Pyramid Belief Materials (presented in Qualtrics except for the live demonstration):

**Consent**
Welcome to the research!

This is a research project designed to help us evaluate how personality might contribute to your understanding of information. We are going to ask you about some things you might have heard about pyramids, and some questions about your personality. We’ll also present some pyramid research.

There are several parts to this project:
- Report things you might have heard about pyramids
- Learn about some pyramid research
- Describe your personality

The whole thing should take about an hour. There are a lot of questions to answer. Some of them will require a little thinking. Please take your time and try to answer them all carefully.

Here are your rights as a participant:

Project title: **Personality and pyramid research (MTSU IRB number xx-xxxx, PI William Langston, approval date xx/xx/xxxx, expiration date xx/xx/xxxx)**
- Your participation in this research is voluntary.
- You may skip any item that you don't want to answer, and you may stop the research at any time. Note that if you leave an item blank, you will be warned that you missed one, just in case it was an accident. You can still click that you don't want to answer.
- There are no risks associated with your participation besides possible discomfort with some of the questions.
- There are no real benefits to you from participating besides possibly learning something about the research.
- You will NOT be asked to provide any identifiable personal information.
- All efforts, within reason, will be made to keep the personal information in your research record private but total privacy cannot be promised. Your information may be shared with people at MTSU (such as the Middle Tennessee State University Institutional Review Board) or other agencies (such as the Federal Government Office for Human Research Protection) if you or someone else is in danger or if we are required to do so by law.

If you have questions about this research, you may contact William Langston (615/898-5489, william.langston@mtsu.edu) or the Middle Tennessee State University Office of Compliance (615/494-8918, compliance@mtsu.edu). This contact information will be presented again at the end of the research.
If you do not click on the arrow on the final screen (to go past the screen thanking you for participating), you will not be granted credit in Sona for your participation. Even if you’re stopping early by skipping to the end, you need to click the final arrow to receive credit. You will know that you are successful because you will automatically return to Sona.

If you’re ready to get started, please enter your age and make your choice below before clicking the arrow button (that button will be used to navigate through the entire survey).

Thanks again for volunteering your time to this project!

Note: Under 18 or decline will go to the end of the survey.

Measuring Experience

Pink is the name of a new measure

Blue indicates the actual wording of the items in Qualtrics

Personal Paranormal Experience: (PE)

Note:

At the end of the survey, respondents were asked if they had ever experienced anything that fell outside the realm of normal experience. Several examples were given to provide a context for this question when the interviewer said: “For example, some people say they’ve encountered ghosts or flying saucers, while others may claim that they’ve caught a glimpse of the future before it occurred. These events might be called paranormal. Has anything like this ever happened to you?” Responses of “yes” were coded with “1” and responses of “no” were coded as “0” (Sparks & Miller, 2001, p. 104). [Sparks, G. G., & Miller, W. (2001). Investigating the relationship between exposure to television programs that depict paranormal phenomena and beliefs in the paranormal. Communication Monographs, 68, 98-113. http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03637750128053]

Have you ever experienced anything that fell outside the realm of normal experience? For example, some people say they’ve encountered flying saucers, while others may claim
that they’ve caught a glimpse of the future before it occurred. These events might be called paranormal. Has anything like this ever happened to you? (definitely not; probably not; might or might not; probably yes; definitely yes)

Note:

Note:
Item 13 from Markovsky and Thye (2001, p. 44) was modified and inserted in this list (seventh) to see if they had experienced pyramid power previously. [Markovsky, B., & Thye, S. R. (2001). Social influence on paranormal beliefs. *Sociological Perspectives, 44*, 21-44. http://dx.doi.org/10.1525/sop.2001.44.1.21]

For anything besides “definitely not”

Please check all of the different types of paranormal events that you might have experienced:
psychokinesis (moving things with your mind)
witchcraft
out of body experience/astral projection
alien(s) encounter (UFO)
demon(s) encounter
psychic experience
seen pyramids physically affect objects kept within them
extra-sensory perception (ESP)
precognition (seeing the future)
black magic
palm reading
astrology/horoscopes
ghost encounter
something else (please describe briefly)

Belief

Pyramid Belief Scale (PBPre)

Note:
Order determined by random.org sequence generator.

Please rate the following items: (matrix with the same 5 scale points for all statements below: this is definitely false; this is probably false; I am unsure whether this is true or false; this is probably true; this is definitely true)

A pyramid will dehydrate and mummify things, without decay or mold growing
Standing under a pyramid for a minute helps athletes to perform better
Fruit stored in a pyramid takes longer to spoil
Meditating under a pyramid helps mental focus
Pyramids keep razor blades sharp
People sleeping in a pyramid experience dreams with vivid colors and graphic visions
Storing food in a pyramid is a good way to preserve it longer
Theta and alpha brain waves are increased when meditating under a pyramid
People heal faster under a pyramid
Meat stored in a pyramid takes longer to rot
Pets of all kinds thrive under, or within, open frame pyramids
The pyramid shape aided in the preservation of Egyptian mummies

Note: Key (R) in research, (NR) not in research presented
(R) A pyramid will dehydrate and mummify things, without decay or mold growing.
(NR) Standing under a pyramid for a minute helps athletes to perform better.
(R) Fruit stored in a pyramid takes longer to spoil.
(NR) Meditating under a pyramid helps mental focus.
(R) Pyramids keep razor blades sharp.
(NR) People sleeping in a pyramid experience dreams with vivid colors and graphic visions.
(R) Storing food in a pyramid is a good way to preserve it longer.
(NR) Theta and alpha brain waves are increased when meditating under a pyramid.
(NR) People heal faster under a pyramid
(R) Meat stored in a pyramid takes longer to rot.
(NR) Pets of all kinds thrive under, or within, open frame pyramids.
(R) The pyramid shape aided in the preservation of Egyptian mummies.

