



THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER  
For The People & The Press

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2011

## What the Public Knows - In Words and Pictures

Take the Latest Quiz Online!

**Before you read the report**, we invite you to test your own News IQ by taking the latest interactive knowledge quiz now available on the Pew Research Center website. The short quiz includes many of the questions that were included in a national poll. Participants will instantly learn how they did on the quiz in comparison with the general public as well as with people like them. To take the latest quiz, click on this link:

<http://pewresearch.org/politicalquiz/>

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# What the Public Knows - In Words and Pictures

Large majorities of the public know that Afghanistan and Pakistan share a border and can identify Hillary Clinton in a photograph as the nation's secretary of state, according to the Pew Research Center's latest News IQ survey, which for the first time includes visual questions.

While majorities answer most of the 19 questions correctly, some prove more difficult. About four-in-ten, for example, know that Republicans now hold a majority only in the House of Representatives or can identify the crescent and star from four visual choices as the symbol associated with Islam.

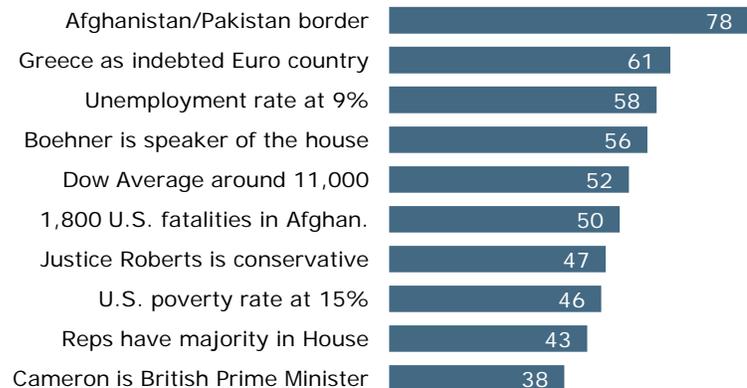
The new survey includes a mixture of standard multiple-choice items as well as questions that use photographs, maps and symbols. It was conducted completely online Sept. 30-Oct. 11, 2011, among a random sample of 1,168 adults by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press.

Of the 19 items on the survey, 10 are standard multiple-choice questions, many of which are similar or identical to those from previous political knowledge surveys. Of the other nine, five use pictures of public figures, two use maps and two use religious or political symbols. On average, quiz takers correctly answer 11.5 of the 19 items, for a score of 60% correct.

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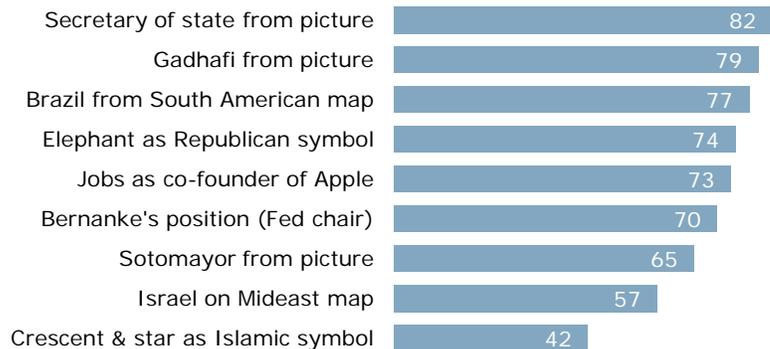
## News Knowledge in Words and Pictures

### *% who know ...*



### Verbal questions

### *% who can identify ...*



### Visual questions

PEW RESEARCH CENTER. Sept. 30-Oct. 11, 2011.

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Seven of the 10 items with the most correct answers are visual questions. In addition to the large majority (82%) that correctly pick a photo of Hillary Clinton from four when asked which showed the current secretary of State, 79% select the name “Moammar Gadhafi” from a list of four when shown a photo of the former Libyan leader. On a map of South America with four nations numbered and highlighted, 77% correctly identify Brazil.

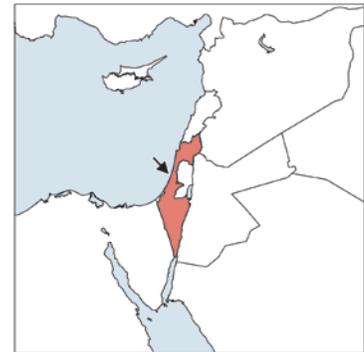
About as many (74%) correctly identify the Republican Party as the party associated with a symbol of an elephant. And 73% select a picture of Steve Jobs (from a set of four well-known technology executives) as the co-founder of Apple. Jobs died Oct. 5, while the online survey was being conducted.

Shown a picture of Ben Bernanke, 70% of those surveyed correctly select “chairman of the Federal Reserve” as his title. And 65% correctly choose U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor’s name from a list of four options when shown her picture.

One of the more difficult visual items is a question that asks respondents to identify Israel on a map of the Middle East region. Still, a majority (57%) is able to correctly pick Israel from a list of four countries in the region.

