

FOR RELEASE OCTOBER 2, 2014

From ISIS to Unemployment: What Do Americans Know?

Pew Research Center's News IQ Quiz

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
ON THIS REPORT:**

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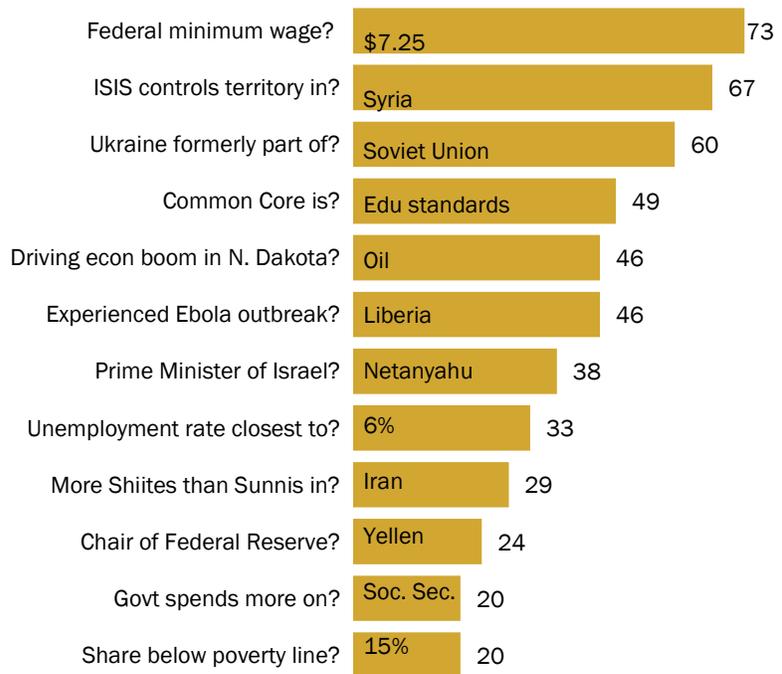
The latest Pew Research Center News IQ quiz measures the public's awareness of key facts in the news: from questions about conflicts around the world to the current minimum wage and the chair of the Federal Reserve. (Before reading this report, take the quiz yourself by clicking [here](#).)

The survey finds that a large majority (73%) is able to correctly identify the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour (from a list of other amounts ranging from \$5.25 to \$12.50).

In addition, amid ongoing U.S.-led airstrikes against Islamic militants in the Middle East, 67% can identify Syria as one of the countries in which the militant group known as ISIS currently controls territory (from a list that included Pakistan, Kuwait and Egypt). And 60% know that Ukraine was once part of the Soviet Union; the other choices were Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Scandinavia.

The Public's News IQ

% answering each question correctly



Survey conducted Sept. 25-28, 2014.

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Other questions prove more challenging. About half (49%) know that the term “Common Core” refers to school curriculum standards. Relatively few choose the other options, which include “the military’s code of conduct,” “abdominal exercises” and “a newly developed microprocessor,” but 37% volunteer that they don’t know the answer.

As the death toll from the Ebola crisis rises, 46% are able to identify Liberia from among four African countries as the one that has experienced a major outbreak of the disease. The survey was conducted before a man who had recently arrived in the U.S. from Liberia was diagnosed with Ebola. When it comes to the domestic economy, even fewer (33%) know the unemployment rate is currently closest to 6%; many estimate it higher – 45% say either it is 9% or 12%.

And, as in past News IQ quizzes, questions requiring name recall prove difficult. Just 38% could identify Benjamin Netanyahu as the current prime minister of Israel, while even fewer (24%) named Janet Yellen as the current chair of the Federal Reserve Board (17% say it is Alan Greenspan, who stepped down as Fed chair in 2006).

On nine of the 12 questions included in the survey, only about half or fewer get the answer correct. The average number of correct answers given is five. The news quiz survey was conducted September 25-28 among 1,002 adults. ([Full question wording.](#))

Age Differences in News Knowledge

Older adults generally demonstrate higher levels of news knowledge than younger Americans, and there are age divides across several of the questions asked on the survey.

However, young adults are more familiar with the federal minimum wage (\$7.25 an hour) than are adults 30 and older: 82% of those under 30 can select the correct minimum wage compared with smaller majorities of older adults.