Pyramid Research (PyrRes)
Please read the following research (you will be asked questions about it as you go along, so please read carefully):

Pyramids are believed to have the power to preserve items kept within them (sometimes called pyramid power). Please read this information about the origins of this belief and the scientific explanation for why it might work.

The modern historical background of pyramid power research began in the 1930s. Antoine Bovis took a trip to Egypt and visited the "great pyramid" of Cheops at Giza. While inside the King’s Chamber, Bovis noticed a garbage can filled with dead small animals which the guide told him wander into the structure from time to time, become lost, and die. It seemed unusual to Bovis that these dead animals appeared to be completely mummified with no trace of decay. He speculated that the pyramid shape might be responsible for this preservation and might also explain why mummies in pyramids were so well preserved.

Following World War II, a Czechoslovakian radio engineer, Karel Drbal, read some of Bovis’ material. Drbal worked in the Radio Institute of Research in Prague. Drbal began to experiment with small pyramid models because he suspected some phenomenon connected with microwaves. Drbal discovered that he could shave
with the same razor blade 100 to 200 times if he placed it inside a pyramid each day (vs. only 10-20 times for razors kept in a rectangular container).

(End of page 1 of 3 pages of research.)

<Screen>

Questions:
1. Small animals that died in the pyramid:
   *a. Were surprisingly well preserved/mummified
   b. Appeared to decay, but more slowly that they would outside of the pyramid
   c. Rotted away rather quickly
   d. Were just skeletons by the time Bovis saw them

2. The energy suspected by Drbal to be concentrated by a pyramid was:
   a. Gaseous zones
   b. Plasmas
   *c. Microwaves
   d. Visible light rays

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The shape of the pyramid accelerates or concentrates some physical force that results in change. What is this energy? A minute amount of energy is present all around us in the form of "sferics" or the discharges that take place between the Earth and its charged ionosphere. The minute energy of sferics could be easily concentrated or focused. How does a pyramid shape affect this?

1. The pyramidal shape is a resonator to the frequencies present in sferics.

2. It isn’t necessary that a pyramid be made of metal to be an effective resonator of electromagnetic energy; it is only necessary that its surface have a dielectric constant that’s different from the surrounding air because high-frequency radio waves (including microwaves) can be bent or reflected by anything.

3. A pyramidal shape can therefore serve as enough of a resonator of electromagnetic energy present in sferics to break atomic bonds.

(End of page 2 of 3 pages of research.)

<Screen>

Question:
3. The energy discharges from interactions between the Earth and the ionosphere are called:
   a. Lasers
In the case of razors, the bond between the razor blade steel alloy and water molecules (that reduce sharpness) can be broken by the concentrated energy, thereby restoring the original crystalline structure of the edge.

A similar process affecting atomic bonds restores and preserves food and organic (formerly living) material stored under a pyramid. Initially, the pyramid shape’s energy concentrating properties will preserve food or other material. After a longer period of time, the pyramid shape will dry and preserve the material. This is true for all foods, including meats, fruits, and vegetables.

Very little reliable research has been conducted on living organisms, animal or human, working, sleeping, or resting under pyramids. Whereas it is possible that the same energy concentrating properties that affect foods and inanimate objects might have some impact on living things, the case for that is not very strong at this time.

(End of page 3 of 3 pages of research.)

Questions:
4. The pyramid energy affects razors and foods by:
   a. Cooking them at high temperatures
   b. Annealing them as in the manufacture of steel
   c. Freezing them
   *d. Affecting atomic bonds in the material

5. Which is most true about research on living things in pyramids:
   a. There is extensive research on the effect of pyramids on living things
   *b. There is very little research on pyramids and living things
   c. Pyramids have the same effect on living things as anything else
   d. The case for pyramid effects on living things is very strong

Please rate the following items:

The research on pyramids was: (extremely unclear, unclear, neither unclear nor clear, clear, extremely clear)
The research on pyramids was: (extremely unpersuasive, unpersuasive, neither unpersuasive nor persuasive, persuasive, extremely persuasive)

How likely are you to look up more research on pyramids? (extremely unlikely, unlikely, neither unlikely nor likely, likely, extremely likely)

[This is only in the live version so they can do the demonstration.]

Please STOP here and wait for everyone else to finish so we can start the pyramid demonstration. Please face the researcher so they know you're ready.

Note:
A timer waits 60 seconds to show the advance button to be sure they see the stop signal. This always happens before personality.

