

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PRESS**  
**MAY 2001 NEWS INTEREST INDEX**  
**— FINAL TOPLINE —**  
**May 15-20, 2001**  
**N=1,202**

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
May, 2001	53	32	15=100
April, 2001	56	27	17=100
February, 2001	53	21	26=100
<b>Clinton:</b> May, 1993+	44	46	10=100
<b>Bush:</b> May, 1989+	63	18	19=100
<b>Reagan:</b> May, 1981+	68	21	11=100
<b>Carter:</b> May, 1977+	64	19	17=100

+ Gallup trend

Q.2 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
May, 2001	45	36	19=100
April, 2001	45	30	25=100
January, 2001	43	36	21=100
July, 2000	36	46	18=100
May, 2000	40	42	18=100
March, 2000	38	43	19=100
February, 2000	40	43	17=100
January, 2000	39	41	20=100
December, 1999	38	42	20=100
October, 1999	34	50	16=100
Late September, 1999	34	46	20=100
September, 1999	35	48	17=100
August, 1999	40	44	16=100
July, 1999	36	45	19=100
June, 1999	37	46	17=100
May, 1999	38	44	18=100
March, 1999	38	47	15=100
February, 1999	37	51	12=100
Mid-January, 1999	36	51	13=100
January, 1999	38	50	12=100
Late December, 1998	39	56	5=100
Early December, 1998	38	49	13=100
November, 1998	41	48	11=100
September 21-22, 1998	44	44	12=100
September 19-20, 1998	46	41	13=100

**Q. 2 CONTINUED ...**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
Early September, 1998	44	37	19=100
Late August, 1998	48	36	16=100
Early August, 1998	43	37	20=100
June, 1998	42	38	20=100
May, 1998	40	41	19=100
April, 1998	41	40	19=100
March, 1998	43	39	18=100
January, 1998	43	41	16=100
November, 1997	41	43	16=100
August, 1997	42	44	14=100
June, 1997	33	50	17=100
May, 1997	40	44	16=100
April, 1997	40	44	16=100
February, 1997	44	42	14=100
January, 1997	38	47	15=100
November, 1996	40	43	17=100
July, 1996	38	48	14=100
June, 1996	36	50	14=100
April, 1996	39	46	15=100
March, 1996	35	51	14=100
February, 1996	33	53	14=100
January, 1996	36	54	10=100
October, 1995	36	51	13=100
September, 1995	36	50	14=100
August, 1995	38	45	17=100
June, 1995	41	45	14=100
April, 1995	44	43	13=100
March, 1995	43	39	18=100
December, 1994	52	28	20=100

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=621]:**

On another subject...

Q.3F1 What do you think is the most important problem facing the country today? (**RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. PROBE FOR CLARITY — DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS. IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD ALL IN ORDER OF MENTION.**)

	Feb 2001	Aug 1999	June 1999	May 1998	Nov 1997	July 1996	June 1995	Mar 1994	Dec 1993	June 1993	Jan 1992	May 1990	Feb 1989	April 1987
22 Energy crisis/Rising gas/ heating prices	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
8 Education	11	8	7	9	5	6	6	5	5	5	2	4	4	0
7 Economy (general)	7	2	3	4	4	4	5	4	6	17	43	5	4	7
6 Morality/Ethics/Family values	12	13	11	10	9	13	12	10	6	7	3	5	2	3
5 Unemployment/Lack of jobs	6	3	4	6	6	7	10	12	15	19	22	7	9	13
5 Teen violence in school	1	6	7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
4 Health care/Cost/ availability of health care	6	6	3	4	5	4	7	14	14	11	3	3	1	*
4 Crime/Gangs/Justice system	8	12	11	13	12	19	22	31	25	7	3	7	8	3
4 Drugs/Alcohol	6	6	5	7	7	8	5	10	8	5	4	37	23	6
3 Poverty	3	4	3	3	3	3	4	2	3	3	1	3	4	6
3 Social Security	1	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**Q.3F1 CONTINUED ...**

