Appendix

Table 1: Political Knowledge Questions in Canada

Identifies...	% Correct
Federal Finance Minister (Joe Oliver)	17.5
Governor General (David Johnston)	20.8
Provincial Premier (Depends on R's province)	61.6
President of Russia (Vladimir Putin)	63.9

Table 2: Political Knowledge Questions in the US

Identifies...	% Correct
Secretary of the Treasury (Timothy Geithner)	44.8
Unemployment rate ($\pm$ 2%)	56.7
2nd party in House (Democratic party)	53.9
Secretary of the UN (Ban Ki-Moon)	23.1
Religion of the Democratic Presidential candidate (Protestant)	35.1
Religion of the Republican Presidential candidate (Mormon)	67.3

Table 3: Political Knowledge and Personality Traits in Canada and the US

	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3	
	Canada	USA	Canada	USA	Canada	USA
Extrversion	-0.15	-0.06	-0.17*	-0.01	-0.25*	-0.11*
	(0.08)	(0.06)	(0.08)	(0.05)	(0.08)	(0.05)
Agreeableness	-0.27*	0.03	-0.21*	-0.07	-0.15	0.02
	(0.10)	(0.07)	(0.10)	(0.07)	(0.10)	(0.07)
Conscientiousness	0.30*	0.23*	0.17	0.10	0.17	-0.08
	(0.10)	(0.07)	(0.10)	(0.07)	(0.10)	(0.07)
Emotion stability	0.29*	0.25*	0.20*	0.17*	0.09	0.07
	(0.09)	(0.07)	(0.09)	(0.06)	(0.09)	(0.06)
Openness to experience	0.38*	0.35*	0.14	0.16*	0.05	0.02
	(0.09)	(0.07)	(0.09)	(0.06)	(0.09)	(0.06)
Need for cognition			0.77*		0.48*	
			(0.07)		(0.07)	
Vocabulary				1.46*		0.99*
				(0.05)		(0.05)
Sex (women)	-0.29*	-0.31*	-0.28*	-0.30*	-0.23*	-0.25*
	(0.03)	(0.02)	(0.03)	(0.02)	(0.03)	(0.02)
Age	0.71*	0.80*	0.70*	0.63*	0.69*	0.51*
	(0.10)	(0.05)	(0.10)	(0.05)	(0.10)	(0.05)
Francophones	-0.04		-0.01		0.11*	
	(0.03)		(0.03)		(0.03)	
Black		-0.14*		0.08*		0.06
		(0.04)		(0.04)		(0.04)
Spanish at Home		-0.59*		-0.43*		-0.32*
		(0.04)		(0.04)		(0.04)
Education					0.70*	0.92*
					(0.08)	(0.08)
Interest					0.90*	0.59*
					(0.07)	(0.03)
Income					0.33*	0.35*
					(0.05)	(0.04)
Constant	-0.30*	-0.60*	-0.56*	-1.25*	-1.50*	-1.71*
	(0.09)	(0.07)	(0.09)	(0.07)	(0.10)	(0.07)
Observations	3760	5336	3718	5336	3321	4878
R^2	0.062	0.257	0.090	0.357	0.194	0.426

Standard errors in parentheses

* $p < 0.05$

All models are OLS regression estimates. All US models include a fixed affect accounting for the fact that some respondents completed the questionnaire online while others answered by Computer-Assisted Self Interviewing (CASI). In the Canadian data, the political knowledge scale initially ranges from 0 to 4, while it ranges from 0 to 6 in the US models. In both cases, the dependent variable was standardized to have a mean of 0 and a standard deviation of 1 to make comparison easier. All independent variables were recoded to range from 0 to 1.

