presented in the media, some of the items fall into a category that may, for some individuals, have required review or cursory research for adequate recall. The practical or everyday usefulness of some items may be questionable. We attempted to avoid items requiring specialized knowledge or items that once may have required rote memorization from earlier "school" exposure or a background in law or government. With that, the survey was deliberately limited to socio-civic and opinion topic-related items. The intent was to be contemporary, salient, appropriate, and what the researchers considered expected.

There may be two possible exceptions. The question regarding identifying a battle of the American Revolution confounded more than half of the participants (Andrlik, 2014). The answer was Oriskany, which was the site of one of the bloodiest battles of the Revolution and a precursor battle of the Saratoga campaign in 1777 in which only new world residents engaged. Loyalists, Native Americans, and Rebels fought while the British were elsewhere. The three distractor choices were Belleau Wood, a WW I battle in Europe; Cemetery Ridge, a part of the Gettysburg campaign of the Civil War; and Nob Hill, simply a neighborhood hill in San Francisco. After analysis, we concede that the question might have been overly remote. Note that nearly half of the respondents chose Nob Hill which was not the site of any wartime actions. The second item with unexpected results was on the question of “Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness” as endowed rights. The correct response was “Man’s Creator” as enumerated in paragraph two of the Declaration of Independence. This item, however, erroneously split the largest response almost evenly with 39.82% and 40.12% respectively between the Bill of Rights and the U.S. Constitution, both incorrect responses. The correct response only fostered 16.41%. As an initial test, we administered a battery of questions to a pilot group of ten adults and students. Most complained that the test was difficult, but no single question emerged beyond the upper and lower 10% extremes of the results. A follow-up item analysis was conducted with all 330 participant responses and produced the two items on the edge of the acceptable parameters for inclusion/exclusion. However, both passed a basic item analysis and the Cronbach’s Alpha test, so we elected to leave them in place. See Table 1. Upon expiration of the designated duration, the survey compiled a total of 330 useable participant responses. The 45 survey items were subjected to validity testing returning a Cronbach’s α of .89. As noted above the item analysis of the survey items all fell above 10% and below 90% indicating the usability of the items. None were excluded.

Table 1
Cronbach’s Alpha for Reliability

| Cronbach's Alpha | Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items | N of Items |
|------------------|--|------------|
| .89 | .90 | 3 |

Results

The mean for participant scores on the Total Percent Correct is 50.91. The results of the multiple-choice items were parsed into the percentages of correct responses for each group of the objective knowledge survey items as follows. The 45 multiple-choice items provided a Total Percent Correct score. Table 2 provides the mean percentage scoring.

To examine the Dunning-Kruger Effect the difference between the Total Percentage Correct and the estimated self-assessed performance score was calculated. This difference indicates over and underestimation of the individual participant’s self-assessment against their performance score on the Socio-Civics

Table 2
Percentage Scores on Socio-Civic Knowledge Competence Quiz

| Self-Assessed Wokeness | N | Total percent correct | Self-estimated score | Difference |
|-------------------------------|----|-----------------------|----------------------|------------|
| Far above average | 17 | 48.89 | 48.76 | 0.12 |
| Moderately above average | 79 | 54.23 | 56.84 | -2.60 |
| Slightly above average | 12 | 50.85 | 49.53 | 1.31 |
| Above average means | 6 | 51.32 | 51.71 | -0.39 |
| Total above average | 22 | | | |
| Slightly below average | 2 | | | |
| Moderately below average | 64 | 50.10 | 49.08 | 1.02 |
| Far below average | 21 | 45.93 | 36.57 | 9.35 |
| Below average means | 23 | 48.12 | 47.74 | 0.38 |
| Total below average | 10 | 48.05 | 44.46 | 3.58 |
| 8 | 8 | | | |
| Overall Means | | 44.37 | 48.09 | 1.60 |
| Overall Totals | 33 | | | |
| | 0 | | | |
| Self-Assessed Ideology | | | | |
| Very Liberal | 53 | 48.72 | 46.27 | 2.45 |
| Liberal | 72 | 51.30 | 49.33 | 1.97 |
| Lean Left | 80 | 49.94 | 47.76 | 2.18 |
| Left side means | | 49.99 | 47.79 | 2.20 |
| Total Left side | 20 | | | |
| 5 | 5 | | | |
| Centrist | 51 | 51.55 | 50.75 | 0.80 |
| Centrist means | | 51.55 | 50.75 | 0.80 |
| Total | 51 | | | |
| Lean Right | 35 | 51.30 | 52.17 | -0.87 |
| Conservative | 32 | 51.67 | 56.09 | -4.43 |
| Very Conservative | 7 | 64.44 | 76.29 | -11.84 |
| Right side means | | 52.70 | 61.52 | -5.71 |
| Total right side | 74 | | | |
| Overall Means | | 52.70 | 54.09 | -1.39 |
| Overall Totals | 33 | | | |
| | 0 | | | |

multiple-choice items. Negative difference scores indicate over-estimation and positive differences in the underestimation of their performance with the zero-point being an accurate self-estimation of that performance. Therefore, the larger the whole number the greater the misestimation effect. The differences are listed in the last column of Table 2. Note while the participants self-identified as on the Right scored the highest percentage correct, they also had the highest self-assessed overestimation of their scores. Those self-identified as *above average* in terms of socio-civic awareness scored higher than the *below-average* group. However, the *above-average* group over-estimated their performance with the *below-average* underestimating theirs. Overall, the Ideology variable indicated a mean overestimation of -1.39

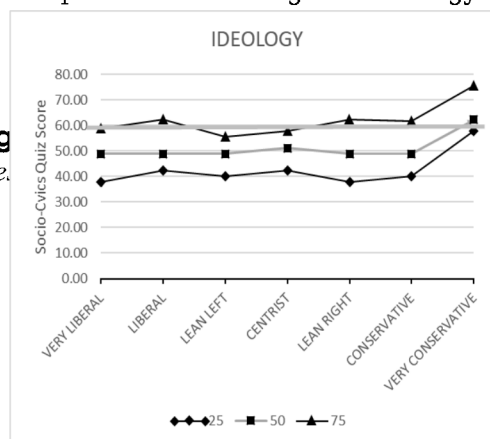
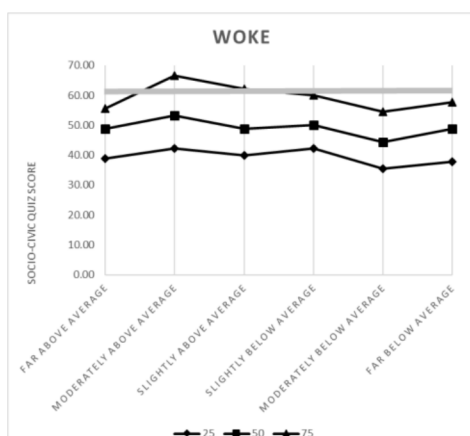
and an average objective quiz score of 52.70 while the woke group had a mean underestimation of 1.60 and quiz score of 44.37. This was the opposite of expectations of the lowest performers overestimating the most, to conform with the Dunning-Kruger Effect.