Of the items that do not include pictures, maps or symbols, the highest percentage correct is for a question about whether Afghanistan and Pakistan share a border (78% correctly say they do). Six-in-ten (61%) could pick Greece from a list when asked what European country is facing severe debt problems and possible default. About as many (58%) could correctly identify the current unemployment rate in the United States as approximately 9% (from a list of four choices).

### What Middle Eastern Country Is This?



	Sept. 30- Oct. 11 %
Israel (Correct)	57
Saudi Arabia	12
Egypt	4
Turkey	10
Don't know	<u>17</u>
	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Sept. 30,  
Oct. 11, 2011.

## Islamic Crescent and Star Not Widely Known

Majorities answered each of the visual questions correctly – except for the one that asked which of four symbols is associated with Islam. Just 42% correctly identify this symbol (answer #1 in the accompanying graphic). Perhaps because it may have reminded some people of Arabic characters, 34% incorrectly select symbol #4, which is Om, the symbol associated with Hinduism. The Star of David (Judaism) and the cross (Christianity) are chosen less frequently.

In a traditional text-only question, fewer than half (43%) know that the Republican Party holds a majority only in the House of Representatives. About one-fifth (21%) say that the GOP holds a majority in both houses; 15% say Republicans control only the Senate, 10% say they control neither chamber and 11% offer no response. Comparable percentages (46%) could identify the official poverty rate in the United States, and 47% know that Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts is generally considered a conservative.

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### Which Symbol Is Associated With Islam?



1 - 42% (correct)



2 - 1%



3 - 13%



4 - 34%

Don't know - 11%

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Sept. 30-Oct. 11, 2011.

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On the question about the poverty rate and another regarding the unemployment rate, most of the incorrect answers overestimated the rates. A majority of those polled (58%) correctly estimate the unemployment rate as closer to 9%; just 1% say the rate is closer to 5%, while 36% say it is either 15% or 21%.

While nearly half could identify the poverty rate as reported by the federal government as closer to 15%, more than a third (36%) chose the highest option – 30%. Just 10% selected the lower figures of 5% or 1%.

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## Many Overestimate Rates of Poverty, Unemployment

	Sept 30- Oct 11
<i>Unemployment rate is closer to...</i>	%
5%	1
9%	58
15%	20
21%	16
Don't know	4
	100
<hr/>	
<i>Poverty rate is closer to...</i>	
1%	1
5%	9
15%	46
30%	36
Don't know	8
	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Sept. 30-  
Oct. 11, 2011.

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## Partisan Differences in Knowledge

Republicans generally outperformed Democrats on the current quiz. On 13 out of the 19 questions, Republicans score significantly higher than Democrats and there are no questions on which Democrats did better than Republicans. In past knowledge quizzes, partisan differences have been more muted, though Republicans often have scored somewhat higher than Democrats.

Questions on current politics and on geography show particularly wide differences. For example, Republicans are 19 points more likely than Democrats to know that the Republican Party has a majority in just the House of

Representatives, and 14 points more likely to know that John Boehner is the speaker of the House. On international questions, Republicans are much more likely to be able to identify Israel on a map (67% vs. 51%), and more likely to know that Greece is the European country experiencing debt problems (71% vs. 54%). Additionally, more Republicans than Democrats could locate Brazil on a map (84% vs. 73%).

### Republicans Do Better on Several Political, Geographic Questions

	Rep	Dem	Ind	R-D diff
<i>% answering correctly ...</i>	%	%	%	
Republicans have majority in ... (House)	59	40	36	+19
<b>V</b> Elephant is symbol of ... (GOP)	87	69	75	+18
European country with debt trouble (Greece)	71	54	66	+17
<b>V</b> Identify Israel on map of Mideast	67	51	60	+16
Speaker of the house is ... (Boehner)	66	52	55	+14
Dow Jones Industrial Average is ... (11,000)	62	48	52	+14
Unemployment rate (9%)	69	57	57	+12
<b>V</b> Identify Gadhafi from photo	89	78	76	+11
<b>V</b> Identify Brazil on map of South America	84	73	80	+11
<b>V</b> Identify co-founder of Apple (Jobs)	81	70	75	+11
<b>V</b> Identify Sotomayor from photo	73	63	63	+10
Percent of Americans in poverty (15%)	54	45	41	+9
Afghanistan/Pakistan share border? (Yes)	83	75	83	+8
<b>V</b> Identify Bernanke's position (Fed chair)	75	70	72	+5
U.S. fatalities in Afghanistan (1,800)	57	52	48	+5
Justice Roberts is ... (Conservative)	52	47	48	+5
<b>V</b> Identify symbol for Islam (Crescent & star)	43	39	46	+4
<b>V</b> Current secretary of state (Clinton)	87	84	80	+3
British prime minister is ... (Cameron)	41	39	38	+2
<b>Average number of correct answers</b>	13.0	11.1	11.5	+1.9

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Sept. 30-Oct. 11, 2011.

