

Questions for Academic World Quest Competition – 2009

Questions 1-10, Countries

1. In which of these countries has there recently been an overthrow of the sitting president due to a dispute over his effort to change the constitution to allow a currently prohibited second term?

- a. Nicaragua
- b. Kenya
- c. Honduras**
- d. Peru

ANS: c, *Economist*, 9/24/09; *Wall Street Journal*, 10/15/09; *New York Times*, 11/6/09

2. South Africa's new president has had a successful beginning to his presidency. This former goat-herder, with little formal education but considerable political experience, has been notably pragmatic and has shown early strong support for democratic institutions. His name is _____

- a. Jomo Kenyatta.
- b. Kwame Nkrumah.
- c. Thabo Mbeki.
- d. Jacob Zuma.**

ANS: d, *Economist*, 9/24/09; *Economist*, 10/15/09; *New York Times*, 10/31/09

3. Which of these countries contains the regions of the Swat Valley and the Northwest Frontier Province?

- a. Canada
- b. Ethiopia
- c. Pakistan**
- d. India

ANS: c, *New York Times*, 9/14/09, *London Times*, Al-Jazeera; the BBC; and U.S. news networks

4. What two countries share the Tierra del Fuego?

- a. Argentina and Chile**
- b. Guatemala and Mexico
- c. Portugal and Spain
- d. Malaysia and Indonesia

ANS: a, *World Almanac*, page 745 (top left of page) and page 672

5. Kuala Lumpur is the capital city of which of these countries?

- a. Cambodia
- b. Bangladesh
- c. Malaysia**
- d. Myanmar (Burma)

ANS: c, *World Almanac* page 784

6. Which South American country has Buenaventura on the Pacific Coast and Cartagena on the Caribbean Sea Coast?

- a. Colombia**
- b. Panama
- c. Venezuela
- d. Ecuador

ANS: a, *World Almanac*, page 747, "Colombia: Chief Ports"

7. Which of these countries reached the height of its power in the 13th century and gave rise to Genghis Kahn, whose forces and their successors conquered vast territories including China?

- a. India
- b. Afghanistan
- c. Mongolia**
- d. Uzbekistan

ANS: c, *World Almanac*, page 788

8. Which of these countries has a 2,650 mile coastline as well as desert areas and some of the world's highest peaks?

- a. Peru
- b. Chile**
- c. United States
- d. China

ANS: b, *World Almanac*, page 744

9. Which one of these continents is located in all four hemispheres?

- a. South America
- b. Europe
- c. Antarctica
- d. Africa**

ANS: d, *World Almanac*, pages 470-71 (map)

10. Which of these countries is bordered on the west by Sweden and the north by Norway?
- a. Russia
 - b. Latvia
 - c. Moldova
 - d. Finland**

ANS: d, *World Almanac*, pages 757 and 467 (map)

Questions 11-20, *People in the News*

11. A 1970 Nobel Peace Prize winner and father of the “green revolution,” Dr. _____, developed high-yielding crop varieties that helped to avert famine worldwide.

- a. Garry Trudeau
- b. Norman Borlaug**
- c. Larry Gelbart
- d. Reinhard Mohn



ANS: b, *New York Times*, 9/14/09; *Economist*, 9/18/09, page 99

12. On Oct. 11, 2009, Honduras played the U.S. in the World Cup. The match served as a relief from the country’s political crisis where the president was ousted in June. IN ORDER: who was the ousted president, who is the *de facto* president, and who won the game?
- a. Zelaya, Micheletti, U.S.**
 - b. Zelaya, Micheletti, Honduras
 - c. Micheletti, Zelaya, U.S.
 - d. Micheletti, Zelaya, Honduras

ANS: a, *New York Times*, 10/10/09, 10/11/09

13. In late September, Barack Obama chaired a meeting of the United Nations Security Council devoted to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. This is only the fifth time the Council has met at head-of-government level. Who was the first U.S. president to chair a special session of the UN Security Council?
- a. Woodrow Wilson
 - b. John Kennedy
 - c. Harry Truman
 - d. Barack Obama**

ANS: d, *Economist*, 9/19/09, page 38

14. Turkey and Armenia recently signed an historic agreement to open their borders and normalize relations. The last names of the prime minister of Turkey and the president of Armenia are
- a. **Erdogan and Sargsyan.**
 - b. Suleiman and Ataturk.
 - c. Nagorno and Karabakh.
 - d. Abbas and Aliev.

ANS: a, *Economist* 10/10/09 page 55; *Wall Street Journal*, 10/12/09, page A6

15. In September at the United Nations, the Russian president said that he is more open to sanctions against Iran. Later in Moscow, during Secretary Clinton's visit, she discussed new sanctions with her counterpart. Who is Secretary Clinton's Russian counterpart?

- a. Vladimir Putin
- b. Fyodor Dostoyevsky
- c. **Sergei Lavrov**
- d. Dmitry Medvedev



ANS: c, *Economist* 9/26/09, pg. 16; *Wall Street Journal*, 10/14/09, page A10

16. Name the Princeton professor whose research was on the causes and governmental mistakes during the 1930s depression and whose leadership of the U.S. Federal Reserve during the recent financial crisis has been applauded by professional economists.

- a. Henry Paulson
- b. Paul Krugman
- c. Alan Greenspan
- d. **Ben Bernanke**

ANS: d, *Economist*, 10/29/09; *New York Times*, 10/23/09

17. Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan is an alliance of 13 Pashtun Taliban groups, located in the Afghan-Pakistan border area. In late summer 2009, its leader, Baitullah Mehsud, was killed by an American drone. Who was the 29-year-old al-Qaeda favorite that succeeded him?