The scope of the variables seemed in conflict. The mean results of the quiz and self-estimation scores were reasonably flat across the entire spectrum of both the ideology and wokeness scales. The limits of the means from highest to lowest was no more than 12%. Since we sought data on the Dunning-Kruger Effect related to ideology as the entire scope of the variable, Ideology, the combined scores were divided into quartiles and calculated for self-scored misestimations. We then repeated the procedure for Self-Assessed Level of Social Awareness, “wokeness.” The Very Liberal was little different than the Centrist or the Conservative. Likewise, the Far Above Average Woke participant scored just like the Very Far Below Average participant. Considering the failing scores on the objective knowledge items everyone was equally bad. While possibly statistically significant the differences were nowhere near the magnitudes as seen in previous studies.

This seemed errant and another approach was needed. When each group on the two spectra was separated and treated as an individual group on their own, an entirely different picture emerged. In each of the seven ideology groups and each of the the six woke groups were recalculated apart from their larger groups. Each of the groups were parsed into quartiles. The lowest quartile (25th) of scores in each of the 13 groups indicated significant levels of over-estimation. Table 4 illustrates this in detail. Consistent with earlier findings by Moore and Healy (2008), participants identifying as Very Conservative were notably overconfident and overestimated their knowledge performance. We interpret this to mean they follow a trend suggesting that they overestimate their performance.

Overall, the greatest overestimation (-19.17) was from the lowest quartile of those who considered their wokeness to be Far Above Average. Those who identified as Slightly Above Average only mis-estimated by .06 at the 50th percentile. Among the Ideology group, Very Conservative overestimated their scores by -15.78. The Liberal group was the most accurate at underestimation.

Fig
Objective Quartile Score.

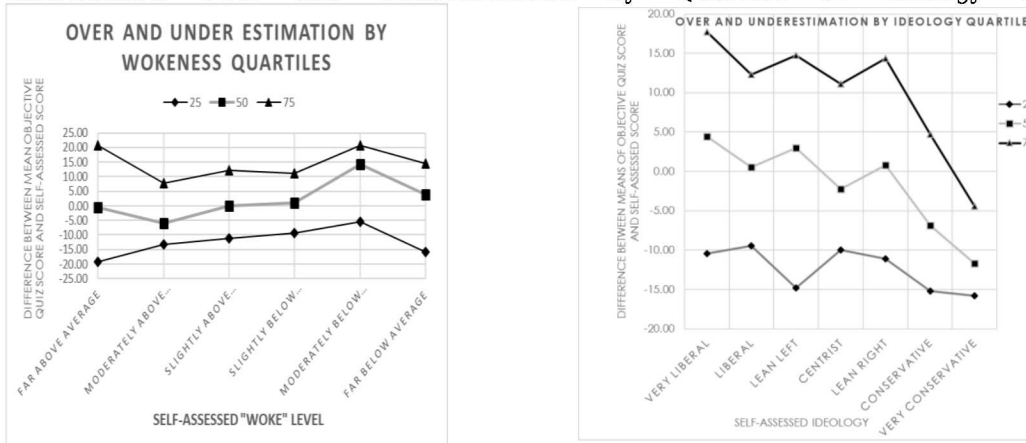


Note: Gray line at the 60% level on both charts suggest a standard minimum passing grade. Observe how few respondents scored above 60%.

however, we strongly suggest the exercise of caution in estimating generalizability as the distribution of group participants are not well-balanced. Further, the inherent perceived difficulty of the survey items may have contributed to the participants sensing they did not do

well with their responses and subsequently under-estimated their self-assessments giving the higher percentiles a lower difference score thus leading to a higher self-assessment underestimation. Figure 3 offers a graphical representation. Regardless, the performance on the objective items was barely above 50%. See Figure 2.

Figure 3
Self-Assessed Over and Underestimation by Quartiles of Ideology and Wokeness



Note that in Table 3 that the 25th percentiles indicate strong overestimations of performance. Similarly the 75th percentiles except for Very Conservative responses also definitively indicate an underestimation of self-assessment on the objective quiz.

Table 3

| Percentiles | Ideology | | | | | | | Wokeness | | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|---------|-----------|----------|------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--|
| | Very liberal | Liberal | Lean left | Centrist | Lean right | Conservative | Very conservative | Far above average | Moderately above average | Slightly above average | Slightly below average | Moderately below average | Far below average | |
| 25 | 10.4 | 9.4 | 14.7 | 10.0 | 11.1 | 15.2 | 15.7 | 19.1 | 13. | 11.1 | 9.3 | 5.5 | 15.7 | |
| 50 | 4.44 | 0.56 | 3.00 | 2.22 | 0.78 | 6.83 | 11.6 | 0.56 | 6.1 | 0.06 | 1.1 | 14.33 | 3.89 | |
| 75 | 17.7 | 12. | 14.7 | 11.1 | 14.3 | 4.72 | - | 20.8 | 7.7 | 12.2 | 11. | 20. | 14.4 | |
| | 2 | 33 | 2 | 1 | 3 | | 4.44 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 28 | 83 | 4 | |

Over and underestimation by quartiles for ideology and wokeness

Discussion

The results of the study indicate that the Dunning-Kruger Effect or cognitive bias is in play in the realm of socio-civic knowledge, self-identification, and self-assessment. With the acknowledgment that some of the material may have warranted a review to refresh some of the objective knowledge items, we consider the objective results a sad indictment. Considering the derivation of the items from the naturalization test and from an eighth-grade proficiency examination with the remainder being sourced from U.S. history, the founding documents, the daily functioning departments, and branches of the government the performance was abysmal. Almost everyone failed the quiz based on standard school criteria for letter grades. With that in mind, we come to see that competence in the knowledge of the socio-civics of the nation in which the participants reside is at best weak. To be clear the results do not and cannot suggest that the participants are of low intelligence. In fact, the demographics indicate the opposite. More than 90% of the participants were educated with some college or more. In keeping with many previous studies examining similar phenomena, the failure is a function of not knowing, whether the material is not learned, forgotten, or dissipated by personal irrelevancy, and what remains is a questionable level of competence.

