



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
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Take the Latest Quiz Online!

We invite you to test your own News IQ by taking the latest interactive knowledge quiz now available on the Pew Research Center website. The short quiz includes the same questions that were included in a national poll. Participants will instantly learn how they did on the quiz in comparison with the general public as well as with people like them. To take the latest quiz, click on this link:

<http://pewresearch.org/politicalquiz/>

Political Knowledge Update

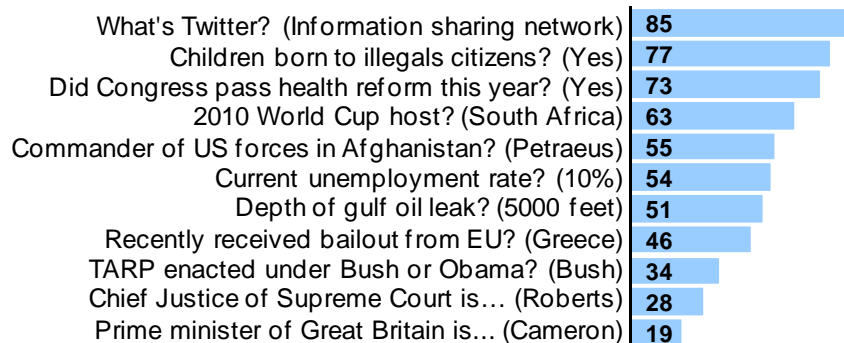
WELL KNOWN: TWITTER; LITTLE KNOWN: JOHN ROBERTS

An overwhelming proportion of Americans are familiar with Twitter, the online information-sharing network. Perhaps more surprisingly, a large majority also knows that children who are born to illegal immigrants in the United States are automatically U.S. citizens.

Yet the public continues to struggle in identifying political figures, foreign leaders and even knowing facts about key government policies. Only about a third of Americans (34%) know that the government's bailout of banks and financial institutions was enacted under the Bush administration. Nearly half (47%) incorrectly

What the Public Knows

Percent who know ...



Pew Research Center July 1-5, 2010.
Results based on multiple choice questions. Correct answers shown in parenthesis.

say that the Troubled Asset Relief Program – widely known as TARP – was signed into law by President Obama.

Even fewer (28%) are able to identify John Roberts as chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. And just 19% know that David Cameron is the new prime minister of Great Britain.

The Pew Research Center's latest News IQ Quiz, conducted July 1-5 among 1,007 adults reached on cell phones and landlines, finds that both young people and older people have a basic awareness of Twitter: 85% know that it is an online information-sharing service. And while young people fare particularly poorly on political knowledge, people younger than 30 are as likely as older Americans to know the host country of this year's World Cup and that children born to illegal immigrants in the United States are automatically citizens.

The survey included 11 multiple choice questions about people, events and issues in the news. Respondents answered an average of 5.8 questions correctly.

A large majority of Americans (73%) know that Congress did pass a major health care reform bill this year. Though health care dominated the public's news interest most weeks during the lengthy debate over the legislation, 14% say Congress did not pass health care legislation this year and 13% do not know.

Pew Research Center News Interest Index surveys found few people were following the World Cup very closely; however, 63% know that the soccer tournament was held in South Africa. A majority (55%) also is able to identify Gen. David Petraeus as the top military commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan. In August 2007, fewer (39%) knew that Petraeus then led U.S. forces in Iraq.

The public's awareness of the current unemployment rate has changed little over the past year. In the new survey, 54% say the rate is about 10%; about a quarter of Americans (26%) estimate the rate higher (at 15% or 20%) while just 3% say it is lower (at 5%). Since early May, the public has closely tracked news about the oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico. About half (51%) know that the damaged well is about 5,000 feet underwater.

Almost half (46%) correctly choose Greece when asked which European country recently received a major bailout from the European Union. Small percentages (13%) choose an incorrect option, and 41% say they do not know.

