

**Potential New (or Expanded) Topics about Public Perceptions of Scientists and Engineers –
Examples of Questions Previously Used or From Other Surveys**

P1. If you had a son, how would you feel if he wanted to be a scientist—would you feel happy, unhappy, or would you not care one way or the other? (1983)

- 1>happy
- 2>not care
- 3>unhappy

P2. If you had a daughter, how would you feel if she wanted to be a scientist—would you feel happy, unhappy, or would you not care one way or the other? (1983)

- 1>happy
- 2>not care
- 3>unhappy

P3. Now I'd like to read you some statements about scientists. Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each one. If you feel especially strongly about a statement, please say that you strongly agree or strongly disagree. Okay?

P3A. A scientist usually works alone. (1983)

- 1>strongly agree
- 2>agree
- 3>disagree
- 4>strongly disagree

P3B. Scientific work is dangerous. (1983)

- 1>strongly agree
- 2>agree
- 3>disagree
- 4>strongly disagree

P3C. Scientists don't get as much fun out of life as other people do. (1983)

- 1>strongly agree
- 2>agree
- 3>disagree
- 4>strongly disagree

P3D. Scientists usually don't get married. (1983)

- 1>strongly agree
- 2>agree
- 3>disagree
- 4>strongly disagree

P3E. Scientists who are married don't spend too much time with their families. (1983)

- 1>strongly agree
- 2>agree
- 3>disagree
- 4>strongly disagree

P3F. Scientists are apt to be odd and peculiar people. (1983)

- 1>strongly agree
- 2>agree
- 3>disagree
- 4>strongly disagree

P3G. Many scientists in this country are foreigners. (1983)

- 1>strongly agree
- 2>agree
- 3>disagree
- 4>strongly disagree

P3H. Scientists are not likely to be very religious people. (1983)

- 1>strongly agree
- 2>agree
- 3>disagree
- 4>strongly disagree

P3I. Scientists have few other interests but their work. (1983)

- 1>strongly agree
- 2>agree
- 3>disagree
- 4>strongly disagree

P4. Scientific researchers are dedicated people who work for the good of humanity. (1985)

1>strongly agree

2>agree

3>disagree

4>strongly disagree

P5. Have you ever considered working in a science-related career? (1983)

1>yes

2>no

Other Potential New (or Expanded) "Attitudes" Topics – Examples of Questions Previously Used or From Other Surveys

S1A. Now, I want to read you a short list of areas and for each one, please tell me if you think that science and technology have had a positive effect, a negative effect, or neither kind of effect. First, *our standard of living.* Have science and technology had, as a whole, a positive effect, a negative effect, or neither kind of effect on *our standard of living? (1992)

- 1>positive effect
- 2>neither kind
- 3>negative effect

S1B. Next, *general working conditions.* Have science and technology had as a whole, a positive effect, a negative effect, or neither kind of effect on *general working conditions? (1992)

- 1>positive effect
- 2>neither kind
- 3>negative effect

S1C. The *public health.* Have science and technology had, as a whole, a positive effect, a negative effect, or neither kind of effect on the *public health? (1992)

- 1>positive effect
- 2>neither kind
- 3>negative effect

S1D. *World peace.* Have science and technology had, as a whole, a positive effect, a negative effect, or neither kind of effect on *world peace? (1992)

- 1>positive effect
- 2>neither kind
- 3>negative effect

S1E. *The individual's enjoyment of life.* Have science and technology had, as a whole, a positive effect, a negative effect, or neither kind of effect on *the individual's enjoyment of life? (1992)

- 1>positive effect
- 2>neither kind
- 3>negative effect

S2. Thinking back over the last 10 years—that is, since 1990—what do you think was the most important scientific or technological achievement in the United States? (1990)
ENTER EXACT RESPONSE BELOW.

Potential New (or Expanded) Topics about Genetic Engineering – Examples of Questions Previously Used or From Other Surveys

G1. As you may know, some food products and medicines are being developed using new scientific techniques. The general area is called “biotechnology” and includes tools such as genetic engineering and genetic modification of food. How much have you heard or read about this issue—a great deal, some, not much or nothing at all?

- 1>A great deal
- 2>Some
- 3>Not much
- 4>Nothing at all
- 5>No opinion

G2A. Overall would you say you strongly support, moderately support, moderately oppose, or strongly oppose the use of biotechnology in agriculture and food production?