Note:
For the demonstration, participants see a banana under an acrylic pyramid (24.5 cm per side and 24.5 cm tall at its peak) and a banana under an acrylic box (25.5 cm per side and 25.5 cm tall). The banana under the box is slightly less fresh than the banana under the pyramid. Participants inspect the bananas, rate them, and then return to the computers to finish the surveys.

We have tested the pyramid power hypothesis by storing two bananas under a pyramid or a box for the last five days. We’ve brought the boxes and bananas here for you to review their freshness. Please take a moment to inspect the bananas and then rate them on the sheet that has been provided to you. Once everyone has finished inspecting and rating the bananas, you will return to your computer to complete the surveys. Does anyone have any questions?

Note:

Note:
This part is on paper.

After inspecting the two bananas, please rate the following items for each by putting an ‘X’ in the appropriate box:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pyramid banana:</th>
<th>-7</th>
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</table>

**Personality**

Pink is the name of a new scale

Blue indicates the actual wording of the items in Qualtrics

Schizotypy (SPQBCPF, SPQBIF, SPQBDF, SPQBTot)

http://dx.doi.org/10.1521/pedi.1995.9.4.346

Please answer yes or no to the following items: (matrix with the same 2 scale points for all statements below: yes; no)

People sometimes find me aloof and distant
Have you ever had the sense that some person or force is around you, even though you cannot see anyone?
People sometimes comment on my unusual mannerisms and habits
Are you sometimes sure that other people can tell what you are thinking?
Have you ever noticed a common event or object that seemed to be a special sign for you?
Some people think that I am a very bizarre person
I feel I have to be on my guard even with friends
Some people find me a bit vague and elusive during a conversation
Do you often pick up hidden threats or put-downs from what people say or do?
When shopping, do you get the feeling that other people are taking notice of you?
I feel very uncomfortable in social situations involving unfamiliar people
Have you had experiences with astrology, seeing the future, UFOs, ESP, or a sixth sense?
I sometimes use words in unusual ways
Have you found that it is best not to let other people know too much about you?
I tend to keep in the background on social occasions
Do you ever suddenly feel distracted by distant sounds that you are not normally aware of?
Do you often have to keep an eye out to stop people from taking advantage of you?
Do you feel that you are unable to get “close” to people?
I am an odd, unusual person
I find it hard to communicate clearly what I want to say to people
I feel very uneasy talking to people I do not know well
I tend to keep my feelings to myself

Note:
 CPF: 2, 4, 5, 9, 10, 12, 16, 17
 IF: 1, 7, 11, 14, 15, 18, 21, 22
 DF: 3, 6, 8, 13, 19, 20

**SSS**

Please rate the following items: (matrix with the same 5 scale points for all statements below: strongly disagree; disagree; neither agree nor disagree; agree; strongly agree)

I would like to explore strange places
I like to do frightening things
I like new and exciting experiences, even if I have to break the rules
I prefer friends who are exciting and unpredictable

**PBC**

Please rate the following items: (matrix with the same 5 scale points for all statements below: strongly disagree; disagree; neither agree nor disagree; agree; strongly agree)

I am sensitive to internal bodily tensions
I know immediately when my mouth or throat gets dry
I can often feel my heart beating
I am quick to sense the hunger contractions of my stomach
I'm very aware of changes in my body temperature

**Revised Transliminality Scale (RTS)**

Please answer true or false to the following items: (matrix with the same 2 scale points for all statements below: true; false)

At times I perform certain little rituals to ward off negative influences
I have experienced an altered state of consciousness in which I felt that I became cosmically enlightened. At the present time, I am very good at make-believe and imagining. I have felt that I had received special wisdom, to be communicated to the rest of humanity. I have sometimes sensed an evil presence around me, although I could not see it. My thoughts have sometimes come so quickly that I couldn’t write them all down fast enough. It is sometimes possible for me to be completely immersed in nature or in art and to feel as if my whole state of consciousness has somehow temporarily been altered. Often, I have a day when indoor lights seem so bright that they bother my eyes. I have experienced an altered state of consciousness which I believe utterly transformed (in a positive manner) the way I looked at myself. I think that I really know what some people mean when they talk about mystical experiences. I have gone through times when smells seemed stronger and more overwhelming than usual. I can clearly feel again in my imagination such things as: the feeling of a gentle breeze, warm sand under bare feet, the softness of fur, cool grass, the warmth of the sun and the smell of freshly cut grass. A person should try to understand their dreams and be guided by or take warnings from them. At times I somehow feel the presence of someone who is not physically there. For several days at a time I have had such a heightened awareness of sights and sounds that I cannot shut them out. I sometimes have a feeling of gaining or losing energy when certain people look at me or touch me. When listening to organ music or other powerful music, I sometimes feel as if I am being lifted up into the air.

Big 5 (E, A, C, N, I)


Mini IPIP

Note:

From https://www.msu.edu/~lucasri/ipip.html

Instructions: On the following pages, there are phrases describing people's behaviors. Please use the rating scale below to describe how accurately each statement describes you. Describe yourself as you generally are now, not as you wish to be in the future. Describe yourself as you honestly see yourself, in relation to other people you know of the same sex as you are, and roughly your same age. So that you can describe yourself in an honest manner, your responses will be kept in absolute confidence.
Please read each statement carefully, and then fill in the bubble that corresponds to the number on the scale.

