

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**FEBRUARY POLITICAL KNOWLEDGE UPDATE SURVEY**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 2, 2008**  
**N=1,003**

Now I would like to ask you about some things that have been in the news recently. Not everyone will have heard of them...

**ROTATE ITEMS Q.1 THROUGH Q.7 AND ITEMS Q.8 THROUGH Q.13 IN SEPARATE SECTIONS.**

**QUESTION 1 NOT INCLUDED IN KNOWLEDGE SCALE.**

*Q.1 Do you happen to know which group in Hollywood was on strike earlier this year? Was it... [READ AND RANDOMIZE]*

- 91 The writers (*Correct*)
- 1 The stuntmen
- 3 The producers [OR]
- 1 The directors
- 4 Don't know/Refused (**VOL. DO NOT READ**)
- 100

**Q.2 Is Condoleezza Rice... [READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

- 70 The U.S. Secretary of State (*Correct*)
- 20 The Secretary of Defense
- 2 The Governor of Louisiana [OR]
- 1 The President of Harvard University
- 7 Don't know/Refused (**VOL. DO NOT READ**)
- 100

**Q.3 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]**

	Aug. 16- <u>19, 2007</u>		March 9-12, <u>2007</u> <sup>1</sup>	
62	67	The Sunni ( <i>Correct</i> )	62	The Sunni ( <i>Correct</i> )
10	8	The Hezbollah	7	The Hezbollah
2	3	The Kasmars	1	The Kasmars
13	13	The Kurds	9	[OR] some other group
<u>13</u>	<u>9</u>	DK/Refused ( <b>VOL.</b> )	<u>21</u>	DK/Refused ( <b>VOL.</b> )
100	100		100	

<sup>1</sup> For March 9-12, 2007 "The Kurds" was not offered as a response option, and "some other group" was offered.

Q.4 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?

		Aug. 9-16, <u>2007</u>	June 22-25, <u>2007</u>		Feb <u>2007</u>	Dec <u>2006</u>		April <u>2006</u>	
11	Around 2,000	8	9	Around 1,500	5	6	Around 1,000	4	Around 500
35	Around 3,000	19	20	Around 2,500	17	24	Around 2,000	16	Around 1,500
<b>28</b>	<b>Around 4,000</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>Around 3,500</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>Around 3,000</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>Around 2,500</b>
23	Around 5,000	17	12	Around 4,500	17	16	Around 4,000	19	Around 3,500
--	Other (VOL.)	--	3	Other (VOL.)	1	1	Other (VOL.)	1	Other (VOL.)
<u>3</u>	DK/Ref (VOL.)	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>	DK/Ref (VOL.)	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	DK/Ref (VOL.)	<u>7</u>	DK/Ref (VOL.)
100		100	100		100	100		100	

  

		June <u>2005</u>	April <u>2004</u>	
Oct <u>2005</u>				
5	Around 500	4	28	Under 500
23	Around 1,000	13	<b>55</b>	<b>500 to 1,000</b>
<b>48</b>	<b>Around 2,000</b>	<b>54</b>	6	<b>1,000 to 2,000</b>
19	Around 3,000	24	4	More than 2,000
1	Other (VOL.)	--	--	Other (VOL.)
<u>4</u>	DK/Ref (VOL.)	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	DK/Ref (VOL.)
100		100	100	

Correct answers for each trend highlighted in bold

Q.5 Do you happen to know what state U.S. Senator John McCain represents in Congress? Is it... [READ AND RANDOMIZE]

56	Arizona ( <i>Correct</i> )
9	Colorado
4	New Mexico [OR]
19	New Hampshire
<u>12</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL. DO NOT READ)
100	

Q.6 Do you happen to know the name of the current majority leader of the U.S. Senate? Is it... [READ AND RANDOMIZE]

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

		<i>House Speaker</i> <u>Aug. 16-19, 2007</u>		
24	Harry Reid ( <i>Correct</i> )	74	Nancy Pelosi ( <i>Correct</i> )	
13	Patrick Leahy	5	Dennis Hastert	
13	Trent Lott	7	Barbara Boxer [OR]	
14	Joe Biden	5	Scooter Libby	
<u>36</u>	DK/Refused (VOL.)	<u>9</u>	DK/Refused (VOL.)	
100		100		

Q.7 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>
February 28-March 2, 2008	<b>70</b>	26	4=100
August 16-19, 2007	<b>78</b>	19	3=100
February, 2007	<b>76</b>	10	14=100
Late October, 2006	4	<b>58</b>	38=100
April, 2006	6	<b>64</b>	30=100
April, 2004	8	<b>56</b>	36=100
June, 2001	34	<b>31</b>	35=100
August, 1999	8	<b>55</b>	37=100
December, 1998	11	<b>56</b>	33=100
June, 1997	6	<b>50</b>	44=100
April, 1996	8	<b>70</b>	22=100
June, 1995	5	<b>73</b>	22=100
July, 1994	<b>60</b>	18	22=100
February, 1994	<b>58</b>	42	n/a=100
September, 1992	<b>46</b>	9	45=100
June, 1992	<b>44</b>	12	44=100
May, 1992	<b>49</b>	12	39=100
May, 1989 <sup>2</sup> <i>Political Knowledge Survey</i>	<b>68</b>	16	16=100

Q.8 What is the name of the talk show host who has campaigned for Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama? Is it... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

84 Oprah Winfrey (*Correct*)  
 2 Rush Limbaugh  
 3 Jay Leno[OR]  
 2 Dr. Phil  
 9 Don't know/Refused (**VOL. DO NOT READ**)  
 100

Q.9 Is Hugo Chavez the President of... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

50 Venezuela (*Correct*)  
 9 Colombia  
 15 Mexico [OR]  
 7 Cuba  
 19 Don't know/Refused (**VOL. DO NOT READ**)  
 100

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<sup>2</sup> 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.10 Do you happen to know if the Dow Jones Industrial Average is currently closer to **[READ IN ORDER]**?

		Aug. <u>16-19, 2007</u>		May <u>2000<sup>3</sup></u>	
16	4,000	16	2,000	5	3,000
9	5,000	14	4,000	4	5,000
16	10,000 [OR]	13	8,000 [OR]	<b>28</b>	<b>10,000 [OR]</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>13,000</b>	1	20,000
<u>28</u>	DK/Refused (VOL.)	<u>16</u>	DK/Refused (VOL.)	<u>62</u>	DK/Refused (VOL.)
100		100		100	

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

Q.11 Can you name the chairperson of the Democratic National Committee? Is it... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

40	Howard Dean ( <i>Correct</i> )
5	Rahm Emanuel
6	Donna Brazile [OR]
10	Joe Wilson
<u>39</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL. DO NOT READ)
100	

Q.12 Do you happen to know who is chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve Board? Is it... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]** {new}

35	Ben Bernanke ( <i>Correct</i> )
27	Alan Greenspan
8	Paul Volcker
5	Henry Paulson
<u>25</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL. DO NOT READ)
100	

Q.13 Which of the following recently declared its independence from Serbia? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

46	Kosovo ( <i>Correct</i> )
20	Bosnia
4	Andorra
9	Chechnya
<u>21</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL. DO NOT READ)
100	

<sup>3</sup> 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..."