	Feb 2001	Aug 1999	June 1999	May 1998	Nov 1997	July 1996	June 1995	Mar 1994	Dec 1993	June 1993	Jan 1992	May 1990	Feb 1989	April 1987
3	Taxes	3	3	2	4	3	3	3	2	4	1	3	2	0
	Youth/Teenage kids													
3	not acting responsibly	2	2	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
3	Environment/Pollution	1	*	*	2	1	1	2	1	*	1	8	2	0
2	Other International issues	2	2	4	3	--	*	4	1	2	3	4	6	10
	Race relations/Racism/Racial													
2	profiling	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	3	1	2	1	2	0
2	Other economic issues	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2	Issues related to elderly	2	1	3	3	1	2	*	1	1	2	1	2	0
2	Dissatisfaction with govt/politics	4	3	3	5	4	8	6	5	2	5	2	2	1
1	Medicare	1	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	Inflation/Difference													
1	between wages/costs	3	1	*	2	1	2	3	2	2	2	3	2	3
1	Too many guns/Gun control	1	4	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Recession/slowing of the economy	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	*	*	*
1	Immigration	2	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	Deficit/National debt/Balanced													
1	budget	1	3	1	6	5	7	9	5	6	13	4	11	19
1	Other social issues	3	4	4	3	--	2	0	*	3	*	*	*	*
1	Welfare abuse	1	2	1	3	1	7	5	2	*	*	*	*	*
1	Uneven distribution of wealth	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	Defense issues/National security/													
1	Military buildup	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Abortion	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	--	--
1	Homelessness	2	2	4	2	3	2	4	3	5	5	6	8	10
1	Terrorism	*	*	*	*	*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
3	Other	5	1	6	5	6	2	2	2	*	4	1	5	9
*	None	2	*	1	*	1	*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
8	Don't know/No answer	7	11	11	12	7	6	3	4	6	2	3	1	3
<b>40</b>	<b>ECONOMIC (NET)</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>HEALTHCARE (NET)</b>	<b>10</b>	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>4</b>	<b>POVERTY/HOMELESS (NET)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>*</b>
	<b>DEFENSE/INTER-</b>													
<b>3</b>	<b>NATIONAL(NET)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>*</b>

**ASK ALL:**

Q.4 Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely? **[INSERT ITEM; ROTATE]**

	Very <u>Closely</u>	Fairly <u>Closely</u>	Not too <u>Closely</u>	Not at all <u>Closely</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a. George W. Bush's announcement of support for a national missile defense system	15	26	25	33	1=100

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=621]**

b.F1 The controversy surrounding former Senator Bob Kerrey's role in the death of unarmed civilians during the Vietnam War	10	20	22	47	1=100
c.F1 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy	34	36	15	15	0=100
April, 2001	36	34	16	13	1=100
February, 2001	30	39	18	12	1=100
January, 2001	32	38	17	11	2=100
June, 1995	26	41	22	11	*=100
March, 1995	27	45	19	9	*=100
February, 1995	23	41	22	13	1=100
December, 1994	28	43	20	9	*=100
October, 1994	27	40	20	12	1=100
June, 1994	25	42	23	10	*=100
May, 1994	33	40	16	10	1=100
January, 1994	34	39	16	10	1=100
Early January, 1994	36	44	13	7	*=100
December, 1993	35	41	15	8	1=100
October, 1993	33	38	20	9	*=100
September, 1993	37	40	14	8	1=100
Early September, 1993	39	39	14	9	*=100
August, 1993	41	36	14	9	*=100
May, 1993	37	38	18	6	1=100
February, 1993	49	36	10	5	*=100
January, 1993	42	39	12	7	*=100
September, 1992	43	37	13	6	*=100
May, 1992	39	39	15	6	1=100
March, 1992	47	38	11	4	*=100
February, 1992	47	37	10	6	*=100
January, 1992	44	40	11	5	*=100
October, 1991	36	38	16	9	1=100
d.F1 The delay in Timothy McVeigh's execution	32	39	20	8	1=100

**Q.4 CONTINUED ...**

		Very Closely	Fairly Closely	Not too Closely	Not at all Closely	DK/Ref
<b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=581]:</b>						
e.F2	The high price of gasoline these days	61	26	6	6	1=100
	Early October, 2000	56	25	12	6	1=100
	June, 2000 <sup>1</sup>	61	25	9	5	*=100
	March, 2000	58	28	10	4	*=100
	October, 1990	62	26	8	4	*=100
	September, 1990	56	28	11	5	*=100
	August, 1990	57	27	10	5	1=100
f.F2	George W. Bush's new energy policy	22	33	21	22	2=100
<b>ASK ALL:</b>						
g.	The trial and conviction of a Ku Klux Klansman for the bombing of a black church in 1963	16	25	23	35	1=100

**NO QUESTION 5, 6**

On another subject...