1. Am the life of the party (E)
2. Sympathize with others' feelings (A)
3. Get chores done right away (C)
4. Have frequent mood swings (N)
5. Have a vivid imagination (I)
6. Don't talk a lot (E)
7. Am not interested in other people's problems (A)
8. Often forget to put things back in their proper place (C)
9. Am relaxed most of the time (N)
10. Am not interested in abstract ideas (I)
11. Talk to a lot of different people at parties (E)
12. Feel others' emotions (A)
13. Like order (C)
14. Get upset easily (N)
15. Have difficulty understanding abstract ideas (I)
16. Keep in the background (E)
17. Am not really interested in others (A)
18. Make a mess of things (C)
19. Seldom feel blue (N)
20. Do not have a good imagination (I)

Note: Items 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20 are reverse scored.

These are phrases describing people's behaviors. Please use the rating scale below to describe how accurately each statement describes you. Describe yourself as you generally are now, not as you wish to be in the future. Describe yourself as you honestly see yourself, in relation to other people you know of the same sex as you are, and roughly your same age. (matrix with the same 5 scale points for all statements below: very inaccurate; moderately inaccurate; neither inaccurate nor accurate; moderately accurate; very accurate)

Am the life of the party
Sympathize with others' feelings
Get chores done right away
Have frequent mood swings
Have a vivid imagination
Don't talk a lot
Am not interested in other people's problems
Often forget to put things back in their proper place
Am relaxed most of the time
Am not interested in abstract ideas
Talk to a lot of different people at parties
Feel others' emotions
Like order
Get upset easily
Have difficulty understanding abstract ideas
Keep in the background
Am not really interested in others
Make a mess of things
Seldom feel blue
Do not have a good imagination

**Conspiracist Ideation (ConspID)**
http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0172617

Note:

**Belief in Conspiracy Theories Inventory.** The version of the BCTI that we used was the 15-item, adapted version [15]. This version includes 14 items from the parent study [6] and an additional item added in a subsequent study [15]. The factor structure of this adapted version of the BCTI has not been previously investigated, but researchers have assumed that it retains its parent, one-factor structure. Internal consistency coefficients for this one-factor solution have tended to be acceptable (see Table 1). In the present study, all items were rated on a 9-point scale, ranging from 1 (Completely false) to 9 (Completely true). Higher scores on this scale reflect greater endorsement of a range of real-world conspiracy theories. BCTI items are reported in Table 4.
Table 4. Items and factor loadings for the Belief in Conspiracy Theory Inventory.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Factor 1</th>
<th>Factor 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8. The US government allowed the 9/11 attacks to take place so that it would have an excuse to achieve foreign (e.g., wars in Afghanistan and Iraq) and domestic (e.g., attacks on civil liberties) goals that had been determined prior to the attacks.</td>
<td>.81</td>
<td>-.06</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. The assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., was the result of an organised conspiracy by US government agencies such as the CIA and FBI.</td>
<td>.78</td>
<td>-.07</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. US agencies intentionally created the AIDS epidemic and administered it to Black and gay men in the 1970s.</td>
<td>.77</td>
<td>.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Government agencies in the UK are involved in the distribution of illegal drugs to ethnic minorities.</td>
<td>.76</td>
<td>-.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The US government had foreknowledge about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour, but allowed the attack to take place so as to be able to enter the Second World War.</td>
<td>.71</td>
<td>-.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Princess Diana’s death was not an accident, but rather an organised assassination by members of the British royal family who disliked her.</td>
<td>.61</td>
<td>.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. A powerful and secretive group, known as the New World Order, are planning to eventually rule the world through an autonomous world government, which would replace sovereign government.</td>
<td>.69</td>
<td>.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) was produced under laboratory conditions as a biological weapon.</td>
<td>.67</td>
<td>.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. The Coca Cola company intentionally changed to an inferior formula with the intent of driving up demand for their classic product, later reintroducing it for their financial gain.</td>
<td>.66</td>
<td>-.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. The assassination of John F. Kennedy was not committed by the lone gunman, Lee Harvey Oswald, but was rather a detailed, organised conspiracy to kill the President.</td>
<td>.65</td>
<td>.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. The Apollo moon landings never happened and were staged in a Hollywood film studio.</td>
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<td>.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. The Oklahoma City bombers, Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, did not act alone, but rather received assistance from neo-Nazi groups.</td>
<td>.64</td>
<td>-.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>14. Special interest groups are suppressing, or have suppressed in the past, technologies that could provide energy at reduced cost or reduced pollution output.</td>
<td>.62</td>
<td>-.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Area 51 in Nevada, US, is a secretive military base that contains hidden alien spacecraft and/or alien bodies.</td>
<td>.57</td>
<td>.72</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. In July 1947, the US military recovered the wreckage of an alien craft from Roswell, New Mexico, and covered up the fact.</td>
<td>.60</td>
<td>.69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0172617.t004

Belief in conspiracy theories inventory (BCTI; Swami et al., 2010)

This is a 14-item scale consisting of items describing prominent conspiracy theories. The items were originally designed to be recognized by an international audience and were rated on a 9-point Likert-type scale (1 = completely false, 9 = completely true). Higher scores on this inventory indicate greater belief in a range of real-world conspiracy theories. In their study, Swami et al. (2010) reported that this scale had a unidimensional structure with high reliability (α = .86) following the exclusion of one item. In the present study, this excluded item was replaced by a distinct item relating to conspiracist ideation concerning the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, which was also previously used by Swami et al. (2010). In the present study, Cronbach’s α for the BCTI was .90.


