

Academic WorldQuest Competition

February 4, 2020

Competition Questions

Round 1: U.S. – Russia Relations

1. After the 2014 annexation of Crimea, why didn't the U.S. and Russia stop cooperating in the Arctic and space?
 - A. The Arctic and space both suffer from tragedies of the commons, "environmental crises that can only be resolved through coordinated actions of both countries."
 - B. The Arctic and space relations rely on a complex interdependence between nations.
 - C. The U.S. and Russia are worried about China more involved in those regions.
 - D. All of the above**

<https://www.cambridge.org>

2. What is Russia's current Gross Domestic Product (GDP), according to the International Monetary Fund?
 - A. \$1.6 trillion**
 - B. \$3.7 trillion
 - C. \$14.1 trillion
 - D. \$19.4 trillion

<https://carnegieendowment.org/files/RumorSokolsky>

3. Which of the following reasons explain why the Russian economy has rebounded despite several rounds of sanctions?
 - A. Increased oil prices and coordination with OPEC**
 - B. Increased exportation of raw materials
 - C. New trade agreements with China and Japan
 - D. The government reformed corrupt businesses

<https://www.cfr.org>

4. In what region(s) of the world does the Center for Preventive Action at the Council on Foreign Relations see the most hope for U.S.-Russia cooperation?
 - A. Middle East**
 - B. Central Asia
 - C. Asia-Pacific
 - D. All of the above

<https://www.cfr.org>

5. Following the Bolshevik October Revolution, which of the following is true about U.S. diplomatic relations with the Bolshevik Government from 1917 to 1933?
- A. Formal ties were severed with Russia, but U.S. diplomats remained in indirect communication with Bolshevik representatives.
 - B. Formal ties were never severed with Russia, but U.S. diplomats were instructed to have no direct communication with Bolshevik representatives.**
 - C. Formal ties were severed with Russia, and U.S. diplomats were instructed to begin diplomatic relations with Bolshevik representatives.
 - D. Formal ties were never severed with Russia, but all Russian Provisional Government officials were expelled from the U.S.

<https://history.state.gov>

6. At the U.S.-Russia summit in Helsinki in 2018, what did President Donald J. Trump do?
- A. Absolved President Vladimir Putin of interference in American elections**
 - B. Publicly supported U.S. intelligence on election tampering
 - C. Threatened sanctions against Russia as retaliation for hacking
 - D. Agreed to allow Russia to interrogate 11 U.S. citizens

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2019/04/william-j-burns-putin-russia/583255/>

7. What are the 5 stages of Russia's relationship with the West?
- A. Euphoria, pragmatism, disillusionment, crisis, reset**
 - B. Condemnation, sanctions, discussion, compromise, reset
 - C. Wariness, acceptance, cooperation, disappointment, reset
 - D. Excitement, collaboration, setback, failure, reset

<https://www.fpri.org>

8. Which American president "reset" relations between the U.S. and Russia?
- A. Bill Clinton
 - B. George W. Bush
 - C. Barack Obama
 - D. All of the above**

<https://www.fpri.org/article/2018/12/the-reset-that-wasnt-the-permanent-crisis-of-u-s-russia-relations>

9. As of 2017, what are Russia's top 3 exports to the U.S.?
- A. Oil products, minerals and engines
 - B. Oil products, aluminum and cast iron**
 - C. Crude oil, precious metals and agricultural equipment
 - D. Crude Oil, aluminum and pharmaceuticals

<http://media.rspp.ru>

10. Why did Russia expel the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in 2012?
- A. USAID actively supported the Russian opposition party.
 - B. The U.S. rejected Russian aid.
 - C. President Obama sanctioned the Russian government.
 - D. Secretary Clinton publicly questioned the legitimacy of the Russian elections.**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu>

Round 2: Preventing Extremism in Fragile States

11. A recent analysis by the UN and the World Bank showed that each dollar invested in conflict-prevention saves how much in spending on crisis-management and the military?
- A. \$1
 - B. \$8
 - C. \$16**
 - D. \$32