Prior to conducting our survey, we considered causal or explanatory ideas to be outside of our purview. However, in a parallel way, they became notable from the survey's results. In any case, these theoretical notions may or may not provide valid causal explanations regarding the occurrence of the over and underestimations of knowledge performance. Whether they explain the phenomena or not, the objective performance scores remain. Overwhelming media attention to the civics and topics, eighth-grade performance expectations, and basic required citizenship knowledge sources might have provided higher scores from resident, minimally high school educated participants.

This level of socio-civic knowledge competence does not stop proselytizing, dogmatic adherence to ideological positions, and vigorous espousing of opinions and views by a wide variety of demagogue-like voices throughout the social and cultural arena whether they are correct or not. The performance on the objective knowledge items clearly indicates that their measured competence is barely above 50%. If shifted to medicine, no rational person would want an individual with a 51% competence level performing surgery on them. Yet it appears that in terms of social, cultural, and political matters that that level is acceptable. Just how wide and deep is this incompetence? We can only speculate but suggest further research into this issue.

We find a difficulty in that the overestimation of competence is present in every position of ideology and wokeness. We expected one end of the ideology and wokeness spectra to be better or worse than the other. As noted in the results, tendencies emerged that the left scored slightly better than the right and that the Very Conservative over-estimated their scores far more extensively than the Very Liberal. However, they both failed the quiz. When considered in the light of the self-assessments it is evident that at best the entire participant pool thinks and probably act like they know far more than they do.

Instead, each position on the spectra had its own quartile breakout that suggested that cognitive bias was noted at all levels. The fact that those claimed themselves to be Far Above Average in self-identified socio-cultural awareness scored as poorly as the other five self-assessed levels and had their own 25th percentile overestimation may serve to confirm the idea of Dunning's self-flattering protective cover-up. One might ask what could be better than being the "woke-est" voice in the crowd. Or so they would have everyone believe.

Those items coded as Topical Objective Items asked four innocuous multiple-choice questions related to one of the five contentious opinion-based topics. The participants fared better when these were broken out. While a large majority of responses (80.61%) indicated a strong opinion

regarding the imminent crises of climate change being caused by man, the objective knowledge was poor with 25.15%, 44.24%, 43.64%, and 37.27% of participants correctly answering the objective knowledge questions. Similarly, 87.27% favored gay marriage with 28.18%, 68.19%, 28.48%, and 63.94% correctly answering each of the related objective LGBTQ knowledge questions. Abortion opinions leaned strongly with a 56.97% response stating that abortion should always be available as a matter of personal choice. The objective scores were 54.24%, 50.91%, 47.58%, and 83.33%. See Appendix B for scoring details.

We fear that this over-estimation may indicate a 2020 version of ignorance or stupidity in action as Bertrand Russell more eloquently pointed out. One thing is certain, that the voices of 2020 are “cocksure” and if we might add, relentless despite demonstrating socio-civic knowledge competence at less than 52%.

We can but speculate on the causes of both poor performances on the objective items and the rates of estimations. As such we suggest and intend to pursue an inquiry as to the impact of individuals developing self-assessed notions regarding aspects of their ideology and wokeness concerning what they perceive and hold as “should be” versus “what is” regarding the foundations of their ideas. Evidently, it appears to not be based on knowledge competence. To reiterate Thomas Sowell’s observation that facts have become optional when forming views or opinions. In-depth knowledge about what one speaks is not too important in 2020.

The conclusion of the study is simply that cognitive bias is in play in the realm of socio-cultural circles and that the base of objective knowledge is apparently poor. The Dunning Kruger Effect is confirmed at all positions.

Limitations

The study has a few limitations. First, it is not generalizable with any reliability as the distribution of participants leaned strongly toward those engaged in educational pursuits at many levels. There was a skew toward those with advanced levels of a college education that varies greatly from the demographics of the population in general. With that noted, the quiz performance may be more salient as the more educated scored so poorly. However, this skew also suggests that better-educated individuals may be just as susceptible to cognitive bias as everyone else. We might consider that being educated may not exempt anyone from overestimation in self-assessment unless they attained legitimate expertise in the given field. This study could not make such an assertion. Future studies might well require a larger participation pool across a wider demographic sampling.

The survey was further limited with the two main variables, ideology, and socio-cultural awareness because it relied solely on self-identification. One individual’s definition and parameters may have varied greatly from another’s.

The original opinion questions were intended as a frame of reference focus points with the accompanying objective topical items intended to seek correlations to determine if the responses pointed to determinable and measurable ideology positions. This was excluded from analysis as it was off point. The opinion items may have effected the multiple-choice responses. And there was no practical way to exclude them from the completed response data. The design of the survey requires modification for future use.

Further research is needed on determining the effect of both overestimation and underestimation has on socio-civic and cultural decision-making. An ideal study might well include delving into extremist knowledge and their positions and behaviors. This might include seeking a cognitive bias effect related to their self-assessment of objective knowledge on their ideology. For example, testing a self-identified Socialist for their objective knowledge of Marxism, Leninism, Stalinism, Maoism, and the histories of nations that initiated Socialism as a form of government.

This could be executed in the other direction with self-identified White Supremacists or Nazis with similar objective knowledge items related to their advocacy.

Lastly, research could be devised to determine how overestimations can be mitigated or recognized and used for the analysis of competency.