Please rate the following items: (matrix with the same 9 scale points for all statements below: completely false; blank; mostly false; blank; neither true nor false; blank; mostly true; blank; completely true)

A powerful and secretive group, known as the New World Order, are planning to eventually rule the world through an autonomous world government, which would replace sovereign government
SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) was produced under laboratory conditions as a biological weapon. The US government had foreknowledge about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, but allowed the attack to take place so as to be able to enter the Second World War. US agencies intentionally created the AIDS epidemic and administered it to Black and gay men in the 1970s. The assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., was the result of an organized conspiracy by US government agencies such as the CIA and FBI. The Apollo moon landings never happened and were staged in a Hollywood film studio. Area 51 in Nevada, US, is a secretive military base that contains hidden alien spacecraft and/or alien bodies. The US government allowed the 9/11 attacks to take place so that it would have an excuse to achieve foreign (e.g., wars in Afghanistan and Iraq) and domestic (e.g., attacks on civil liberties) goals that had been determined prior to the attacks. The assassination of John F. Kennedy was not committed by the lone gunman, Lee Harvey Oswald, but was rather a detailed, organized conspiracy to kill the President. In July 1947, the US military recovered the wreckage of an alien craft from Roswell, New Mexico, and covered up the fact. Princess Diana's death was not an accident, but rather an organized assassination by members of the British royal family who disliked her. The Oklahoma City bombers, Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, did not act alone, but rather received assistance from neo-Nazi groups. The Coca Cola company intentionally changed to an inferior formula with the intent of driving up demand for their classic product, later reintroducing it for their financial gain. Special interest groups are suppressing, or have suppressed in the past, technologies that could provide energy at reduced cost or reduced pollution output. Government agencies in the UK are involved in the distribution of illegal drugs to ethnic minorities.

**Critical thinking (Crit)**


Note:

“…rated on a 7-point Likert scale, ranging from 1 = strongly disagree to 7 = strongly agree” (Yuan, Liao, Wang, & Chou, 2014, p. 306)

**Factor 1: Systematicity and analyticity**

29. I am able to read between the lines, and find out any conflicting or contradictory statement in an article.

31. Before making a judgment, I am used to analyzing all the available information and the current situation.

39. I am able to determine the value of a piece of information, and then evaluate the reasonableness of the conclusion accordingly.

38. I try to know every detail about controversial problems that occurred recently.

37. I draw conclusions by logical thinking and methodological analysis.
30. I always examine the pros and cons of each opinion I am exposed to.
27. I often contemplate what is right and wrong about the things I have done and experienced.

**Factor 2: Inquisitiveness and conversance**
52. I always learn as much as possible, even if I don’t know when I’ll put to use the things I learned.
51. Before making an important decision, I always make every effort to collect all the relevant information.
35. When solving a problem, I manage to keep myself updated with everything relevant.
47. I try to delve into anything, or any viewpoint, that is new and novel.
46. When making a decision, people expect me to lay down proper rules as guidance.
6. In times of trouble, I strive to seek all potential solutions before deciding on the best one.

**Factor 3: Maturity and skepticism**
15. During discussions, I am able to raise questions and respond to others’ opinions while remaining calm.
21. During discussions, I always try my best to understand, and listen to, different opinions before communicating.
14. When I am thinking, I am able to tolerate different viewpoints or opinions.
8. I will correct my viewpoint immediately when there is enough evidence to prove that it is biased.
7. I never hesitate to question any prejudice, assumption, or belief of mine and thoroughly examine everything I have said and done.

Please rate the following items: (matrix with the same 7 scale points for all statements below: strongly disagree; disagree; somewhat disagree; neither agree nor disagree; somewhat agree; agree; strongly agree)

In times of trouble, I strive to seek all potential solutions before deciding on the best one.
I never hesitate to question any prejudice, assumption, or belief of mine and thoroughly examine everything I have said and done.
I will correct my viewpoint immediately when there is enough evidence to prove that it is biased.
When I am thinking, I am able to tolerate different viewpoints or opinions.
During discussions, I am able to raise questions and respond to others’ opinions while remaining calm.
During discussions, I always try my best to understand, and listen to, different opinions before communicating.
I often contemplate what is right and wrong about the things I have done and experienced.
I am able to read between the lines, and find out any conflicting or contradictory statement in an article.
I always examine the pros and cons of each opinion I am exposed to.
Before making a judgment, I am used to analyzing all the available information and the current situation.
When solving a problem, I manage to keep myself updated with everything relevant. I draw conclusions by logical thinking and methodological analysis. I try to know every detail about controversial problems that occurred recently. I am able to determine the value of a piece of information, and then evaluate the reasonableness of the conclusion accordingly. When making a decision, people expect me to lay down proper rules as guidance. I try to delve into anything, or any viewpoint, that is new and novel. Before making an important decision, I always make every effort to collect all the relevant information. I always learn as much as possible, even if I don’t know when I’ll put to use the things I learned.