**V** indicates a visual question for which respondents were shown images.

## Fewer Young People Identify Clinton, Know Jobless Rate

In past knowledge surveys, young people consistently answered fewer questions correctly than those in older age groups. That pattern holds in the current survey, but is less pronounced. On several questions, young people perform as well or better than older people.

Those ages 18 to 29 are much less likely than older people to correctly answer questions on topics such as the current secretary of state, the current unemployment rate and the number of U.S. fatalities in Afghanistan. Overall, those younger than 30 correctly answer about one question fewer (out of 19) than do those in older age groups.

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### Age Differences in Political Knowledge

	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
<i>% answering correctly ...</i>	%	%	%	%
<b>V</b> Current secretary of state? (Clinton)	67	80	90	94
<b>V</b> Identify Gadhafi from photo	69	75	87	88
Afghanistan/Pakistan share border? (Yes)	73	76	80	83
<b>V</b> Identify Brazil on map of South America	83	73	78	76
<b>V</b> Elephant is symbol of ... (GOP)	70	72	79	78
<b>V</b> Identify co-founder of Apple (Jobs)	72	74	77	67
<b>V</b> Identify Bernanke's position (Fed chair)	65	69	72	73
<b>V</b> Identify Sotomayor from photo	59	68	63	66
European country with debt trouble (Greece)	55	54	67	73
Unemployment rate is ... (9%)	46	53	69	68
<b>V</b> Identify Israel on map of mideast	54	55	58	60
Speaker of the house is ... (Boehner)	43	52	63	67
Dow Jones Industrial Average is ... (11,000)	44	48	56	62
U.S. fatalities in Afghanistan ... (1,800)	45	46	57	58
Justice Roberts is ... (Conservative)	45	50	46	44
Percent of Americans in poverty ... (15%)	48	42	49	44
Republicans have majority in ... (House)	37	41	49	50
<b>V</b> Identify symbol for Islam (Crescent & star)	43	47	38	34
British prime minister is ... (Cameron)	36	39	37	38
<b>Average number of correct answers</b>	10.5	11.1	12.1	12.2

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Sept. 30-Oct. 11, 2011.

**V** indicates a visual question for which respondents were shown images.

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## Wide Educational Divide

As in the past, those with more education are much more likely than those with less education to answer the knowledge questions correctly. In the current survey, the most striking differences come on a number of international questions.

Eight-in-ten of those with at least a college degree (80%) could identify the country of Israel on a regional map. This compares with just 41% of those with no college experience – a 39-point gap. Similarly, those with a college degree were at least 30 points more likely than those with no college experience to correctly answer questions on non-domestic topics such as the symbol for Islam (crescent and star), the European country facing severe debt problems and possible default (Greece), and the prime minister of Great Britain (Cameron).

## Better Educated, Better Informed

	HS or less	Some college	College grad+
<i>% answering correctly ...</i>	%	%	%
Current secretary of state? (Clinton)	76	80	93
<b>V</b> Who is this? (Gadhafi)	70	82	89
Afghanistan/Pakistan share border? (Yes)	69	79	89
<b>V</b> Which country is Brazil? (4 shown)	67	79	90
<b>V</b> Elephant is symbol of ... (GOP)	65	75	88
<b>V</b> Identify co-founder of Apple (Jobs)	63	74	89
<b>V</b> Identify Bernanke's position (Fed chair)	59	74	82
<b>V</b> Identify Sotomayor from photo	56	63	80
European country with debt trouble (Greece)	48	62	80
Unemployment rate is ... (9%)	48	55	77
<b>V</b> Identify Israel on map of mideast	41	58	80
Speaker of the house is ... (Boehner)	49	51	70
Dow Jones Industrial Average is ... (11,000)	45	47	68
U.S. fatalities in Afghanistan ... (1,800)	45	48	62
Justice Roberts is ... (Conservative)	37	50	60
Percent of Americans in poverty ... (15%)	40	44	56
Republicans have majority in ... (House)	33	42	61
<b>V</b> Identify symbol for Islam (Crescent & star)	26	47	60
British prime minister is ... (Cameron)	26	37	57
<b>Average number of correct answers</b>	9.6	11.5	14.3

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Sept. 30-Oct. 11, 2011.

**V** indicates a visual question for which respondents were shown images.

## About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on a web survey conducted September 30-October 11, 2011 among a sample of 1,168 adults, 18 years of age or older. The survey was conducted by Knowledge Networks (KN) among a random sample of households in their nationally representative online research panel. KN panel members are recruited through probability sampling methods and include both those with internet access and those without. (KN provides internet access for those who do not have it and, if needed, a device to access the internet, when they join the panel.) A combination of random digit dialing (RDD) sampling and address-based sampling (ABS) methodologies have been used to recruit panel members; in 2009 KN switched their sampling methodology from RDD to ABS. The panel includes households with landlines and cell phones, as well as those without a telephone. Both the RDD and ABS samples were provided by Marketing Systems Groups (MSG). KN continually recruits new panel members throughout the year, to offset panel attrition as people leave the panel. The survey was conducted in English. Respondents were selected randomly from eligible adult household members of the panel. All sampled members received an initial email on September 30 to notify them of the survey and included a link to the survey questionnaire. One follow-up reminder was sent to those who had not yet responded on October 4.