Q.7 In general, are you happy or unhappy that the Republican Party maintained control of the U.S. Congress last year?<sup>2</sup>

		Nov <u>1998</u>	Jan <u>1996</u>	Aug <u>1995</u>	June <u>1995</u>	April <u>1995</u>	March <u>1995</u>	Dec <u>1994</u>
44	Happy	47	47	50	46	52	55	57
38	Unhappy	32	43	39	41	36	31	31
<u>18</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>21</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>12</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100

<sup>1</sup> In August 1990 through June 2000 the question was worded "Recent increases in the price of gasoline."

<sup>2</sup> From December 1994 to August 1995 question was worded "In general, are you happy or unhappy that the Republican Party won control of the U.S. Congress? In January 1996, the question was worded "Generally, are you happy or unhappy that the Republican Party won control of the U.S. Congress in November 1994?"

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=581]:**

Q.8F2 What do you think is the most important thing that has happened in the new Congress so far this year? **(RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. PROBE FOR CLARITY — DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS. IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD ALL IN ORDER OF MENTION.)**

- 14 Bush tax cut proposal/Taxes
- 4 Budget
- 4 Gas prices/Energy shortages/Energy
- 2 Republicans gaining strength/control of Congress
- 2 Environment
- 2 Education
- 1 Economy/Economic issues
- 1 Abortion
- 1 Drilling in Alaska
- 1 Social Security/The elderly
- 1 Bipartisanship/Cooperating with administration
- 1 Campaign finance
- 1 Interest rates
- 1 China/US plane incident
- 1 Gun control
- 1 Health care/Medicare
- 1 Democrats gaining strength/control of Congress
- \* Hasn't followed closely enough to say
- 10 Nothing important has happened yet
- 7 Other
- 49 Don't know/Refused
- 2 No answer

**ASK ALL:**

Q.9 Generally, what's the better situation: that a president's political party also have a controlling majority in Congress, OR is it better that one party controls the White House while the other party controls the Congress... or don't you think it matters too much one way or the other?

		July	March	Aug	May
		<u>2000</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1992</u>
19	President's party also control	25	19	18	26
28	One party control each	27	34	32	23
45	Doesn't matter	41	40	42	40
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>11</u>
100		100	100	100	100

Q.10 This year, have Republicans and Democrats in Washington been working together more to solve problems, OR have they been bickering and opposing one another more than usual?

		July <u>2000</u>	Aug <u>1999</u>	Aug <u>1998</u>	Nov <u>1997</u>	Aug <u>1997</u>	June <u>1997</u>	Oct <u>1995</u>	Aug <u>1993</u>
34	Working together more	21	20	27	38	43	34	21	20
41	Opposing each other more	54	68	51	45	46	49	72	57
9	Same as in past (VOL)	10	4	8	7	3	6	3	13
<u>16</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>15</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Q.11 Please tell me if you think the REPUBLICAN Party or the DEMOCRATIC Party could do a better job in each of the following areas... (First,) which party could do a better job of...(READ AND ROTATE, EXCEPT ITEM i)

