

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
AUGUST POLITICAL KNOWLEDGE UPDATE SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
AUGUST 16-19, 2007
N=1,005

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF QUESTIONS

Q.1 Do you happen to know if the Dow Jones Industrial Average is currently closer to **[READ IN ORDER]**?

		<u>May 2000¹</u>	
16	2,000	5	3,000
14	4,000	4	5,000
13	8,000 [OR]	28	10,000 [OR]
41	13,000	1	20,000
<u>16</u>	Don't know/No answer (VOL.)	<u>62</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100		100	

Correct answers for each trend highlighted in bold

Q.2 Which popular online website sponsored a Democratic presidential debate in July with CNN? Was it **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**:

44	YouTube (<i>Correct</i>)
18	Yahoo
12	Google [OR]
2	Facebook
<u>24</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

Q.3 What religion is Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney? Is he **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**:

54	Mormon (<i>Correct</i>)
16	Catholic
8	Baptist [OR]
6	Jewish
<u>16</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

Q.4 Which of the following Democratic presidential candidates is Hispanic? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

31	Bill Richardson (<i>Correct</i>)
21	Barack Obama
10	Chris Dodd [OR]
16	Joe Biden
<u>22</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

¹ In May, 2000 the question was worded: "Do you happen to know at what level the Dow Jones Industrial average is currently trading? Is it about..."

Q.5 Which U.S. newspaper did billionaire Rupert Murdoch recently purchase? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

- 48 The Wall Street Journal (*Correct*)
 - 6 The Los Angeles Times
 - 14 The New York Daily News [OR]
 - 15 USA Today
 - 17 Don't know/Refused (**VOL.**)
- 100

Q.6 There have been many recent news stories about tainted food and dangerous toys. From what country did many of these products come? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

- 88 China (*Correct*)
 - 4 North Korea
 - 3 India [OR]
 - 2 France
 - 3 Don't know/Refused (**VOL.**)
- 100

Q.7 Followers of the two major branches of Islam are seeking political control in Iraq. One branch is the Shi'a, **[PRONOUNCED: SHE-ah]** whose members are known as Shiites **[PRONOUNCED: SHE-ites]**. Can you name the other one? Is it... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

- | | | March 9-12,
<u>2007</u> ² | |
|----------|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 67 | The Sunni (<i>Correct</i>) | 62 | The Sunni (<i>Correct</i>) |
| 8 | The Hezbollah | 7 | The Hezbollah |
| 3 | The Kasmars | 1 | The Kasmars |
| 13 | The Kurds | 9 | [OR] some other group |
| <u>9</u> | DK/Refused (VOL.) | <u>21</u> | DK/Refused (VOL.) |
- 100

Q.8 Do you happen to know the name of the current Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives? Is it... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

- 74 Nancy Pelosi (*Correct*)
 - 5 Dennis Hastert
 - 7 Barbara Boxer [OR]
 - 5 Scooter Libby
 - 9 Don't know/Refused (**VOL.**)
- 100

Q.9 Is Robert Gates... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

- | | | March 9-12,
<u>2007</u> ³ | |
|-----------|--|---|--|
| 41 | The U.S. Secretary of Defense (<i>Correct</i>) | 37 | The U.S. Secretary of Defense (<i>Correct</i>) |
| 17 | A Senator from Michigan | 5 | A Senator from Michigan |
| 12 | The chairman of General Motors | 3 | The chairman of General Motors |
| 8 | The host of CNN's evening news broadcast | 24 | [OR] is he something else |
| <u>22</u> | DK/Refused (VOL.) | <u>31</u> | DK/Refused (VOL.) |
- 100

² For March 9-12, 2007 "The Kurds" was not offered as a response option, and "some other group" was offered.

Q.10 Can you tell me who is the President of Russia? Is it... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

		March 9-12, <u>2007</u> ⁴	
71	Vladimir Putin (<i>Correct</i>)	60	Vladimir Putin (<i>Correct</i>)
10	Boris Yeltsin	7	Boris Yeltsin
10	Mikhail Gorbachev [OR]	7	Mikhail Gorbachev
2	Angela Merkel	8	[OR] is it someone else
<u>7</u>	DK/Refused (VOL.)	<u>18</u>	DK/Refused (VOL.)
100		100	

Q.11 Do you happen to know which political party has a majority in the U.S. House of Representatives? **[READ AND ROTATE]**

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
August 16-19, 2007	78	19	3
February, 2007	76	10	14
Late October, 2006	4	58	38
April, 2006	6	64	30
April, 2004	8	56	36
June, 2001	34	31	35
August, 1999	8	55	37
December, 1998	11	56	33
June, 1997	6	50	44
April, 1996	8	70	22
June, 1995	5	73	22
July, 1994	60	18	22
February, 1994	58	42	n/a
September, 1992	46	9	45
June, 1992	44	12	44
May, 1992	49	12	39
May, 1989 ⁵ <i>Political Knowledge Survey</i>	68	16	16

Correct answers for each trend highlighted in bold

³ For March 9-12, 2007 “The host of CNN’s evening news broadcast” was not offered as a response option, and “is he something else” was offered.

⁴ For March 9-12, 2007 “Angela Merkel” was not offered as a response option, and “is it someone else” was offered.

⁵ In May, 1989 the question was worded: “As a result of the election last year which party now has the most members in the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington?”

Q.12 Since the start of military action in Iraq, about how many U.S. military personnel have been killed? To the best of your knowledge, have there been ... **[READ IN ORDER]** troop deaths?

	June 22-25, <u>2007</u>		Feb <u>2007</u>	Dec <u>2006</u>		April <u>2006</u>		Oct <u>2005</u>	
8	9	Around 1,500	5	6	Around 1,000	4	Around 500	5	Around 500
19	20	Around 2,500	17	24	Around 2,000	16	Around 1,500	23	Around 1,000
54	49	Around 3,500	55	47	Around 3,000	53	Around 2,500	48	Around 2,000
17	12	Around 4,500	17	16	Around 4,000	19	Around 3,500	19	Around 3,000
--	3	Other (VOL.)	1	1	Other (VOL.)	1	Other (VOL.)	1	Other (VOL.)
<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>	DK/Ref (VOL.)	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	DK/Ref	<u>7</u>	DK/Ref	<u>4</u>	DK/Ref
100	100		100	100		100		100	

June <u>2005</u>	April <u>2004</u>	
4	28	Under 500
13	55	500 to 1,000
54	6	1,000 to 2,000
24	4	More than 2,000
--	--	Other (VOL.)
<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	DK/Ref
100	100	

Correct answers for each trend highlighted in bold