

Posted by [REDACTED] @ 2010-03-25 16:10:04

Mood: curious

Current NSA Today survey...

(U//~~FOUO~~) I was looking at the NSA Today "SurveySays!" for this week which is essentially a multiple choice history question. Since I didn't know the answer, I put each provided answer in my GOOGLE search window and read the short historical blurb (which was most likely the primary intent of the survey). Turned out the third answer was the correct one. In hindsight, it probably would have been better to put the correct answer last so somebody looking for the answer (like I did) would most likely go through all the answers versus just the top three. Now I feel guilt so I'll go look up the last answer as well... :)

(U//~~FOUO~~) So when you participate in a survey you actually get the results pushed back to you on the NSAToday webpage. The surprise to me is that over 70% of the participants picked the wrong answers. Interestingly, the wrong answers appear to be reasonably evenly divided (four answers - A=21%, B=22%, C=28%, D=29%). It's almost as if people were just providing random responses... Why is that??

4078 [REDACTED] @ 2010-03-25 16:21:44

Possibly Related

(U) Check this one out. [REDACTED]

4079 [REDACTED] @ 2010-03-25 16:24:09

I rest my case...

4081 [REDACTED] @ 2010-03-25 18:27:16

I guessed...

(U) I felt that if I looked up the answer I'd be "cheating", so I just took a guess at it. Looks like that's what everybody else did, too.

4082 re 4081 [REDACTED] @ 2010-03-25 19:55:19

Re: I guessed...

(U) I did look it up, because I felt they wanted us to be interested in learning about that part of NSA history, which I did when I went out and Googled it. (As opposed to, say, the Daily Puzz, which is an exercise in puzzle-solving skills.)

4083 re 4079 [REDACTED] @ 2010-03-26 12:05:43

Yeah, I just guessed, not because I didn't want to cheat but because I'm lazy. I'm guessing that's the approach most people took. It's interesting that you say they should have put the correct answer last. If they started doing that people would catch on pretty quickly and start their research with the last answer. If you want to maximize the number of

answers that people will research before finding the correct one it's probably best to randomize them.

4084 re 4083 [redacted]@ 2010-03-26 12:25:59

(U//~~FOUO~~) My guess is what they wanted to happen was for the users to look up the names and learn a little about cryptologic history. Perhaps a survey is not the ideal instrument for this (many people ignore the survey, some guess at the answer, some (like me) stop looking once they find the correct answer).

(U//~~FOUO~~) Regardless, if even a few people look up some of the answers and learn something or if people even talk about the survey (like we are), in my mind that's a success... :)

4085 [redacted]@ 2010-03-29 11:15:45

(U//~~FOUO~~) Just would like to point out that while we enjoyed the survey, CCH did not put this one together! I'm glad it did prompt some people to read some history to find the correct answer.

4112 [redacted]@ 2010-04-01 16:59:13

because googling the answer would have been cheating

4122 re 4112 [redacted]@ 2010-04-02 15:23:04

(U) It's a survey, not a test. :)

(b) (3) - P, L, 86-36