Most Know Petraeus's New Post

A majority of the public (55%) knows that Gen. David Petraeus is the current U.S. military commander in Afghanistan. The general has been a prominent figure in the news recently since President Obama nominated him to replace Gen. Stanley McChrystal, who resigned because of controversial comments he and aides made in a magazine article. Still, a total of 46% either do not know (35%) the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan or answered incorrectly (11%).

Petraeus was less well-known in August 2007 when he was the top commander of U.S. forces in Iraq. Shortly before he testified before a congressional panel about the U.S. troop surge then underway in Iraq, 39% correctly named Petraeus as the general in charge of that war effort; 61% did not know (40%) or answered incorrectly (21%).

Majorities of Republicans (58%), Democrats (55%) and independents (53%) know that Petraeus has taken over the top post in Afghanistan. Men are more likely than women to know this (60% vs. 49%). And while older people generally do better than younger people on knowledge surveys, the difference is striking on this question: 69% of those 50 and older know the top commander in Afghanistan is Petraeus, compared with just 29% of those younger than 30.

Few Know Roberts is Chief Justice

Fewer than three-in-ten (28%) correctly identified Roberts as the chief justice of the Supreme Court. More than half (53%) do not know, while small percentages choose other options: former Justice Thurgood Marshall (8%), former Justice John Paul Stevens (6%) and Sen. Majority Leader Harry Reid (4%).

In November 1986, 43% correctly identified William Rehnquist as the chief justice, though 29% chose his predecessor, Warren Burger. Though

Petraeus Better Known in His New Role	
	<u>July</u> <u>2010</u>
<i>U.S. Commander in Afghanistan:</i>	%
David Petraeus (correct)	55
Stanley McChrystal	5
Wesley Clark	3
Colin Powell	3
Don't know	<u>35</u>
	100
	<u>Aug</u> <u>2007</u>
<i>U.S. Commander in Iraq:</i>	%
Gen. David Petraeus (correct)	39
Gen. John Abizaid	11
Gen. Peter Pace	10
Don't know	<u>40</u>
	100
Pew Research Center July 1-5, 2010. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.	

Roberts Not as Well Known as Rehnquist	
	<u>July</u> <u>2010</u>
<i>Chief Justice of Supreme Court is...</i>	%
John Roberts (correct)	28
Thurgood Marshall	8
John Paul Stevens	6
Harry Reid	4
Don't know	<u>53</u>
	100
	<u>Nov</u> <u>1986</u>
<i>Chief Justice of Supreme Court is...</i>	%
William Rehnquist (correct)	43
Warren Burger	29
Earl Warren	7
William Brennan, Jr.	4
Don't know	<u>16</u>
	100
Pew Research Center July 1-5, 2010. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.	

Rehnquist was new to the chief justice post at that time, he had served on the court since 1972.

Among partisans, 23% of Republicans, 27% of Democrats and 34% of independents correctly identify Roberts as the chief justice.

Young People Generally Less Knowledgeable

Young people, typically less attentive to news about domestic and international issues than older Americans, are also often less knowledgeable on these subjects. Aside from the wide age gap over knowing the U.S. commander in Afghanistan, young people also are far less likely than older Americans to know the current unemployment rate and the depth of the oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico.

Six-in-ten of those 50 and older know that the current unemployment rate is close to 10%, compared with 36% of those younger than 30. And only about a third of those under 30 (34%) know that the well leaking oil into the Gulf of Mexico is at a depth of 5,000 feet; 56% of those 50 and older know this.