Note:
S&A: 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14
I&C: 1, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18
M&S: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

**Paranoia (Para)**


Note:

For each of the thoughts below, how strongly do you believe it? (matrix with the same 5 scale points for all statements below: do not believe it; believe it a little; believe it somewhat; believe it a lot; absolutely believe it)

I need to be on my guard against others
There might be negative comments being circulated about me
People deliberately try to irritate me
I might be being observed or followed
People are trying to make me upset
People communicate about me in subtle ways
Strangers and friends look at me critically
People might be hostile towards me
Bad things are being said about me behind my back
Someone I know has bad intentions towards me
I have a suspicion that someone has it in for me
People would harm me if given an opportunity
Someone I don't know has bad intentions towards me
There is a possibility of a conspiracy against me
People are laughing at me
I am under threat from others
I can detect coded messages about me in the press/TV/radio
My actions and thoughts might be controlled by others

**Tolerance for Ambiguity (TolAmb)**

Note:

**TABLE 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THE AT-20 SCALE*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Please do not spend too much time on the following items. There are no right or wrong answers and therefore your first response is important. Mark T for true and F for false. Be sure to answer every question.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. A problem has little attraction for me if I don't think it has a solution. (F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. I am just a little uncomfortable with people unless I feel that I can understand their behavior. (F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. There's a right way and a wrong way to do almost everything. (F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. I would rather bet 1 to 5 on a long shot than 3 to 1 on a probable winner. (T)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. The way to understand complex problems is to be concerned with their larger aspects instead of breaking them into smaller pieces. (T)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. I get pretty anxious when I'm in a social situation over which I have no control. (F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Practically every problem has a solution. (F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. It bothers me when I am unable to follow another person's train of thought. (F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. I have always felt that there is a clear difference between right and wrong. (F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. It bothers me when I don't know how other people react to me. (F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Nothing gets accomplished in this world unless you stick to some basic rules. (F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. If I were a doctor, I would prefer the uncertainties of a psychiatrist to the clear and definite work of someone like a surgeon or X-ray specialist. (T)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Vague and imprecisionistic pictures really have little appeal for me. (F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. If I were a scientist, it would bother me that my work would never be completed (because science will always make new discoveries). (F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Before an examination, I feel much less anxious if I know how many questions there will be. (F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. The best part of working a jigsaw puzzle is putting in that last piece. (F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Sometimes I rather enjoy going against the rules and doing things I'm not supposed to do. (T)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. I don't like to work on a problem unless there is a possibility of coming out with a clear-cut and unambiguous answer. (F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. I like to fool around with new ideas, even if they turn out later to be a total waste of time. (T)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Perfect balance is the essence of all good composition. (F)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note.—Items 1-16 are taken from Rydell and Rosen (1966) and are reproduced by permission from *Psychological Reports*. Items 17 and 18 are taken from the California Personality Inventory (Items 275 and 363; Gough, 1937) and are reproduced by special permission from the Consulting Psychologists Press. Items 19 and 20 are taken from Barron’s Conformity Scale (Items 15 and 18; Barron, 1953) and are reproduced by permission from the Duke University Press.

*Test is scored for high ambiguity tolerance.

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Please answer true or false to each of the following: (matrix with the same 2 scale points for all statements below: true; false)
A problem has little attraction for me if I don't think it has a solution
I am just a little uncomfortable with people unless I feel that I can understand their behavior
There is a right way and a wrong way to do almost everything
I would rather bet 1 to 6 on a long shot than 3 to 1 on a probable winner
The way to understand complex problems is to be concerned with their larger aspects instead of breaking them into smaller pieces
I get pretty anxious when I'm in a social situation over which I have no control
Practically every problem has a solution
It bothers me when I am unable to follow another person's train of thought
I have always felt that there is a clear difference between right and wrong
It bothers me when I don't know how other people react to me
Nothing gets accomplished in this world unless you stick to some basic rules
If I were a doctor, I would prefer the uncertainties of a psychiatrist to the clear and definite work of someone like a surgeon or X-ray specialist
Vague and impressionistic pictures really have little appeal for me
If I were a scientist, it would bother me that my work would never be completed (because science will always make new discoveries)
Before an examination, I feel much less anxious if I know how many questions there will be
The best part of working a jigsaw puzzle is putting in that last piece
Sometimes I rather enjoy going against the rules and doing things I'm not supposed to do
I don't like to work on a problem unless there is a possibility of coming out with a clear-cut and unambiguous answer
I like to fool around with new ideas, even if they turn out later to be a total waste of time
Perfect balance is the essence of all good composition

Absorption (Abs)

Note:

Please answer true or false to each of the following: (matrix with the same 2 scale points for all statements below: true; false)