- 1>Strongly support
- 2>Moderately support
- 3>Moderately oppose
- 4>Strongly oppose
- 5>No opinion

G2B. The use of modern biotechnology in the production of foods, for example, to make them higher in protein, keep longer, or change the taste.

- 1>Strongly support
- 2>Moderately support
- 3>Moderately oppose
- 4>Strongly oppose
- 5>No opinion

G2C. Taking genes from plant species and transferring them into crop plants, to make them more resistant to insect pests.

- 1>Strongly support
- 2>Moderately support
- 3>Moderately oppose
- 4>Strongly oppose
- 5>No opinion

G2D. Introducing human genes into bacteria to produce medicines or vaccines, for example, to produce insulin for diabetics.

- 1>Strongly support
- 2>Moderately support
- 3>Moderately oppose
- 4>Strongly oppose
- 5>No opinion

G2E. Developing genetically modified animals for laboratory research studies, such as a mouse that has genes that cause it to develop cancer (not asked in the U.S. study).

- 1>Strongly support
- 2>Moderately support
- 3>Moderately oppose
- 4>Strongly oppose
- 5>No opinion

G2F. Introducing human genes into animals to produce organs for human transplants, such as into pigs for human heart transplants.

- 1>Strongly support
- 2>Moderately support
- 3>Moderately oppose
- 4>Strongly oppose
- 5>No opinion

G2G. Using genetic testing to detect diseases we might have inherited from our parents, such as cystic fibrosis (mucoviscidosis or thalassaemia were used in some European countries).

- 1>Strongly support
- 2>Moderately support
- 3>Moderately oppose
- 4>Strongly oppose
- 5>No opinion

G3. Do you favor or oppose using genetic technology—called cloning—to create a new human being who would be an exact copy of a particular individual?

- 1>Favor
- 2>Oppose
- 3>It Depends-On Proper Controls
- 4>No Opinion

Potential Environmental topics

Global warming

Biodiversity

Air and water pollution

Land use issues

Potential New (or Expanded) Topics about Sources of Information about Science and Technology – Examples of Questions Previously Used or From Other Surveys

N1. We are interested in how people get information about events in the news. Thinking about the kinds of information we have been talking about, do you get most of your information about current news events (1985)

- 1>from radio
- 2>from television
- 3>from newspapers
- 4>from news magazines
- 5>from the Internet (2001)
- 6>from books
- 7>or from talking to other people
- 8>other

N2. How about science and technology? Where do you get most of your information about science and technology?

- 1>from radio
- 2>from television
- 3>from newspapers
- 4>from news magazines
- 5>from the Internet (2001)
- 6>from books
- 7>or from talking to other people
- 8>other

N3. If you wanted to learn more about (scientific topic), how would you get more information? (1995)

- 1>library
- 2>newspaper
- 3>magazine
- 4>Internet (2001)
- 5>book/other printed
- 6>TV/radio
- 7>government agency
- 8>family
- 9>friend/colleague
- 10>other

N4. Are there any magazines that you read regularly—that is, almost every issue? (1979)

- 1>Yes
- 2>No

N5. Ask if N4=YES What are those? (PROBE FOR THREE)

N6. Now, I would like to read you a short list of magazines and ask you to tell me whether you read each magazine regularly that is, most of the time, occasionally, or not at all. Ok? (1981)

N6A. Newsweek. (1981)

N6B. National Geographic. (1981)

N6C. Time. (1981)

N6D. Science. (1981)

N6E. Scientific American. (1981)

N6F. U.S. News and World Report. (1981)

N6G. Discovery. (1981)

N6H. Omni. (1981)

N6I. Science Digest. (1981)

N6J. Science. (1981)

N6K. Focus. (1981)

N6L. Psychology Today. (1981)

N6M. A professional journal in your discipline (1981)

N7. Generally speaking, do you find your daily newspaper to be a very good source of science news, a moderately good source, or not a good source of science news? (1981)

1>very good source

2>moderately good source

3>not a good source

N8. If scientific knowledge is explained clearly, most people will be able to understand it. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree? (1988)

1>strongly agree

2>agree

3>disagree

4>strongly disagree

FYI, the latest Pew Study

News report:

<http://www.msnbc.com/news/419313.asp>

Text of report:

<http://www.people-press.org/media00rpt.htm>

Potential New (or Expanded) Topics about Interest in News Shows, Science News and Shows, and Science Fiction – Examples of Questions Previously Used or From Other Surveys

