

APPENDIX B: SUPERSTITION BELIEFS QUESTIONNAIRE

Instructions

In a recent article in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, the psychologist Daryl Bem from Cornell University provided evidence supporting the existence of "psi phenomena". These are phenomena such as telepathy and precognition (having information about future events) that involve processes of energy or information transfer that are currently unexplained in terms of known physical or biological systems.

Bem's work has encouraged researchers to re-examine the evidence for a number of other phenomena that are not easily explained by our current scientific understanding. As a first step, we would like to establish what people currently think about some of these matters.

You will be shown a series of statements, and will be asked to rate how strongly you agree or disagree with each. It is VERY IMPORTANT that you answer as honestly as you can.

Statements

1. Knowing a person's star-sign can give extra insight into their personality characteristics.
2. Reading horoscopes can help people to anticipate what will happen in the future.
3. The alignment of stars and planets when you are born can influence your personality or your destiny.
4. Sometimes dreams can give us signs and guidance about current or future events in our lives, or the lives of the people around us.
5. The power of our thoughts can sometimes influence the physical world (e.g. thinking about a person might cause them to telephone us, or thinking positive thoughts about a person might cause good things to happen to them).

6. I would be uncomfortable with taking long trips on a Black Friday (a Friday that falls on the 13th of any month).
7. There are things that we can do to improve our luck (e.g., carrying a lucky charm or choosing our lucky number in a random draw).
8. 'Alternative' therapies (such as homeopathic remedies, aromatherapy, reflexology, chiropractic manipulation, or therapy based on the body's energy fields) can be an effective way of treating illnesses and ailments.
9. Wishing or praying for something can make it more likely to happen.
10. If I passed a ladder I would walk around it rather than underneath it.
11. Certain actions can cause good luck, or prevent bad luck (e.g., knocking on wood, or throwing salt over your shoulder).
12. It is possible to gain information about a person's personality by analysing their handwriting.
13. I am interested in learning more about paranormal activity or psychic phenomena.
14. Recruiting people with psychic abilities can help police and detectives solve crime mysteries more effectively.
15. I believe in soul mates: that is, that there is someone in the world that we are destined to be with.
16. What happens to people is determined by fate.
17. I believe there is more to the workings of the universe than science can explain.
18. I believe in the existence of a higher being (such as a Christian God, Allah, Shiva, Waheguru, or Satan).
19. Prophecies can hold much information about what will happen in the future.
20. I believe that things like palm-reading, fortune-telling or séances are more than forms of

entertainment - they can offer us guidance by telling us things that we do not already know.

21. I find myself to be more superstitious than most people I know.
22. When making important life decisions I am more likely to call on a 'Higher Self' intuition than logic.
23. Through visualisation, we can attract desired people, events and opportunities into our lives.
24. I believe that everything happens for a reason.
25. Karma is a powerful source for both good and bad events in our lives.