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Appendix A

General Tabulation of Collected Demographic Responses

| <i>GENDER</i> | | |
|---------------|-----|--------|
| | N | % |
| Female | 199 | 60.30% |
| Male | 126 | 38.18% |
| Other | 5 | 1.52% |

| <i>ETHNICITY</i> | | |
|------------------|-----|--------|
| | N | % |
| White | 234 | 70.91% |
| Hispanic | 45 | 13.64% |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----|-------|
| Asian | 21 | 6.36% |
| Black or African American | 17 | 5.15% |
| Mixed | 4 | 1.21% |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | 3 | 0.91% |
| Middle Eastern | 3 | 0.91% |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 3 | 0.91% |

AGE GROUP

| | N | % |
|-------|----|--------|
| 0-24 | 98 | 29.70% |
| 25-30 | 50 | 15.15% |
| 31-40 | 49 | 14.85% |
| 51-60 | 37 | 11.21% |
| 61-70 | 32 | 9.70% |
| 41-50 | 31 | 9.39% |
| 71-80 | 29 | 8.79% |
| 81-UP | 4 | 1.21% |

EDUCATION

| | N | % |
|--|----|--------|
| Some college but no degree | 87 | 26.36% |
| Master's degree | 73 | 22.12% |
| Bachelor's degree in college (4-year) | 68 | 20.61% |
| Doctoral degree | 42 | 12.73% |
| Associate degree in college (2-year) | 27 | 8.18% |
| High school graduate (high school diploma or equivalent including GED) | 17 | 5.15% |
| Professional degree (JD, MD) | 16 | 4.85% |

NEWS PROVIDER

| | N | % |
|-------------------------|----|--------|
| Print | 87 | 26.36% |
| Yahoo | 55 | 16.67% |
| FOX News | 46 | 13.94% |
| CNN | 38 | 11.52% |
| Other than listed above | 36 | 10.91% |
| NBC Network | 18 | 5.45% |
| Google | 15 | 4.55% |
| MSNBC | 14 | 4.24% |
| ABC Network | 11 | 3.33% |
| CBS Network | 10 | 3.03% |

TOWN SIZE






| | N | % |
|------------|-----|--------|
| Suburban | 166 | 50.30% |
| Urban | 96 | 29.09% |
| Small Town | 39 | 11.82% |
| Rural | 28 | 8.48% |
| Remote | 1 | 0.30% |


CITIZENSHIP

| | N | % |
|---|-----|--------|
| I am a natural-born U.S. Citizen. | 301 | 91.21% |
| I am a RESIDENT ALIEN (on visa) | 14 | 4.24% |
| I am a NATURALIZED citizen of the U.S. | 13 | 3.94% |
| I am a citizen of another nation-not the US | 2 | 0.61% |

Appendix B

Survey Items with sources and response rates by number and percentage

| Survey Question ID Number | Qualtrics Identifier | Survey Question | Answer Bank | Correct Response | Survey Responses | Responses by Percentage | Source of Question and Answer |
|--|----------------------|---|--|------------------|------------------|-------------------------|---|
| SOCIO-POLITICAL CIVICS QUESTIONS (25) | | | | | | | |
| CIV 1 | QID40 |  | Director of the CIA | X | 99 | 30.00 | https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-trump-administration/the-cabinet/ |
| | | | U.S. Senator from Nevada | | 67 | 20.30 | https://www.wsj.com/articles/under-cia-chief-gina-haspel-an-intelligence-service-returns-to-the-shadows-11558776600 |
| | | | Congressional Representative from Delaware | | 136 | 41.21 | wsj images Updated May 25, 2019 11:36 am ET |
| | | | Surgeon General of the United States | | 67 | 20.30 | |
| CIV 2 | QID39 |  | US Senator from Utah | | 67 | 20.30 | https://www.supremecourt.gov/about/biographies.aspx |
| | | | Chief Justice of the United States | X | 168 | 50.91 | (Nati Harnik / Associated Press) |
| | | | Chairman of the Federal Reserve | | 53 | 16.06 | https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2019-12-31/supreme-court-chief-justice-john-roberts-warns-of-social-medias-danger-to-democracy |
| | | | Secretary of the Treasury | | 42 | 12.73 | |
| CIV 3 | QID36 |  | Director of the Secret Service | | 18 | 5.45 | https://pressfrom.info/us/news/us/-282160-justice-clarence-thomas-likens-some-abortion-to-eugenics-in-20-page-supreme-court-opinion.html |
| | | | Director of the American Civil Liberties Union | | 60 | 18.18 | |
| | | | Chairman of the Joint Chiefs | | 21 | 6.36 | (Photo by Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images) |
| | | | Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court | X | 231 | 70.00 | https://www.supremecourt.gov/about/biographies.aspx |

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|-------|-------|--|---|---|-----|-------|---|--|
| CIV 4 | OID38 |  | Secretary of Education | | 43 | 13.03 | https://spacecoastdaily.com/2017/08/florida-woman-kayleigh-mcenany-named-republican-national-committees-new-spokesperson/ Stephanie Grisham. AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin | |
| | | | US Congresswoman from Kansas | | 106 | 32.12 | | |
| | | | Attorney General of California | | 32 | 9.70 | | https://www.businessinsider.com/trump-press-secretary-arrested-dui-amid-work-for-2016-campaign-2019-8 |
| | | | White House Press Secretary | X | 149 | 45.15 | | https://twitter.com/kayleighmcenany https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-trump-administration/the-cabinet/ |
| CIV 5 | OID37 |  | Congressional Representative from South Dakota | | 94 | 28.48 | https://www.federaltimes.com/management/leadership/2017/08/02/senate-confirms-christopher-wray-as-next-fbi-director/ (Andrew Harnik/AP) | |
| | | | Director of the FBI | X | 141 | 42.73 | | |
| | | | Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court | | 42 | 12.73 | | |
| | | | Department of Justice Special Prosecutor | | 53 | 16.06 | | |
| CIV 6 | OID43 | Term Limits were adopted in the U.S. Constitution for which branch of government? | Military | | 6 | 1.82 | US CONSTITUTION: Amendment 22, (1951) | |
| | | | Legislative | | 68 | 20.61 | | |
| | | | Executive | X | 241 | 73.03 | | |
| | | | Judiciary | | 15 | 4.55 | | |
| CIV 7 | OID41 | How many amendments does the U.S. Constitution have? | 29 | | 50 | 15.15 | U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS): Practice Test Questions pg. 1 | |
| | | | 25 | | 31 | 9.39 | | |
| | | | 23 | | 42 | 12.73 | | |
| | | | 27 | X | 207 | 62.73 | | |
| CIV 8 | OID47 | Which of the following was a result of "Manifest Destiny"? | The United States went to war with Mexico. | X | 160 | 48.48 | 2003-2010 Sample Test, Oregon Dept. of Education Benchmark 3/ Social Studies/Grade 8: pg. SS 11 | |
| | | | Slaves were emancipated, set free. | | 34 | 10.30 | | |
| | | | The population of the Northern states increased. | | 88 | 26.67 | | |
| | | | The United States went to war with Great Britain. | | 48 | 14.55 | | |

