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For Immediate Release: Contact:

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Siena College Poll:

Cuomo Begins '14 in Strong Position; Ratings with Voters Up Strong Support for Many of Governors State of the State Proposals Voters: 'Yes' to Medical Marijuana; 'No' to Legalizing Recreational Use Chris Christie Hits Roadblock with New Yorkers as Favorability Rating Falls

Loudonville, NY. Andrew Cuomo begins his fourth year as governor and his anticipated re-election campaign in a very strong position, with favorability and job performance ratings bouncing back to their highest levels in nearly a year, and leads of nearly 50 points over both Donald Trump and Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino, according to a Siena College Poll of New York voters released today. Voters overwhelmingly support many proposals the governor put forward in his State of the State address, including several of his tax proposals.

New Yorkers strongly support legalizing medical marijuana for patients suffering from serious illness, with more than one-quarter supporting the governor¢ proposed pilot program and nearly half wanting to move beyond that and legalizing medical marijuana. When it comes to recreational use of marijuana, 54 percent oppose legalizing and regulating marijuana, while 41 percent support it. New Jersey Governor Chris Christie¢ favorability rating has dropped from 63-25 percent in November to 49-39 percent today. In potential 2016 presidential matchups, Christie trails Hillary Clinton by 28 points and Cuomo by 20 points, after leading Cuomo in November.

Cuomo is viewed favorably by 66 percent of voters and unfavorably by 28 percent (up from 61-32 percent in November). Voters give him a positive 54-46 percent job performance rating (up from a negative 44-56 percent in November), while 57 percent are prepared to re-elect him, compared to 33 percent who would prefer someone else (up from 51-41 percent). Astorino has a 14-10 percent favorability rating. Trumpøs is 38-57 percent.

õAs he enters his re-election year, Cuomo is sitting pretty. His favorability rating is the strongest itœ been since February. His job performance rating is the best itœ been since March. And more voters are prepared to re-elect him than at any time since last January,ö said Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg.

õLooking toward November, Cuomo currently crushes both Astorino, whoøs unknown to three-quarters of voters, and Trump, who is viewed unfavorably by 57 percent of voters. Neither Trump nor Astorino garners the support of a majority of Republicans, and both trail among independents by more than 40 points,ö Greenberg said.

Cuomo State of the State Proposals Have Broad Support

Voters' Views on Governor's State of the State Proposals				
	Support	Oppose		
Doubling the penalty for drivers under 21 convicted of texting while driving, so that they lose their license for one year	82%	18%		
Making universal Pre-K available for all children in New York	80%	17%		
Revoking driversqlicenses forever for anyone convicted of three DWIcs in their lifetime	79%	19%		
Approving a \$2 billion bond act to help all school district bring technology into classrooms	77%	21%		
Creating a system of public campaign financing limiting the size of political contributions to candidates; use state money to match smaller contributions to candidates for state offices	64%	30%		
Taking management control of construction at JFK & LaGuardia airports away from the Port Authority, putting the state in charge of modernizing and upgrading the airports	49%	38%		
Lowering the top rate on NY s estate tax from 16 to 10 percent over the next three years	77%	16%		
Instituting a property tax % ircuit breaker+that would provide up to \$1 billion of property tax relief for low and middle income taxpayers	77%	16%		
Targeting \$160 million of tax relief to manufacturing businesses, particularly those upstate	74%	21%		
Freezing property taxes for residents if locality stays within the current property tax cap for 1 year & takes concrete steps to share services with neighboring communities to cut costs	73%	16%		
Providing a refundable personal income tax credit for renters with incomes below \$100,000	65%	30%		
Siena Col	lege Poll – Jan	uary 20, 2014		

õSeveral Cuomo State of the State proposals are supported by more than three-quarters of voters: increasing penalties on young voters who text while driving, revoking driversølicenses for three DWI convictions, instituting universal Pre-K, and approving a \$2 billion education technology bond act. Support remains strong for public campaign financing, as it has for a year, with nearly two-thirds support,ö Greenberg said.

õCuomoøs proposal to take over construction at the two New York City airports from the Port Authority has plurality support. Democrats and New York City voters support it two-to-one, while downstate suburbanites and independents are closely divided and more Republicans and upstaters oppose it than support it,ö Greenberg said. õAdditionally, five of the tax proposals advanced by the governor also enjoy widespread support.ö

Legalizing Medical Marijuana Strongly Supported; Majority Opposes Legalizing Recreational Use õWhile 28 percent of voters support the governor¢ approach of a pilot program to provide medical marijuana to patients, 49 percent think New York should follow the lead of about 20 other states and legalize medical marijuana. Overall, more than two-thirds of voters from every party, region and demographic group support some form of allowing patients with serious illnesses having access to medical marijuana, with the exception of conservatives, 58 percent of whom support it,ö Greenberg said.