Table 4: Openness to Experience and Political Knowledge in Canada and the US – Robustness checks

	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3	
	Canada	USA	Canada	USA	Canada	USA
Openness to experience	0.39*	0.47*	0.09	0.22*	-0.02	-0.01
	(0.08)	(0.06)	(0.08)	(0.06)	(0.08)	(0.06)
Need for cognition			0.80*		0.51*	
			(0.07)		(0.07)	
Vocabulary				1.49*		1.00*
				(0.05)		(0.05)
Sex (women)	-0.31*	-0.31*	-0.30*	-0.30*	-0.24*	-0.26*
	(0.03)	(0.02)	(0.03)	(0.02)	(0.03)	(0.02)
Age	0.72*	0.84*	0.67*	0.64*	0.64*	0.51*
	(0.09)	(0.05)	(0.09)	(0.05)	(0.09)	(0.05)
Francophones	-0.01		0.01		0.13*	
	(0.03)		(0.03)		(0.03)	
Black		-0.15*		0.08*		0.06
		(0.04)		(0.04)		(0.04)
Spanish at Home		-0.60*		-0.44*		-0.31*
		(0.04)		(0.04)		(0.04)
Education					0.74*	0.92*
					(0.08)	(0.08)
Interest					0.89*	0.59*
					(0.06)	(0.03)
Income					0.32*	0.34*
					(0.05)	(0.04)
Constant	-0.16*	-0.37*	-0.52*	-1.16*	-1.50*	-1.76*
	(0.06)	(0.05)	(0.07)	(0.05)	(0.08)	(0.06)
Observations	4069	5355	4015	5355	3577	4891
R^2	0.051	0.250	0.084	0.355	0.189	0.426

Standard errors in parentheses

* $p < 0.05$

All models are OLS regression estimates. All US models include a fixed affect accounting for the fact that some respondents completed the questionnaire online while others answered by Computer-Assisted Self Interviewing (CASI). In the Canadian data, the political knowledge scale initially ranges from 0 to 4, while it ranges from 0 to 6 in the US models. In both cases, the dependent variable was standardized to have a mean of 0 and a standard deviation of 1 to make comparison easier. All independent variables were recoded to range from 0 to 1.

Table 5: Political Interest and Personality Traits in Canada and the US

	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3	
	Canada	USA	Canada	USA	Canada	USA
Extroversion	0.30*	0.25*	0.27*	0.26*	0.25*	0.23*
	(0.07)	(0.07)	(0.07)	(0.07)	(0.07)	(0.06)
Agreeableness	-0.03	0.02	0.02	-0.01	0.11	-0.02
	(0.10)	(0.08)	(0.10)	(0.08)	(0.10)	(0.08)
Conscientiousness	-0.06	-0.00	-0.19*	-0.04	-0.25*	-0.07
	(0.09)	(0.08)	(0.09)	(0.08)	(0.09)	(0.08)
Emotion stability	0.20*	0.28*	0.10	0.26*	0.02	0.19*
	(0.08)	(0.07)	(0.08)	(0.07)	(0.08)	(0.07)
Openness to experience	0.58*	0.60*	0.37*	0.54*	0.40*	0.49*
	(0.09)	(0.08)	(0.09)	(0.08)	(0.09)	(0.08)
Need for cognition			0.66*		0.41*	
			(0.07)		(0.07)	
Vocabulary				0.44*		-0.09
				(0.06)		(0.07)
Sex (women)	-0.16*	-0.10*	-0.16*	-0.10*	-0.08*	0.01
	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.03)
Age	0.83*	1.01*	0.82*	0.96*	0.71*	0.78*
	(0.09)	(0.06)	(0.09)	(0.06)	(0.09)	(0.06)
Francophones	-0.52*		-0.50*		-0.48*	
	(0.03)		(0.03)		(0.03)	
Black		0.17*		0.23*		0.22*
		(0.05)		(0.05)		(0.05)
Spanish at Home		-0.18*		-0.13*		0.09
		(0.05)		(0.05)		(0.05)
Education					0.34*	0.29*
					(0.08)	(0.10)
Political Knowledge					0.70*	1.12*
					(0.05)	(0.06)
Income					0.11*	0.02
					(0.05)	(0.05)
Constant	-0.46*	-1.11*	-0.66*	-1.31*	-1.02*	-1.55*
	(0.08)	(0.08)	(0.09)	(0.08)	(0.09)	(0.09)
Observations	3598	5334	3558	5334	3321	4878
R^2	0.126	0.094	0.149	0.103	0.214	0.173

Standard errors in parentheses

* $p < 0.05$

All models are OLS regression estimates. All US models include a fixed affect accounting for the fact that some respondents completed the questionnaire online while others answered by Computer-Assisted Self Interviewing (CASI). In the Canadian data, the political interest scale initially ranges from 0 to 10, while it ranges from 0 to 2 in the US models. In both cases, the dependent variable was standardized to have a mean of 0 and a standard deviation of 1 to make comparison easier. All independent variables were recoded to range from 0 to 1.