		Republican	Democratic	(VOL) Both	(VOL) Neither	Don't
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=621]:		<u>Party</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Equally</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Know</u>
a.F1	Making wise decisions about foreign policy	39	34	11	3	13=100
	June, 1999	37	36	7	6	14=100
	March, 1999	42	37	6	4	11=100
	September, 1998	40	31	11	5	13=100
	March, 1998	41	33	12	4	10=100
	October, 1994	47	30	7	5	11=100
	July, 1994 <sup>3</sup>	51	31	4	6	8=100
	December, 1993	49	23	n/a	10	18=100
	May, 1990	39	28	n/a	17	16=100
b.F1	Keeping the country prosperous	33	44	8	5	10=100
	June, 1999	37	43	8	3	9=100
	March, 1999	39	44	5	3	9=100
	September, 1998	40	38	8	4	10=100
	March, 1998	40	40	12	3	5=100
	October, 1994	45	33	5	7	10=100
	October, 1992 <sup>4</sup>	36	45	10	0	9=100
	October, 1990 <sup>5</sup>	37	35	0	0	28=100
c.F1	Protecting the environment	25	51	7	4	13=100
	June, 1999	27	45	7	5	16=100
	September, 1998	25	51	8	4	12=100
	March, 1998	22	56	8	5	9=100
	July, 1994	28	56	4	4	8=100
	December, 1993	22	46	n/a	12	20=100
	May, 1990	24	40	n/a	19	17=100

<sup>3</sup> In July 1994 and May 1990, question was worded "Making wise decisions about the country's defense policies."

<sup>4</sup> Gallup poll conducted Oct. 23-25, 1992 based on registered voters.

<sup>5</sup> Gallup poll Oct 25-28, 1990.

**Q.11 CONTINUED ...**

		Republican	Democratic	(VOL) Both	(VOL) Neither	Don't Know
		<u>Party</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Equally</u>		
d.F1	Dealing with taxes	37	40	8	6	9=100
	June, 1999	38	38	5	7	12=100
	September, 1998	41	37	7	5	10=100
	March, 1998	39	40	6	7	8=100
	October, 1994	43	34	5	9	9=100

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=581]:**

e.F2	Improving our educational system	36	38	11	6	9=100
	June, 1999	29	52	7	5	7=100
	March, 1999	33	46	6	5	10=100
	September, 1998	34	42	10	4	10=100
	March, 1998	29	49	10	5	7=100
	July, 1994	37	46	4	5	8=100
	January, 1992	28	48	n/a	10	14=100
	May, 1990	30	42	n/a	14	14=100

f.F2	Keeping Social Security financially sound	35	43	6	5	11=100
	June, 1999	33	41	4	9	13=100
	September, 1998	37	42	7	5	9=100
	May, 1990	28	41	n/a	16	15=100

g.F2	Dealing with the nation's energy problems	36	34	10	7	13=100
------	---	----	----	----	---	--------

h.F2	Striking the right balance between protecting the environment and keeping the economy growing	33	44	8	3	12=100
------	---	----	----	---	---	--------

**ASK ALL:**

**ALWAYS ASK ITEM "i" LAST**

i.	Dealing with China	38	31	9	5	17=100
	June, 1999	37	30	6	6	21=100

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=621]:**

Q.12F1 Right now, which ONE of the following do you think should be a more important priority for this country...  
(READ AND ROTATE)?

		----- Newsweek -----	
		<u>May 2001</u>	<u>April 2001</u>
42	Protecting the environment [OR]	41	44
49	Developing new sources of energy	52	49
<u>9</u>	<b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Don't know/Refused	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>
100		100	100

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=581]:**

Q13F2 Which should be a higher priority for the president and Congress now... **(READ AND ROTATE)?**

- 31 Controlling rising gasoline prices and dealing with current energy shortages [OR]
- 56 Trying to find new energy supplies that will deal with our long term problems?
- 10 **(DO NOT READ)** Both are equally important
- 3 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know/Refused
- 100

**ASK ALL:**

Q.14 In the future, how do you think the U.S. would be best protected... **(READ AND ROTATE)?**

- 34 Building a national missile defense system that would protect us from attack [OR]
- 53 Having treaties that would limit the arms race and help control the spread of nuclear weapons
- 6 **(DO NOT READ)** Both equally important
- 7 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know/Refused
- 100