õWhen it comes to legalizing marijuana for recreational use, a majority say no. Voters under 35 say yes, as do a bare majority of men. Democrats and independents are closely divided but Republicans are a strong no,ö Greenberg said. õNew Yorkers are not yet ready to duplicate what they see in the Mile High City.ö

George Washington Bridge Scandal Imposes Speed Bump on New Yorkers' View of Christie of The ongoing George Washington Bridge scandal has taken a significant toll on how many New Yorkers feel about the New Jersey governor. While his favorability rating remains strong, albeit less strong, among Republicans and downstate suburbanites, his rating among Democrats and New York City voters has fallen in two months from about two-to-one positive to near break-even. Among independents and upstaters his ratings have fallen from being strongly favorable to now just a plurality viewing him favorably,ö Greenberg said.

õJust two months ago, Christie trailed Hillary Clinton by 16 points and led Cuomo by five points in hypothetical 2016 presidential matchups. Today, Christie trails Clinton by 28 points and he trails Cuomo by 20 points,ö Greenberg said. õChristieøs image with New Yorkers ó particularly Democrats and independents ó has hit a major speed bump. Will he be able to navigate the serious repair work he has in front of him?ö

Fewer than Half Think Race Relations in New York Are Excellent or Good

õAs we celebrate Martin Luther King Day, 47 percent of voters describe race relations in New York as excellent or good, down from 54 percent last year, while 51 percent say they are only fair or poor, up from 46 percent,ö Greenberg said. õTwice as many voters say race relations are poor, 14 percent, as say they are excellent, seven percent. Half of white voters and nearly half of Latino voters say race relations are excellent or good, however, two-thirds of black New Yorkers describe them as fair or poor, with more than one-quarter saying poor.ö

Voters' View of the State Legislature Improves

õMore voters now view the State Senate favorably, 46 percent, than unfavorably, 42 percent, up from a negative 35-52 percent favorability rating in November,ö Greenberg said. õThe Assembly also gained ground with voters, though not as much, and now has a near break-even 41-43 percent favorability rating, up from 34-48 percent.ö

Voters Not Very Familiar with Schneiderman & DiNapoli

õAttorney General Eric Schneiderman and Comptroller Tom DiNapoli remain unfamiliar to more than half of voters. Ten months from Election Day, only 29 percent say they are currently prepared to re-elect Schneiderman, with 33 percent preferring :someone else.øSimilarly, DiNapoli has a 35-30 percent re-elect rating. Both appear vulnerable, although serious opposition has not yet emerged against either,ö Greenberg said.

Majority Think New York is Headed on the Right Track; Nation Headed in Wrong Direction õBy a 52-36 percent margin, voters think New York is headed on the right track, up from 46-44 percent in November,ö Greenberg said. õNew Yorkersøview on the direction of the country has improved, 37-55 percent, up from 19-74 percent in October, although a majority continues to see the nation headed in the wrong direction.ö

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This Siena College Poll was conducted January 12-16, 2014 by telephone calls to 808 New York State registered voters. It has an overall margin of error of \pm 3.4 percentage points. Data was statistically adjusted by age, party, region and gender to ensure representativeness. Sampling was conducted via random digit dialing to landline and cell phones weighted to reflect known population patterns. The Siena College Research Institute, directed by Donald Levy, Ph.D., conducts political, economic, social and cultural research primarily in New York State. SRI, an independent, non-partisan research institute, subscribes to the American Association of Public Opinion Research Code of Professional Ethics and Practices. For more information, call Steve Greenberg at (518) 469-9858. For survey cross-tabs: www.Siena.edu/SRI/SNY.