Table 6: Openness to Experience and Political Interest in Canada and the US – Robustness checks

	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3	
	Canada	USA	Canada	USA	Canada	USA
Openness to experience	1.86*	0.54*	1.22*	0.49*	1.28*	0.42*
	(0.21)	(0.05)	(0.22)	(0.05)	(0.22)	(0.05)
Need for cognition			1.71*		0.98*	
			(0.18)		(0.18)	
Vocabulary				0.32*		-0.08
				(0.04)		(0.05)
Sex (women)	-0.48*	-0.07*	-0.45*	-0.07*	-0.23*	0.01
	(0.08)	(0.02)	(0.08)	(0.02)	(0.08)	(0.02)
Age	2.41*	0.75*	2.28*	0.70*	1.94*	0.57*
	(0.23)	(0.04)	(0.23)	(0.04)	(0.24)	(0.04)
Education					0.89*	0.22*
					(0.21)	(0.07)
Francophones	-1.42*		-1.37*		-1.33*	
	(0.08)		(0.08)		(0.08)	
Black		0.13*		0.18*		0.17*
		(0.03)		(0.03)		(0.03)
Spanish at Home		-0.13*		-0.09*		0.07
		(0.03)		(0.03)		(0.03)
Political Knowledge					1.89*	0.80*
					(0.13)	(0.04)
Income					0.25	0.03
					(0.13)	(0.03)
Constant	5.68*	0.64*	4.92*	0.47*	3.90*	0.26*
	(0.16)	(0.04)	(0.18)	(0.05)	(0.21)	(0.06)
Observations	3896	5352	3845	5352	3577	4891
R^2	0.119	0.089	0.142	0.098	0.206	0.169

Standard errors in parentheses

* $p < 0.05$

All models are OLS regression estimates. All US models include a fixed affect accounting for the fact that some respondents completed the questionnaire online while others answered by Computer-Assisted Self Interviewing (CASI). In the Canadian data, the political interest scale initially ranges from 0 to 10, while it ranges from 0 to 2 in the US models. In both cases, the dependent variable was standardized to have a mean of 0 and a standard deviation of 1 to make comparison easier. All independent variables were recoded to range from 0 to 1.

Table 7: Intellectualism and Verbal skills' impact on Political Knowledge and Interest – ANES Recontact Study

	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3	
	Knowledge	Interest	Knowledge	Interest	Knowledge	Interest
Extroversion	-0.23*	0.10	-0.25*	0.08	-0.09	0.12
	(0.10)	(0.11)	(0.10)	(0.11)	(0.09)	(0.11)
Agreeableness	-0.11	0.06	-0.04	0.11	-0.10	0.10
	(0.13)	(0.15)	(0.13)	(0.15)	(0.13)	(0.15)
Conscientiousness	0.26	-0.01	0.24	-0.02	0.17	-0.04
	(0.14)	(0.15)	(0.13)	(0.15)	(0.13)	(0.15)
Emotion stability	0.33*	0.36*	0.26*	0.30*	0.17	0.28*
	(0.12)	(0.14)	(0.12)	(0.14)	(0.11)	(0.14)
Openness to experience	0.30*	0.58*	0.13	0.44*	-0.03	0.41*
	(0.12)	(0.14)	(0.12)	(0.14)	(0.12)	(0.14)
Need for cognition			0.56*	0.43*	0.32*	0.38*
			(0.10)	(0.12)	(0.10)	(0.12)
Vocabulary					1.37*	0.32*
					(0.10)	(0.12)
Sex (women)	-0.31*	-0.10	-0.26*	-0.06	-0.28*	-0.07
	(0.04)	(0.05)	(0.04)	(0.05)	(0.04)	(0.05)
Age	0.85*	0.99*	0.88*	1.01*	0.71*	0.97*
	(0.10)	(0.11)	(0.10)	(0.11)	(0.09)	(0.11)
Black	-0.15*	0.20*	-0.14*	0.21*	0.11	0.27*
	(0.06)	(0.07)	(0.06)	(0.07)	(0.06)	(0.07)
Spanish at Home	-0.41*	-0.02	-0.39*	0.00	-0.16	0.05
	(0.12)	(0.13)	(0.12)	(0.13)	(0.11)	(0.14)
Constant	-0.24	-1.08*	-0.49*	-1.28*	-1.15*	-1.43*
	(0.13)	(0.15)	(0.14)	(0.16)	(0.14)	(0.17)
Observations	1534	1532	1534	1532	1534	1532
R^2	0.119	0.088	0.135	0.096	0.231	0.100