The final sample for this survey was weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, region, and metropolitan area (or not) to parameters from the August 2011 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS). In addition, the sample is weighted to match current patterns of internet access from the October 2009 CPS survey. This weight is multiplied by an initial base or sampling weight that corrects for differences in the probability of selection of various segments of KN's sample and by a panel weight that adjusts for any biases due to nonresponse and noncoverage at the panel recruitment stage (using all of the parameters mentioned above as well as household income and home ownership status). Details about the KN panel-level weights can be found at <http://www.knowledgenetworks.com/knpanel/KNPanel-Design-Summary.html>.

Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting at each of these stages. Sampling error for the total sample of 1,168 respondents is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**OCTOBER 2011 KNOWLEDGE SURVEY**  
**September 30-October 11, 2011**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**N=1168**

**ASK ALL**

Q.1 Do you follow what's going on in government and public affairs...?

	<u>Most of the time</u>	<u>Some of the time</u>	<u>Only now and then</u>	<u>Hardly at all</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
Sept 30-Oct 11, 2011 <i>KN</i> <sup>1</sup>	26	32	21	21	1
<b>FOR COMPARISON</b>					
Feb 22-Mar 14, 2011	50	29	14	6	1
Oct 27-30, 2010 ( <i>RVs</i> )	56	29	10	5	*
Oct 13-18, 2010	49	28	12	10	1
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 <sup>2</sup>	52	25	13	10	1
January, 2007	53	28	11	7	1
November, 2006 ( <i>RVs</i> )	58	26	10	6	*
Late October, 2006 ( <i>RVs</i> )	57	30	8	5	*
December, 2005	50	28	14	8	*
December, 2004	45	35	14	5	1
November, 2004 ( <i>RVs</i> )	61	27	9	3	*
Mid-October, 2004 ( <i>RVs</i> )	63	26	8	3	*
June, 2004	44	34	15	7	*
August, 2003	48	33	12	6	1
November, 2002	49	27	14	9	1
August, 2002	54	30	11	5	*
March, 2001	49	27	13	10	1
Early November, 2000 ( <i>RVs</i> )	51	32	12	5	*
September, 2000 ( <i>RVs</i> )	51	34	10	4	1
June, 2000	38	32	19	11	*
Late September, 1999	39	32	20	9	*
August, 1999	40	35	17	8	*
November, 1998	46	27	14	13	*
Late October, 1998 ( <i>RVs</i> )	57	29	10	4	*
Early October, 1998 ( <i>RVs</i> )	51	33	11	5	*
Early September, 1998	45	34	15	6	*
June, 1998	36	34	21	9	*
November, 1997	41	36	16	7	*
November, 1996 ( <i>RVs</i> )	52	32	12	4	*
October, 1996 ( <i>RVs</i> )	43	37	13	6	1
June, 1996	41	34	17	8	*
October, 1995	46	35	14	5	*
April, 1995	43	35	16	6	*
November, 1994	49	30	13	7	1
October, 1994	45	35	14	6	*
July, 1994	46	33	15	6	*
May, 1990	39	34	18	9	*
February, 1989	47	34	14	4	1
October, 1988 ( <i>RVs</i> )	52	33	12	3	*
May, 1988	37	37	17	6	3
January, 1988	37	35	18	8	2
November, 1987	49	32	14	4	1
May, 1987	41	35	15	7	2

<sup>1</sup> "KN" data collected online by Knowledge Networks. All earlier surveys conducted by telephone.

<sup>2</sup> In the Aug. 25-Sept. 6, 2010 survey, a wording experiment was conducted with one half of respondents asked the question wording shown above, the other half was asked: "Some people seem to follow what's going on in government and public affairs most of the time, whether there's an election or not. Others aren't that interested. Would you say you follow what's going on in government and public affairs ...?" No significant differences were found between questions and the combined results are shown above. All survey prior to Sept. 2010 used the longer question wording.

**Q.1 COMPARISON CONTINUED ...**

	<u>Most of the time</u>	<u>Some of the time</u>	<u>Only now and then</u>	<u>Hardly at all</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
July, 1985	36	33	18	12	1

**ASK ALL**

Just in general...

Q.2 How much do you enjoy keeping up with the news...?