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Siena College Poll Trends – January 2014

Q. 4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Andrew Cuomo?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2014	66	28	6
November 2013	61	32	6
October 2013	62	32	6
September 2013	64	32	4
August 2013	65	30	5
June 2013	58	35	6
May 2013	64	32	5
April 2013	62	33	4
March 2013	64	30	6
February 2013	67	29	4
January 2013	71	24	5
HIGHEST EVER	77 (2/11)	42 (10/06)	24 (1/06, 2/06, 9/07)
LOWEST EVER	44 (8/06, 10/06)	14 (8/09)	3 (10/20/10)

Q. 19 How would you rate the job that Andrew Cuomo is doing as Governor? Would you rate it excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	Poor	Don't Know/No Opinion
January 2014	10	44	35	11	1
November 2013	7	37	39	17	1
October 2013	8	44	34	13	1
September 2013	11	38	36	14	1
August 2013	9	43	33	13	2
June 2013	9	41	34	15	1
May 2013	10	42	31	16	1
April 2013	11	41	31	16	1
March 2013	12	42	31	13	1
February 2013	16	42	28	13	1
January 2013	16	44	28	10	1
HIGHEST EVER	17 (1/12)	47 (4/12, etc.)	39 (11/13)	17 (11	1/13) 28 (1/11)
LOWEST EVER	7 (11/13)	34 (1/11)	24 (1/11)	4 (2/	11, 1/11)

Q. 18 I know it is a long way off, but as things stand now, if Andrew Cuomo runs for re-election as Governor this year, would you vote to re-elect him or would you prefer someone else?

DATE	RE-ELECT CUOMO	PREFER SOMEONE ELSE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2014	57	33	10
November 2013	51	41	9
October 2013	52	38	10
September 2013	52	39	10
August 2013	55	35	9
June 2013	52	41	7
May 2013	55	36	9
April 2013	53	39	7
March 2013	54	37	9
February 2013	56	36	8
January 2013	60	32	8
HIGHEST EVER	62 (12/12)	41 (11/13, 6/13	3) 10 (10/13, 9/13)
LOWEST EVER	51 (11/13)	29 (12/12)	7 (6/13, 4/13)

Q. 12 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Rob Astorino?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2014	14	10	76
November 2013	12	14	75
HIGHEST EVER	14 (1/14)	14 (11/13)	<mark>76 (1/14)</mark>
LOWEST EVER	12 (11/13)	10 (1/14)	75 (11/13)

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Q. 39 If the 2014 election for governor was held today and the candidates were Andrew Cuomo on the Democratic line and Rob Astorino on the Republican line, who would you vote for? (Choices were rotated.)

DATE	Сиомо	ASTORINO	OTHER/WON'T VOTE/ DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
DATE	COOMO	ASTORINO	DON 1 KNOW/NO OTTNION
January 2014	67	19	14
November 2013	63	24	13
HIGHEST EVER	67 (1/14)	24 (11/13)	14 (1/14)
LOWEST EVER	63 (11/13)	19 (1/14)	13 (11/13)

Q. 20 Do you think Governor Cuomo has succeeded in creating a business climate that helps New York State businesses be more successful or have his efforts had little effect?

DATE	SUCCEEDED	HAD LITTLE EFFECT	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2014	43	45	12
January 2013	42	48	10
HIGHEST EVER	43 (1/14)	48 (1/13)	12 (1/14)
LOWEST EVER	42 (1/13)	45 (1/14)	10 (1/13)

Q. 23 With Bill de Blasio as mayor of New York City, some might say the two most significant elected executives in the state are Andrew Cuomo and Bill de Blasio. Which of the two ó Cuomo or de Blasio ó is more representative of your political beliefs? (Choices were rotated.)

DATE	Сиомо	DE BLASIO	Вотн	NEITHER	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2014	49	28	2	12	9
November 2013	47	28	2	11	12
HIGHEST EVER	49 (1/14)	28 (1/14, 11/13)	2 (1/14, 11	/13) 12 (1/1 ²	12 (11/13)
LOWEST EVER	47 (11/13)	28 (1/14, 11/13)	2 (1/14, 11	<mark>/13) </mark>	9 (1/14)

Q. 24 Last Wednesday, Governor Cuomo delivered his fourth State of the State address to kick off the new legislative session in Albany. How much have your read or heard about his speech? A great deal, some, not very much or nothing at all?

