



AP U.S. Government and Politics

Congressional Effectiveness

Leveled Assessment: ____/4

Name: _____

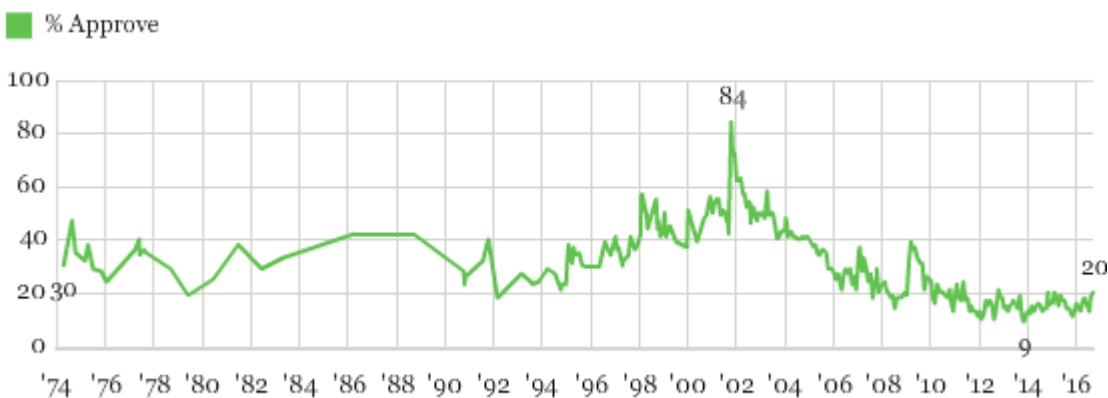
Section: _____

Score: ____/5

Directions: Review the charts below and answer the questions associated with each chart. The questions deal with the public's perception of the effectiveness of congress. The data was compiled and graphed by Gallup.

Chart 1: Historical Congressional Job Approval Rating

Congressional Job Approval Ratings Trend (1974-Present)



GALLUP®

Thought Questions:

- Describe the general shape of the graph above.
- What types of things would cause people's perceptions of the congressional effectiveness to go up and down (Two reasons it would go up, two reasons it would go down)

Reasons for Increases in Approval	Reasons for decrease in Approval
1.	1.
2.	2.

- Come up with a theory for the major spike of congressional approval in late 2001.

Chart 2: Historical Trends of Trust

As you know, our federal government is made up of three branches: an executive branch, headed by the president; a judicial branch, headed by the U.S. Supreme Court; and a legislative branch, made up of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

How much trust and confidence do you have at this time in the legislative branch, consisting of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives -- a great deal, a fair amount, not very much, or none at all?

	Great deal	Fair amount	Not very much	None at all	No opinion	Great deal/ Fair amount
	%	%	%	%	%	%
2016 Sep 7-11	3	32	43	20	1	35
2015 Sep 9-13	3	29	45	23	*	32
2014 Sep 4-7	3	25	50	20	1	28
2013 Sep 5-8	6	28	44	22	1	34
2012 Sep 6-9	4	30	47	18	1	34
2011 Sep 8-11	5	26	50	19	*	31
2010 Sep 13-16	5	31	42	21	1	36
2009 Aug 31-Sep 2	6	39	38	17	*	45
2008 Sep 8-11	4	43	38	12	2	47
2007 Sep 14-16	5	45	36	12	1	50
2006 Sep 7-10	6	50	31	10	2	56
2005 Sep 12-15	8	54	31	6	1	62
2004 Sep 13-15	7	53	33	6	1	60
2003 Sep 8-10	8	55	31	5	1	63
2002 Sep 5-8	9	58	26	6	1	67
2001 Sep 7-10	7	58	28	6	1	65
2000 Jul 6-9	11	57	24	7	1	68
1999 Feb 4-8	8	49	34	7	2	57
1998 Dec 28-29	13	48	30	7	2	61
1997 May 30-Jun 1	6	48	36	8	2	54
1976 Jun	9	52	31	6	4	61
1974 Apr	13	55	24	4	4	68
1972 May	13	58	22	3	3	71

* Less than 0.5%

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Thought Questions:

- Analyze the graph and explain the general trend between 1972 and 2016.
- What are two things that congress might do that would decrease the people's trust and confidence in the congress? Two things that would increase?
- Where would your views fit onto this graph? Explain why you rated congress how you did.