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not much</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
Sept 30-Oct 11, 2011 <i>KN</i>	22	46	22	8	1
<b>FOR COMPARISON</b>					
Jun 8-28, 2010	45	36	12	6	1
May, 2008	52	32	10	5	1
April, 2006	52	34	9	4	1
April, 2004	52	37	7	3	1
May, 2002	52	37	7	3	1
April, 2002	48	36	11	4	1
April, 2000	45	40	12	3	*
April, 1998	50	37	11	2	*
June, 1995	54	34	8	3	1
February, 1994	53	35	9	2	1

**ASK ALL:**

The next few questions are about stories that have been in the news. Please tell me how closely you happened to follow each news story...? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
Q.2b News about candidates for the 2012 presidential elections					
Sept 30-Oct 11, 2011, 2011 <i>KN</i>	12	27	38	22	1
<b>FOR COMPARISON</b>					
October 6-9, 2011 <sup>3</sup>	25	25	23	27	1
Q.2c Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy					
Sept 30-Oct 11, 2011, 2011 <i>KN</i>	20	43	25	11	1
<b>FOR COMPARISON</b>					
October 6-9, 2011	43	28	14	14	1
Q.2d The current situation and events in Afghanistan					
Sept 30-Oct 11, 2011 <i>KN</i>	6	33	41	19	1
<b>FOR COMPARISON</b>					
October 6-9, 2011	20	28	25	26	1

<sup>3</sup> For full news interest trends on Q.2b-d see: *A Third in GOP Have Seen a Presidential Debate*, released Monday, October 17, 2011.

**ASK ALL**

The next several questions are about some people and things that have been in the news. Please answer as best you can. If you don't know the answer to a question, just move on to the next.

**RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 3-21**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.3 Which one is the current Secretary of State?<sup>4</sup> **[RANDOMIZE][FOUR PICTURES]**



(Hillary Clinton)



(Bill Richardson)



(Joe Biden)



(Condoleezza Rice)

**FOR COMPARISON**

*Who is the current Secretary of State?*

*[Hillary Clinton, Bill Richardson,*

*Joe Biden, Condoleezza Rice]*

KN  
Sept 30-Oct 11  
2011

82	Hillary Clinton (Correct)
2	Bill Richardson
3	Joe Biden
8	Condoleezza Rice
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

Oct 6-9  
2011

66
2
4
3
25

**RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 3-21**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.4 What position does this person hold? **[RANDOMIZE] [PICTURE OF BEN BERNANKE]**



**FOR COMPARISON**

*What position does Ben Bernanke hold?*

*[Chairman of the Federal Reserve,  
Commissioner of the National Football League,  
Secretary of Education, CBS Evening News Anchor]*

KN  
Sept 30-Oct 11  
2011

70	Chairman of the Federal Reserve (Correct)
1	Commissioner of the National Football League
8	Secretary of Education
2	CBS Evening News Anchor
19	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

Oct 6-9  
2011

44
*
4
2
50

<sup>4</sup> For questions where respondents saw multiple photos, the photos were shown in randomized order; names were not shown.

**RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 3-21****ASK ALL:**

Q.5 Who is this? [RANDOMIZE] [PICTURE OF SOTOMAYOR]



KN

Sept 30-Oct 11

2011

65	Sonia Sotomayor ( <i>Correct</i> )
9	Maria Bartiromo
3	Soledad O'Brien
7	Elena Kagan
16	Don't know/Refused ( <b>VOL.</b> )

**RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 3-21****ASK ALL:**

Q.6 Who is this? [RANDOMIZE] [PICTURE OF GADHAFI]



KN

Sept 30-Oct 11

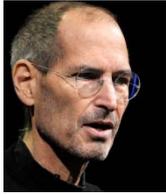
2011

79	Moammar Gadhafi ( <i>Correct</i> )
4	Hamid Karzai
3	Nicolas Sarkozy
4	Silvio Berlusconi
11	Don't know/Refused ( <b>VOL.</b> )

**RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 3-21**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.7 Which one is a co-founder of Apple? **[RANDOMIZE][FOUR PICTURES]**



(Steve Jobs)



(Bill Gates)



(Mark Zuckerberg)



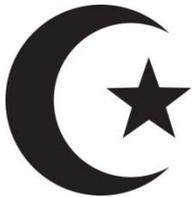
(Meg Whitman)

KN  
 Sept 30-Oct 11  
2011  
 73 Steve Jobs (Correct)  
 16 Bill Gates  
 3 Mark Zuckerberg  
 1 Meg Whitman  
 8 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 3-21**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.8 Which of these symbols is associated with Islam? **[RANDOMIZE][FOUR SYMBOLS]**



(Crescent and star)



(Cross)



(Star of David)

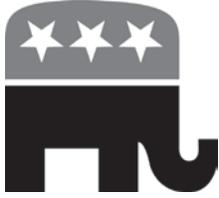


(Om)

KN  
 Sept 30-Oct 11  
2011  
 42 Crescent and star (Correct)  
 1 Cross  
 13 Star of David  
 34 Om  
 11 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 3-21****ASK ALL:**

Q.9 Which political party does this symbol represent...? **[RANDOMIZE] [PICTURE OF ELEPHANT]**



KN

Sept 30-Oct 11

2011

74	Republican Party ( <i>Correct</i> )
16	Democratic Party
1	Green Party
3	Libertarian Party
5	Don't know/Refused ( <b>VOL.</b> )

**RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 3-21****ASK ALL:**

Q.10 What Middle Eastern country is highlighted on this map...? **[RANDOMIZE] [ISRAEL HIGHLIGHTED ON REGIONAL MAP]**



