

Appendix

Appendix A. Question Wording and Response Scales Used in the Experiment

Scale type	Variable name	Question Wording	5-point fully-labeled	5-point end-labeled	7-point fully-labeled	7-point end-labeled
Mindfulness: Agreement scale	Automatic	Next is a list of statements describing every day experience. For each one, please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree it. Please answer according to what really reflects your experience rather than what you think you experience should be.	Descending: totally agree; agree; neither agree nor disagree; disagree; totally disagree	Descending: 1 totally agree; 2; 3; 4; 5 totally disagree	Descending: totally agree; agree; slightly agree; neither agree nor disagree; slightly disagree; disagree; totally disagree	Descending: 1 totally agree; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7 totally disagree
		I tend to “run on automatic” without much awareness of what I am doing.	Ascending: totally disagree; disagree; neither agree nor disagree; agree; totally agree	Ascending: 1 totally disagree; 2; 3; 4; 5 totally agree	Ascending: totally disagree; disagree; slightly disagree; neither agree nor disagree; slightly agree; totally agree	Ascending: 1 totally disagree; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7 totally agree
	Rush	I tend to rush through activities without being really attentive to them.				
	Absorbed	I tend to get so completely absorbed in what I am doing that all of my attention is focused on it.				
	Several	I tend to do several things at once rather than focusing on one thing at a time.				
	Wanders	My mind often wanders off when I do things.				
	Distracted	I often feel easily distracted.				

Mindfulness: Frequency scale	Automatic	Next are some questions about everyday experiences. Please answer according to what really reflects your experience rather than what you think your experience should be.	Descending: always; often; sometimes; rarely; never;	Descending: 1 always; 2; 3; 4; 5 never;	Descending: always; often; frequently; sometimes; occasionally; rarely; never;	Descending: 1 always; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7 never;
		How often do you "run on automatic" without much awareness of what you are doing?	Ascending: never; rarely; sometimes; often; always	Ascending: 1 never; 2; 3; 4; 5; always	Ascending: never; rarely; occasionally; sometimes; frequently; often; always	Ascending: 1 never; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7 always
	Rush	How often do you rush through activities without being really attentive to them?				
	Absorbed	How often do you get so completely absorbed in what you are doing that all of your attention is focused on it?				
	Several	How often do you do several things at once rather than focusing on one thing at a time?				
	Wanders	How often does your mind wander off when you do things?				
	Distracted	How often do you feel easily distracted?				

Political Efficacy: Agreement scale	Complicated	Sometimes, politics and government seem so complicated that a person like me can't really understand what's going on.	Descending: totally agree; agree; neither agree nor disagree; disagree; totally disagree	Descending: 1 totally agree; 2; 3; 4; 5 totally disagree	Descending: totally agree; agree; slightly agree; neither agree nor disagree; slightly disagree; disagree; totally disagree	Descending: 1 totally agree; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7 totally disagree
	Understanding	I feel that I have a pretty good understanding of the important political issues facing our country.				
	Care	Public officials don't care much what people like me think.				
	Say	People like me don't have any say about what the government does.	Ascending: totally disagree; disagree; neither agree nor disagree; agree; totally agree	Ascending: 1 totally disagree; 2; 3; 4; 5; totally agree	Ascending: totally disagree; disagree; slightly disagree; neither agree nor disagree; slightly agree; agree; totally agree	Ascending: 1 totally disagree; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7 totally agree
	Vote	In this country's elections, votes are often counted fairly.				
	Journalists	Journalists often provide fair coverage of elections.				
	Officials	In this country's elections, election officials are often fair.				
	Choice	Voters are often offered a genuine choice at the ballot box.				
	Rich	Rich people often buy elections.				

Political Efficacy: Frequency scale	Complicated	How often do politics and government seem so complicated that a person like you can't really understand what is going on?	Descending: always; often; sometimes; rarely; never;	Descending: 1 always; 2; 3; 4; 5 never;	Descending: always; often; frequently; sometimes; occasionally; rarely; never;	Descending: 1 always; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7 never;
	Understanding	How often do you feel that you have a pretty good understanding of the important political issues facing this country?				
	Care	How often do you feel that public officials don't care much what people like you think?	Ascending: never; rarely; sometimes; often; always	Ascending: 1 never; 2; 3; 4; 5; always	Ascending: never; rarely; occasionally; sometimes; frequently; often; always	Ascending: 1 never; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7 always
	Say	How often do you feel that people like you don't have any say about what the government does?				
	Vote	In this country's elections, how often are votes counted fairly?				
	Journalists	In this country's elections, how often do journalists provide fair coverage of elections?				
	Officials	In this country's elections, how often are election officials fair?				