I1. How often do you watch television—almost every day, a few days a week, or hardly ever? (1983)

- 1>almost every day
- 2>a few days a week
- 3>once a week
- 4>less than once a week
- 5>never

I2. Altogether, on an average day that you do watch television, about how many hours would you say you watch? (1983)

I3. How often do you watch a television newscast—every day, a few times a week, once a week, less than once a week, or never? (1979)

- 1>Every day
- 2>Few times a week
- 3>Once a week
- 4>Less than once a week
- 5>Never
- 8>Don't know

I4. In an average week, how many hours do you watch shows on a public television channel? (1979)

I5. In an average week, how many hours do you watch shows on the Discovery Channel? (1979)

I6. Now, I'd like to read you a short list of television shows and ask you to tell me whether you watch each show regularly, that is, most of the time, occasionally, or not at all. (1985)

I6A. Newsmagazine shows like 60 Minutes, 20/20, or Dateline. Do you watch them regularly, occasionally, or not at all? (1985)

- 1>regularly, that is, most of the time
- 2>occasionally
- 3>not at all

I6B. Nova. Do you watch Nova regularly, occasionally, or not at all? (1985)

- 1>regularly, that is, most of the time
- 2>occasionally
- 3>not at all

I6C. National Geographic Specials. Do you watch National Geographic Specials regularly, occasionally, or not at all? (1985)

- 1>regularly, that is, most of the time
- 2>occasionally
- 3>not at all

I6D. How about public television? Do you watch programs on PBS frequently, once in awhile, or hardly ever? (1983)

- 1>frequently
- 2>once in awhile
- 3>hardly ever

I6E. A morning television news show. Do you watch a morning television news show regularly, occasionally, or not at all?

- 1>regularly, that is, most of the time
- 2>occasionally
- 3>not at all

I6F. An evening television news show. Do you watch an evening television news show regularly, occasionally, or not at all?

- 1>regularly, that is, most of the time
- 2>occasionally
- 3>not at all

I6G. A late night news show, like Nightline. Do you watch a late night news show regularly, occasionally, or not at all?

- 1>regularly, that is, most of the time
- 2>occasionally
- 3>not at all

I7. Any of the Star Trek series. Do—or did—you watch Star Trek regularly, occasionally, or not at all?

- 1>regularly, that is, most of the time
- 2>occasionally
- 3>not at all

I8. Do you consider yourself a fan of any of the Star Trek series?

- 1>Yes
- 2>No

I9. The X-Files. Do you watch the X-Files regularly, occasionally, or not at all?

- 1>regularly, that is, most of the time
- 2>occasionally
- 3>not at all

I10A. Do you consider yourself a fan of the X-Files?

- 1>Yes
- 2>No

I10B. If yes, how often are the X-Files storylines realistic?

- 1>Very often
- 2>Sometimes
- 3>Not very often
- 4>Never

I11. Do you ever read science fiction books or magazines? (1983)

- 1>Yes
- 2>No

I12. How often would you say you read science fiction—regularly, or just once in awhile? (1983)

- 1>regularly
- 2>once in awhile

I13. Do you consider yourself a fan of science fiction?

- 1>Yes
- 2>No

Potential New (or Expanded) Pseudoscience Topics – Examples of Questions Previously Used or From Other Surveys

A1. Do you ever read a horoscope or your personal astrology report? (1988)

1>yes

2>no

A2. ASK IF A1=1 Do you read an astrology report every day, quite often, just occasionally, or almost never? (1988)

1>every day

2>quite often

3>just occasionally

4>almost never

A3. Would you say that astrology is very scientific, sort of scientific, or not at all scientific? (1988)

1>very scientific

2>sort of scientific

3>not at all scientific

A4. ASK IF A1=1 In your daily life, do you sometimes decide to do or not to do something because your astrological signs for the day are favorable or unfavorable? (1988)

1>yes

2>no

A5. It is likely that some of the unidentified flying objects that have been reported are really space vehicles from other civilizations. (1985)

1>strongly agree

2>agree

3>disagree

4>strongly disagree

A6. It is likely that some people possess psychic powers or ESP.

1>strongly agree

2>agree

3>disagree

4>strongly disagree

A7. It is likely that beings from other civilizations have visited the Earth.