KN

Sept 30-Oct 11

2011

57	Israel ( <i>Correct</i> )
12	Saudi Arabia
4	Egypt
10	Turkey
17	Don't know/Refused ( <b>VOL.</b> )

**RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 3-21**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.11 Which country is Brazil? **[MAP WITH FOUR COUNTRIES NUMBERED]**



KN  
 Sept 30-Oct 11  
2011  
 4 Venezuela (1)  
 77 Brazil (2) *(Correct)*  
 8 Chile (3)  
 3 Ecuador (4)  
 8 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

**RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 3-21**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.12 Thinking about Congress, do Republicans currently have a majority in...? **[LIST IN ORDER]**

KN		----- FOR COMPARISON -----		
Sept 30-Oct 11		Oct 6-9	Mar 17-20	Nov 11-14
<u>2011</u>		<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u> <sup>5</sup>
43	The House of Representatives <i>(Correct)</i>	37	38	46
15	The Senate	8	11	8
21	Both the House and Senate	14	18	14
10	Neither the House nor the Senate	8	6	5
11	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	33	27	27

<sup>5</sup> For November 11-14, 2010, the question read: "When the new Congress convenes in January, will Republicans have a majority in..."

**RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 3-21****ASK ALL:**

Q.13 The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is John Roberts. Is he generally considered a ...?  
[RANDOMIZE]

<i>KN</i>		--- FOR COMPARISON ---	
Sept 30-Oct 11		Feb	<i>Rehnquist</i>
<u>2011</u>		<u>2007</u>	<u>May 1989</u>
14	Liberal	6	11
19	Moderate	9	9
47	Conservative ( <i>Correct</i> )	37	30
19	Don't know/Refused ( <b>VOL.</b> )	48	50

**RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 3-21****ASK ALL:**

Q.14 Is the national unemployment rate as reported by the government currently closer to...? [LIST IN ORDER]

<i>KN</i>		----- FOR COMPARISON -----								
Sept 30-Oct 11		Mar	Nov	Jul	Jan	Oct			Mar	
<u>2011</u>		<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2010</u> <sup>6</sup>	<u>2009</u>			<u>2009</u>	
1	5%	3	3	3	2	4	5%		3	4%
58	9% ( <i>Correct</i> )	57	53	54	55	53	10% ( <i>Correct</i> )		53	8% ( <i>Correct</i> )
20	15%	14	16	16	15	15	15%		24	12%
16	21%	11	11	10	15	18	20%		18	16%
4	DK/Ref ( <b>VOL.</b> )	14	17	18	12	10	DK/Ref ( <b>VOL.</b> )		2	DK/Ref ( <b>VOL.</b> )

**RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 3-21****ASK ALL:**

Q.15 Who is the Prime Minister of Great Britain...? [RANDOMIZE]

<i>KN</i>		----- FOR COMPARISON -----			
Sept 30-Oct 11		Nov 11-14	Jul 1-5	Apr 30-Jun 1	
<u>2011</u>		<u>2010</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2008</u>	
38	David Cameron ( <i>Correct</i> )	15	19	28	Gordon Brown ( <i>Correct</i> )
3	Angela Merkel	2	2	5	Rupert Murdoch
29	Tony Hayward	18	17	4	Robert Gates
11	Richard Branson	5	4	5	John Howard
19	DK/Ref ( <b>VOL.</b> )	60	57	58	DK/Ref ( <b>VOL.</b> )

**RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 3-21****ASK ALL:**

Q.16 Do Pakistan and Afghanistan share a border, or not? [LIST IN ORDER]

<i>KN</i>		FOR COMPARISON	
Sept 30-Oct 11		Mar 26-29	
<u>2011</u>		<u>2009</u>	
78	Yes, they do ( <i>Correct</i> )	69	
13	No, they do not	15	
10	Don't know/Refused ( <b>VOL.</b> )	16	

<sup>6</sup> For January 14-17, 2010 and before the question did not include the phrase: "... as reported by the government..."

**RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 3-21****ASK ALL:**

Q.17 Since the start of military action in Afghanistan, about how many U.S. military personnel have been killed? Around ...? **[LIST IN ORDER]**

<i>KN</i>		<b>FOR COMPARISON</b>	
Sept 30-Oct 11		Oct 16-19	
<u>2011</u>		<u>2009<sup>7</sup></u>	
4	180	15	Around 400
50	1,800 ( <i>Correct</i> )	25	Around 900 ( <i>Correct</i> )
26	18,000	25	Around 1,500
8	180,000	27	Around 2,500
11	DK/Ref ( <b>VOL.</b> )	8	DK/Ref ( <b>VOL.</b> )

**RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 3-21****ASK ALL:**

Q.18 Is the Dow Jones Industrial Average currently closer to ...? **[LIST IN ORDER]**

<i>KN</i>	
Sept 30-Oct 11	
<u>2011</u>	
12	3,000
15	6,000
<b>52</b>	<b>11,000</b>
4	16,000
17	DK/Ref ( <b>VOL.</b> )