But young people are less likely to identify the industry that has propelled North Dakota's economic boom. And just 19% of those under 30 can correctly identify Benjamin

Netanyahu as the current Prime Minister of Israel, compared with 48% of those 65 and older.

Notably, the question about the Common Core is difficult for young and old alike: 37% of those under 30 and 43% of those 65 and older know that it is a set of school curriculum standards for language and math. That compares with 51% of those 30 to 49 and 56% of those 50 to 64.

Young People More Likely to Know Minimum Wage

	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
<i>% who answered each correctly</i>	%	%	%	%
Federal minimum wage? (\$7.25)	82	72	74	63
ISIS controls territory in? (Syria)	58	66	74	66
Ukraine formerly part of? (Soviet Union)	49	62	63	62
Common Core is? (Education standards)	37	51	56	43
Driving econ boom in N. Dakota? (Oil)	30	41	55	55
Experienced Ebola outbreak? (Liberia)	40	45	51	47
Prime Minister of Israel? (Netanyahu)	19	35	44	48
Unemployment rate closest to? (6%)	31	29	33	37
More Shiites than Sunnis in? (Iran)	29	27	32	27
Chair of Federal Reserve? (Yellen)	14	19	29	33
Govt spends more on? (Social Security)	20	24	18	18
Share below poverty line? (15%)	28	18	18	21
Average number correct overall	4.4	4.9	5.5	5.2

Survey conducted Sept. 25-28, 2014.

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Educational Differences

College graduates perform better than those with less education on the News IQ quiz. Those with a college degree get an average of 6.8 questions correct. By comparison, those with some college experience average 5.3 correct answers and those with no more than a high school diploma average 3.7 correct answers.

The education divide is particularly wide on the question about Common Core. Nearly three-quarters of college graduates (73%) know that Common Core is a set of school curriculum standards; just 54% of those with some college experience and 28% of those with no college experience can correctly identify the term.

College Graduates Far More Aware of Common Core

	HS or less	Some college	College grad+	College-HS diff
<i>% who answered each correctly</i>	%	%	%	
Common Core is? (Education standards)	28	54	73	+45
Ukraine formerly part of? (Soviet Union)	39	69	83	+44
Prime Minister of Israel? (Netanyahu)	23	39	59	+36
Chair of Federal Reserve? (Yellen)	12	21	45	+33
Experienced Ebola outbreak? (Liberia)	34	47	64	+30
ISIS controls territory in? (Syria)	53	73	81	+28
Driving econ boom in N. Dakota? (Oil)	35	48	61	+26
More Shiites than Sunnis in? (Iran)	20	29	40	+20
Share below poverty line? (15%)	14	21	30	+16
Unemployment rate closest to? (6%)	26	36	39	+13
Federal minimum wage? (\$7.25)	68	74	78	+10
Govt spends more on? (Social Security)	19	17	26	+7
Average number correct overall	3.7	5.3	6.8	+3.1

Survey conducted Sept. 25-28, 2014.

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Respondents across all education levels struggle to identify Social Security as the activity the government currently spends more money on (transportation, foreign aid and interest on the national debt were the three distractor items): just 26% of college graduates know this fact, compared with 17% of those with some college experience and 19% of those with no more than a high school diploma.

Partisan Differences in Knowledge

Differences in news knowledge across partisan groups are relatively modest, though Republicans tend to do somewhat better than Democrats overall.

Republicans are 16 points more likely than Democrats to answer the Common Core question correctly (58% vs. 42%). And 57% of Republicans identify the oil industry as a primary driver of growth in North Dakota, compared with 42% of Democrats.

On other issues, such as the unemployment rate, there are hardly any differences in news

knowledge between Republicans and Democrats. Just 38% of Republicans and 34% of Democrats know that the unemployment rate is currently closest to 6%. Many Americans overestimate the current unemployment rate: 27% say it is closest to 9%, while an additional 18% think the rate is closest to 12%.

