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# **1. Introduction**

This report aims to analyse Tesla's perceptual positioning in the market. Data was collected through a designed survey and used to conduct a factor analysis and develop a perceptual map. It delves into the brand positioning of Tesla which includes the target segmentation and the analysis of the marketing programs using the 4P strategy. Moreover, recommendations are given based on the analysis.

# 2. Perceptual Map and Positioning

### 2.1 Survey Design

The survey evaluates attitudes and opinions of electric/non-electric cars amongst respondents within various demographics to analyse Tesla's perceptual positioning in the market. Created to objectively view a respondent's perceptions using statements that they could agree or disagree with. The scale consists of ten points ranging from "Extremely disagree" to "Extremely agree" and seven statements for each car brand. This method of collecting data is universal and easy to comprehend (Smartsurvey, n.d.).

The survey also consisted of a set of nominal and exclusive demographic questions placed at the end of the survey, as it encourages rapport with the respondents; avoids questions left unanswered due to personal questions; allows respondents to answer survey questions before answering the mandatory demographic questionnaire (Teclaw, Robert, Price, & Osatuke, 2012).

### 2.2 Factor Analysis

A factor analysis allows researchers to transform and reduce variables to interpret results. Two factors are extracted from the survey (Figure 1). The full factor analysis with SPSS output can be found in Appendix.

Factor 1 (High Performance vs Moderate Performance)	<ul> <li>I think Tesla cars are safe</li> <li>I think Tesla has long-range cars</li> <li>I think Tesla cars have great acceleration</li> <li>I think Tesla is a customer centric brand</li> </ul>
Factor 2 (Technology Driven vs Traditional)	<ul> <li>I think Tesla has long-range cars</li> <li>I think Tesla cars are stylish</li> <li>I think Tesla is innovative</li> </ul>

Figure 1: Factor Analysis

#### 2.3 Perceptual Map

A perceptual map aims to showcase the respondent's opinion, belief and attitude towards the brands above using different research methods. After conducting the factor analysis using SPSS, a perceptual map (Figure 2) is generated.

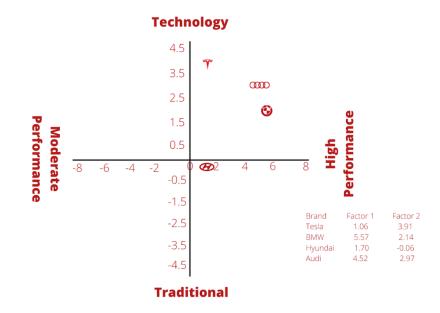


Figure 2: Perceptual Map

According to the data and perceptual map, Tesla is a market leader in technology as it scored 3.91 out of 5 for technological advancement, which is the highest amongst its competitors. Furthermore, its innovation strategy has resulted in cars that have adopted full-self-drive and they aim to build safer cars using high-edge software and hardware (Aurumbureau, 2019). However, it only scored 1.06 in performance - driving range, safety and acceleration. Tesla is considered "unsafe" for reasons such as the autopilot feature that was led to make consumers believe that it was full-self-drive, which caused accidents (Insidehook, 2020). Whereas Hyundai scored 1.70 for performance which is relatively same as Tesla, but it's still viewed as a traditional car manufacturer. Despite being one of the first to develop "hybrid" cars – Camry, Hyundai lacks the technological advantage compared to Tesla. Presumably, due to increased focus towards Internal Combustible Engine (ICE) cars. However, Audi and BMW, both manufacturers of ICE cars have scored higher in performance, with BMW scoring 5.57 and Audi scoring 4.52, although lag Tesla in terms of technology. The ostensible reason being that the luxury car manufacturers have developed their brand image for decades and have excelled in developing luxury ICE cars and are now developing their goal towards electric cars to compete with Tesla.

# 3. Reflections and Recommendations

#### **3.1 Brand Positioning Strategy**

According to the perceptual map, Tesla is suggested to retains its competitive advantage of high technology and can move to the top left (high technology and moderate performance) or top right market (high technology and high performance).