Choice	How often are voters offered a genuine choice at the ballot box?
Rich	How often do rich people buy elections?

Table A1. Means of Wave 1 answers by question and scale direction

Variable	Ascending	Descending
Mindfulness Questions		
Automatic	0.470	0.515
Rush	0.390	0.422
Absorbed	0.538	0.555
Several	0.526	0.548
Wanders	0.473	0.486
Distracted	0.430	0.450
Political Efficacy Questions		
Complicated	0.492	0.507
Understanding	0.511	0.524
Care	0.581	0.589
Say	0.627	0.633
Vote	0.787	0.802
Journalists	0.567	0.580
Officials	0.688	0.707
Choice	0.881	0.891
Rich	0.306	0.303

Table A2. Multilevel models explaining means in Wave 1 by scale direction and other scale features

	Main Effects Mode	Full Mode
Intercept	0.55***	0.55***
Scale Direction: Descending	0.02***	0.02***
Scale Type: Agreement scale		-0.00
Device used: PC		-0.00
Scale Direction x Scale Type		-0.01
Scale Length: 5-point		0.01
Scale Direction x Scale Length		-0.01*
Scale Labeling: Fully-labeled		0.00
Scale Direction x Scale Labeling		0.01
AIC	12471.86	12530.96

BIC	12506.72	12626.81
Log Likelihood	-6231.93	-6254.48
Num. obs.	45045	44970
Num. groups: individual	3007	2998
Var: individual (Intercept)	0.00	0.00
Var: Residual	0.08	0.08
*** p < 0.001; ** p < 0.01; * p < 0.05		

Table A3. Regression models testing interaction effects between scale direction and other scale features on reliability

	Interaction with Scale Type	Interaction with Scale Labeling	Interaction with Scale Length	Interaction with Wave 2 Scale Direction Change
Intercept	0.54***	0.57***	0.58***	0.56***
Scale Direction: Descending	0.01	-0.01	-0.02	-0.00
Scale Type: Agreement scale	0.05			
Scale Direction x Scale Type	-0.02			
Scale Length: 5-point			-0.03	
Scale Direction x Scale Length			0.05	
Scale Labeling: Fully-labeled		-0.01		
Scale Direction x Scale Labeling		0.03		
Wave 2 Scale Direction Change				0.00
Scale Direction x Wave 2 Change				0.02
R ²	0.05	0.02	0.03	0.01
Num. obs.	60	60	60	60
*** p < 0.001; ** p < 0.01; * p < 0.05				

Figure A4. Variance decomposition based on the MTME model for mindfulness questions by scale direction and question.

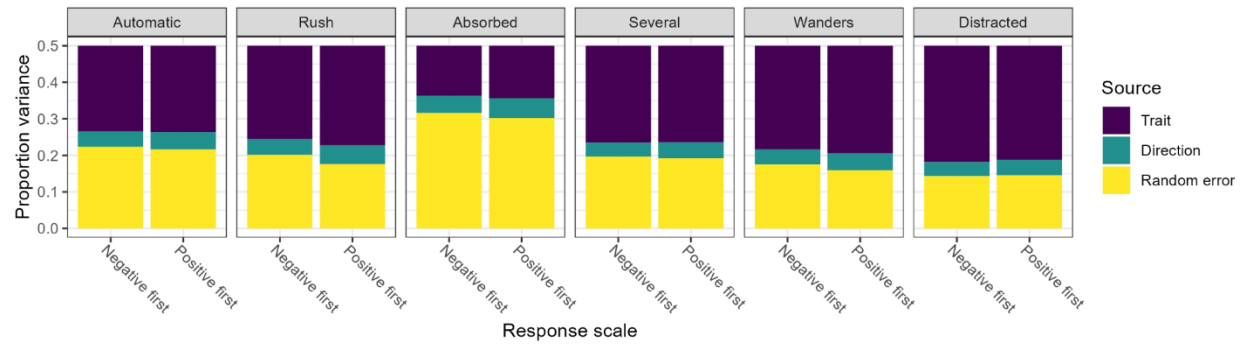


Figure A5. Variance decomposition based on the MTME model for political efficacy questions by scale direction and question.