Age Differences in News IQ				
	18-29	30-49	50+	Old-Yng diff
	%	%	%	
Commander of US forces in Afghanistan? (Petraeus)	29	52	69	+40
Current unemployment rate? (10%)	36	57	60	+24
Depth of gulf oil leak? (5000 feet)	34	53	56	+22
Recently received bailout from EU? (Greece)	35	46	51	+16
Chief Justice of Supreme Court is... (Roberts)	21	25	34	+13
Prime minister of Great Britain is... (Cameron)	11	19	22	+11
Did Congress pass health reform this year? (Yes)	66	77	73	+7
TARP enacted under Bush or Obama? (Bush)	29	36	34	+5
Children born to illegals U.S. citizens? (Yes)	79	75	79	0
2010 World Cup host? (South Africa)	65	69	57	-8
What's Twitter? (Information sharing network)	95	91	76	-19

Pew Research Center July 1-5, 2010.

On several questions, however, younger people are as well or better informed than are older Americans. For example, 79% of those younger than 30 and an equal share of those 50 and older know that citizenship is automatically granted to the children of illegal immigrants born in the United States. Not surprisingly, young people are more likely to know that Twitter is an on-line information sharing network; 95% of those 18-29 know this, but so does a large majority of those 50 and older: 76%.

Men also score better on a number of questions than women. For example, 64% of men know that the leaking oil well in the Gulf of Mexico is at about 5,000 feet underwater, compared with 38% of women. Men also are more likely to know correctly that Greece is the European nation that recently received bailout help from the European Union (55% vs. 37%).

Little Partisan Gap in Political Knowledge

In previous knowledge quizzes, Republicans often were better informed than Democrats. In the current quiz, however, Democrats are at least as knowledgeable as Republicans on every question except the depth of the Gulf oil leak (53% of Republicans, 42% of Democrats).

Notably, just 36% of Republicans, 35% of independents and 34% of Democrats know that the government bailout of banks and financial institutions was signed into law by former President Bush. Democrats (46%) are just as likely as Republicans (50%) or independents (44%) to incorrectly say the legislation was enacted after Obama became president.

Party Identification and News Awareness				
	Rep	Dem	Ind	R-D
	%	%	%	diff
Depth of gulf oil leak? (5000 feet)	53	42	55	+11
Recently received bailout from EU? (Greece)	47	40	51	+7
What's Twitter? (Information sharing network)	86	82	88	+4
Commander of US forces in Afghanistan? (Petraeus)	58	55	53	+3
Current unemployment rate? (10%)	53	51	57	+2
TARP enacted under Bush or Obama? (Bush)	36	34	35	+2
Did Congress pass health reform this year? (Yes)	73	74	74	-1
Children born to illegals U.S. citizens? (Yes)	74	76	81	-2
Chief Justice of Supreme Court is... (Roberts)	23	27	34	-4
2010 World Cup host? (South Africa)	59	65	66	-6
Prime minister of Great Britain is... (Cameron)	13	20	22	-7
Pew Research Center July 1-5, 2010.				

There also is no difference among partisans in the percentages who correctly say that Congress passed health care reform legislation this year (73% of Republicans, 74% of Democrats and independents).

The Public's Average News IQ

The Pew Research Center News IQ Quiz summarizes public knowledge by combining answers to all 11 questions into a single scale ranging from zero (none correct) to 11 (all correct). Respondents receive one point on the scale for each correct answer. In the July News IQ Quiz, Americans answered an average of 5.8, or about half, of the questions correctly. On the extremes, just 5% of the public answered all questions correctly, while the same percentage answered one or none of them right.

As with past knowledge tests, the scores of various demographic groups vary widely and familiar patterns emerge. Men did better than women on many of the questions; men on average answered 6.4 questions correctly, compared with 5.2 correct answers for women.

College graduates outperformed those with no college experience on nearly every question in the survey. Those with college degrees answered an average of 7.5 questions correctly, while those with a high school degree or less education averaged 4.5 correct answers out of 11.

Older Americans did better than young people on the quiz. Respondents 50 and older answered, on average, 6.1 questions correctly, while those under the age of 30 averaged 5.0 correct answers. Those between 30 and 49 answered 6.0 questions correctly on average.

Republicans and Democrats both answered an average of 5.7 questions correctly, while independents answered 6.2 items correctly on average.