Sometimes I feel and experience things as I did when I was a child
I can be greatly moved by eloquent or poetic language
While watching a movie, a T.V. show, or a play, I may become so involved that I forget about myself and my surroundings, and experience the story as if it were real and as if I were taking part in it
If I stare at a picture and then look away from it, I can sometimes "see" an image of the picture, almost as if I were still looking at it
Sometimes I feel as if my mind could envelop the whole world
I like to watch cloud shapes change in the sky
If I wish I can imagine some things so vividly that it’s like watching a good movie or hearing a good story.
I think I really know what some people mean when they talk about mystical experiences.
I sometimes “step outside” my usual self and experience a completely different state of being.
Textures—such as wool, sand, wood—sometimes remind me of colors or music.
Sometimes I experience things as if they were doubly real.
When I listen to music I can get so caught up in it that I don't notice anything else.
If I wish, I can imagine that my body is so heavy that I cannot move it.
I can often somehow sense the presence of another person before I actually see or hear her/him.
The crackle and flames of a wood fire stimulate my imagination.
Sometimes I am so immersed in nature or in art that I feel as if my whole state of consciousness has somehow been temporarily changed.
Different colors have distinctive and special meanings for me.
I can wander off into my thoughts so completely while doing a routine task that I actually forget what I am doing and a few minutes later find that I have finished it.
I can sometimes recall certain past experiences so clearly and vividly that it is like living them again.
Things that might seem meaningless to others often make sense to me.
If I acted in a play I think I would really feel the emotions of the character and “become” that person for the time being, forgetting both myself and the audience.
My thoughts often occur as visual images rather than as words.
I am often delighted by small things (like the colors in soap bubbles and the five-pointed star shape that appears when you cut an apple across the core).
When listening to organ music or other powerful music, I sometimes feel as if I am being lifted into the air.
Sometimes I can change noise into music by the way I listen to it.
Some of my most vivid memories are called up by scents and smells.
Some music reminds me of pictures or changing patterns of color.
I often know what someone is going to say before he or she says it.
I often have “physical memories”; for example, after I've been swimming I may feel as if I'm still in the water.
The sound of a voice can be so fascinating to me that I can just go on listening to it.
At times I somehow feel the presence of someone who is not physically there.
Sometimes thoughts and images come to me without any effort on my part.
I find that different smells have different colors.
I can be deeply moved by a sunset.

**Absorption Subscales**

1-7, 9-11, 13-19, 21-23, 26-34 (29 items used)

**Absorption Subscale 1 Sentient (AB1, 11 items)**

2 6 10 15 17 23 26 27 30 33 34
Absorption Subscale 2 *Prone to imaginative and altered states* (AB2, 18 items)

1 3 4 5 7 9 11 13 14 16 18 19 21 22 28 29 31 32

**Probability and Coincidences (Prob)**

Note:  
Appendix A, p.32

How often have you, in general, come across curious or meaningful coincidences?  
(matrix with 5 scale points: never; once or twice; a few times; many times; very often)

There are many types of coincidences: How often have you experienced coincidences falling in each of the following categories?  
(matrix with 5 scale points: never; once or twice; a few times; many times; very often)

Series or clusters of names, numbers, or events of the same kind (like coming repeatedly across a word, never heard before, in the space of a few hours)
Spontaneous associations (like thinking of someone and running unexpectedly into that person soon afterwards)
“Small-world” experiences like encountering a person that one had not seen in a long time in some very improbable place
Perception of something distant in space (like worrying about a person at the exact time in which that person is having an accident)
Perception of something distant in time (like having a dream that then comes true)
Unexpected solution of a problem (like meeting a friend who wants to sell his computer exactly when we were looking for one)
“Guardian-angel” experiences (like not arriving on time at a job interview and then discovering that it has been for the best, because a much better chance, which we would otherwise have missed, turns up)

**Attitude Towards Science (AttSci)**

Note:  
(p. 371)
Your Views on the Scientific Community and Its Work

On the next few screens you will be presented with a series of statements about scientists and the scientific community. Please indicate how well each statement describes your own views—that is, how strongly you disagree or agree with each statement. Note that these statements deliberately focus on your general impressions about today’s scientific community, its methods, and its conclusions. Further, note that some of the items may seem repetitive or redundant. This is intentional. Even if a statement seems very similar to a previous item, please take the time to rate each item on its own terms.

1. People trust scientists a lot more than they should.
2. People don’t realize just how flawed a lot of scientific research really is.
3. A lot of scientific theories are dead wrong.
4. Sometimes I think we put too much faith in science.
5. Our society places too much emphasis on science.
6. I am concerned by the amount of influence that scientists have in society.

Note: All items are reverse coded, such that higher values indicate more favorable (less negative) attitudes.