Modest Partisan Differences in News Knowledge

	Rep	Dem	Ind	R-D diff
<i>% who answered each correctly</i>	%	%	%	
Common Core is? (Education standards)	58	42	55	+16
Driving econ boom in N. Dakota? (Oil)	57	42	49	+15
More Shiites than Sunnis in? (Iran)	38	28	29	+10
Prime Minister of Israel? (Netanyahu)	46	37	38	+9
ISIS controls territory in? (Syria)	72	66	70	+6
Ukraine formerly part of? (Soviet Union)	68	62	61	+6
Unemployment rate closest to? (6%)	38	34	33	+4
Govt spends more on? (Social Security)	23	20	18	+3
Federal minimum wage? (\$7.25)	75	74	73	+1
Chair of Federal Reserve? (Yellen)	27	26	24	+1
Share below poverty line? (15%)	20	22	22	-2
Experienced Ebola outbreak? (Liberia)	46	51	48	-5
Average number correct overall	5.7	5.0	5.2	+.7

Survey conducted Sept. 25-28, 2014.

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About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted September 25-28, 2014 among a national sample of 1,002 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in the continental United States (501 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 501 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 289 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source and MKTG under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and region to parameters from the 2012 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status (landline only, cell phone only, or both landline and cell phone), based on extrapolations from the 2013 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1,002	3.6 percentage points
Republican	225	7.7 percentage points
Democrat	318	6.5 percentage points
Independent	327	6.4 percentage points
18-29	151	9.4 percentage points
30-49	220	7.8 percentage points
50-64	272	7.0 percentage points
65+	310	6.5 percentage points
College graduate or more	383	5.9 percentage points
Some college	282	6.9 percentage points
High school or less	325	6.4 percentage points

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
September 25-28, 2014 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,002

ASK ALL:

