

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
OCTOBER 2009 POLITICAL KNOWLEDGE UPDATE SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
OCTOBER 1-4, 2009
N=1,002**

READ TO ALL: Next I'd like to ask about some things that have been in the news. Please answer as best you can. If you don't know the answer just tell me and we'll move to the next question.

RANDOMIZE Q.1-Q.12 (DO NOT RANDOMIZE BY FORM)

ASK ALL:

Q.1 Do you happen to know which political party has a majority in the U.S. House of Representatives? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
October 1-4, 2009	75	13	12
Mid-June, 2009	76	12	12
March 26-29, 2009	86	12	2
December 4-7, 2008	82	11	7
February 28-March 2, 2008	70	26	4
August 16-19, 2007	78	19	3
February, 2007	76	10	14
TREND FOR COMPARISON:¹			
May, 2008	53	15	32
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 <i>Political Knowledge Survey</i>	68	16	16

***Correct answers for each trend in bold**

¹ In May 2008, and from May 1992 through Late October 2006 this was asked as an open-ended question, without offering response options for Democrats and Republicans. 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?"

RANDOMIZE Q.1-Q.12 (DO NOT RANDOMIZE BY FORM)

ASK ALL:

Q.2 Do you happen to know if Iran and Israel do or do not share a border?

- 27 Yes, they do
- 42 No, they do not (*Correct*)
- 30 Don't know/Refused (**VOL. DO NOT READ**)

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

Do you happen to know if Pakistan and Afghanistan do or do not share a border?

	March 26-29, 2009
Yes, they do (<i>Correct</i>)	69
No, they do not	15
Don't know/Refused (VOL. DO NOT READ)	16

RANDOMIZE Q.1-Q.12 (DO NOT RANDOMIZE BY FORM)

ASK ALL:

Q.3 Do you happen to know if the Dow Jones Industrial Average is currently closer to **[READ IN ORDER]**?

		March 26-29, 2009		Dec 4-7, 2008		Feb 28- Mar 2, 2008	
7	3,000	20	3,000	18	2,000	16	4,000
5	6,000	14	5,000	8	4,000	9	5,000
33	10,000 [OR]	40	8,000 [OR]	45	8,000 [OR]	16	10,000 [OR]
2	16,000	4	11,000	5	13,000	31	12,000
52	DK/Ref (VOL.)	22	DK/Ref (VOL.)	24	DK/Ref (VOL.)	28	DK/Ref (VOL.)

		Aug 16-19, 2007		May 2000 ²	
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		
16	DK/Ref (VOL.)	62	DK/Ref (VOL.)		

Correct answers for each trend highlighted in bold

RANDOMIZE Q.1-Q.12 (DO NOT RANDOMIZE BY FORM)

ASK ALL:

Q.4 Does the so-called "cap and trade" legislation being discussed in Congress deal with... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

- 23 Energy and environment (*Correct*)
- 11 Health care
- 13 Banking reform
- 5 Unemployment
- 48 Don't know/Refused (**VOL. DO NOT READ**)

² 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..."

RANDOMIZE Q.1-Q.12 (DO NOT RANDOMIZE BY FORM)

ASK ALL:

Q.5 Does the so-called “public option” legislation being discussed in Congress deal with... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

- 3 Energy and environment
- 56 Health care (*Correct*)
- 2 Banking reform
- 6 Unemployment
- 33 Don't know/Refused (**VOL. DO NOT READ**)

RANDOMIZE Q.1-Q.12 (DO NOT RANDOMIZE BY FORM)

ASK ALL:

Q.6 About how many U.S. military personnel are currently in Afghanistan **[READ IN ORDER]**?

- 17 Around 20,000
- 28 Around 70,000 (*Correct*)
- 18 Around 150,000 **[OR]**
- 7 Around 200,000
- 29 Don't know/Refused (**VOL. DO NOT READ**)

RANDOMIZE Q.1-Q.12 (DO NOT RANDOMIZE BY FORM)

ASK ALL:

Q.7 Do you happen to know if the national unemployment rate is currently closer to **[READ IN ORDER]**?

- | | | March
26-29, 2009 | |
|----|---|----------------------|---|
| 4 | 5% | 3 | 4% |
| 53 | 10% (<i>Correct</i>) | 53 | 8% (<i>Correct</i>) |
| 15 | 15% | 24 | 12% |
| 18 | 20% | 18 | 16% |
| 10 | Don't know/Ref. (VOL. DO NOT READ) | 2 | Don't know/Ref. (VOL. DO NOT READ) |

RANDOMIZE Q.1-Q.12 (DO NOT RANDOMIZE BY FORM)

ASK ALL:

Q.8 Do you happen to know who is chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve Board? Is it... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

- | | | Mar 26-29,
2009 | Feb. 28-Mar 2,
2008 |
|----|--|--------------------|------------------------|
| 33 | Ben Bernanke (<i>Correct</i>) | 45 | 35 |
| 15 | Alan Greenspan | 16 | 27 |
| 3 | Paul Volcker | 7 | 8 |
| 4 | Henry Paulson | 12 | 5 |
| 45 | Don't know/Refused (VOL. DO NOT READ) | 20 | 25 |

RANDOMIZE Q.1-Q.12 (DO NOT RANDOMIZE BY FORM)

ASK ALL:

Q.9 Do you happen to know who Glenn Beck is? Is he... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

- 40 A television and radio talk show host (*Correct*)
- 6 A member of the Federal Reserve Board
- 5 The Secretary of Defense
- 1 A Hip Hop artist
- 48 Don't know/Refused (**VOL. DO NOT READ**)

RANDOMIZE Q.1-Q.12 (DO NOT RANDOMIZE BY FORM)

ASK ALL:

Q.10 Can you tell me who is the newest justice to join the Supreme Court? Is it... **[READ IN RANDOMIZE]**?

- 65 Sonia Sotomayor (*Correct*)
- 3 Ruth Bader Ginsburg
- 1 Eric Holder **[OR]**
- 2 Antonin Scalia
- 29 Don't know/Refused (**VOL. DO NOT READ**)

RANDOMIZE Q.1-Q.12 (DO NOT RANDOMIZE BY FORM)

ASK ALL:

Q.11 Can you tell me who is chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, which is working on a bill to reform the health care system? Is it... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

- 18 Max Baucus (*Correct*)
- 8 Kathleen Sebelius
- 11 Dianne Feinstein **[OR]**
- 7 John McCain
- 56 Don't know/Refused (**VOL. DO NOT READ**)

RANDOMIZE Q.1-Q.12 (DO NOT RANDOMIZE BY FORM)

ASK ALL:

Q.12 Is health care spending per person in the U.S. higher, lower, or about the same as in most major European nations? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE "HIGHER AND "LOWER]**

- 61 Higher in U.S. (*Correct*)
- 15 Lower in U.S.
- 4 About the same
- 20 Don't know/Refused (**VOL. DO NOT READ**)