How the Public Scored on the Pew News IQ Quiz	
	Average # correct out of 11 questions
Total	5.8
Men	6.4
Women	5.2
College grad	7.5
Some college	6.2
High school or less	4.5
18-29	5.0
30-49	6.0
50+	6.1
<i>Family income</i>	
Less than \$30,000	4.6
\$30,000 to \$74,999	6.0
\$75,000 or more	7.2
Republican	5.7
Democrat	5.7
Independent	6.2
<i>Correctly answered at least*...</i>	
2 questions	95
4 questions	77
6 questions	52
8 questions	30
10 questions	13
All 11 questions	5
* Out of 11 questions. Pew Research Center July 1-5, 2010	

ABOUT THE SURVEY

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a national sample of 1,007 adults living in the continental United States, 18 years of age or older, from July 1-5, 2010 (675 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 332 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 136 who had no landline telephone). Interviews were not conducted on Independence Day, July 4. Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2009 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample is also weighted to match current patterns of telephone status, based on extrapolations from the 2009 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 within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

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

<u>Group</u>	<u>Sample Size</u>	<u>Plus or minus...</u>
Total sample	1,007	4.0 percentage points
Republicans	259	7.5 percentage points
Democrats	308	7.0 percentage points
Independents	377	6.5 percentage points

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.

ABOUT THE CENTER

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. We are sponsored by The Pew Charitable Trusts and are one of seven projects that make up the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Center's purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of our current survey results are made available free of charge.

All of the Center's research and reports are collaborative products based on the input and analysis of the entire Center staff consisting of:

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PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
POLITICAL KNOWLEDGE UPDATE
FINAL TOPLINE
July 1-15, 2010¹
N=1007

PEW.1 and PEW.2 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE
PEW.3 THROUGH PEW.7 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

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 PEW.8-PEW.18

ASK ALL:

PEW.8 Do you happen to know if children born to illegal immigrants in the U.S. are automatically U.S. citizens, or are they NOT automatically U.S. citizens?

July 1-5	
<u>2010</u>	
77	Yes they are (<i>Correct</i>)
10	No they are not
13	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

RANDOMIZE PEW.8-PEW.18

ASK ALL:

PEW.9 Can you tell me who the Prime Minister of Great Britain is? Is it... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

July 1-5		Apr 30-June 1	
<u>2010</u>		<u>2008</u>	
19	David Cameron (<i>Correct</i>)	28	Gordon Brown (<i>Correct</i>)
2	Angela Merkel	5	Rupert Murdoch
17	Tony Hayward [OR]	4	Robert Gates
4	Richard Branson	5	John Howard
57	DK/Ref (VOL. DO NOT READ)	58	DK/Ref (VOL. DO NOT READ)

RANDOMIZE PEW.8-PEW.18

ASK ALL:

PEW.10 Do you happen to know who is the chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court? Is it... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

TREND FOR COMPARISON

		<i>Hearst Corporation</i>	
July 1-5		Oct 20-Nov 2	
<u>2010</u>		<u>1986²</u>	
28	John Roberts (<i>Correct</i>)	43	William Rehnquist
6	John Paul Stevens	29	Warren Burger
8	Thurgood Marshall [OR]	7	Earl Warren
4	Harry Reid	4	William Brennan, Jr.
53	DK/Ref (VOL. DO NOT READ)	16	DK/No answer

¹ Polling was not conducted on the Independence Day holiday, July 4.

² For October 20-November 2, 1986, the Hearst Corporation question read: "Who is the current Chief Justice of the United States: William Rehnquist, Warren Burger, Earl Warren or William Brennan, Jr.?"

RANDOMIZE PEW.8-PEW.18

ASK ALL:

PEW.11 Was the government bailout of banks and financial institutions, also known as TARP, passed and signed into law under... [READ AND RANDOMIZE]?