Standard errors in parentheses

* $p < 0.05$

The table reports OLS regressions' estimates. The political knowledge variable ranges from 0 to 6, while the political interest variable ranges from 0 to 2. Both dependent variables were standardized to have a mean of 0 and a standard deviation of 1. The models use the ANES 2013 Recontact Study data.

Table 8: Intellectualism and Verbal skills' impact on Political Knowledge and Interest – ANES Recontact Study

	Model 4		Model 5	
	Knowledge	Interest	Knowledge	Interest
Extroversion	-0.12	0.12	-0.14	0.13
	(0.09)	(0.11)	(0.09)	(0.11)
Agreeableness	-0.03	0.14	-0.07	0.14
	(0.12)	(0.15)	(0.12)	(0.15)
Conscientiousness	0.03	-0.11	0.07	-0.11
	(0.12)	(0.15)	(0.12)	(0.15)
Emotion stability	0.06	0.27*	0.09	0.26
	(0.11)	(0.13)	(0.11)	(0.13)
Openness to experience	-0.10	0.45*	-0.05	0.42*
	(0.12)	(0.14)	(0.12)	(0.14)
Need for cognition	0.13	0.26*	0.21*	0.30*
	(0.10)	(0.12)	(0.10)	(0.12)
Vocabulary	0.96*	-0.15	1.13*	-0.10
	(0.10)	(0.13)	(0.10)	(0.13)
Sex (women)	-0.26*	0.03	-0.26*	0.02
	(0.04)	(0.05)	(0.04)	(0.05)
Age	0.63*	0.76*	0.56*	0.75*
	(0.09)	(0.11)	(0.09)	(0.11)
Black	0.08	0.21*	0.10	0.24*
	(0.06)	(0.07)	(0.06)	(0.07)
Spanish at Home	-0.18	0.05	-0.15	0.09
	(0.11)	(0.13)	(0.11)	(0.13)
Income	0.27*	-0.03	0.40*	0.03
	(0.07)	(0.09)	(0.07)	(0.09)
Education	0.90*	0.32		
	(0.15)	(0.18)		
Political Knowledge		0.98*		1.00*
		(0.11)		(0.11)
Interest	0.52*		0.54*	
	(0.06)		(0.06)	
Constant	-1.57*	-1.69*	-1.24*	-1.55*
	(0.15)	(0.18)	(0.14)	(0.17)
Observations	1481	1481	1499	1499
R^2	0.307	0.154	0.289	0.150

Standard errors in parentheses

* $p < 0.05$

The table reports OLS regressions' estimates. The political knowledge variable ranges from 0 to 6, while the political interest variable ranges from 0 to 2. Both dependent variables were standardized to have a mean of 0 and a standard deviation of 1. The models use the ANES 2013 Recontact Study data.