It's unfavourable for Tesla to move to the top left market. As, in moderate performance, customers have a high bargaining power and could cause Tesla to decrease its price. Although, given high production costs, Tesla will lose profits that are needed to survive in the market. However, it's hard to define if it's a niche market as there could be more competitors.

Ideally, Tesla should move to the top right market and strengthen its positioning as a pioneer with the mission of accelerating the world's transition to sustainable energy (Tesla, 2021). To achieve this, Tesla needs to have trustable battery technology with high performance that can offer customers safety, great acceleration and long-range. According to the survey, Tesla is the most technology-driven brand, but it has lower performance in customer perception comparing to Audi and BMW. However, Tesla's cars have high performance. For example, combining safety, great acceleration and technology, Model S has reset the world's expectations for the car of the 21st century with the longest range of any electric vehicle (Tesla, 2021). The reason for the low customer perception in performance is vehicle product issues that resulted in recalls, fires, autopilot crashes and software hacking. To increase customer perception in performance, Tesla should emphasise its competitive advantage of long range, cutting-edge technology in its marketing campaigns with illustrated examples to prove vehicle quality and safety.

#### 3.2 Targeting and Segmentation:

Tesla's current targeting strategies shows: (1) Tesla's targeting customers are perceived as environmentally friendly (Thomas & Maine, 2019). They care about long-term effectiveness. (2) They have comparatively higher income and education level than the average. (3) Majority of targeted customers are males between 20 to 35-year-old.

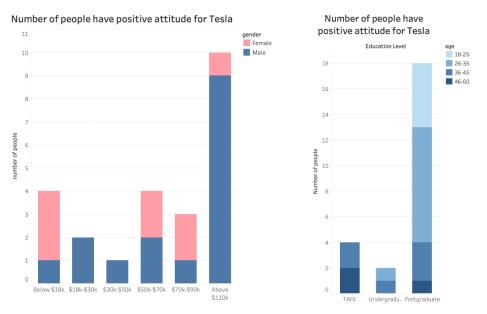


Figure 3: Targeting Customers

Additionally, some valuable insights were gained from survey data (Figure 3). Firstly, survey data shows that people with above 110k annual income are more likely to have a positive attitude towards Tesla, and that most of them are male. Secondly, people with a postgraduate degree tend to have a positive attitude, and most of them are between 18 to 35-year-old.

Based on research and survey data analysing, the following recommendations are created for Tesla to improve on customer targeting:

- To efficiently target 20-35 years old customers, it is recommended for Tesla to establish an attractive referral program. Research shows that people in the 18 to 38 aged group are more likely to share their experience with their friends and families (Özdemir & Tozlu, 2016). Tesla currently rewards its referrals with 1500 kilometres of free supercharging (Referral Program, 2021). However, this referral program does not incentivise current users to share their user experience with others (Cartwright, 2021). Tesla could build up a referral credit system. Referrals could get generous credits as a reward. These credits could be used for many purposes such as charging, self-driving upgrade, and other purchasing vehicle accessories. This strategy could increase not only current customer's brand loyalty but also optimise Tesla's word of mouth marketing.
- Tesla's target market has comparatively high-income, and less price sensitive, Tesla is recommended to provide extra premium services for its high-end customers. For

example, paid premium membership could be a valid service for customers willing to pay more for more assistance. The premium member could get limited times of free charging, car washing services and discount for further purchasing from Tesla. This targeting strategy could help Tesla efficiently capture more business values from highend customers.

• Tesla is recommended to participate in some environment-saving programs such as the carbon emission reduction project for well-educated customers. This strategy helps Tesla's environmentally friendly brand image and effectively respond to the public doubts that Tesla is destroying the environment (Hassan & Valenzuela, 2016). Through this, Tesla could effectually satisfy customer's perception of being environmentally friendly, hence, attracting more potential customers in the Australian market.