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|-------|-------|--|--------------------|---|-----|-------|
| CIV 9 | OID46 | "Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" are rights endowed by _____. | Mans' Creator | X | 53 | 16.06 |
| | | | the Bill of Rights | | 133 | 40.30 |



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|--------|-------|--|--|---|-----|-------|---|
| | | | the US Constitution | | 132 | 40.00 | Declaration of Independence Paragraph 2, Sentence 1 |
| | | | the Emancipation Proclamation | | 12 | 3.64 | |
| CIV 10 | OID49 | Who wrote the Declaration of Independence? | John Adams | | 33 | 10.00 | U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS): Practice Test Questions pg. 7 |
| | | | William Penn | | 9 | 2.73 | |
| | | | Thomas Paine | | 7 | 2.12 | |
| | | | Thomas Jefferson | X | 281 | 85.15 | |
| CIV 11 | OID48 | Which of the following is not among the 13 original Colonies? | Delaware | | 27 | 8.18 | U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS): Practice Test Questions pg. 7 |
| | | | Georgia | | 98 | 29.70 | |
| | | | Maine | X | 175 | 53.03 | |
| | | | South Carolina | | 30 | 9.09 | |
| CIV 12 | OID32 | The principles as presented in the United States Constitution were most influenced by _____. | the dynasties of China | | 3 | 0.91 | 2003-2010 Sample Test, Oregon Dept. of Education Benchmark 3/ Social Studies/Grade 8: pg. SS4 |
| | | | the Roman Republic | X | 155 | 46.97 | |
| | | | the Protestant Reformation | | 123 | 37.27 | |
| | | | The feudal system | | 49 | 14.85 | |
| CIV 13 | OID52 | Who was President during World War I? | Franklin Roosevelt | | 44 | 13.33 | U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS): Practice Test Questions pg. 8 |
| | | | Woodrow Wilson | X | 223 | 67.58 | |
| | | | Theodore Roosevelt | | 50 | 15.15 | |
| | | | Warren Harding | | 13 | 3.94 | |
| CIV 14 | OID51 | Which battle was fought in the Revolutionary War? | Belleau Wood | | 30 | 9.09 | https://allthingsliberty.com/2014/05/the-25-deadliest-battles-of-the-revolutionary-war/ Number 24 August 6, 1777 |
| | | | Cemetery Ridge | | 77 | 23.33 | |
| | | | Nob Hill | | 168 | 50.91 | |
| | | | Oriskany | X | 55 | 16.67 | |
| CIV 15 | OID56 | Who of the following is currently a serving Supreme Court Justice? | Anthony Kennedy | | 74 | 22.40 | https://www.supremecourt.gov/about/biographies.aspx |
| | | | David Souter | | 51 | 15.50 | |
| | | | William Rehnquist | | 64 | 19.40 | |
| | | | Elena Kagan | X | 141 | 42.70 | |
| CIV 16 | OID55 | When was the last formal state of war declared by the United States? | 1942 | X | 152 | 46.06 | https://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/history/h_multi_sections_and_t easers/WarDeclarationsbyCongress.htm |
| | | | 1950 | | 24 | 7.27 | |
| | | | 1991 | | 35 | 10.61 | |
| | | | 2001 | | 119 | 36.06 | |
| CIV 17 | OID59 | On the first Monday of October _____. | the President submits the annual fiscal budget to the House | | 111 | 33.64 | https://www.supremecourt.gov/about/courtatwork.aspx |
| | | | the House of Representatives votes to elect the Speaker and Whip | | 41 | 12.42 | |
| | | | the U.S. Supreme Court convenes | X | 159 | 48.18 | |



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|--------|-------|---|---|---|-----|-------|---|
| | | | the Majority Leader of the Senate is affirmed | | 19 | 5.76 | |
| CIV 18 | OID57 | Which of the following is a Presidential Cabinet Position? | Secretary of Congressional Affairs | | 63 | 19.09 | U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS): Practice Test Questions pg. 4 |
| | | | Secretary of Veterans Affairs | X | 143 | 43.33 | |
| | | | Secretary of Management and Budgetary Affairs | | 61 | 18.48 | |
| | | | Secretary of Environmental Protections | | 63 | 19.09 | |
| CIV 19 | OID54 | The US government is a _____ | people's democracy. | | 53 | 16.06 | https://www.usconstitution.net/constfaq_q76.html FAQ 76 |
| | | | parliamentary republic/democracy. | | 24 | 7.27 | |
| | | | federal presidential republic. | | 29 | 8.79 | |
| | | | federal republic and a constitutional representative democracy. | X | 224 | 67.88 | |
| CIV 20 | OID53 | What did the Emancipation Proclamation do? | freed the slaves in most southern states | X | 297 | 90.00 | U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS): Practice Test Questions pg. 8 |
| | | | ended the Civil War between the states | | 14 | 4.24 | |
| | | | emancipated 18-year-old citizens to be self-responsible adults | | 12 | 3.64 | |
| | | | gave amnesty to residents who had not acquired documentation as resident aliens | | 7 | 2.12 | |
| CIV 21 | OID50 | Which ancient civilization developed the first democratic form of government? | Greece | X | 265 | 80.30 | 2003-2010 Sample Test, Oregon Dept. of Education Benchmark 3/ Social Studies/Grade 8: pg. SS4 |
| | | | Egypt | | 21 | 6.36 | |
| | | | Sumeria (SIC SUMER) | | 17 | 5.15 | |
| | | | Aztec | | 27 | 8.18 | |
| CIV 22 | OID34 | The Speaker of the House of Representatives is elected by | the majority party in the House | X | 285 | 86.36 | https://www.house.gov/leadership While the entire House votes the majority party has the most votes and elects the speaker. |
| | | | the electoral college | | 18 | 5.45 | |
| | | | the people of his/her home state | | 17 | 5.15 | |
| | | | the House Ways and Means Committee | | 10 | 3.03 | |



