

RESEARCH ACTIVITY: Cognitive Reflection Test

Can you answer these questions correctly?

- (1) A bat and a ball cost \$1.10 in total. The bat costs \$1.00 more than the ball. How much does the ball cost? _____ cents

- (2) If it takes 5 machines 5 minutes to make 5 widgets, how long would it take 100 machines to make 100 widgets? _____ minutes

- (3) In a lake, there is a patch of lily pads. Every day, the patch doubles in size. If it takes 48 days for the patch to cover the entire lake, how long would it take for the patch to cover half of the lake? _____ days

In a survey of 3,428 people, an astonishing 33% missed all three questions. Most people – 83% – missed at least one of the questions.

Even very educated people made mistakes. Only 48% of MIT students sampled were able to answer all the questions correctly.

Answers

- (1) 5 cents (not 10)
- (2) 5 minutes (not 100)
- (3) 47 days (not 24)