July 1-5

2010

- 34 President George W. Bush (*Correct*) [OR]
- 47 President Barack Obama
- 19 Don't know/Refused (**VOL. DO NOT READ**)

RANDOMIZE PEW.8-PEW.18

ASK ALL:

PEW.12 What European country recently received a major bailout from the European Union? Is it... [READ AND RANDOMIZE]?

TREND FOR COMPARISON

July 1-5

2010

- 46 Greece (*Correct*)
- 6 France
- 5 Germany [OR]
- 2 Poland
- 41 DK/Ref (**VOL. DO NOT READ**)

Apr 29-May 2

2010³

- 49 Greece (*Correct*)
- 7 France
- 6 Germany
- 3 Sweden
- 35 DK/Ref (**VOL. DO NOT READ**)

RANDOMIZE PEW.8-PEW.18

ASK ALL:

PEW.13 Do you happen to know who is the current military commander of American forces in Afghanistan? Is it...[READ AND RANDOMIZE]

TREND FOR COMPARISON

July 1-5

2010

- 55 David Petraeus (*Correct*)
- 3 Wesley Clark
- 5 Stanley McChrystal [OR]
- 3 Colin Powell
- 35 DK/Ref(**VOL. DO NOT READ**)

Aug 24-27 Jun 22-25

2007⁴

2007

- 39 30 General David Petraeus (*Correct*)
- 10 13 General Peter Pace
- 11 14 General John Abizaid
- 40 43 DK/Ref(**VOL. DO NOT READ**)

RANDOMIZE PEW.8-PEW.18

ASK ALL:

PEW.14 Thinking about the major oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico. About how deep is the water where the leaking well is located? [READ IN ORDER]...

July 1-5

2010

- 2 50 feet
- 10 500 feet
- 51 5,000 feet (*Correct*) [OR]
- 13 50,000 feet
- 24 Don't know/Refused (**VOL. DO NOT READ**)

³ For April 29-May 2, 2010 the question asked: "Which of the following European countries is facing a financial crisis that might require a bailout from other European countries?"

⁴ For August 24-27, 2007 and June 22-25, 2007 the question asked: "Do you happen to know the name of the U.S. commander in Iraq? Is it..."

RANDOMIZE PEW.8-PEW.18

ASK ALL:

PEW.15 Do you happen to know if Congress passed a health care reform bill this year, or not?

July 1-5

2010

73	Yes (<i>Correct</i>)
14	No
13	Don't know/Refused (VOL. DO NOT READ)

RANDOMIZE PEW.8-PEW.18

ASK ALL:

PEW.16 Do you happen to know if the national unemployment rate as reported by the government is currently closer to **[READ IN ORDER]**?

July 1-5

2010

3	5%
54	10% (<i>Correct</i>)
16	15%
10	20%
18	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

Jan 14-17

2010⁵

2
55
15
15
12

Oct 1-4

2009

4
53
15
18
10

Mar 26-29

2009

3	4%
53	8% (<i>Correct</i>)
24	12%
18	16%
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

RANDOMIZE PEW.8-PEW.18

ASK ALL:

PEW.17 The World Cup soccer tournament is being held in what country? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

July 1-5

2010

63	South Africa (<i>Correct</i>)
4	Ghana
3	Canada [OR]
2	South Korea
27	Don't know/Refused (VOL. DO NOT READ)

RANDOMIZE PEW.8-PEW.18

ASK ALL:

PEW.18 Do you happen to know what Twitter is? Is it... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

July 1-5

2010

85	An information sharing network (<i>Correct</i>)
*	A children's cartoon character
*	A rock band [OR]
4	A new cell phone
10	Don't know/Refused (VOL. DO NOT READ)

⁵ For January 14-17, 2010 and before the question did not include the phrase: "... as reported by the government..."

ASK ALL:

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

ASK IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN PARTY:

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)		Lean	Lean
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	No	Other	(VOL.)	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>
				<u>preference</u>	<u>party</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>		
July 1-5, 2010	23	31	39	3	1	3	16	16