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|--------|-------|---|--|---|-----|-------|---|
| CIV 23 | OID45 | In the election of the president and vice-president how many electoral votes are granted to each state? | A number determined by that states' legislature | | 52 | 15.76 | US CONSTITUTION Article II, Section 1, Clause 2 |
| | | | one for every Congressional District | | 109 | 33.03 | |
| | | | the number equal to the majority political party elected to the House and Senate from that state | | 32 | 9.70 | |
| | | | one for each Senator and Representative serving in Congress | X | 137 | 41.52 | |
| CIV 24 | OID44 | Which of these is a function of the federal government? | Licensing and designating state bar associations. | | 21 | 6.36 | 2003-2010 Sample Test, Oregon Dept. of Education Benchmark 3/ Social Studies/Grade 8: pg. SS5 |
| | | | Regulation of permitted alcohol consumption age. | | 31 | 9.39 | |
| | | | Establishment and design of local government structures. | | 43 | 13.03 | |
| | | | Declare war. | X | 235 | 71.21 | |
| CIV 25 | OID33 | Which is elected for six-year terms? | Congressional Representatives | | 52 | 15.76 | U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS): Practice Test Questions pg. 3 |
| | | | Senators | X | 248 | 75.15 | |
| | | | Supreme Court Justices | | 25 | 7.58 | |
| | | | Vice-Presidents | | 5 | 1.52 | |

| TOPICAL OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS (20) | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------|---|--|---|-----|-------|---|
| TOP1.G.1 | OID62 | In 2016, Pew Research reported that the LGBT community represented approximately what percent of the U.S. population? | 4.10% | X | 93 | 28.18 | https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/06/13/5-key-findings-about-lgbt-americans/ |
| | | | 6.70% | | 85 | 25.76 | |
| | | | 11.20% | | 111 | 33.64 | |
| | | | 1.30% | | 41 | 12.42 | |
| TOP1.G.2 | OID65 | The following are strong indicators of childhood gender identity disorder EXCEPT | Strong preference for playmates of the same sex. | X | 225 | 68.19 | https://www.psychiatry.org/patients-families/gender-dysphoria/what-is-gender-dysphoria |
| | | | Strong and persistent preferences for cross-sex roles in make-believe play or persistent fantasies of being the other sex; | | 31 | 9.39 | |



| | | | | | | | |
|---------|-------|---|--|---|-----|-------|--|
| | | | In boys, preference for cross-dressing or simulating female attire; in girls, insistence on wearing only stereotypical masculine clothing; | | 33 | 10.00 | |
| | | | Repeatedly stated desire to be, or insistence that he or she is the other sex; | | 41 | 12.42 | |
| TOPIC 3 | OID63 | The reported attempted suicide rate among the transgender population is approximately _____. | 8% | | 20 | 6.06 | https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5178031/ |
| | | | 18% | | 99 | 30.00 | |
| | | | 27% | | 117 | 35.45 | |
| | | | 41% | X | 94 | 28.48 | |
| TOPIC 4 | OID66 | A 2019, study examined 493,001 subjects using genetic testing to determine if sexual partner preference could be predicted. It concluded: | There are just a few definite genes that influence same-sex behavior. | | 30 | 9.09 | Ganna, A., Verweij, K. J., Nivard, M. G., Maier, R., Wedow, R., Busch, A. S., ... & Lundström, S. (2019). Large-scale GWAS reveals insights into the genetic architecture of same-sex sexual behavior. <i>Science</i> , 365(6456), eaat7693. |
| | | | There indicates a statistically wide gap difference between same-sex preference between male and female subjects. | | 23 | 6.97 | |
| | | | That same-sex preference is not definitively bi-polar in nature indicating that there tends to be a strong and consistent spectrum between homosexual or heterosexual. | | 66 | 20.00 | |
| | | | The probability of sexuality is a complex over-lapping combination of genetic and sociocultural influences. | X | 211 | 63.94 | |
| TOPIC 1 | OID72 | Choose the INCORRECT response: According to Obamacare (ACA) undocumented individuals are | A \$2 billion a year cost in federal Medicaid refunds to hospitals. | | 60 | 18.18 | https://www.nilc.org/issues/health-care/immigrants/hr/ https://khn.org/news/medicaid-illegal-immigrant-emergency-care/ |
| | | | Provided medical services as immediately needed in any ER | | 78 | 23.64 | |
| | | | Excluded from Obamacare | | 127 | 38.48 | |
| | | | Allowed specialized treatment for their foreign-born children as needed. | X | 65 | 19.70 | |
| TOPIC 2 | OID70 | Which part of the US Constitution did the founding writers reserve for providing health care to the citizens? | There is no such provision | X | 264 | 80.00 | US CONSTITUTION |
| | | | Bill of Rights | | 19 | 5.76 | |