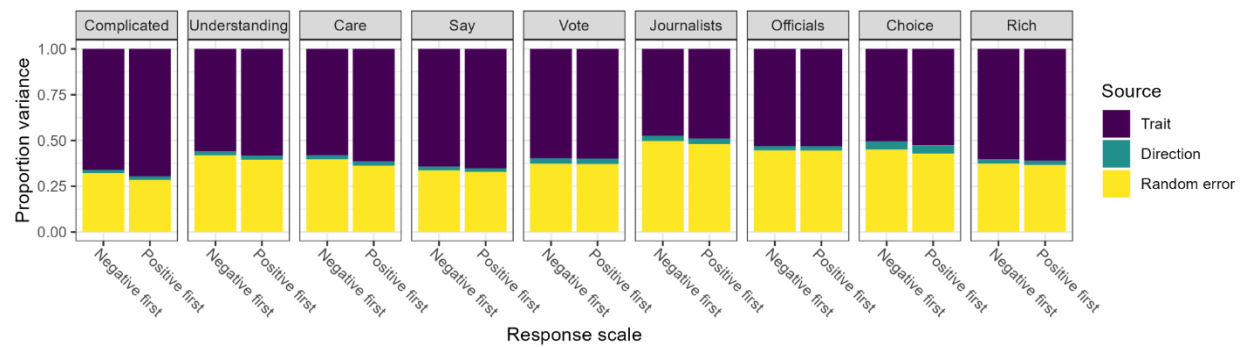


Table A6. Regression models testing interaction effects between scale direction and other scale features on acquiescence at Wave 1

	Interaction with Scale Length	Interaction with Scale Labeling
Intercept	10.16**	15.29**
Scale Direction: Descending	1.39	1.31
Scale Length: 5-point	3.27***	
Scale Direction x Scale Length	-0.60	
Scale Labeling: Fully-labeled		-6.72***
Scale Direction x Scale Labeling		-0.54
R ²	0.01	0.07
Num. obs.	1476	1476

***p < 0.001; **p < 0.01; *p < 0.05

Table A7. Regression models testing interaction effects between scale direction and other scale features on straightlining at Wave 1.

	Interaction with Scale Type	Interaction with Scale Labeling	Interaction with Scale Length
Intercept	0.05***	0.04***	0.05***
Scale Direction: Descending	0.00	0.01	-0.01
Scale Type: Agreement scale	-0.01		
Scale Direction x Scale Type	0.01		
Scale Length: 5-point		0.01	
Scale Direction x Scale Length		-0.01	
Scale Labeling: Fully-labeled			-0.02
Scale Direction x Scale Labeling			0.02
R ²	0.00	0.00	0.00
Num. obs.	3007	3007	3007
***p < 0.001; **p < 0.01; *p < 0.05			

Table A8. Regression models testing interaction effects between scale direction and other scale features on extreme responses at Wave 1

	Interaction with Scale Type	Interaction with Scale Length	Interaction with Scale Labeling
Intercept	17.03***	14.97***	21.41***
Scale Direction: Descending	0.50	1.05	0.88
Scale Type: Agreement scale	1.21		
Scale Direction x Scale Type	0.36		
Scale Length: 5-point		5.44***	
Scale Direction x Scale Length		-1.09	
Scale Labeling: Fully-labeled			-7.39***
Scale Direction x Scale Labeling			-0.49
R ²	0.00	0.02	0.05

Num. obs.	3007	3007	3007
***p < 0.001; **p < 0.01; *p < 0.05			

Table A9. Regression models testing interaction effects between scale direction and other scale features on midpoint responses at Wave 1

	Interaction with Scale Type	Interaction with Scale Length	Interaction with Scale Labeling
Intercept	28.49***	20.70***	26.75***
Scale Direction: Descending	0.27	0.17	-1.95*
Scale Type: Agreement scale	-5.14***		
Scale Direction x Scale Type	-0.46		
Scale Length: 5-point		10.96***	
Scale Direction x Scale Length		-1.42	
Scale Labeling: Fully-labeled			-1.42
Scale Direction x Scale Labeling			3.67**
R ²	0.02	0.09	0.00
Num. obs.	3000	3000	3000
***p < 0.001; **p < 0.01; *p < 0.05			