DATE	A GREAT DEAL	SOME	NOT VERY MUCH	Nothing	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2014	7	24	31	37	0
January 2013	14	29	29	27	0
January 2011	16	33	30	20	0
HIGHEST EVER	16 (1/11)	33 (1/1	.1) 31 (1/14)	<mark>37 (1/1</mark> 4	<mark>4)</mark> 0
LOWEST EVER	7 ((1/14)	24 (1/1	4) 29 (1/12)	20 (1/11	0

Q. 10 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Assembly?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2014	41	43	16
November 2013	34	48	19
October 2013	43	41	16
September 2013	38	49	14
August 2013	37	48	15
June 2013	36	51	13
May 2013	39	45	16
April 2013	39	49	12
February 2013	44	42	14
January 2013	45	42	13
HIGHEST EVER	45 (1/13)	61 (7/10)	19 (11/13, 12/12)
LOWEST EVER	25 (7/10)	40 (12/12)	12 (4/13, 1/10)

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Q. 7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Sheldon Silver?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2014	23	37	40
September 2013	21	43	37
June 2013	20	43	37
May 2013	23	34	43
April 2013	28	39	33
January 2013	24	38	38
HIGHEST EVER	28 (4/13, 7	/05) 43 (9/13, 6/1	3) 50 (4/05)
LOWEST EVER	19 (2/11, 4	30 (4/05)	33 (4/13)

Q. 11 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Senate?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2014	46	42	12
November 2013	35	52	12
October 2013	41	47	12
September 2013	40	51	10
August 2013	40	48	12
June 2013	41	49	11
May 2013	43	48	9
April 2013	40	53	7
February 2013	45	46	9
January 2013	45	45	10
HIGHEST EVER	<mark>46 (1/14, 5/1</mark>	74 (7/09)	14 (12/12, 6/11)
LOWEST EVER	20 (7/09)	41 (12/12)	6 (7/09)

Q. 8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Dean Skelos?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2014	18	16	66
September 2013	14	23	63
June 2013	15	23	63
May 2013	14	16	70
April 2013	15	24	61
January 2013	16	20	65
HIGHEST EVER	18 (1/14)	24 (4/13)	82 (11/08)
LOWEST EVER	9 (12/10)	8 (7/08)	61 (4/13)

Q. 9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Jeff Klein?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2014	13	13	74
September 2013	13	12	74
June 2013	12	12	76
May 2013	13	10	76
April 2013	17	15	68
January 2013	12	14	73
HIGHEST EVER	17 (4/13)	15 (4/13)	84 (11/09)
LOWEST EVER	9 (11/09)	7 (11/09)	68 (4/13)

Q. 5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Eric Schneiderman?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2014	27	15	58
November 2013	27	16	57
September 2013	23	18	60
August 2013	25	15	60
April 2013	27	18	55
March 2013	19	17	65
HIGHEST EVER	29 (10/31/	10) 27 (10/31/10	86 (11/09)
LOWEST EVER	8 (11/09)	6 (5/10, 11	/09) 44 (10/31/10)

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Q. 6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Thomas DiNapoli?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2014	28	17	55
November 2013	27	19	54
September 2013	26	20	55
August 2013	26	18	57
March 2013	22	15	63
HIGHEST EVER	30 (11/10, 10	/20/10) 36 (10/31/10)	80 (6/07)
LOWEST EVER	7 (6/07, 5/0	7) 10 (12/09, 11	/08) 37 (10/31/10)

Q. 15 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Donald Trump?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2014	38	57	5
October 2013	30	59	10
HIGHEST EVER	38 (1/14)	59 (10/13)	10 (10/13)
LOWEST EVER	30 (10/13)	57 (1/14)	5 (1/14)

Q. 16 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Republican Party?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2014	35	56	9
October 2010	36	53	10
HIGHEST EVER	36 (10/10)	56 (1/14)	10 (10/10)
LOWEST EVER	35 (1/14)	53 (10/10)	9 (1/14)

Q. 17 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about the New York State Democratic Party?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2014	52	39	8
October 2010	40	52	7
HIGHEST EVER	52 (1/14)	52 (10/10)	8 (1/14)
LOWEST EVER	40 (10/10)	39 (1/14)	7 (10/10)

Q.30 Do you support or oppose creating a system of public campaign financing in New York that would limit the size of political contributions to candidates and use state money to match smaller contributions made to candidates for state offices?

DATE	Support	OPPOSE	NOT ENOUGH INFORMATION/ DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2014	64	30	6
June 2013	61	33	6
May 2013	57	34	9
March 2013	61	33	6
January 2013	59	36	5
HIGHEST EVER	<mark>64 (1/14)</mark>	36 (1/13)	14 (8/12)
LOWEST EVER	55 (8/12)	30 (1/14)	5 (1/13)

Q. 13 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Hillary Clinton?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2014	68	29	3
November 2013	67	31	2
October 2013	67	30	4
September 2013	69	27	3
August 2013	67	31	2
March 2013	73	25	3
HIGHEST EVER	75 (12/12)	46 (4/08)	8 (3/05, 6/06, 3/07)
LOWEST EVER	48 (4/08)	23 (12/12)	2 (many)

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Q. 14 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion about Chris Christie?