**FOR COMPARISON**

Jan		Oct		Mar		Dec	
14-17		1-4		26-29		4-7	
<u>2010</u>		<u>2009</u>		<u>2009</u>		<u>2008</u>	
7	3,000	7	3,000	20	3,000	18	2,000
6	5,000	5	6,000	14	5,000	8	4,000
<b>36</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>8,000</b>
3	20,000	2	16,000	4	11,000	5	13,000
48	DK/Ref ( <b>VOL.</b> )	52	DK/Ref ( <b>VOL.</b> )	22	DK/Ref ( <b>VOL.</b> )	24	DK/Ref ( <b>VOL.</b> )
Feb 28-		Aug		May			
Mar 2		16-19		2000			
<u>2008</u>		<u>2007</u>		<u>2000</u>			
16	4,000	16	2,000	5	3,000		
9	5,000	14	4,000	4	5,000		
16	10,000	13	8,000	<b>28</b>	<b>10,000</b>		
<b>31</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>13,000</b>	1	20,000		
28	DK/Ref ( <b>VOL.</b> )	16	DK/Ref ( <b>VOL.</b> )	62	DK/Ref ( <b>VOL.</b> )		

<sup>7</sup> In 2009, question read "Since the start of military action in AFGHANISTAN, about how many U.S. military personnel have been killed? To the best of your knowledge, have there been ... **[READ IN ORDER]** troop deaths?"

**RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 3-21****ASK ALL:**

Q.19 Who is the current Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives? **[RANDOMIZE]**

*KN*  
 Sept 30-Oct 11  
2011  
 56 John Boehner (*Correct*)  
 23 Nancy Pelosi  
 7 Newt Gingrich  
 5 Mitch McConnell  
 10 DK/Refused (**VOL.**)

**FOR COMPARISON:**

Mar 17-20 <u>2011</u>		Nov 11-14 <u>2010</u> <sup>8</sup>	Dec 4-7 <u>2008</u>		Aug 16-19 <u>2007</u>	
43	John Boehner ( <i>Correct</i> )	38	72	Nancy Pelosi ( <i>Correct</i> )	74	Nancy Pelosi ( <i>Correct</i> )
19	Nancy Pelosi	13	3	Dennis Hastert	5	Dennis Hastert
3	Newt Gingrich	4	3	Barbara Boxer	7	Barbara Boxer
5	Mitch McConnell	7	3	Eric Holder	5	Scooter Libby
30	DK/Refused ( <b>VOL.</b> )	38	19	DK/Refused ( <b>VOL.</b> )	9	DK/Refused ( <b>VOL.</b> )

**RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 3-21****ASK ALL:**

Q.20 What European country is facing severe debt problems and possible default...? **[RANDOMIZE]**

<i>KN</i> Sept 30-Oct 11 <u>2011</u>		<b>FOR COMPARISON</b> Oct 6-9 <u>2011</u>
61	Greece ( <i>Correct</i> )	53
10	Germany	5
13	Great Britain	7
4	Switzerland	2
12	Don't know/Refused ( <b>VOL.</b> )	32

**RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 3-21****ASK ALL:**

Q.21 Is the percentage of Americans in poverty as reported by the government currently closer to...?  
**[LIST IN ORDER]**

*KN*  
 Sept 30-Oct 11  
2011  
 1 1%  
 9 5%  
 46 15% (*Correct*)  
 36 30%  
 8 Don't know/Refused (**VOL.**)

<sup>8</sup> For November 11-14, 2010 the question read: "Who is likely to be the next Speaker of the House when the new Congress convenes in January?"

**ASK ALL:**

Q.22 How do you get most of your news about national and international issues? **[RANDOMIZE]**? Please select up to 2 choices

	Tele- vision	News- papers	Radio	Maga- zines	Internet	(VOL.) Other	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Sept 30-Oct 11, 2011 <i>KN</i>	67	21	14	1	32	--	3
<b>FOR COMPARISON</b>							
Jul 20-24, 2011 <sup>9</sup>	66	31	19	3	43	4	*
<b>May 5-8, 2011 (Killing of bin Laden)<sup>10</sup></b>	<b>74</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
Dec 1-5, 2010	66	31	16	3	41	1	1
July 8-11, 2010	68	24	17	3	41	2	1
<b>Jan 14-17, 2010 (Haiti earthquake)</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
Dec 9-13, 2009	70	32	17	3	35	1	1
July 22-26, 2009	71	33	21	3	42	1	1
December, 2008	70	35	18	5	40	2	1
September, 2007	74	34	13	2	24	2	1
Late September, 2006	74	37	16	4	21	3	1
August, 2006	72	36	14	4	24	2	1
November, 2005	73	36	16	2	20	2	*
<b>Early Sept, 2005 (Hurricane Katrina)</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>*</b>
June, 2005	74	44	22	5	24	2	1
December, 2004	74	46	21	4	24	2	3
October, 2003	80	50	18	4	20	2	1
August, 2003	79	46	15	3	18	2	1
Early July, 2003	79	45	16	5	19	1	*
<b>March, 2003 (War in Iraq)</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>*</b>
February, 2003	83	42	19	4	15	3	*
January, 2003	81	44	22	4	17	2	1
January, 2002	82	42	21	3	14	2	*
<b>Mid-September, 2001 (Terror Attacks)</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Early September, 2001	74	45	18	6	13	1	*
February, 2001	76	40	16	4	10	2	1
October, 1999	80	48	19	5	11	2	*
January, 1999	82	42	18	4	6	2	*
January, 1996	88	61	25	8	--	2	*
September, 1995	82	63	20	10	--	1	1
January, 1994	83	51	15	10	--	5	1
September, 1993	83	60	17	9	--	3	*
January, 1993	83	52	17	5	--	1	1
<b>Early January, 1991 (Persian Gulf)</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>*</b>