PEW.1 As I read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past week, please tell me if you happened to follow each news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] [IF NECESSARY "Did you follow [ITEM] very closely, fairly closely, not too closely or not at all closely?"]**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a. U.S. airstrikes against ISIS and other Islamic militant groups in the Middle East					
September 25-28, 2014	37	32	16	14	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
September 11-14, 2014: <i>Reports about the Islamic militant group in Iraq and Syria, known as ISIS</i>	37	30	16	17	*
August 14-17, 2014: <i>U.S. airstrikes against an Islamic militant group in Iraq</i>	23	29	21	26	1
June 26-29, 2014: <i>Growing violence and political instability in Iraq</i>	25	29	18	27	1
December 15-18, 2011: <i>The complete withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq</i>	34	32	18	14	2
October 21-23, 2011: <i>President Obama announcing a complete withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq by the end of 2011</i>	30	30	19	20	1
December 16-19, 2010: <i>The current situation and events in Iraq</i>	19	30	27	24	*
September 2-6, 2010: <i>The withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from Iraq</i>	36	37	15	11	*
August 26-29, 2010: <i>The current situation and events in Iraq</i>	25	36	24	15	1
August 19-22, 2010: <i>The withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from Iraq</i>	31	33	19	17	1
August 5-8, 2010: <i>The current situation and events in Iraq</i>	23	35	22	18	1
May 13-16, 2010	31	34	21	13	2
March 12-15, 2010	22	36	28	14	*
March 5-8, 2010	26	34	20	20	*
January 29-February 1, 2010	23	33	27	17	*
January 15-18, 2010	20	35	28	17	*
October 16-19, 2009	23	30	24	23	*
September 11-14, 2009	21	33	30	16	*
August 21-24, 2009	25	35	22	18	1
August 14-17, 2009	19	38	23	18	*
July 2-5, 2009: <i>U.S. troops withdrawing from Iraqi cities</i>	25	34	20	21	0
April 24-27, 2009: <i>The current situation and events in Iraq</i>	21	35	25	19	*
March 20-23, 2009	25	37	21	17	*
February 27-March 2, 2009: <i>Barack Obama's plan to withdraw most U.S. troops from Iraq by August 2010</i>	40	37	13	9	1
December 12-15, 2008: <i>The current situation and events in Iraq</i>	24	35	25	16	*
November 21-24, 2008	32	31	24	13	0
November 14-17, 2008	24	33	27	16	*
October 31-November 3, 2008	30	35	22	12	1
October 24-27, 2008	29	35	25	11	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
October 10-13, 2008	23	34	30	13	*
October 3-6, 2008	29	33	28	10	*
September 5-8, 2008	24	37	26	13	*
August 29-31, 2008	22	32	29	16	1
August 22-25, 2008	26	31	27	15	1
August 1-4, 2008	27	40	23	10	*
July 25-28, 2008	28	33	22	17	*
July 18-21, 2008	33	35	20	12	*
July 11-14, 2008	24	35	24	16	1
July 3-7, 2008	25	35	25	15	*
June 20-23, 2008	25	36	24	15	*
May 9-12, 2008	29	35	21	14	1
May 2-5, 2008	26	35	25	13	1
April 25-28, 2008	29	35	23	12	1
April 18-21, 2008	29	39	20	11	1
April 11-14, 2008	25	39	20	15	1
April 4-7, 2008	25	37	23	15	*
March 28-31, 2008	29	40	19	11	1
March 20-24, 2008	30	38	19	13	*
March 14-17, 2008	29	38	23	10	*
March 7-10, 2008	28	39	18	15	*
February 29-March 3, 2008	28	40	19	13	*
February 8-11, 2008	24	35	25	16	*
February 1-4, 2008	28	39	22	11	*
January 25-28, 2008	23	35	26	16	*
January 18-21, 2008	31	33	20	15	1
January 11-14, 2008	25	38	21	16	*
January 4-7, 2008	27	38	20	15	*
December 14-17, 2007	26	32	24	18	*
December 7-10, 2007	28	37	21	14	*
November 23-26, 2007	25	37	21	16	1
November 16-19, 2007	31	37	19	12	1
November 9-12, 2007	29	38	19	13	1
November 2-5, 2007	31	35	18	15	1
October 26-29, 2007	28	37	21	13	1
October 19-22, 2007	28	37	20	15	*
October 12-15, 2007	26	36	18	19	1
October 5-8, 2007	29	33	22	16	*
September 28-October 1, 2007	30	41	18	11	*
September 21-24, 2007	32	38	17	13	*
September 14-17, 2007	31	36	18	15	0
September 7-10, 2007	32	34	20	14	*
August 30-September 2, 2007	31	34	18	16	1
August 24-27, 2007	34	36	18	12	*
August 17-20, 2007	33	34	18	15	*
August 10-13, 2007	36	37	14	13	*
August 3-6, 2007	29	40	19	12	*
July 27-30, 2007	28	36	19	16	1
July 20-23, 2007	28	34	21	16	1
July 13-16, 2007	25	41	17	16	1
July 6-9, 2007	36	34	18	12	*
June 29-July 2, 2007	32	35	19	13	1
June 22-25, 2007	30	36	18	15	1
June 15-18, 2007	30	37	20	13	*
June 8-11, 2007	32	38	15	14	1
June 1-4, 2007	30	36	20	13	1
May 24-27, 2007	33	36	18	12	1
May 18-21, 2007	36	34	15	14	1
May 11-14, 2007	30	34	18	17	1