- 1>strongly agree
- 2>agree
- 3>disagree
- 4>strongly disagree

A8. If we were visited by beings from another planet, would these visitors look like humans? (1983)

- 1>yes
- 2>no

A9. Would they be friendly, or unfriendly? (1983)

- 1>friendly
- 2>unfriendly

A10. There are some good ways of treating sickness that medical science does not recognize. (1985)

- 1>strongly agree
- 2>agree
- 3>disagree
- 4>strongly disagree

A11. It is not wise to plan ahead because many things turn out to be a matter of good or bad luck anyway. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree? (1990)

- 1>strongly agree
- 2>agree
- 3>disagree
- 4>strongly disagree

A12. Have you ever consulted a psychic or fortune-teller?

- 1>yes
- 2>no

A13. If yes, how often?

- 1>quite often
- 2>just occasionally
- 3>almost never

A14. Have you heard of magnetic therapy, or the use of magnets to cure pain and illness?

1>yes

2>no

A15. If yes, would you say that magnetic therapy is very scientific, sort of scientific, or not at all scientific?

1>very scientific

2>sort of scientific

3>not at all scientific

Potential New (or Expanded) Topics about Perceptions of the Government's Role in Funding Science and Technology – Examples of Questions Previously Used or From Other Surveys

Now, I am going to ask you some questions about government agencies.

F1. Can you tell me the name of the government agency that collects taxes? That would be?

F2. What is the name of the government agency that has to approve new drugs before they can be put on the market in this country?

F3. What is the name of the government agency responsible for housing?

F4. What is the name of the government agency that funds medical research?

F5. Can you name any other government agency that funds scientific research?

F6. Any others?

F7. Now, let me read you a short list of agencies and groups that provide some support for scientific or engineering research and for each one, as I read it, please tell me if you have heard of it before. (1985)

F7A. The National Institutes of Health or NIH. (1985)

1>heard of
2>not heard of

F7B. The Ford Foundation. (1985)

1>heard of
2>not heard of

F7C. The Rockefeller Foundation. (1985)

1>heard of
2>not heard of

F7D. The National Academy of Sciences.

- 1>heard of
- 2>not heard of

F7E. IF R HAS HEARD OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, ASK: Is the National Academy of Sciences a government or private agency?

- 1>Gov't agency
- 2>Private foundation

F7F. The Department of Energy. (1985)

- 1>heard of
- 2>not heard of

F7G. The National Science Foundation. (1985)

- 1>heard of
- 2>not heard of

F7H. IF R HAS HEARD OF THE NSF, ASK: Is the National Science Foundation a government agency or a private foundation? (1985)

- 1>Gov't agency
- 2>Private foundation

F7I. IF R HAS HEARD OF THE NSF, ASK: What is the primary purpose or activity of the National Science Foundation? (1985)

EXACT RESPONSE:

F7J. IF R NAMES ONE PURPOSE OR ACTIVITY, ASK: Can you think of a second purpose or activity of the National Science Foundation? (1985)

EXACT RESPONSE:

F8. About what percent of the total federal budget is devoted to scientific research and technology development?

- 1>Less than 1%
- 2>1% to 10%
- 3>11% to 20%
- 4>More than 20%

S3. IF R ANSWERED PREVIOUS SCREEN, ASK:

What would you say was the second most important scientific or technological achievement in the last 10 years? (1990)

ENTER EXACT RESPONSE BELOW.

S4. Do you think the United States is ahead of, behind, or about equal, with other industrialized countries in terms of technology? (1983)

- 1>ahead
- 2>about equal
- 3>behind

S5. How about in our science education—are we ahead of, behind, or about equal with other countries? (1983)

- 1>ahead
- 2>about equal
- 3>behind

S6. How about in our math education—are we ahead of, behind, or about equal with other countries? (1983)

- 1>ahead
- 2>about equal
- 3>behind

S7. Every high school student in the United States should be required to take a science course every year. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree? (1990)

- 1>strongly agree
- 2>agree
- 3>disagree
- 4>strongly disagree

S8. Every high school student in the United States should be required to take a math course every year. Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree? (1990)

- 1>strongly agree
- 2>agree
- 3>disagree
- 4>strongly disagree

S9. People have different opinions about how science courses in public schools should teach theories of creation. Some people believe that only the biblical version of creation should be taught, and some people believe that only the theory of evolution should be taught, while others believed that the biblical version should be given equal weight with the theory of evolution. Which do you believe—should science courses in public schools teach only the biblical version of creation, only the theory of evolution, or should both be given equal weight? (1983)

- 1>only biblical
- 2>equal weight
- 3>only evolution

|| Murphy
Korwin