#### **3.3 Marketing Programs**

#### 3.3.1 Price

Tesla currently uses a high-end pricing strategy. As shown in Figure 4 in Appendix, the average price of a new car in the Australian market is \$40,128 (Birot, 2020). Tesla's price is not only much higher than the market average price, but also one of the highest among most EV manufacturers (Corby, 2021). However, according to the perceptual map, consumers in Australia believe that Tesla's performance is like Hyundai and far below BMW. But the average price of EVs from these two manufacturers is much lower than Tesla (Corby, 2021). Meanwhile, Australian consumers are highly price sensitive to EVs (Budget Direct, 2020 and may not accept the high price of Tesla. To solve this, Tesla can appropriately lower its selling price in the Australian market. If Tesla wants to maintain a high-end pricing strategy, it could try to improve products quality to meet consumer expectations.

#### 3.3.2 Product

Tesla's investment in R&D is three times that of traditional manufacturers (Pressman, 2016). According to the perception map, Australian consumers view Tesla as a high-tech electric vehicle manufacturer, substantiating Tesla's large investment in R&D. Therefore, Tesla could continue to adopt its disruptive strategy and invest in innovation to maintain its differentiated advantages. However, according to the results of the survey, as shown in Figure 5 and Figure 6 in Appendix, Australian consumers believe that Tesla's product safety and drive range are much lower than other EV manufacturers. Firstly, Tesla has been criticized for brake failure and sudden acceleration recently. In the U.S. market alone, there have been more than 200 consumer complaints about Tesla's sudden acceleration leading to a crash. Tesla interprets most crashes as driver's operating errors, but this has not convinced the public. For safety issues, on the one hand, Tesla could continue to improve product safety include its braking system and self-driving system. On the other hand, Tesla could provide consumers with EV autopilot and safe driving education services to consumers. Secondly, although Tesla's battery technology is already the best among EV manufacturers in the Australian market (Corby, 2021), the shortage of EVs charging stations in Australia is another important factor for consumers to avoid investing in Tesla. In Australia, there is only one charging station for every six electric vehicles. However, there is one charging station for every three electric vehicles in China (Electric Vehicle Council, 2020). Therefore, Tesla can build more electric vehicle charging stations to meet the needs of EV drivers in the Australian market, and Tesla can continue to improve the supercharging technology to reduce the charging time for each drive.

#### 3.3.3 Place

Tesla's currently selling channels in Australia is online-focused. Consumers can only purchase their vehicle through the website. This might be a smart choice for Tesla, not only it helped Tesla won the best consumers satisfaction since 2017 (Nedelea, 2021), but also match the target consumers' E-commerce preference (Passport, 2020). According to a consumer report in Passport (2020), most of the target consumers (aged 20-40) have an interest in real-world experience. This means they may prefer to physically feel Tesla's car before purchasing it. But there are only five offline shops in Australia for people to have a test drive (Tesla, 2021). Hence, Tesla may increase the number of offline trail shop in Australia to satisfy the target consumers.

#### 3.3.4 Promotion

Tesla currently spends little on advertising. By using word-of-mouth through social media and referral program, Tesla has built up a good awareness among digital channels (Folschette, 2021). Although this strategy helps Tesla gain fames, as shown in the perception map, people recognize the technology advantage of Tesla but fail to acknowledge performance Tesla's cars have. The reason being Tesla's innovative factors are increasingly popular on online platforms, i.e., Tesla's main advertising forum (Lan, 2019). Hence, to encourage conversations about Tesla's performance, online campaigns can be launched to educate consumers about the performance features. As, Australian consumers aged 20-40 have a strong dependency on the

Internet (Passport, 2020). The platforms could be Facebook and YouTube since they are the most popular social media in Australia (Admin, 2021).

This campaign aims to attract Tesla divers to participate. Tesla at the beginning should promote this campaign through different social media. Then, under a hash tag-More than Technology, participants could post their stories about Tesla's performance such as acceleration and driving range on Facebook or by shooting relevant videos through YouTube as Figure 7 in Appendix shows. After two months, in each platform, 50 publishers who get the most liked content would be awarded by one-year free charge.

This campaign would not only align with Tesla's zero advertising strategy but would also use word-of-mouth to change consumers' mind about Tesla's performance. By guiding the topics through online channels, Tesla is forecasted to be a brand with high performance and innovative cars in Australian consumers' perception.

# 4. Limitations

Although the above recommendations may help tesla capture potential consumers in Australia, there are still some limitations according to the survey. Since the sample size is only 41, and the responses are finished voluntarily, the result may have some bias. To capture more precise consumers' perceptions, further research may need to conduct.