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
May 4-7, 2007	38	37	15	10	*
April 27-30, 2007	27	35	21	16	1
April 20-23, 2007	28	35	22	15	*
April 12-16, 2007	34	33	20	13	*
April 5-9, 2007	33	39	16	11	1
March 30-April 2, 2007	34	37	16	13	*
March 23-March 26, 2007: <i>News about the current situation in Iraq</i>	31	38	18	12	1
March 16-19, 2007	34	34	17	15	*
March 9-12, 2007	34	37	16	13	*
March 2-5, 2007	37	37	16	9	1
February 23-26, 2007	36	36	15	13	*
February 16-19, 2007	30	36	19	14	1
February 9-12, 2007	37	34	18	11	*
February 2-5, 2007	38	38	17	7	*
January 26-29, 2007	36	38	15	11	*
January 19-22, 2007	37	34	18	10	1
January 12-15, 2007	38	36	17	8	1
January, 2007	46	40	8	5	1
January 5-8, 2007	40	32	16	12	0
December, 2006	42	39	12	7	*
November 30-December 3, 2006	40	36	13	11	*
Mid-November, 2006	44	38	12	6	*
September, 2006	33	43	14	8	2
August, 2006	41	39	12	7	1
June, 2006	37	43	13	6	1
May, 2006	42	35	15	7	1
April, 2006	43	36	13	7	1
March, 2006	43	38	12	6	1
February, 2006	39	42	12	6	1
January, 2006	40	40	12	7	1
December, 2005	45	38	11	5	1
Early November, 2005	41	40	13	6	*
Early October, 2005	43	36	15	6	*
Early September, 2005	32	40	20	7	1
July, 2005	43	37	13	6	1
Mid-May, 2005	42	42	11	5	*
Mid-March, 2005	40	39	14	5	2
February, 2005	38	45	13	4	*
January, 2005	48	37	11	4	*
December, 2004	34	44	15	6	1
Mid-October, 2004	42	38	11	8	1
Early September, 2004	47	37	9	6	1
August, 2004	39	42	12	6	1
July, 2004	43	40	11	6	*
June, 2004	39	42	12	6	1
April, 2004	54	33	8	5	*
Mid-March, 2004	47	36	12	4	1
Early February, 2004	47	38	10	4	1
Mid-January, 2004	48	39	9	4	*
December, 2003	44	38	11	6	1
November, 2003	52	33	9	5	1
September, 2003	50	33	10	6	1
Mid-August, 2003	45	39	10	5	1
Early July, 2003	37	41	13	8	1
June, 2003	46	35	13	6	*
May, 2003	63	29	6	2	*
April 11-16, 2003: <i>News about the war in Iraq</i>	47	40	10	2	1

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>closely</u>	Fairly <u>closely</u>	Not too <u>closely</u>	Not at all <u>closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
April 2-7, 2003	54	34	9	2	1
March 20-24, 2003	57	33	7	2	1
March 13-16, 2003: <i>Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will take military action in Iraq</i>	62	27	6	4	1
February, 2003	62	25	8	4	1
January, 2003	55	29	10	4	2
December, 2002	51	32	10	6	1
Late October, 2002	53	33	8	5	1
Early October, 2002	60	28	6	5	1
Early September, 2002: <i>Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will invade Iraq</i>	48	29	15	6	2
b. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy					
September 25-28, 2014	25	33	22	19	1
July 31-August 3, 2014	27	29	23	21	1
June 5-8, 2014	26	28	20	24	1
March 20-23, 2014	30	34	18	17	2
March 6-9, 2014	27	31	19	22	1
February 27-March 2, 2014	27	32	16	24	1
February 6-9, 2014	28	29	20	22	1
January 30-February 2, 2014	29	31	17	23	*
January 9-12, 2014	28	29	19	23	1
January 2-5, 2014	29	31	17	22	1
December 12-15, 2013	26	27	21	24	1
November 14-17, 2013	32	32	17	19	*
October 31-November 3, 2013	31	37	16	15	*
October 17-20, 2013	41	31	16	12	*
October 3-6, 2013	34	30	19	16	1
September 25-29, 2013	35	30	16	18	*
September 19-22, 2013	28	33	20	19	1
September 12-15, 2013	28	34	17	20	*
August 1-4, 2013	28	35	19	17	1
July 18-21, 2013	28	29	20	23	1
June 20-23, 2013	28	30	19	22	1
June 13-16, 2013	30	32	15	22	*
June 6-9, 2013	33	31	15	21	*
May 16-19, 2013	30	31	20	19	*
May 9-12, 2013	28	30	21	20	1
March 28-31, 2013	30	30	17	22	1
March 7-10, 2013	35	30	16	19	*
January 31-February 3, 2013	33	33	16	16	1
January 17-20, 2013	36	32	15	16	*
January 3-6, 2013	34	32	18	16	1
SEE TREND FOR PREVIOUS YEARS: http://www.people-press.org/files/2014/01/NII-Economy-trend.pdf					
c. News about this year's congressional elections					
September 25-28, 2014	16	23	28	32	1
September 11-14, 2014	14	23	26	36	1
July 24-27, 2014	14	19	29	38	*
June 26-29, 2014	16	23	20	41	1
June 5-8, 2014	14	23	23	38	1
May 15-18, 2014	13	24	25	38	1
March 20-23, 2014	15	22	22	39	1