Q.15 In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat or Independent?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL) No <u>Preference</u>	(VOL) Other <u>Party</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
May, 2001	27	30	37	4	1	1=100
September, 2000	27	34	30	6	*	3=100
February, 2000	27	30	34	6	1	2=100
Late September, 1999	24	31	36	5	1	3=100
August, 1999	25	33	37	3	*	2=100
November, 1997	25	32	38	3	*	2=100
June, 1996	30	33	34	2	*	1=100
February, 1996	30	32	32	3	1	2=100
October, 1995	30	30	35	3	*	2=100
April, 1995	30	29	37	3	*	1=100
March, 1995	35	28	32	--	2	3=100
February, 1995	33	30	33	--	2	2=100
December, 1994	35	31	30	--	2	2=100
November, 1994	28	31	35	4	*	2=100
October, 1994	31	32	33	3	*	1=100
Early October, 1994	33	30	32	--	2	3=100
July, 1994	29	33	35	2	*	1=100
June, 1992	28	32	36	1	*	3=100
May, 1990	28	33	28	9	*	2=100
February, 1989	31	38	23	7	*	1=100
May, 1988	28	38	26	6	*	2=100
January, 1988	27	39	26	6	*	2=100
May, 1987	25	37	28	8	*	2=100

**ASKED ONLY OF THOSE WHO ANSWERED INDEPENDENT/NO PREFERENCE/OTHER/DON'T KNOW (Q.15=3, 4, 5, 9) [N=514]:**

Q.16 As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

35	Republican
38	Democrat
<u>27</u>	Other/Don't know/Refused (VOL)
100	

**ASK REPUBLICANS/REPUBLICAN LEANERS ONLY (Q.15=1 OR Q.16=1) [N=532]:**

Q.17 How good a job is the Republican Party doing these days in standing up for its traditional positions on such things as reducing the size of government, cutting taxes and promoting conservative social values — would you say the Party is doing an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job or a poor job?

		<b>Rep/Lean Rep RV's</b>
		<u>Sept 2000</u>
10	Excellent	6
50	Good	43
32	Only fair	44
5	Poor	5
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>2</u>
100		100

**ASK DEMOCRATS AND DEMOCRATIC LEANERS ONLY (Q.15=2 OR Q.16=2) [N=538]:**

Q.18 How good a job is the Democratic Party doing these days in standing up for its traditional positions on such things as protecting the interests of minorities, helping the poor and needy, and representing working people — would you say the Party is doing an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job or a poor job?

		<b>Dem/Lean Dem RV's</b>
		<u>Sept 2000</u>
8	Excellent	11
39	Good	52
40	Only fair	32
7	Poor	4
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>1</u>
100		100

**ASK ALL:**

And now a few questions on China...

Q.19 All things considered, which of these descriptions comes closest to your view of China today... Do you think China is (READ):

		March	June	March	Sept
		<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1997</u>
19	An adversary	17	18	20	14
53	A serious problem, but not an adversary	44	53	48	46
20	OR, Not much of a problem	26	22	25	32
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused (DO NOT READ)	<u>13</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>
100		100	100	100	100

Q.20 What is your impression... These days are relations between the U.S. and China improving, getting worse, or staying about the same?

		March <u>2000</u>	June <u>1999</u>	March <u>1999</u>	Aug <u>1995</u>
6	Improving	13	7	13	16
40	Getting worse	19	35	19	22
48	Staying about the same	55	50	60	53
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>13</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>
100		100	100	100	100

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=621]:**

Q.21F1 From what you know or have read, do you think that China's government is becoming more democratic and is allowing more freedoms for Chinese citizens, or do you think this is not happening?

		June <u>1999</u>	March <u>1999</u>	Early Aug <u>1998</u>	<i>Gallup</i> <u>Oct 1997</u>
21	Becoming more democratic	26	23	35	26
62	Not happening	60	65	51	64
<u>17</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>14</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>10</u>
100		100	100	100	100

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=581]:**

Q.22F2 Do you think that China's economy is becoming more like the kind of free-market system found in the United States and other Western countries, or do you think this is not happening?

		March <u>1999</u>	Early Aug <u>1998</u>	<i>Gallup</i> <u>Oct 1997</u>
35	More free-market	34	41	34
48	Not happening	47	44	55
<u>17</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>19</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>11</u>
100		100	100	100

**ASK ALL:**

Q.23 In your opinion, is the Bush administration being too tough, not tough enough, or about right in its dealings with China?