| | | | | | | | |
|---------|-------|---|--|----|------|-------|--|
| | | The section on “Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. . .” | | 19 | 5.76 | | |
| | | Article 8 | | 30 | 9.09 | | |
| TOPHC 3 | OID69 | The ACA (Obamacare) program made many changes to the American health care system. Which of the following did not happen? | Increase taxes to some couples and individuals | | 49 | 14.85 | Kimberly Amadeo https://www.thebalance.com/obamacare-pros-and-cons-3306059 |
| | | | Provide for Preventive Care | | 33 | 10.00 | |
| | | | Increased Medicare benefits | | 38 | 11.52 | |
| | | | Provide Universal healthcare | X | 210 | 63.64 | |
| TOPHC 4 | OID68 | Regarding the Canadian single-payer model of health care for its citizens which of the following is NOT true? | Every resident of the country is insured under the CHA, with covered procedures free at the point of delivery. | | 66 | 20.00 | https://www.nationalreview.com/2017/04/canada-single-payer-health-care-system-failures-cautionary-tale/ Candice Malcolm |
| | | | It has improved the quality of health care and affordability year after year since its adoption. | X | 55 | 16.67 | |
| | | | It is more restrictive than China’s system | | 95 | 28.79 | |
| | | | In Canada, the bureaucrats and not doctors determine what procedures are medically necessary. | | 114 | 34.55 | |
| TOPRC 1 | OID78 | In 1971, Romana Acosta Bañuelos became _____. | the first Mexican American U.S. Senator | | 145 | 43.94 | https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/05/obituaries/romana-acosta-banuelos-us-treasurer-under-nixon-dies-at-92.html https://home.treasury.gov/about/history/treasurers-of-the-united-states |
| | | | the first female U.S. Ambassador to the U.S.S.R. | | 23 | 6.97 | |
| | | | the first Hispanic woman Director of the FBI | | 17 | 5.15 | |
| | | | the first Hispanic Secretary of the Treasury | X | 145 | 43.94 | |
| TOPRC 2 | OID76 | The percentage of white players in the National Football League in 2016 decreased from the number in 2014. The 2016 percentage was _____. | 18.90% | | 69 | 20.91 | https://www.aei.org/carpe-diem/overall-the-nfl-gets-a-letter-grade-of-a-for-players-race-but-for-kickers-and-punters-it-gets-an-f/ |
| | | | 22.30% | | 83 | 25.15 | |
| | | | 27.40% | X | 94 | 28.48 | |
| | | | 29.7 | | 84 | 25.45 | |
| TOPRC 3 | OID75 | The state with the largest number of Native Americans is _____. | Arizona | | 95 | 28.79 | https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/us-states-with-the-largest-native-american-populations.html |
| | | | Texas | | 30 | 9.09 | |
| | | | New Mexico | | 130 | 39.39 | |
| | | | California | X | 75 | 22.73 | |
| TOPRC 4 | OID73 | Which nation in the Western Hemisphere was the last to abolish slavery? | US | | 134 | 40.61 | https://www.jstor.org/stable/25162912?seq=1 |
| | | | Peru | | 22 | 6.67 | |
| | | | Brazil | X | 131 | 39.70 | |
| | | | Cuba | | 43 | 13.03 | |



| | | | | | | | |
|---------|-------|------------------------------------|--|---|-----|-------|---|
| TOPAB 1 | OID84 | The most common abortion procedure | utilizes pregnancy terminating medications. | X | 179 | 54.24 | https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/induced-abortion-united-states?gclid=CjwKCAjw2a32BRBXEiwAUcugiC8QsC0-YiPGWIXxDEkKVQdH0aggWRwgZwEX-qFoToablXdxhGPRoCb1wQAvD_BwE |
| | | | is effective at about 80% for abortions. | | 50 | 15.15 | |
| | | | usually requires anesthesia. | | 57 | 17.27 | |
| | | | is slightly more dangerous than giving childbirth. | | 44 | 13.33 | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---------|-------|---|---|---|-----|-------|---|
| TOPAB 2 | OID82 | In 2017, the number of abortions dropped to approximately _____. | 210,000 | | 83 | 25.15 | https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/induced-abortion-united-states |
| | | | 1,058,000 | | 53 | 16.06 | |
| | | | 862,000 | X | 168 | 50.91 | |
| | | | 1,629,000 | | 25 | 7.58 | |
| TOPAB 3 | OID80 | In the 1973 Supreme Court decision in Roe vs. Wade, the majority of the court agreed on the following except: | prior to approximately the end of the first trimester, the abortion decision and its effectuation must be left to the medical judgment of the pregnant woman's attending physician. | | 61 | 18.48 | https://www.landmarkcases.org/roe-v-wade/roe-v-wade-summary-of-the-decision |
| | | | the woman's right is vested in her alone and that she is entitled to terminate her pregnancy at whatever time, in whatever way, and for whatever reason she alone chooses. | X | 157 | 47.58 | |
| | | | after the end of the first trimester of pregnancy the State, in promoting its interest in the health of the mother, may, if it chooses, regulate the abortion procedure in ways that are reasonably related to maternal health. | | 52 | 15.76 | |
| | | | after the point of fetal viability, the State in promoting its interest in the potentiality of human life may, if it chooses, regulate, and even proscribe, abortion except where it is necessary, in appropriate medical judgment, for the preservation of the life or health of the mother. | | 60 | 18.18 | |
| TOPAB | OID79 | In recent years approximately 45% of | are over the age of 50 | | 18 | 5.45 | https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5771530/ |



| | | | | | | | |
|---------|-------|---|--|---|-----|-------|---|
| | | U.S. women who have an abortion procedure | have had one or more previous abortions | X | 275 | 83.33 | - |
| | | | develop serious infections | | 15 | 4.55 | |
| | | | have the procedure during the last two months of pregnancy | | 23 | 6.97 | |
| TOPCG 1 | OID87 | In 1982, a hole in the Earth's ozone layer was discovered. In 2019, the following was determined about the hole. | it has migrated to the south polar region. | | 26 | 7.88 | https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2019/2019-ozone-hole-is-the-smallest-on-record-since-its-discovery |
| | | | it has decreased in size since 1982. | X | 144 | 43.64 | |
| | | | it has increased in size since 1982 | | 135 | 40.91 | |
| | | | it is the same size as it was in 1982. | | 24 | 7.27 | |
| TOPCG 2 | OID86 | The Norse peoples (Vikings) recorded that they successfully settled southwestern Greenland in 985 A.D. and after some 400 years abandoned the farming and livestock-based settlement in the 13th century. Why was it abandoned? | The warming climate caused massive ice and glacial migration pushing them into the sea. | | 98 | 29.70 | https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1029/2011GL050168 https://www.livescience.com/18205-ice-age-volcanoes-sea-ice.html https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2016/11/why-did-greenland-s-vikings-disappear |
| | | | The rising sea levels flooded their agricultural watershed with saltwater. | | 77 | 23.33 | |
| | | | Volcanic activity caused a "nuclear winter scenario" freezing the northern hemisphere and diminished the growing seasons | X | 123 | 37.27 | |
| | | | The warming temperatures created an environment conducive to rampant mosquito expansion that carried fatal infectious diseases | | 32 | 9.70 | |
| TOPCG 3 | OID85 | Since global climate records were first recorded in 1880, how much has global temperature changed? | increased .303 degrees | | 37 | 11.21 | Due to calculating variations the range is between 1.71 and 2.07 f https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/news/global-climate-201912 |
| | | | increased .190 degrees | | 35 | 10.61 | |
| | | | increased 1.90 degrees | X | 146 | 44.24 | |
| | | | increased 2.03 degrees | | 112 | 33.94 | |

| | | | | | | | |
|--------|-------|---|---------------|---|----|-------|--|
| OPCG 4 | OID66 | According to the International Energy Agency's 2009 "Transport, Energy, and CO2" report, the lowest per capita user of diesel | Latin America | | 39 | 11.82 | IEA (2009), <i>Transport Energy and CO2: Moving towards Sustainability</i> , OECD Publishing, Paris, |
| | | | Middle East | | 59 | 17.88 | |
| | | | North America | X | 83 | 25.15 | |