PEW.1 TRENDS FOR COMPARISON...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
October 28-November 1, 2010	29	30	17	23	1
October 27-30, 2010: <i>News about candidates and election campaigns in your state and district</i>	27	35	17	20	1
October 21-24, 2010: <i>News about this year's congressional elections</i>	30	28	18	23	1
October 13-18, 2010: <i>News about candidates and election campaigns in your state and district</i>	24	34	22	19	1
October 14-17, 2010: <i>News about this year's congressional elections</i>	33	25	19	23	*
October 7-10, 2010	23	27	19	30	1
September 30-October 3, 2010	25	34	19	21	1
September 23-26, 2010	25	33	23	18	1
September 16-19, 2010	23	26	23	27	1
September 9-12, 2010	22	23	21	34	1
September 2-6, 2010	26	24	23	26	1
August 26-29, 2010	20	27	23	28	1
August 19-22, 2010	19	23	24	33	1
August 12-15, 2010	20	22	19	38	1
July 29-August 1, 2010	29	34	22	14	*
July 15-18, 2010	17	23	26	33	1
June 16-20, 2010: <i>News about candidates and election campaigns in your state and district</i>	15	33	31	20	*
June 10-13, 2010: <i>News about this year's congressional elections</i>	20	29	24	27	1
Early October, 2006	21	38	25	15	1
Early September, 2006	16	32	28	23	1
August, 2006	20	29	28	22	1
June, 2006	18	30	29	21	2
May, 2006	18	28	30	23	1
Early November, 2002 (RVs)	27	46	18	9	*
Late October, 2002 (RVs)	28	34	24	13	1
Early October, 2002 (RVs)	21	46	22	10	1
Early September, 2002	17	29	29	24	1
Late October, 1998 (RVs)	26	45	20	9	*
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	21	43	24	11	1
Early September, 1998	17	32	28	23	*
Early August, 1998	13	30	28	23	1
June, 1998	9	27	33	30	1
April, 1998 ¹	16	33	24	27	*
November, 1994	18	42	25	15	*
Late October, 1994	14	38	31	16	1
Early October, 1994	23	34	23	19	1
September, 1994	19	34	29	18	*
November, 1990	38	34	17	11	*
October, 1990	18	32	28	22	*
d. An outbreak of the Ebola virus in Africa					
September 25-28, 2014	27	35	21	17	1
August 14-17, 2014	25	33	22	19	1
July 31-August 3, 2014	26	27	19	26	2

¹ In April 1998, September 1994 and October 1990, story was listed as "Candidates and election campaigns in your state."
In November 1990, story was listed as "Candidates and elections in your state."

PEW.1 TRENDS FOR COMPARISON...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
May 15-18, 2014: <i>The lung disease called "MERS" that has spread from the Middle East</i>	13	23	25	38	1
December 18-21, 2009: <i>Reports about swine flu and the vaccine</i>	25	32	24	18	0
November 20-23, 2009	29	33	21	17	*
November 13-16, 2009	34	31	21	15	*
November 6-9, 2009	32	35	24	10	*
October 30-November 2, 2009	33	33	22	12	*
October 23-26, 2009	43	30	17	9	*
October 16-19, 2009	32	35	18	14	0
October 9-12, 2009	38	35	16	11	*
September 18-21, 2009: <i>Reports about swine flu and the availability of a vaccine</i>	34	31	25	9	*
September 11-14, 2009	30	36	21	12	*
September 3-6, 2009	26	32	25	17	0
August 28-31, 2009	26	33	22	18	*
May 21-24, 2009: <i>Reports about swine flu in the U.S. and elsewhere</i>	30	39	21	11	*
May 8-11, 2009	34	36	19	11	*
May 1-4, 2009: <i>The outbreak of swine flu in different parts of the world</i>	43	37	15	4	1
April 25-27, 2009: <i>Reports of swine flu in Mexico and the U.S.</i>	25	30	19	26	*
October 19-22, 2007: <i>The growing danger of a drug-resistant staph infection in the U.S.</i>	26	31	19	24	0
June 1-4, 2007: <i>An Atlanta man with a dangerous form of tuberculosis who traveled to Europe against the advice of government health officials</i>	24	34	21	19	2
March, 2006: <i>Outbreaks of bird flu in different parts of the world</i>	21	36	24	19	*
November, 2005: <i>The outbreak of bird flu in Asia and Europe</i>	22	37	25	15	1
Late October, 2005	22	33	24	20	1
January, 2004: <i>Reports about a case of mad cow disease in Washington state</i>	29	42	19	9	1
June, 2003: <i>The lung disease called "SARS" that has spread from Asia</i>	28	44	19	8	1
May, 2003	39	39	15	6	1
September, 2002: <i>Cases of West Nile virus spread by mosquitoes</i>	34	36	21	8	1
Early September, 2001: <i>The spread of mad cow disease in Europe</i>	18	34	27	20	1
March 2001: <i>The outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease among livestock in Europe</i>	22	33	22	22	1
January, 1998: <i>The outbreak of an Asian flu spread by birds or chickens</i>	19	36	25	20	*