DATE	FAVORABLE	UNFAVORABLE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2014	49	39	12
November 2013	63	25	12
December 2012	63	18	18
HIGHEST EVER	63 (11/13,	12/12) 39 (1/14)	18 (12/12)
LOWEST EVER	<mark>49 (1/14)</mark>	18 (12/12)	12 (1/14, 11/13)

Q. 41 If the 2016 election for president was held today and the candidates were Hillary Clinton on the Democratic line and Chris Christie on the Republican line, who would you vote for? (Choices were rotated.)

			OTHER/WON'T VOTE/	
DATE	CLINTON	CHRISTIE	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION	
January 2014	60	32	8	
November 2013	56	40	5	
HIGHEST EVER	60 (1/14)	40 (11/13)	8 (1/14)	
LOWEST EVER	56 (11/13)	32 (1/14)	5 (11/13)	

Q. 42 If the 2016 election for president was held today and the candidates were Andrew Cuomo on the Democratic line and Chris Christie on the Republican line, who would you vote for? (Choices were rotated.)

DATE	Сиомо	CHRISTIE	OTHER/WON'T VOTE/ DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2014	55	35	11
November 2013	42	47	10
HIGHEST EVER	55 (1/14)	47 (11/13)	11 (1/14)
LOWEST EVER	42 (11/13)	35 (1/14)	10 (11/13)

Q. 43 As we look to next week& commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King& birthday, how would you describe the state of race relations in New York State? Would you say they are excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	Poor I	Oon't Know/No Opinion
January 2014	7	40	37	14	2
January 2013	7	47	35	11	1
January 2012	7	44	36	11	2
January 2011	7	48	33	10	2
HIGHEST EVER	7 (man	y) 48 (1/11)	38 (1/10)	<mark>14 (1/1</mark>	3 (1/08)
LOWEST EVER	3 (1/08)		33 (1/11)	8 (1/1	1 (1/13)

Q. 2 Is the United States on the right track, or is it headed in the wrong direction?

DATE	RIGHT TRACK	WRONG DIRECTION	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2014	37	55	8
October 2013	19	74	7
September 2013	34	58	7
August 2013	37	54	9
May 2013	41	56	4
March 2013	32	60	8
January 2013	46	49	5
HIGHEST EVER	62 (5/09)	74 (10/13, 8/	11) 17 (9/08)
LOWEST EVER	19 (10/13,	10/08) 24 (12/09)	5 (1/13)

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Q.3 How would you describe the fiscal condition of New York State right now? Would you describe it as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

DATE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	Poor	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2014	2	27	42	27	2
September 2013	1	20	47	30	2
August 2013	3	20	43	30	4
May 2013	1	19	44	33	2
March 2013	1	16	47	35	2
February 2013	0	19	44	35	2
January 2013	1	18	47	32	2
HIGHEST EVER	3 (8/13)	27 (1/14)	49 (8/12)	67 (3/	22/10) 4 (8/13, 9/08)
LOWEST EVER	0 (many)	$6(3/22/10, \epsilon)$	etc.) 25 (3/22/10)	<mark>27 (1/</mark>	0 (4/11, etc.)

Q. 1 Is New York State on the right track, or is it headed in the wrong direction?

DATE	RIGHT TRACK	WRONG DIRECTION	DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION
January 2014	52	36	12
November 2013	46	44	10
October 2013	44	44	12
September 2013	43	46	11
August 2013	47	40	13
June 2013	48	42	10
May 2013	49	44	7
April 2013	48	42	10
March 2013	50	42	8
February 2013	55	35	9
January 2013	57	33	10
HIGHEST EVER	57 (1/13)	76 (10/31/10)	30 (1/07)
LOWEST EVER	14 (10/10)	26 (1/07)	7 (5/13)

Poll Trend Notes:

All surveys are of registered voters except for the polls of August and October 2012, October 2010, September and October 2008, and September and October 2006, which are polls of likely voters.

Trends reflect questions asked at least twice since the first Siena College Poll in February 2005.

Results listed here include all times questions have been asked since January 2013.

[&]quot;Highest Everö and õLowest Everö is provided at the bottom of each question.

[^] Inconsequential wording change.