Covert Attention Check Questions Employed in February 2019
Kateryna Sylaska & John D. Mayer

2 attention check questions embedded within the Test of Personal Intelligence-MINI-12
[TOPI-MINI-12 Manual Available at: https://mypages.unh.edu/jdmayer/test-personal-intelligence-topi]

1. [to appear after item 3 of the TOPI-MINI 12] A person was closely reading and understanding the items on a survey. If you also are reading them, please choose the alternative starting with the word prepare.
   a. get mad and motivated.
   b. as a child, suffering some teasing but getting over it.
   c. an on-the-job project the person had done well on.
   d. prepare to go to an athletic event.

2. [to appear after item 8 of the TOPI-MINI 12] Given that:
   • A researcher wants to better understand people’s psychology.
   • It is important that people who complete surveys are understanding the questions.
   • The researcher would like the ask people who understand the questions to endorse the item below that contains the word blue.
   Most likely, the person should conclude that:
   a. people usually are helpful.
   b. people can become socially shy when they are threatened.
   c. most people prefer the color blue over the sound of C major.
   d. His friend knows better than he does.

7 attention check questions embedded within the Thinking About Major Scale [Response scale on 1 to 5 Likert-type scale from Strongly Disagree to Strongly Agree to match other TAMS items. These questions to appear spaced throughout the 96-item extended TAMS survey.]

1. These questions are about my choice of major.
2. College majors are typically selected in the 3rd grade.
3. I am currently attending a college/university that does not exist.
4. If I have ever thought about my major and am reading the questions on this survey, I will select strongly disagree below.
5. I have never thought about or been asked about my college major.
6. My college major has been asked about on this survey.
7. I know what a college major is.
4 attention check questions embedded within the Wordsumplus measure [The following initial words (and many of the incorrect alters) were selected from a Kindergarten vocabulary test – these items are intended to be very easy to solve for respondents paying attention and those for whom English is a fluent language. These questions to appear spaced throughout the Wordsumplus measure. The correct answer appears in red here]

MUDDY

SPARKLE

BLOOM

WIGGLE
ARP 2019: MTurk & Covert Attention Checks

Relevant References