Next I'd like to ask about some other 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 PEW.2 THROUGH PEW.15

ASK ALL:

PEW.2 The Islamic militant group known as ISIS currently controls territory in which of these countries **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

Sep 25-28

2014

67	Syria (<i>Correct</i>)
5	Kuwait
3	Egypt
10	Pakistan
16	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

RANDOMIZE PEW.2 THROUGH PEW.15

ASK ALL:

PEW.3 In which of the following predominately Muslim countries are there more Shia Muslims than Sunni Muslims **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

Sep 25-28

2014

29	Iran (<i>Correct</i>)
12	Saudi Arabia
16	Afghanistan
2	Indonesia
42	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

TREND FOR COMPARISON: *There are three major groups of people that live in Iraq: the Sunni, the Shia, and the Kurds. As far as you know, which group has the largest population* **[READ; ROTATE]**?

Jun 22-25

2007

30	The Sunni
41	The Shia (<i>Correct</i>)
8	The Kurds
21	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

RANDOMIZE PEW.2 THROUGH PEW.15

ASK ALL:

PEW.4 Who is the current Prime Minister of Israel **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

Sep 25-28

2014

38	Benjamin Netanyahu (<i>Correct</i>)
1	David Cameron
11	Ariel Sharon
7	Hosni Mubarak
43	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

RANDOMIZE PEW.2 THROUGH PEW.15

ASK ALL:

PEW.5 Ukraine was once part of ... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

Sep 25-28

2014

60	The Soviet Union (<i>Correct</i>)
7	Czechoslovakia
2	Scandinavia
6	Yugoslavia
25	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

RANDOMIZE PEW.2 THROUGH PEW.15**ASK ALL:**

PEW.6 Do you happen to know what the federal minimum wage is today? Is it... **[READ IN ORDER]**?

Sep 25-28 <u>2014</u>		TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:		April <u>1996</u> ³	
		June <u>2001</u> ²			
4	\$5.25	*	About \$3 an hour	5	Less than \$4.25
73	\$7.25 (<i>Correct</i>)	4	About \$4 an hour	42	\$4.25 (<i>Correct</i>)
13	\$10.50	51	About \$5 an hour (<i>Correct</i>)	36	\$4.26-\$5.99
1	\$12.50	28	About \$6 an hour	2	\$6.00 or more
9	DK/Refused (VOL.)	5	About \$7 an hour	15	DK/Refused (VOL.)
		3	Over \$7 an hour		
		6	DK/Refused (VOL.)		

RANDOMIZE PEW.2 THROUGH PEW.15**ASK ALL:**

PEW.7 What does the term "Common Core" refer to **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

Sep 25-28 <u>2014</u>		KN Aug 7-14 <u>2013</u> ⁴
49	School curriculum standards for language and math (<i>Correct</i>)	56
9	The military's code of conduct	16
3	Abdominal exercises	3
3	A newly developed microprocessor	7
37	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	17

RANDOMIZE PEW.2 THROUGH PEW.15**ASK ALL:**

PEW.8 On which of these activities does the U.S. government currently spend the most money? Is it ... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

Sep 25-28 <u>2014</u>		TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:		Nov 11-14 <u>2010</u>	
		Mar 17-20 <u>2011</u>			
20	Social Security (<i>Correct</i>)	29	Medicare (<i>Correct</i>)	39	National defense (<i>Correct</i>)
4	Transportation	7	Education	4	Education
33	Foreign aid	7	Scientific research	15	Medicare
26	Interest on the national debt	36	Interest on nat'l debt	23	Interest on nat'l debt
18	DK/Refused (VOL.)	22	DK/Refused (VOL.)	19	DK/Refused (VOL.)