Now you will be presented with a series of statements about scientists and the scientific community. Please indicate how well each statement describes your own views—that is, how strongly you disagree or agree with each statement. Note that these statements deliberately focus on your general impressions about today’s scientific community, its methods, and its conclusions. Further, note that some of the items may seem repetitive or redundant. This is intentional. Even if a statement seems very similar to a previous item, please take the time to rate each item on its own terms: (matrix with the same 7 scale points for all statements below: disagree very strongly; disagree strongly; disagree somewhat; neither agree nor disagree; agree somewhat; agree strongly; agree very strongly)

People trust scientists a lot more than they should
People don’t realize just how flawed a lot of scientific research really is
A lot of scientific theories are dead wrong
Sometimes I think we put too much faith in science
Our society places too much emphasis on science
I am concerned by the amount of influence that scientists have in society

Post-Belief Pyramid Belief Scale (PBPost)

Note:

Remixed by this sequence from random.org: 6, 11, 7, 2, 10, 5, 9, 4, 1, 8, 12, 3

Please rate the following items: (matrix with the same 5 scale points for all statements below: this is definitely false; this is probably false; I am unsure whether this is true or false; this is probably true; this is definitely true)
People sleeping in a pyramid experience dreams with vivid colors and graphic visions
Pets of all kinds thrive under, or within, open frame pyramids
Storing food in a pyramid is a good way to preserve it longer
Standing under a pyramid for a minute helps athletes to perform better
Meat stored in a pyramid takes longer to rot
Pyramids keep razor blades sharp
People heal faster under a pyramid
Meditating under a pyramid helps mental focus
A pyramid will dehydrate and mummify things, without decay or mold growing
Theta and alpha brain waves are increased when meditating under a pyramid
The pyramid shape aided in the preservation of Egyptian mummies
Fruit stored in a pyramid takes longer to spoil

Note: Key (R) in research, (NR) not in research presented
(NR) People sleeping in a pyramid experience dreams with vivid colors and graphic visions.
(NR) Pets of all kinds thrive under, or within, open frame pyramids.
(R) Storing food in a pyramid is a good way to preserve it longer.
(NR) Standing under a pyramid for a minute helps athletes to perform better.
(R) Meat stored in a pyramid takes longer to rot.
(R) Pyramids keep razor blades sharp.
(NR) People heal faster under a pyramid
(NR) Meditating under a pyramid helps mental focus.
(R) A pyramid will dehydrate and mummify things, without decay or mold growing.
(NR) Theta and alpha brain waves are increased when meditating under a pyramid.
(R) The pyramid shape aided in the preservation of Egyptian mummies.
(R) Fruit stored in a pyramid takes longer to spoil.

Demographics (Demo)
Note:
Respondents were also asked to provide general demographic information, including their age, sex, level of education, income level, intensity of religious belief (scale of “1” to “10” with “10” being most intense) and whether or not they typically attended a weekly religious service. Responses of “yes” were coded with “1” and responses of “no” were as “0” (Sparks & Miller, 2001, p. 104).

Please choose your gender from the list below:

Agender
Woman
Man
Gender fluid
If none of the above accurately describe your gender, please type it in below:

Do you identify as intersex? (yes/no)
Do you identify as transgender? (yes/no)

How would you describe your race/ethnicity?

If you know your ACT score, please enter it below:

If you know your current GPA, please enter it below:

**Funnel Questionnaire**

Please describe briefly what you think the purpose of the research was:

If you thought there might have been a “trick,” please explain what that was:

We were trying to change your beliefs about pyramid power: (strongly disagree; disagree; neither agree nor disagree; agree; strongly agree)

Please answer this question honestly. Your answer will have no effect on your credit, but it may help us to better understand the results:

How much effort did you put into the task? (I did not try very hard, and you should probably not include my results; I did my best and feel that my results should be included)

**Closing**

That completes the research! Thank you for your participation!

The purpose of this research was to evaluate the relationship between personality and your openness to a new idea: pyramid power. We expected that most people would not have heard of pyramid power or would know very little about it. The basic parts were:

1. We measured your willingness to endorse aspects of pyramid power before the experiment (we also measured some experiences to get an idea of your background).

2. We had you read research about the origins of the pyramid power idea and one proposal to explain how it might work. You should know that even though some people believe the research that we shared with you, the general scientific consensus is that pyramid power does not work and it has not been successful in double-blind research evaluating it. We presented the story about pyramid power to you in the way that it is typically told. If you are interested in learning more, [http://skepdic.com/pyramidiocy.html](http://skepdic.com/pyramidiocy.html), presents the skeptical, scientific account, and Toth and Nielsen (Toth, M., & Nielsen, G. (1974). *Pyramid Power: The Secret Energy of the Ancients Revealed*. Inner Traditions International: New York, NY) present the case for pyramid power.

3. We measured your belief again. We were interested in seeing if your belief changed after reading the information. [For the live version](#) and after having a chance to see for
yourself some bananas stored under a pyramid. You should know that these bananas were chosen by us to be different amounts of fresh; we did not actually store any bananas under pyramids as part of the research.

Based on what happens, these results may be useful to understand how people form and update beliefs, including beliefs in things that are outside of normal experience.

[This note only appears in the online-only version.]

Note: If you do not click on the arrow on this screen (to go to the end of the survey), you will not be granted credit in Sona for your participation. You must click the final arrow to receive credit. You will know that you are successful because you will automatically return to Sona.

If you would like additional information about the project, you may contact:
- The researcher: William Langston (615/898-5489, william.langston@mtsu.edu)
- The Middle Tennessee State University Office of Compliance (615/494-8918, compliance@mtsu.edu)

Thanks again for your participation!