		----- Clinton -----		
		March <u>2000</u>	June <u>1999</u>	March <u>1999</u>
8	Too tough	2	1	2
34	Not tough enough	42	51	44
46	About right	42	35	43
<u>12</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>14</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>
100		100	100	100

Q.24 Do you think that trade between China and Western nations will lead to China becoming more democratic, or don't you think so?

		<u>May 2000</u>	<u>June 1999</u>
38	Yes	32	39
46	No	47	47
<u>16</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>21</u>	<u>14</u>
100		100	100

Q.25 In deciding U.S. policies toward China, how much priority should be given to each of the following. First, **(INSERT ITEM; ROTATE)**. Do you think this should be A top priority, have some priority or have no priority at all?

		<u>Top Priority</u>	<u>Some Priority</u>	<u>No Priority</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Promoting fair trade between the U.S. and China	40	46	10	4=100
b.	Promoting and defending human rights in China	48	36	12	4=100
c.	Promoting better environmental policies and practices in China	30	46	17	7=100
d.	Trying to assure a peaceful relationship between China and Taiwan	41	40	12	7=100
e.	Trying to assure that China does not become a military threat to Japan and South Korea	52	34	9	5=100
f.	Trying to assure that Hong Kong continues to have some independence from China	29	46	17	8=100

Q.26 All in all, in deciding U.S. policy about China, what's more important... **(READ AND ROTATE)**?

59	Maintaining a good and friendly relationship between the U.S. and China [OR]
32	The U.S. promoting democracy and human rights in China
4	<b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Both are equally important
<u>5</u>	<b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.27 Do you think it is possible for the U.S., through its policies, to have much of an effect on making China more democratic, or don't you think so?

35	Yes, it is possible
55	No, it is not possible
<u>10</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.28 As you may know, the issue of tensions between China and Taiwan has been in the news recently. In your opinion, should the U.S. now COMMIT to defending Taiwan if China were to use military force against Taiwan, or should the U.S. NOT commit to such a position at this time?

		<u>March 2000<sup>6</sup></u>
26	U.S. should commit to defending Taiwan	31
64	U.S. should not commit at this time	53
<u>10</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>16</u>
100		100

On another subject...

E.1 How confident are you that George W. Bush is taking the right approach to solving the nation's energy problems... Are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

		<u>May 17-20</u>	<u>May 15-16</u>
14	Very confident	14	14
38	Somewhat confident	38	38
23	Not too confident	20	25
20	Not at all confident	23	18
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
100		100	100
		(N=491)	(N=711)

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=581]:**

Q.29F2 Right now, which ONE of the following do you think should be the more important priority for U.S. energy policy... **(READ AND ROTATE)**?

		<i>Newsweek</i> <u>May 2001</u>
44	Expanding exploration, mining and drilling, and the construction of new power plants [OR]	42
49	More energy conservation and regulation on energy use and prices	51
<u>7</u>	<b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Don't know/Refused	<u>7</u>
100		100

**NO QUESTION 30**

<sup>6</sup>

In March 2000 the question was worded slightly different: "As you may know, there have been renewed tensions about when and how to bring Taiwan back under Chinese control. If China were to use military force against Taiwan over this, should the United States use military force to defend Taiwan, or not?"

**ASK ALL:**

Q.31 How much of a problem has **(INSERT ITEM; ROTATE)** been for you and your family lately — a serious problem, a minor problem, or not a problem at all?

		A Serious Problem	A Minor Problem	Not A Problem At All	DK/Ref
a.	The rising price of gasoline	49	37	14	*=100
b.	The increase in home utility costs, such as electricity, gas and oil	41	40	18	1=100
c.	Energy shortages in your area	16	27	56	1=100

Q.32 Now I'm going to list a few steps some people may be taking lately to deal with increasing energy costs. Not everyone will have done these. Have you **(INSERT ITEM; ROTATE)** lately, or not?

		Yes, Have Done This	No, Haven't Done This	(VOL) Does not Apply	DK/Ref
a.	Been driving less to save money on gas	52	43	5	*=100
b.	Been shopping around for gasoline at the best price	65	32	3	*=100
c.	Changed your plans for summer travel to avoid driving long distances	31	60	9	*=100
d.	Started car-pooling to work or taking public transportation	16	68	16	0=100
e.	Thought about buying a car that gets better gas mileage	36	55	9	*=100
f.	Been adjusting the temperature in your house to lower your utility bills	69	27	4	*=100

Now thinking about America's place in the world ...