RANDOMIZE PEW.2 THROUGH PEW.15**ASK ALL:**

PEW.9 Do you happen to know if the national unemployment rate as reported by the government is currently closer to ... **[READ IN ORDER]**?

		(<i>Correct</i>)			(VOL.)
September 25-28, 2014	<u>3%</u> 4	<u>6%</u> 33	<u>9%</u> 27	<u>12%</u> 18	<u>DK/Ref</u> 18
		(<i>Correct</i>)			(VOL.)
May 9-June 3, 2012	<u>5%</u> 5	<u>8%</u> 52	<u>15%</u> 14	<u>21%</u> 8	<u>DK/Ref</u> 21
		(<i>Correct</i>)			(VOL.)
March 17-20, 2011	<u>5%</u> 3	<u>9%</u> 57	<u>15%</u> 14	<u>21%</u> 11	<u>DK/Ref</u> 14

² June 2001 question asked "To the best of your knowledge, what is the current NATIONAL minimum wage? Is it..."

³ April 1996 question was asked open-ended: "Do you happen to know what the federal minimum wage is today?"

⁴ "KN" data collected online by Knowledge Networks. "Don't know/Refused" represents those who skipped the question.

PEW.9 CONTINUED...

	<u>5%</u>	(Correct) <u>10%</u>	<u>15%</u>	<u>20%</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
November 11-14, 2010	3	53	16	11	17
July 1-5, 2010	3	54	16	10	18
January 14-17, 2010	2	55	15	15	12
October 1-4, 2009	4	53	15	18	10

	<u>4%</u>	(Correct) <u>8%</u>	<u>12%</u>	<u>16%</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
March 26-29, 2009	3	53	24	18	2

NO QUESTION PEW.10**RANDOMIZE PEW.2 THROUGH PEW.15****ASK ALL:**

PEW.11 Who is the current chair of the U.S. Federal Reserve Board... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]?**

		TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:			
Sep 25-28 <u>2014</u>		Oct 1-4 <u>2009</u>		Mar 26-29 <u>2009</u>	Feb 28-Mar 2 <u>2008</u>
24	Janet Yellen (Correct)	33	Ben Bernanke (Correct)	45	35
5	John Roberts	15	Alan Greenspan	16	27
17	Alan Greenspan	3	Paul Volcker	7	8
6	Sonia Sotomayor	4	Henry Paulson	12	5
48	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	45	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	20	25

RANDOMIZE PEW.2 THROUGH PEW.15**ASK ALL:**

PEW.12 Which one of these African countries has recently experienced a major outbreak of the Ebola virus? Is it... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]?**

Sep 25-28 <u>2014</u>	
46	Liberia (Correct)
2	Egypt
5	Morocco
21	Sudan
26	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

NO QUESTION PEW.13**RANDOMIZE PEW.2 THROUGH PEW.15****ASK ALL:**

PEW.14 What is the industry that has primarily contributed to the recent economic boom in the state of North Dakota? Is it...**[READ AND RANDOMIZE]?**

Sep 25-28 <u>2014</u>	
46	Oil (Correct)
4	Tourism
11	Soybeans
6	Auto manufacturing
33	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

RANDOMIZE PEW.2 THROUGH PEW.15

ASK ALL:

PEW.15 Do you happen to know if the share of Americans living at or below the federal poverty line is currently closer to ... **[READ IN ORDER]**?

Sep 25-28

2014

5	5%
20	15% (<i>Correct</i>)
24	25%
26	35%
25	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

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

ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):

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 <u>preference</u>	(VOL.) Other <u>party</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	Lean <u>Rep</u>	Lean <u>Dem</u>
September 25-28, 2014	21	31	34	6	1	6	13	14