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# 6. Appendix

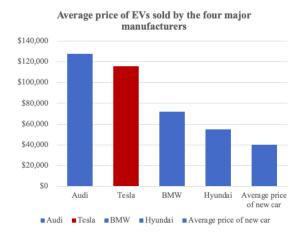
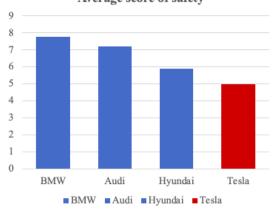
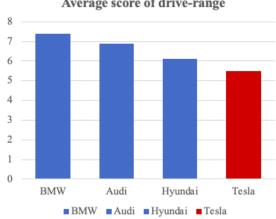


Figure 4: Average Price of EVs



Average score of safety

Figure 5: Average Score of Safety



Average score of drive-range

Figure 6: Average Score of Drive-range

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Figure 7: Sample Campaign Posts

# The Survey

Survey Link: https://sydney.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV eDKO6p2emWp3Riu

The purpose of this survey is to analyse customer perception among electric vehicles.

Tesla - Please rate the statements from 1 (Extremely Disagree) - 10 (Extremely Agree)

	1 - Extremely Disagree	2	3	4	5 - I'm not sure	6	7	8	9	10 - Extremely Agree
l think Tesla cars are <b>unaffordable</b>	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
l think Tesla is <b>innovative</b>	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
l think Tesla is a <b>customer</b> <b>centric</b> brand	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	0	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	0	0	$\bigcirc$
l think Tesla cars are <b>stylish</b>	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
l think Tesla cars are <b>safe</b>	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
l think Tesla has <b>long-range</b> cars	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
l think Tesla cars have <b>great</b> acceleration	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	0	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	0	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$

BMW - Please rate the statements from 1 (Extremely Disagree) - 10 (Extremely Agree)

	1 - Extremely Disagree	2	3	4	5 - I'm not sure	6	7	8	9	10 - Extremely Agree
I think BMW cars are <b>unaffordable</b>	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
I think BMW is innovative	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
I think BMW is a <b>customer</b> <b>centric</b> brand	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	0	$\bigcirc$	0	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
I think BMW cars are <b>stylish</b>	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
I think BMW cars are <b>safe</b>	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
I think BMW has long-range cars	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
I think BMW cars have <b>great</b> acceleration	0	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$

	1 - Extremely Disagree	2	3	4	5 - I'm not sure	6	7	8	9	10 - Extremely Agree
l think Hyundai cars are <b>unaffordable</b>	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	0
l think Hyundai is <b>innovative</b>	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
I think Hyundai is a <b>customer</b> <b>centric</b> brand	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
l think Hyundai cars are <b>stylish</b>	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
l think Hyundai cars are <b>safe</b>	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
l think Hyundai has <b>long-range</b> cars	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	0	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	0	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
l think Hyundai cars have <b>great</b> acceleration	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	0	$\bigcirc$	0

Hyundai - Please rate the statements from 1 (Extremely Disagree) - 10 (Extremely Agree)

Audi - Please rate the statements from 1 (Extremely Disagree) - 10 (Extremely Agree)

	1 - Extremely Disagree	2	3	4	5 - I'm not sure	6	7	8	9	10 - Extremely Agree
l think Audi cars are <b>unaffordable</b>	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
l think Audi is <b>innovative</b>	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
I think Audi is a <b>customer</b> <b>centric</b> brand	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
l think Audi cars are <b>stylish</b>	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
l think Audi cars are <b>safe</b>	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
l think Audi has long-range cars	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$
I think Audi cars have <b>great</b> acceleration	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	0	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$

#### What's your gender?

Male	
Female	
Non-binary / third gender	
Prefer not to say	

#### What's your age group?

Below 18	
18-25	
26-35	
36-45	
46-60	
Above 60	

#### What's your level of education?

Primary School
High School
TAFE
Undergraduate
Postgraduate
Others

What's your annual income level? (in AUD)

Below \$18,000	
\$18,000-\$30,000	
\$30,000-\$50,000	
\$50,000-\$70,000	
\$70,000-\$90,000	
\$90,000-\$110,000	
Above \$110,000	

Do you own a car?