Figures add to more than 100% because of multiple responses.

<sup>9</sup> In July 2011 and before, question did not include the phrase "Please select up to 2 choices" though multiple answers were accepted by interviewers.

<sup>10</sup> For May 5-8, 2011, the question asked about how people had been getting news about "the killing of Osama bin Laden." For Jan. 14-17, 2010, the question asked about "the earthquake in Haiti." In Early September 2005, the question asked about "news about the impact of Hurricane Katrina." In March 2003, the question asked about "news about the war in Iraq," and in Mid-September 2001, the question asked about "news about the terrorist attacks." In September 1995, question wording did not include "international." In Early January 1991 the question asked about "the latest developments in the Persian Gulf."

**IF TELEVISION (1) IN Q.22:**

Q.23 On television, do you get most of your news about national and international issues from ...?  
**[RANDOMIZE ITEMS 2 THRU 4 AND 5 THRU 7 SEPARATELY, AND RANDOMIZE SETS OF ITEMS (LOCAL; NETWORK; CABLE). ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES]**

**BASED ON TOTAL:**

	<u>Local</u>	<u>ABC</u>	<u>CBS</u>	<u>NBC</u>	<u>CNN</u>	<u>MSNBC</u>	<u>Channel</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>	<i>TV not a main source</i>
Sept 30-Oct 11, 2011 <i>KN</i>	27	13	11	15	13	6	13	--	*	(33)
<b>FOR COMPARISON</b>										
Jul 20-24, 2011	16	8	7	10	15	6	19	4	2	(34)
Dec 1-5, 2010	16	10	7	9	16	7	16	3	2	(34)
July 8-11, 2010	17	9	8	8	17	5	19	4	2	(32)
Dec 9-13, 2009	16	12	8	10	19	6	19	3	2	(30)
July 22-26, 2009	18	11	10	13	22	6	19	3	1	(29)
December, 2008	15	12	9	10	23	8	17	4	2	(30)
September, 2007	18	11	8	13	22	7	16	3	2	(26)
August, 2006	13	10	9	12	24	6	20	6	1	(28)
November, 2005	16	14	12	15	24	8	22	5	3	(27)
<b>Early Sept, 2005<sup>11</sup> (Hurricane Katrina)</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>(11)</b>
June, 2005	13	12	9	12	18	5	16	2	4	(26)
December, 2004	15	11	9	14	20	6	19	3	3	(26)
October, 2003	17	12	8	13	20	6	17	--	4	(20)
August, 2003	17	12	10	15	26	7	18	3	4	(21)
Early July, 2003	17	12	11	14	27	9	22	3	3	(21)
January, 2002	16	11	11	15	28	8	16	4	2	(18)

*Figures add to more than 100% because of multiple responses.*

<sup>11</sup> In early September 2005, the question was worded: "Have you been getting most of your news about the disaster from ..."

**ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

**ASK IF INDEP (PARTY=3) OR NO RESPONSE GIVEN TO PARTY:**

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No preference	(VOL.) Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	<i>Lean Rep</i>	<i>Lean Dem</i>
Sept 30-Oct 11, 2011 <i>KN</i>	28	37	30	--	--	5	12	15
<b>FOR COMPARISON</b>								
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	23	33	38	2	1	3	18	16
Aug 17-21, 2011	24	30	40	3	*	3	17	18
Jul 20-24, 2011	24	32	38	4	*	2	16	14
Jun 15-19, 2011	26	34	32	4	*	4	13	13
May 25-30, 2011	24	33	38	3	*	2	15	17
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	25	32	37	3	*	3	17	16
Mar 8-14, 2011	24	33	38	3	*	2	17	15
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	24	33	37	3	*	3	15	16
Feb 2-7, 2011	24	31	39	3	*	2	16	16
Jan 5-9, 2011	27	32	35	4	*	2	15	14
Dec 1-5, 2010	25	33	34	5	1	2	13	14
Nov 4-7, 2010	26	30	37	4	*	2	17	13
Oct 27-30, 2010	25	34	31	6	1	4	13	11
Oct 13-18, 2010	25	31	36	4	*	3	16	13
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 <i>Post-Sept 11</i>	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 <i>Pre-Sept 11</i>	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--