



Economic Knowledge

Replicating a recently published study among my friends and their peers

June 2010

Jim Swift
js@bomblemail.com

These are the results from a survey I conducted by replicating a 2010 study entitled Economic Enlightenment in Relation to College-going, Ideology, and Other Variables: A Zogby Survey of Americans, by Zeljka Buturovic and Daniel B. Klein. Before looking into the results below, please read their study to better understand why I was interested in replicating it. It is [permanently located here](#).

Because my response pool was not scientifically selected, the conclusions from my survey represent the answers of my friends and their peers and nothing else.

Percentage INCORRECT by Schooling

Question	High School or Less (n=3)	Some College (n=5)	College or More (n=53)	Total
Restrictions on housing development make housing less affordable	33%	20%	24.5%	25.8%
Mandatory licensing of professional services increase the prices of those services	33%	20%	11.3%	2.4%
Overall, the standard of living is higher today than it was 30 years ago	66%	0%	28.2%	31.4%
Rent control leads to housing shortages	100%	0%	39.6%	46.5%
A company with the largest market share is a monopoly	66%	20%	20.7%	35.5%
Third-world workers working for American companies overseas are being exploited	66%	40%	49%	51.6%
Free trade leads to unemployment	66%	20%	30.1%	38.7%
Minimum wage laws raise unemployment	66%	29%	37.7%	41.2%
<i>Average INCORRECT (out of 8 items)</i>	62%	17.5%	30.1%	25.5%

Percentage INCORRECT by Ideology

Question	Progressive (n=3)	Liberal (n=13)	Moderate (n=15)	Conservative (n=11)	Very Conservative (n=5)	Libertarian (n=12)	Total
Restrictions on housing development make housing less affordable	66%	38.4%	33.3%	0%	0%	16.6%	25.6%
Mandatory licensing of professional services increase the prices of those services	33%	15.3%	6.67%	0%	20%	16.6%	15.2%
Overall, the standard of living is higher today than it was 30 years ago	0%	53.8%	33.3%	9%	0%	25%	20.1%
Rent control leads to housing shortages	33%	61.5%	46.6%	27.2%	20%	33.3%	36.9%
A company with the largest market share is a monopoly	0%	46.1%	20%	9%	20%	16.6%	18.6%
Third-world workers working for American companies overseas are being exploited	100%	69.2%	60%	27.2%	0%	33.3%	48.2%
Free trade leads to unemployment	0%	61.5%	46.6%	9%	20%	24.9%	27%
Minimum wage laws raise unemployment	66%	61.5%	60%	18.1%	0%	16.6%	37%
<i>Average INCORRECT</i>	37.2%	50.9%	38.3%	12.4%	10%	22.8%	28.5%

(out of 8 items)

Because I no longer have SPSS statistical software, I am not taking the time to do by hand mean incorrect answers by various demographic category. Below are the overall answers for demographic questions for my respondents.

On a scale of 1 to 9 with 1 being extremely liberal and 9 being extremely conservative, how would you describe your political ideology?

Answer	Count	Percentage
1 (1)	2	3.23%
2 (2)	4	6.45%
3 (3)	10	16.13%
4 (4)	7	11.29%
5 (5)	6	9.68%
6 (6)	8	12.90%
7 (7)	8	12.90%
8 (8)	9	14.52%
9 (9)	7	11.29%
10 (10)	1	1.61%
No answer	0	0.00%

What is your age?

Calculation	Result
Count	62
Sum	1700
Standard deviation	8.23
Average	27.42
Minimum	16
1st quartile (Q1)	160.75
2nd quartile (Median)	26
3rd quartile (Q3)	27
Maximum	63

Which of the following best represents your race or ethnic group?

Answer	Count	Percentage
White (15w)	52	83.87%
African American (15b)	3	4.84%
Asian/Pacific (15a)	1	1.61%
Arab American (15ar)	2	3.23%
Other/Mixed (15m)	1	1.61%
Do not wish to answer (15r)	3	4.84%
No answer	0	0.00%

Do you consider yourself to be Hispanic or Latino?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes (16y)	1	1.61%
No (16n)	59	95.16%
Not Sure (16ns)	2	3.23%
No answer	0	0.00%

Which of the following best describes your highest level of education?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Less than High School (17hs)	0	0.00%
High School Graduate (17hg)	3	4.84%
Some College (17sc)	5	8.06%
College Graduate or more (17cg)	53	85.48%
Do not wish to answer (17na)	1	1.61%
No answer	0	0.00%

Which of the following best represents where you live?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Large City (100,000 or more) (18lc)	47	75.81%
Small City (Less than 100,000) (18sc)	4	6.45%
Suburbs (18s)	10	16.13%
Rural Area (18ra)	1	1.61%
Not Sure (18ns)	0	0.00%
Do not wish to answer (18na)	0	0.00%
No answer	0	0.00%