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=621]:**

B.1F1 Some people say George W. Bush's policies are too aggressive regarding other countries. Do you agree or disagree?

31	Agree
54	Disagree
<u>15</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=581]:**

B.2F2 Is George W. Bush working hard enough to have a peaceful relationship with other countries in the world, or not?

51 Yes, hard enough  
29 No, not hard enough  
1 Too hard (VOL)  
19 Don't know/Refused  
100

**ASK ALL:**

Q.33 What's the greater threat to the United States at this point: The possibility of a missile attack by an unfriendly nation OR a terrorist group bringing weapons of mass destruction into the U.S.?

11 Possibility of missile attack  
78 Terrorist bringing weapons into the U.S.  
5 About the same (VOL)  
6 Don't know/Refused  
100

Q.34 Do you think the U.S. should put into effect a national missile defense system, or don't you think so?

**IF YES "1" ASK:**

Q.35 Do we have a pressing need for this system right now or is this something we should put off into the future?

51	Yes, U.S. should put into effect a national missile defense system	<u>Feb 2001</u> <sup>7</sup> 54
29	Need the system right now	n/a
19	Should put it off into the future	n/a
3	Don't know/Refused	n/a
37	No, U.S. should not	32
<u>12</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>14</u>
100		100

---

<sup>7</sup>

In February 2001 question was worded slightly different: "Do you favor or oppose the development of a national missile defense system?"

**ASK ALL:**

**ROTATE Q.36/37 AND Q.38/39**

Q.36 I'm going to read a few reasons why some people OPPOSE the creation of a national missile defense system. Please tell me whether you have heard about each, or not. (First,) **(READ AND ROTATE ITEMS. ASK Q.37 BEFORE PROCEEDING TO NEXT ITEM)**. Have you heard about this, or not? (Next,)

		Have Heard <u>About</u>	Have Not <u>Heard about</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	The technology is not yet available for such a system to work	34	66	*=100
b.	A missile defense system would be too costly	60	39	1=100
c.	There is no real threat that would justify building this system	37	62	1=100

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=621]:**

d.F1	Building this system could damage U.S. relations with Russia and China	48	51	1=100
------	--	----	----	-------

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=581]:**

e.F2	Building this system could trigger a new arms race among countries who feel threatened by this policy	49	50	1=100
------	---	----	----	-------

Q.37 Do you think this is an important reason to oppose the creation of a national missile defense system, or not? **(GO TO NEXT ITEM IN Q.36)**

		Important Reason <u>To Oppose</u>	NOT Important Reason <u>To Oppose</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	The technology is not yet available for such a system to work	36	55	9=100
b.	A missile defense system would be too costly	40	52	8=100
c.	There is no real threat that would justify building this system	31	59	10=100

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=621]:**

d.F1	Building this system could damage U.S. relations with Russia and China	34	57	9=100
------	--	----	----	-------

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=581]:**

e.F2	Building this system could trigger a new arms race among countries who feel threatened by this policy	40	50	10=100
------	---	----	----	--------

Q.38 I'm going to read a few reasons why some people FAVOR the creation of a national missile defense system. Please tell me whether you have heard about each, or not. (First,) **(READ AND ROTATE ITEMS. ASK Q.39 BEFORE PROCEEDING TO NEXT ITEM)** Have you heard about this, or not? (Next,)

	Have Heard <u>About</u>	Have Not <u>Heard about</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a. The system would allow us to protect our allies without fear of being attacked ourselves	35	64	1=100
b. The system could protect the U.S. against missiles that are ACCIDENTALLY launched	44	55	1=100
c. Our current defense systems do not adequately protect against attack from smaller, unfriendly nations such as Iraq and North Korea	41	58	1=100

Q.39 Do you think this is an important reason to favor the creation of a national missile defense system, or not? **(GO TO NEXT ITEM IN Q.38)**

	Important Reason <u>To Favor</u>	NOT Important Reason <u>To Favor</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a. The system would allow us to protect our allies without fear of being attacked ourselves	51	41	8=100
b. The system could protect the U.S. against missiles that are ACCIDENTALLY launched	58	35	7=100
c. Our current defense systems do not adequately protect against attack from smaller, unfriendly nations such as Iraq and North Korea	50	42	8=100

Q.40 Now, after considering these reasons to favor and oppose the creation of a national missile defense system, what's your opinion? Do you think the U.S. should now put into effect a national missile defense system, or don't you think so?