Yes

No

## **SPSS Output**

		Q1_1	Q1_2	Q1_3	Q1_4	Q1_5	Q1_6	Q1_7
Correlation	Q1_1	1.000	057	021	196	055	230	318
	Q1_2	057	1.000	.308	.626	.357	.430	.223
	Q1_3	021	.308	1.000	.129	.416	.413	.206
	Q1_4	196	.626	.129	1.000	.085	.521	.150
	Q1_5	055	.357	.416	.085	1.000	.579	.503
	Q1_6	230	.430	.413	.521	.579	1.000	.304
	Q1_7	318	.223	.206	.150	.503	.304	1.000
Sig. (1-tailed)	Q1_1		.362	.448	.109	.365	.074	.021
	Q1_2	.362		.025	.000	.011	.002	.081
	Q1_3	.448	.025		.210	.003	.004	.098
	Q1_4	.109	.000	.210		.299	.000	.175
	Q1_5	.365	.011	.003	.299		.000	.000
	Q1_6	.074	.002	.004	.000	.000		.027
	Q1_7	.021	.081	.098	.175	.000	.027	

#### Correlation Matrix<sup>a</sup>

a. Determinant = .100

According to Correlation Matrix, since most of the correlations are greater than 0.3, the data is suitable for factor analysis.

#### KMO and Bartlett's Test

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy571				
Bartlett's Test of	Approx. Chi-Square	84.852		
Sphericity	df	21		
	Sig.	<.001		

According to Bartlett's Test, since the p-value is less than 0.05, the data is suitable for factor analysis.

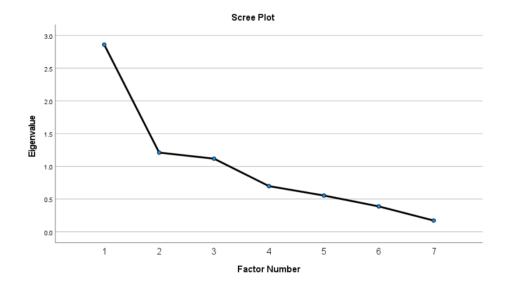
#### Total Variance Explained

		Initial Eigenvalı	les	Extractio	n Sums of Square	ed Loadings	Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings <sup>a</sup>
Factor	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total
1	2.860	40.857	40.857	2.460	35.147	35.147	2.043
2	1.210	17.292	58.149	.995	14.213	49.360	1.915
3	1.117	15.961	74.110				
4	.698	9.971	84.080				
5	.554	7.919	91.999				
6	.388	5.543	97.542				
7	.172	2.458	100.000				

Extraction Method: Principal Axis Factoring.

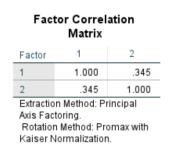
a. When factors are correlated, sums of squared loadings cannot be added to obtain a total variance.

According to Total Variance Explained, 49.36% of the variance can be accounted for by the two extracted factors.





	Fact	tor					
	1	2					
Q1_5	.957						
Q1_6	.528	.402					
Q1_7	.503						
Q1_3	.457						
Q1_4		1.042	Factor 1 (High Performance vs	<ul> <li>I think Tesla cars are safe</li> </ul>			
Q1_2		.555	Moderate Performance)	I think Tesla has long-range cars			
Q1_1				<ul> <li>I think Tesla cars have great acceleration</li> </ul>			
Extraction Method: Principal Axis Factoring. Rotation Method: Promax				<ul> <li>I think Tesla is a customer centric brand</li> </ul>			
with Kaiser Normalization. <sup>a</sup>		ation. <sup>a</sup>	Factor 2 (Technology Driven vs	<ul> <li>I think Tesla has long-range cars</li> <li>I think Tesla cars are stylish</li> <li>I think Tesla is innovative</li> </ul>			
a. Rotation converged in 3 iterations.		rged in	Traditional)				



According to Factor Correlation Matrix, the correlation is 0.345, which is greater than 0.3, it indicates oblique rotation will be required.