Table 9: Intellectualism and Verbal skills' impact on Political Knowledge and Interest in ANES Recontact Study – Robustness checks

	Model 1		Model 2		Model 3	
	Knowledge	Interest	Knowledge	Interest	Knowledge	Interest
Openness to experience	0.34*	0.69*	0.13	0.53*	-0.02	0.49*
	(0.11)	(0.13)	(0.12)	(0.13)	(0.11)	(0.13)
Need for cognition			0.60*	0.47*	0.34*	0.42*
			(0.10)	(0.12)	(0.10)	(0.12)
Vocabulary					1.42*	0.32*
					(0.10)	(0.12)
Sex (women)	-0.33*	-0.09	-0.28*	-0.05	-0.30*	-0.05
	(0.04)	(0.05)	(0.04)	(0.05)	(0.04)	(0.05)
Age	0.90*	1.03*	0.92*	1.04*	0.72*	1.00*
	(0.10)	(0.11)	(0.10)	(0.11)	(0.09)	(0.11)
Black	-0.15*	0.23*	-0.14*	0.24*	0.12*	0.30*
	(0.06)	(0.07)	(0.06)	(0.07)	(0.06)	(0.07)
Spanish at Home	-0.46*	-0.02	-0.43*	0.00	-0.18	0.06
	(0.12)	(0.13)	(0.12)	(0.13)	(0.11)	(0.13)
Constant	-0.03	-0.84*	-0.33*	-1.08*	-1.06*	-1.25*
	(0.09)	(0.10)	(0.10)	(0.12)	(0.11)	(0.13)
Observations	1541	1539	1541	1539	1541	1539
R^2	0.110	0.082	0.128	0.091	0.234	0.096

Standard errors in parentheses

* $p < 0.05$

The table reports OLS regressions' estimates. The political knowledge variable ranges from 0 to 6, while the political interest variable ranges from 0 to 2. Both dependent variables were standardized to have a mean of 0 and a standard deviation of 1. The models use the ANES 2013 Recontact Study data.

Table 10: Intellectualism and Verbal skills' impact on Political Knowledge and Interest in ANES Recontact Study – Robustness checks

	Model 4		Model 5	
	Knowledge	Interest	Knowledge	Interest
Openness to experience	-0.12	0.52*	-0.07	0.50*
	(0.11)	(0.13)	(0.11)	(0.13)
Need for cognition	0.12	0.28*	0.21*	0.32*
	(0.10)	(0.12)	(0.10)	(0.12)
Vocabulary	0.99*	-0.16	1.16*	-0.11
	(0.10)	(0.13)	(0.10)	(0.13)
Sex (women)	-0.27*	0.04	-0.27*	0.03
	(0.04)	(0.05)	(0.04)	(0.05)
Age	0.63*	0.78*	0.57*	0.78*
	(0.09)	(0.11)	(0.09)	(0.11)
Black	0.09	0.24*	0.10	0.26*
	(0.06)	(0.07)	(0.06)	(0.07)
Spanish at Home	-0.19	0.07	-0.17	0.10
	(0.11)	(0.13)	(0.11)	(0.13)
Income	0.26*	-0.01	0.40*	0.04
	(0.07)	(0.09)	(0.07)	(0.08)
Education	0.91*	0.31		
	(0.15)	(0.18)		
Political Knowledge		0.98*		1.00*
		(0.11)		(0.11)
Interest	0.52*		0.54*	
	(0.06)		(0.06)	
Constant	-1.60*	-1.51*	-1.25*	-1.38*
	(0.12)	(0.15)	(0.11)	(0.13)
Observations	1485	1485	1503	1503
R^2	0.308	0.148	0.290	0.145

Standard errors in parentheses

* $p < 0.05$

The table reports OLS regressions' estimates. The political knowledge variable ranges from 0 to 6, while the political interest variable ranges from 0 to 2. Both dependent variables were standardized to have a mean of 0 and a standard deviation of 1. The models use the ANES 2013 Recontact Study data.