Which description best represents your political ideology?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Progressive / Very Liberal (19vl)	3	4.84%
Liberal (19l)	13	20.97%
Moderate (19m)	15	24.19%
Conservative (19c)	11	17.74%
Very Conservative (19vc)	5	8.06%
Libertarian (19lb)	12	19.35%
Not Sure (19ns)	3	4.84%
Do not wish to answer (19na)	0	0.00%
No answer	0	0.00%

Which of the following best represents your religious affiliation?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Roman Catholic (20rc)	33	53.23%
Protestant / Other Non-Denominational Christian (20pr)	13	20.97%
Jewish (20j)	2	3.23%
Muslim (20mu)	0	0.00%
Mormon (20mo)	0	0.00%
Atheist / Realist / Humanist (20a)	8	12.90%
Other (20o)	1	1.61%
No Affiliation (20na)	5	8.06%
Do not wish to answer (20dna)	0	0.00%
No answer	0	0.00%

Do you consider yourself to be a born-again, evangelical, or fundamentalist Christian?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes (21y)	6	9.68%
No (21n)	54	87.10%

Not Sure (21ns)	2	3.23%
Do not wish to answer (21na)	0	0.00%
No answer	0	0.00%

Are you or is anyone in your household a member of a union?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes (22y)	7	11.29%
No (22n)	55	88.71%
Not Sure (22ns)	0	0.00%
Do not wish to answer (22na)	0	0.00%
No answer	0	0.00%

Are you a parent or guardian of a child under 17 who is living at home?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes (23y)	3	4.84%
No (23n)	59	95.16%
Do not wish to answer (23na)	0	0.00%
No answer	0	0.00%

Which of the following best describes your marital status?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Married (24m)	11	17.74%
Single, Never Married (24snm)	50	80.65%
Divorced / Widowed / Separated (24d)	0	0.00%
Civil Union / Domestic Partnership (24cu)	1	1.61%
Not Sure (24ns)	0	0.00%
Do not wish to answer (24na)	0	0.00%
No answer	0	0.00%

Do you consider yourself to be mostly a resident of: your city or town, America, or the planet earth?

Answer	Count	Percentage
My City or Town (25cit)	21	33.87%
America (25a)	34	54.84%
The Planet Earth (25e)	5	8.06%
Not Sure (25ns)	2	3.23%
Do not wish to answer (25na)	0	0.00%
No answer	0	0.00%

Are you or is any member of your family a member of the Armed Forces?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes (26y)	18	29.03%
No (26n)	44	70.97%
Not Sure (26ns)	0	0.00%
Do not wish to answer (26na)	0	0.00%
No answer	0	0.00%

Do you consider yourself a NASCAR fan ?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes (27y)	2	3.23%
No (27n)	56	90.32%
Not Sure (27ns)	3	4.84%
Do not wish to answer (27na)	1	1.61%
No answer	0	0.00%

How often do you attend church, mosque, synagogue, or other place of worship?

Answer	Count	Percentage
More than weekly (28mtw)	5	8.06%
About once a week (28w)	14	22.58%
Once or twice a month (28ot)	10	16.13%
Only on religious holidays (28rh)	9	14.52%
Rarely (28r)	11	17.74%
Never (28n)	12	19.35%
Not Sure (28)	1	1.61%
No answer	0	0.00%

Would you consider yourself to be a member of the "investor class?"

Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes (29y)	25	40.32%
Not (29n)	27	43.55%
Not Sure (29ns)	10	16.13%
Do not wish to answer (29na)	0	0.00%
No answer	0	0.00%

How often do you shop at Wal-Mart?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Every Week (30ew)	2	3.23%
A few times a month (30ft)	10	16.13%
A couple of times per year (30tpy)	35	56.45%
Never (30n)	13	20.97%
Other (30o)	2	3.23%
Not Sure (30ns)	0	0.00%
Do not wish to answer (30na)	0	0.00%
No answer	0	0.00%

Do you have a valid passport?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes (31y)	54	87.10%
No (31n)	8	12.90%
Not Sure (31ns)	0	0.00%
Do not wish to answer (31na)	0	0.00%
No answer	0	0.00%

Which of the following best represents your household income last year before taxes?

Answer	Count	Percentage
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Less than \$25,000 (32a)	6	9.68%
\$25,000 to \$34,999 (32b)	9	14.52%
\$35,000 to \$49,999 (32c)	9	14.52%
\$50,000 to \$74,999 (32d)	7	11.29%
\$75,000 to \$99,999 (32e)	7	11.29%
\$100,000 or more (32f)	16	25.81%
Do not wish to answer (32gna)	8	12.90%
No answer	0	0.00%

Gender		
Answer	Count	Percentage
Female (F)	24	38.71%
Male (M)	38	61.29%
No answer	0	0.00%