

Supplementary File S1. Specific wording for the case studies.

1. MOOC.s

Massive open online courses (MOOCs) are a new, popular trend in education technology and innovation. MOOCs attract a substantial amount of attention and discussion in the field of education. MOOCs compile a huge amount of course materials, such as lecture videos, reading materials, homework, and even online discussions, on online platforms. They offer this content to all students either for free or for a small fee.

Some people are very optimistic about MOOCs, considering them the future of inclusive education. They believe that MOOCs can provide an open and accepting learning environment in which students can learn in a self-motivated and self-paced way, without pressure. They also believe that with the enormous amount of learning materials provided, students can have easy access to knowledge whenever they need it to build up their knowledge system. However, others are more hesitant. They are concerned that students cannot efficiently organise a MOOC's scattered knowledge into an organic system; they are also concerned about whether students can find their own learning pace or will instead procrastinate or even fall behind. They suggest that MOOCs assign head teachers to students, just like teachers in classrooms or tutors in small groups. They believe that head teachers can help students organise their knowledge systems and maintain a steady learning pace. Not everyone agrees, however; people who are optimistic that students can learn on their own in MOOCs believe that a teacher is unnecessary and frustrates the purpose of taking an MOOC in the first place.

Based on your own opinion, to what extent do you agree with the following statements (there is no right or wrong answer):

I think students need a head teacher to guide their learning pace; otherwise, they will procrastinate and even fall behind.

Strongly Disagree Slightly Disagree Slightly Agree Strongly Agree

I think it is difficult for students to build their knowledge structure; it is necessary to assign head teachers to help students organise knowledge.

Strongly Disagree Slightly Disagree Slightly Agree Strongly Agree

2. Uber.

Uber is a new, fast-growing taxi company that is planning to enter Kunming (the participants' home). Unlike a traditional taxi business, Uber allows private drivers to work as taxi drivers using their own cars, without a government permit. Customers schedule rides on their cell phones and the nearest private drivers come to pick them up. Many welcome Uber, thinking it meets high customer demand and gives private drivers a chance to earn by carpooling. However, many are concerned that Uber will harm traditional taxi drivers' business, and there may be other safety risks. The local government of Guangzhou has recently forbidden Uber to operate in the region. Instead, the government is planning to release a government version of 'Uber', owned by the government, to strengthen government monitoring, balance supply and demand, and reconcile the differences between private drivers and taxi drivers. Many people welcome this action from the government; many others do not.

To what extent do you agree with the following statements (there is no right or wrong answer)?

I think Uber meets demands in the taxi market, and it is unnecessary for the government to intervene.

Strongly Disagree Slightly Disagree Slightly Agree Strongly Agree

I am in favour of banning Uber entirely and replacing it with a government version.

Strongly Disagree Slightly Disagree Slightly Agree Strongly Agree

3. Political Parties.

In a remote hypothetical nation, two political parties have been having a heated debate for decades. Party A believes that the nation should have 'strong citizens and a small government', meaning that it encourages citizens to take the initiative and local towns and villages to be autonomous from the central government. This party believes that allowing people to pursue

their interests is the key to social harmony. Party B believes that the nation needs a ‘stronger government and a weaker citizenry’, meaning that it wishes to strengthen the government’s ability to monitor social order, maintain social stability, and adjust the economy on a timely basis. They believe that the appropriate assignment of resources and maintenance of social justice is the true path to a harmonious society.

To what extent do you agree with the following statements (there is no right or wrong answer):

I prefer strong nations over strong citizens.

Strongly Disagree Slightly Disagree Slightly Agree Strongly Agree

I prefer strong citizens over strong nations.

Strongly Disagree Slightly Disagree Slightly Agree Strongly Agree

4. Taobao (eBay).

In the past decade, commercial selling has transitioned from physical stores to online stores. Increasingly, sellers have shut down their physical stores and began to sell through such online facilities as Taobao and WeChat. Today, anyone, even people who are not professional salespeople, can easily make money by opening an online store. However, the online economy is not without problems; it has been frequently reported by the media that some online sellers sell counterfeit products and viciously compete by dumping products on the market. Some people hope that the government will intervene and regulate this new market; others think the problem is temporary and that bad stores will die out in a free market without the need for government intervention.

To what extent do you agree with the following statements (there is no right or wrong answer)?

Macroeconomic control by the government is an invisible hand that designs strategic plans and assigns resources. I think that the prosperity of the online economy depends on macroeconomic control.

Strongly Disagree Slightly Disagree Slightly Agree Strongly Agree

The government should maintain order in the markets and monitor online sellers.

Strongly Disagree Slightly Disagree Slightly Agree Strongly Agree

Under free market competition, online sellers will spontaneously discipline themselves and become increasingly trustworthy.

Strongly Disagree Slightly Disagree Slightly Agree Strongly Agree