49 Yes, U.S. should put into effect a missile defense system  
 41 No, U.S. should not  
10 Don't know/Refused  
 100

**ASK ALL:**

Finally, I'd like to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes only...

Q.41 Do you use a computer at your workplace, at school, at home or anywhere else on at least an occasional basis?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
May, 2001	75	25	*=100
April, 2001	72	28	*=100
February, 2001	72	28	0=100
January, 2001	71	29	*=100
July, 2000	68	31	1=100
June, 2000	68	31	1=100
April, 2000	68	32	*=100
March, 2000 <sup>8</sup>	72	28	0=100
February, 2000	67	33	*=100
January, 2000	68	32	*=100
December, 1999	67	33	*=100
October, 1999	67	33	*=100
Late September, 1999	68	32	*=100
September, 1999	70	30	*=100
August, 1999	67	33	*=100
July, 1999	68	32	*=100
June, 1999	64	35	1=100
May, 1999	66	33	1=100
April, 1999	71	29	*=100
March, 1999	68	32	*=100
February, 1999	68	32	*=100
January, 1999	69	31	*=100
Early December, 1998	64	36	*=100
Early September, 1998	64	36	*=100
Late August, 1998	66	34	0=100
Early August, 1998	66	34	*=100
April, 1998	61	39	*=100
January, 1998	65	35	*=100
November, 1997	66	34	*=100
June, 1997	60	40	0=100
Early September, 1996	56	44	*=100
July, 1996	56	44	*=100
April, 1996	58	42	*=100
March, 1996	61	39	*=100
February, 1996	60	40	0=100
January, 1996	59	41	0=100

---

8

In March 2000, "or anywhere else" was added to the question wording.

**IF "1, YES" (USE A COMPUTER) IN Q.41, ASK:**

Q.42 Do you ever go online to access the Internet or World Wide Web or to send and receive email?

**BASED ON TOTAL RESPONDENTS:**

	<u>Goes Online</u>	<u>Doesn't Go Online</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
May, 2001	64	36	0=100
April, 2001	62	38	0=100
February, 2001	60	40	*=100
January, 2001	61	39	0=100
July, 2000	55	45	*=100
June, 2000	56	44	*=100
April, 2000	54	46	*=100
March, 2000	61	39	0=100
February, 2000	52	48	0=100
January, 2000	52	48	*=100
December, 1999	53	47	0=100
October, 1999	50	50	0=100
Late September, 1999	52	48	*=100
September, 1999	53	47	0=100
August, 1999	52	48	0=100
July, 1999	49	51	0=100
June, 1999	50	50	*=100
May, 1999	48	52	0=100
April, 1999	51	49	*=100
March, 1999	49	51	*=100
February, 1999	49	51	*=100
January, 1999	47	53	*=100
Early December, 1998	42	58	0=100
November, 1998	37	63	*=100
Early September, 1998	42	58	*=100
Late August, 1998	43	57	*=100
Early August, 1998	41	59	*=100
April, 1998	36	64	0=100
January, 1998	37	63	0=100
November, 1997	36	63	1=100
July, 1996	23	77	0=100
April, 1996	21	79	*=100
March, 1996	22	78	0=100
February, 1996	21	79	*=100
January, 1996	21	79	0=100
June, 1995 <sup>9</sup>	14	86	*=100

---

9

The 1995 figure combines responses from two separate questions:

(1) Do you or anyone in your household ever use a modem to connect to any computer bulletin boards, information services such as CompuServe or Prodigy, or other computers at other locations? (IF YES, PROBE: Is that you, someone else or both?)

(2) Do you, yourself, ever use a computer at (work) (school) (work or school) to connect with computer bulletin boards, information services such as America Online or Prodigy, or other computers over the Internet?