Table 11: Political Knowledge and Exposure to Discussion and Disagreement in Canada

	Discussion		Disagreement	
	Model 1	Model 2	Model 1	Model 2
Extroversion	-0.24*	-0.24*	-0.25*	-0.24*
	(0.08)	(0.08)	(0.08)	(0.08)
Agreeableness	-0.18	-0.19	-0.11	-0.10
	(0.10)	(0.10)	(0.11)	(0.11)
Conscientiousness	0.17	0.15	0.17	0.16
	(0.10)	(0.10)	(0.10)	(0.10)
Emotion stability	0.11	0.13	0.07	0.08
	(0.09)	(0.09)	(0.09)	(0.09)
Openness to experience	-0.17	0.03	-0.11	0.01
	(0.13)	(0.09)	(0.11)	(0.10)
Need for cognition	0.47*	0.08	0.47*	0.31*
	(0.08)	(0.10)	(0.08)	(0.09)
Sex (women)	-0.23*	-0.23*	-0.21*	-0.21*
	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.03)
Age	0.65*	0.61*	0.69*	0.66*
	(0.10)	(0.10)	(0.10)	(0.10)
Francophones	0.10*	0.11*	0.10*	0.11*
	(0.04)	(0.04)	(0.04)	(0.04)
Education	0.68*	0.67*	0.69*	0.69*
	(0.08)	(0.08)	(0.09)	(0.09)
Interest	0.87*	0.89*	0.84*	0.84*
	(0.07)	(0.07)	(0.07)	(0.07)
Income	0.33*	0.33*	0.32*	0.32*
	(0.05)	(0.05)	(0.05)	(0.05)
Discussion	-0.34	-0.78*		
	(0.19)	(0.17)		
Discussion X Openness	0.73*			
	(0.30)			
Discussion X NFC		1.30*		
		(0.24)		
Disagreement			-0.24	-0.39*
			(0.17)	(0.15)
Disagreement X Openness			0.58*	
			(0.25)	
Disagreement X NFC				0.72*
				(0.20)
Constant	-1.32*	-1.18*	-1.38*	-1.34*
	(0.12)	(0.12)	(0.12)	(0.11)
Observations	3165	3165	3061	3061
R^2	0.193	0.200	0.183	0.185

Standard errors in parentheses

* $p < 0.05$

The Table report OLS regressions' estimates. The dependent variable was standardized to have a mean of 0 and a standard deviation of 1. All independent variables were recoded to range from 0 to 1.

Table 12: Political Knowledge and Exposure to Discussion in the US

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3
Extroversion	-0.16*	-0.16*	-0.23*
	(0.06)	(0.06)	(0.10)
Agreeableness	0.05	0.05	0.04
	(0.08)	(0.08)	(0.14)
Conscientiousness	-0.15*	-0.16*	-0.07
	(0.08)	(0.08)	(0.14)
Emotion stability	0.07	0.07	0.13
	(0.07)	(0.07)	(0.12)
Openness to experience	-0.07	-0.04	-0.08
	(0.10)	(0.07)	(0.13)
Vocabulary	0.97*	1.00*	
	(0.06)	(0.09)	
Need for cognition			0.25
			(0.16)
Sex (women)	-0.25*	-0.25*	-0.21*
	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.05)
Age	0.47*	0.46*	0.68*
	(0.06)	(0.06)	(0.11)
Education	0.90*	0.90*	1.11*
	(0.09)	(0.09)	(0.16)
Interest	0.50*	0.50*	0.41*
	(0.04)	(0.04)	(0.08)
Income	0.34*	0.34*	0.40*
	(0.05)	(0.05)	(0.08)
Black	0.08	0.08	-0.07
	(0.04)	(0.04)	(0.06)
Spanish at Home	-0.40*	-0.40*	-0.36*
	(0.05)	(0.05)	(0.14)
Discussion	0.23	0.35*	0.47
	(0.16)	(0.14)	(0.26)
Discussion X Openness	0.09		
	(0.22)		
Discussion X Verbal skills		-0.08	
		(0.18)	
Discussion X NFC			-0.29
			(0.35)
Constant	-1.51*	-1.55*	-1.09*
	(0.11)	(0.11)	(0.19)
Observations	3500	3500	1081
R^2	0.423	0.423	0.238

Standard errors in parentheses

* $p < 0.05$

The Table report OLS regressions' estimates. Models 1 and 2 use the ANES 2012 data, while Model 3 uses the ANES recontact study data. The dependent variable was standardized to have a mean of 0 and a standard deviation of 1. All independent variables were recoded to range from 0 to 1.