<https://www.usip.org>, Page 14

12. What country was deemed “most improved” on the Fragile States Index Annual Report 2019?
- A. Algeria
 - B. Cote d’Ivoire
 - C. Ethiopia**
 - D. Tunisia

<https://fragilestatesindex.org>, Page 25

13. In the report “Injecting Humanity,” the authors recommend that instead of focusing on deradicalization, which of the following might be more effective when working with children formerly part of ISIS?
- A. Demobilization
 - B. Mediation
 - C. Resocialization**
 - D. Restorative Justice

<https://www.worldaffairscouncils.org/uploads>, Page 9

14. In Iraq, what was the main focus of U.S. security assistance efforts in the lead up to June 2014 as the Islamic State fighters advanced on Mosul and the Iraqi Army fled?
- A. Addressing sectarian divides
 - B. Countering corruption
 - C. Addressing patronage
 - D. Building tactical capacity**

<https://www.usip.org>, Page 1

15. How many countries registered an improved score in the 2019 Global Peace Index?

- A. 28
- B. 55
- C. 86**
- D. 102

<http://visionofhumanity.org>, Page 9

16. In Tanzania, researchers noticed that community stakeholders and police lack common language and a common understanding around what concept?

- A. Dialogue
- B. Mediation
- C. Peacebuilding
- D. Violent Extremism**

<https://www.usip.org>, Page 7

17. Which of the following is **NOT** one of the recommendations of the Task Force on Extremism in Fragile States?

- A. Partnership development fund
- B. Strategic prevention initiative
- C. Shared framework for strategic prevention
- D. Increased funding in primary education**

<https://www.usip.org>, Page 18

18. What percentage of women who traveled to Iraq or Syria to join ISIS have returned home or relocated elsewhere?

- A. 8%**
- B. 16%
- C. 32%
- D. 64%

<https://www.worldaffairscouncils.org/images>, Page 11

19. What is the source of the worst violence in Nigeria?

- A. Boko Haram
- B. Farmer-Herder Conflict**
- C. North-South Divisions
- D. Police-Community Strife

<https://www.usip.org>, Page 1

20. Which of the following is **NOT** one of the sets of indicators used by the Fragile States Index?
- A. Cohesion indicators
 - B. Economic indicators
 - C. Scientific development indicators**
 - D. Social and cross-cutting indicators

<https://fragilestatesindex.org>, Page 33

Round 3: Oceans – The World’s Garbage Dump

21. What are the top marine debris items found in cleanups over the last 25 years?
- A. Plastic beverage bottles
 - B. Plastic bags
 - C. Cigarettes & filters**
 - D. Food wrappers, containers

<http://www.oceanhealthindex.org>, Page 2

22. Which of the following is **TRUE** about incineration at sea?
- A. It’s neither regulated by the London Convention nor by the London Protocol.
 - B. It’s not considered ocean dumping because accidental combustion cannot be regulated.
 - C. It’s regulated by the London Convention but not the London Protocol.
 - D. It’s considered ocean dumping because stack emissions will deposit into the waters.**

<https://www.epa.gov>, Page 5

23. Why does garbage accumulate in patches in the North Pacific?
- A. It is where all the busiest trade routes are.
 - B. Several ocean currents converge there.**
 - C. The wind creates a swirling vortex.
 - D. The water there is less violent than other parts of the ocean.