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------|--|-----|-------|--|
| | fuel for transportation is _____. | Africa | | 149 | 45.15 | https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264073173-en Pg. 46, Fig. 1,2 |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------|--|-----|-------|--|

| OPINION QUESTIONS | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|--|---|--|-----|-------|
| OPCG 1 | OID83 | From what you know about changing global climate, please indicate the statement that best reflects your position. | The changing global climate is a critical issue requiring immediate drastic steps must be taken to curb the urgent threat. | | 137 | 41.52 |
| | | | There is enough evidence that the global climate is changing and some sort of remedial action should be taken. | | 137 | 41.52 |
| | | | We don't know enough about the changing global climate, and more research is necessary before we take any action. | | 39 | 11.82 |
| | | | There is no changing global climate problem. It is fake. | | 17 | 5.15 |
| OPCG 2 | OID81 | Do you disagree or agree with the following statement? The majority of climate change has been caused by human activity. | Agree | | 266 | 80.61 |
| | | | Disagree | | 64 | 19.39 |
| OPAB 1 | OID77 | There has been some discussion about abortion during recent years. Which of the following best reflects your personal opinion? | By law, a woman should always be able to obtain an abortion as a matter of personal choice. | | 188 | 56.97 |
| | | | The law should permit abortion for reasons other than rape, incest, or danger to the woman's life, but only after the need for the abortion has been clearly established. | | 53 | 16.06 |
| | | | The law should permit abortion for reasons other than rape, incest, or danger to the woman's life. | | 62 | 18.79 |
| | | | By law, abortion should be banned completely. | | 26 | 7.88 |
| OPAB 2 | OID35 | Do you disagree or agree with the following statement? Regardless of the reason, abortion is no more than after-the-fact birth control. | Agree | | 116 | 35.15 |
| | | | Disagree | | 214 | 64.85 |



| | | | | | |
|--------|-------|---|----------|-----|-------|
| OPHC 1 | OID67 | Do you favor or oppose the following health care proposal? Affordable health care is a right. A proper initiative will cover all Americans requiring all persons to acquire health insurance, with a choice as to provider through a national program providing complete coverage for all including those who cannot afford it, being paid for by those who earn more than \$200,000 per year. | Favor | 184 | 55.76 |
| | | | Oppose | 146 | 44.24 |
| OPHC 2 | OID64 | Do you favor or oppose the U.S. government requiring every citizen to be covered by health care insurance? | Favor | 214 | 64.85 |
| | | | Oppose | 116 | 35.15 |
| OPRC 1 | OID74 | Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Affirmative Action is required to level outcomes in education and employment for past oppression? | Agree | 183 | 55.45 |
| | | | Disagree | 147 | 44.55 |
| OPRC 2 | OID71 | Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The Irish, Italians, Jews, and many other minorities overcame prejudice and worked their way up. Blacks should do the same without any special favors. | Agree | 123 | 37.27 |
| | | | Disagree | 207 | 62.73 |

| | | | | | |
|--------|-------|---|--------|-----|-------|
| OPLG 1 | OID60 | Do you oppose or favor gays and lesbians having the legal right to marry? | Favor | 288 | 87.27 |
| | | | Oppose | 42 | 12.73 |

| | | | | | |
|--------|-------|--------------------------------------|-------|-----|-------|
| OPLG 2 | OID61 | Do you oppose or favor transgendered | Favor | 266 | 80.61 |
|--------|-------|--------------------------------------|-------|-----|-------|

| | | | | |
|--|---|--------|----|-------|
| | individuals serving in the U.S. military? | Oppose | 64 | 19.39 |
|--|---|--------|----|-------|

SELF-ASSESSMENT AND OPINION ITEMS (5)

| | | | | |
|-----|---------|--|------------------------|-----------|
| SAS | OID88 1 | So how did you do on the quiz? Please score your performance on the multiple-choice part of the survey. Please estimate the score you think represents the percentage you got correct. - Slide the arrow to your score. | Mean Score | 50.2 |
| | | | | |
| WOK | OID90 | A current term has arisen in the vocabulary. This term is "woke." Please indicate how you rate yourself on being "woke." | Far Above Average | 17 5.15 |
| | | | Above Average | 79 23.93 |
| | | | Slightly Above Average | 126 38.18 |
| | | | Slightly Below Average | 64 19.39 |
| | | | Below Average | 21 6.36 |
| | | | Far Below Average | 23 6.97 |
| IDE | OID97 1 | Here is a 7-point scale on which the political views that people might hold are arranged from extremely liberal (left) to extremely conservative (right). Where would you place yourself on this scale? - Political Ideology | Very Liberal | 53 16.06 |
| | | | Liberal | 72 21.82 |
| | | | Leaning Left | 80 24.24 |
| | | | Sum Left Wing | 62.12 |
| | | | Centrist | 51 15.46 |
| | | | Leaning Right | 35 10.61 |
| | | | Conservative | 32 9.70 |
| | | | Very Conservative | 7 2.12 |
| | | | Sum Right Wing | 22.42 |
| | | | | |
| WAR | OID89 | There have been rumblings across the media recently that they detect indicators that the United States is on the brink of a civil war. How close do you think the nation is to such an event? | Extremely Likely | 4 1.80 |
| | | | Moderately Likely | 16 7.21 |
| | | | Slightly Likely | 54 24.3 |
| | | | Slightly Unlikely | 40 18.0 |
| | | | Moderately Unlikely | 56 25.22 |



| | | | | |
|--|---|--------------------|-----|-----------|
| | | Extremely Unlikely | 52 | 23.4 2 |
| | NOTE: Due to missing responses resulting in 222 of 330; this item has been excluded from analysis. | | 222 | |