<https://ocean.si.edu>, Page 1

24. Researchers were able to estimate that just 10 river systems carry 90% of the plastic that ends up in the ocean. Which factors do these 10 river systems have in common?
- A. High population in surrounding areas and low levels of rainfall
 - B. High levels of rainfall and no waste-recycling process
 - C. Low levels of rainfall and no waste-recycling process
 - D. High population in surrounding areas and a less than ideal waste-management process**

<https://www.weforum.org>, Pages 2 & 3

25. According to a 2015 report, the bulk of marine trash originates in which three countries:

- A. China, Egypt and the Philippines
- B. China, India and Thailand
- C. China, Indonesia and the Philippines**
- D. South Africa, Indonesia and Thailand

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org>, Page 1

26. In the U.S., _____ of tourism revenue comes from coastal ocean states.

- A. 58%
- B. 73%
- C. 85%**
- D. 92%

<http://www.oceanhealthindex.org>, Page 4

27. Which of the following environments is classified as “highly sensitive” to oil pollution?

- A. Salt marshes, exposed rocks and sandy shores
- B. Coral reefs, sandy beaches
- C. Mangroves, soft substrates and sandbanks
- D. All of the above**

<https://worldoceanreview.com>, Pages 3 & 4

28. The most recent amendment to the Basel Convention aims to increase

- A. public awareness of ocean pollutants.
- B. regulation of chemical-waste production.
- C. monitoring of marine populations and biodiversity.
- D. transparency in the global trade of plastic waste.**

<https://www.reuters.com>, Page 1

29. Ocean dumping causes which economic changes?

- A. Increased fishing trade and increased shipping industry equipment costs
- B. Increased coastal-community and public-health spending and decreased industry shipping costs
- C. Increased coastal-community and public-health spending and increased shipping industry costs**
- D. Decreased fishing trade and decreased industry shipping costs

<https://web.unep.org>, Page 2

30. The solution to the epidemic of plastic continuously entering the ocean will likely come from

- A. reduction targets.
- B. innovation in materials science.
- C. significant investments in waste-management infrastructures.
- D. All of the above**

Round 4: Brexit and the EU

31. Which landmark treaty marked the creation of the European Union (EU) in 1993?

- A. The Treaty of Rome
- B. The Oslo Accords
- C. The Maastricht Treaty**
- D. The Treaty of Paris

<https://www.history.com/news/the-history-behind-brexit>

32. Why was Theresa May, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (UK), forced to resign from her post in 2019?

- A. Pressure from UK citizens
- B. Loss of support of her Cabinet, many of whom were tired of the ongoing turmoil over Brexit**
- C. Official order of the Queen
- D. Vote of no-confidence by the legislature

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/05/24/europe/theresa-may-resigns-brexit-gbr-intl/index.html>

33. Who is this politician?

- A. Jeffery Corbyn
- B. Jeremy Corbyn**
- C. Jean-Claude Juncker
- D. Boris Johnson

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/uk-parliament-brexit-vote/2019/09/04/cc934b1c-cb6d-11e9-9615-8f1a32962e04_story.html?arc404=true

34. What is the Brexit backstop?

- A. A plan that insures the prevention of the return of a hard border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.**
- B. A plan that defines the customs regulations that would be imposed on trade between the UK and the Republic of Ireland.
- C. A policy that the UK government agreed to promote to the EU to close the free and open border crossings between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.
- D. A plan outlining how the Republic of Ireland would join the UK outside the European Single Market.

https://www.csis.org/analysis/what-brexit-backstop-and-why-it-important?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIj8TSjOr95AIVx5-zCh17iwvrEAAyAAEgLVYfD_BwE

35. Which policy does Prime Minister Boris Johnson support?

- A. **No-deal Brexit**
- B. A UK-first negotiated Brexit
- C. Remaining in the EU
- D. Delaying the negotiation of the Brexit backstop

<https://qz.com/1701770/the-uk-parliament-just-voted-to-delay-brexit-for-third-time/>

36. When did the UK formally begin the Brexit process?

- A. **March, 2017**
- B. December, 2016
- C. June, 2017
- D. November, 2017

<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/b/brexit.asp#uk-eu-trade-after-brexit>

37. Which of the following statements about Brexit policy options is **TRUE**?

- A. No-deal Brexit involves an exit without the consent of the people.
- B. No-deal Brexit is supported by Jeremy Corbyn's Labour Party.
- C. **Brexit was supported by 52% of British voters in the June 2016 referendum.**
- D. Brexit with a deal refers to the UK making a deal with the UN.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/world/europe/what-is-brexit.html>

38. Brexit will negatively impact all of the following U.S.-European policy agendas except _____.

- A. **migration**
- B. global tax reform
- C. trade
- D. digital privacy

<https://time.com/4383202/brexit-america-fallout-economy-fed/>

39. Which of the following is **NOT** a guaranteed condition of a No-Deal Brexit?

- A. **A hard border would have to be created between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.**
- B. The UK would be forced to leave the European Court of Justice.
- C. The UK would be forced to leave Europol, EU's law enforcement body.
- D. The UK would no longer contribute to the EU budget.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-48511379>

40. Four broad precedents exist for trade relationships between existing EU countries and non-EU countries. Which of these is **NOT** one of the precedents?

- A. The Norway Model – the EEA (European Economic Area)
- B. The Switzerland Model – the EFTA (European Free Trade Association)
- C. The Canada Model – the CETA (Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement)
- D. **The Ukraine Model - the EETA (Eastern European Trade Agreement)**

Round 5: China's Belt and Road Initiative

41. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is sometimes criticized as _____ diplomacy.

- A. **debt-trap**
- B. backroom
- C. beggar-thy-neighbor
- D. helping-hand

<https://www.fpri.org>, Page 2

42. What Chinese-led organization is the main rival of the Trans-Pacific Partnership?

- A. **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership**
- B. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
- C. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- D. None of the above

<https://www.scmp.com>, Page 2

43. One Belt Economies, which are overland are

- A. **located north of One Road Economies, which are maritime**
- B. poorer than One Road Economies
- C. located south of Beijing
- D. countries that border China

<https://www.chinahighlights.com/silkroad/new-silk-road.htm>

44. The BRI includes more than 70 countries that account for

- A. half the world's population and half the global GDP.
- B. **half the world's population and a quarter of global GDP.**
- C. a quarter of world's population and half the global GDP.
- D. a quarter of world's population and a quarter of global GDP.

<https://www.theguardian.com>, Page 1

45. Which of the following is **NOT** one of the three economic criteria that should be used when analyzing port projects associated with the Maritime Silk Road Initiative?

- A. Proximity to major shipping lanes
- B. Hinterland connectivity
- C. **Proximity to a major harbor**
- D. Proximity to land routes

<https://www.csis.org>, Page 4

46. The Trump Administration has been urging EU countries to bar Chinese investment in

- A. major port projects.
- B. 5G and other telecommunications infrastructure.**
- C. direct land routes to China.
- D. direct land routes through Pakistan.

<https://www.cfr.org/article/chinas-belt-and-road-gets-win-italy>, Page 4

47. According to the Chinese Ambassador to the U.S., the foremost aim of the BRI is to
- A. forge military alliances with China's neighbors.
 - B. build a community with a shared future for mankind.
 - C. serve as a buffer against US presence in Asia.
 - D. promote connectivity.**

<https://www.beltroadnews/2019/04/25>, Page 1

48. The ancient Silk Road was established during the _____ Dynasty.
- A. Han**
 - B. Tang
 - C. Ming
 - D. Manchu Qing

<https://www.chinahighlights.com>, Page 1 & 2

49. The improvement in relations between China and India is known as the _____.
- A. Beijing/New Delhi Accord
 - B. Wuhan Spirit**
 - C. India/China Détente
 - D. BRI Pact

<https://qz.com/india/1547154/what-are-indias-stakes-in-chinese-belt-and-road-plan/>, Page 2

50. New Zealand _____.
- A. strongly opposes China's BRI
 - B. is cooperating with Pacific Island nations to develop an independent economic partnership
 - C. is a signatory to China's BRI**
 - D. None of the above

<https://www.silkroadbriefing.com/news/2019/05/23>, Page 2