- a. Mullah Nazir
- b. **Hakimullah Mehsud**
- c. Hfiz Gul Bahadur
- d. Mullah Omar



ANS: b, *Economist*, 10/29/09; *New York Times*, 10/22/2009

18. Name the president who supported his country's successful bid for the 2016 Summer Olympics before the International Olympic Committee in Copenhagen.
- a. **Luiz Inacio Lula de Silva**
 - b. Barack Obama
 - c. Hugo Chavez
 - d. Nicolas Sarkozy

ANS: a, *Economist*, 10/8/09; *Wall Street Journal*, 10/05/09; *New York Times*, 9/22/09

19. For the first time, the Nobel Committee this year selected a woman for the Nobel Prize in Economics. Her name is

- a. **Elinor Ostrom.**
- b. Janet Yellen.
- c. Maria Bartiroma.
- d. Christine Romer.



ANS: a, *Economist*, 10/12/09; *New York Times* 10/12/09

20. The current U.S. Secretary of Education has been described as a “venture philanthropist,” investing federal funds to make major changes in American schools. Who is he?
- a. Jay Rockefeller
 - b. Al Gore
 - c. **Arne Duncan**
 - d. Bill Gates

ANS: c, *Economist*, 10/01/09

Questions 21-30, *Great Decisions*

21. With China and India seemingly on their way to great-power status, the world is arguably witnessing a shift in power dynamics that rivals any such shift in the past 200 years. Innovation is key for the U.S. to stay competitive. In regard to the number of international patent applications, the U.S. exceeds China by a ratio of
- a. 2 to 1.
 - b. 3 to 1.
 - c. 5 to 1.
 - d. **10 to 1.**

ANS: d, *Great Decisions 2009*, “The U.S. and Rising Powers,” page 11

22. Which of the following is **NOT** true about global food prices?
- a. In 2007 and early 2008, world food prices increased dramatically.
 - b. In the second half of 2008, prices began to fall, but not to 2005 levels.
 - c. People in developing countries took the food price increases calmly.**
 - d. Prices are expected to rise again, when the economic slump is over.

ANS: c, *Great Decisions 2009*, "Global Food Crisis," pages 65 and 66

23. Which international body allows countries to submit claims to territory that extends beyond their 200 nautical mile economic zone?
- a. All such claims are adjudicated by the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague.
 - b. Most countries have been content to leave it to the 21-member United Nations Technical Committee that oversees seabed issues of the Convention on the Law of the Sea.**
 - c. All such claims are adjudicated by the Nuremberg Court on Ocean Policy.
 - d. Most countries have been content to leave it to the decision of the *ad hoc* UN Committee, called the "Margineers."

ANS: b, *Great Decisions 2009*, "The Arctic Age," page 42

24. Regarding the melting Arctic ice, the subsequent "land grab" for natural resources, and the freedom of navigation rights, has the U.S. signed the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)?
- a. Yes, it was signed in 1994 and ratified by the Senate in 1998.
 - b. Yes, but the U.N. Convention has nothing to do with issues such as natural resources and freedom of navigation. It deals only with mammal protection and ecology.
 - c. No, the U.S. has yet to sign the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea.**
 - d. No, but the U.S. Coast Guard has purchased four new icebreakers in anticipation of signing the U.N. Convention of the Law of the Sea.

ANS: c, *Great Decisions 2009*, "The Arctic Age," pages 42 and 46

25. The privatization of many Egyptian public-sector firms has aggravated unemployment and increased inequity. The Egyptian government has put into place several programs to address these problems. Of the following, which is **NOT** one of these programs?
- a. Retraining redundant workers
 - b. Redistribution of land under "Land Reform" policies**
 - c. Granting loans to displaced workers to establish their own businesses
 - d. Allowing dismissed workers access to subsidized housing and medical care while they look for jobs

ANS: b, *Great Decisions 2009*, "Egypt: Key Ally in the Middle East," page 55

26. The U.S. Naval Station at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba dates back to a 1903 lease agreement. Why does the U.S. still have a base in an adversarial communist country?
- a. Cuba continues to cash our lease payments.
 - b. The base is illegal, but the U.S. is still there because of adverse possession.
 - c. The lease stipulates that the lease can be dissolved only if both parties concur.**
 - d. The Cuban Navy benefits from the use of the base's fuel and repair facilities.

ANS: c, *Great Decisions 2009*, "Cuba on the Verge," page 86

27. Which of the following 1990's conflicts is an example of the need to establish the "Responsibility to Protect (R2P)," as defined in the 2001 Canadian-sponsored International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS) report?
- a. Srebrenica (1995)
 - b. Rwanda (1994)
 - c. Kosovo (1999)
 - d. all of the above**

ANS: d, *Great Decisions 2009*, "Human Rights in a New Era: Wars for Peace?" (Chapter 8)

28. Globalization of the world economy increased in the 1990s. The United States began to turn its attention to free trade agreements, most notably _____, which came into force January 1, 1994.
- a. NAFTA**
 - b. GATT
 - c. NSIDC
 - d. FDIC

ANS: a, *Great Decisions 2009*, "Energy and the Global Economy," page 31

29. The U.S. and Egypt share a common concern over the rise of Iran as a regional power. Iran opposes American goals and allies in the region and has aggressively pushed its nuclear capabilities and radical Islamic Shi'a orientation on a conservative, Sunni-centered Egypt. The U.S. and Egypt disagree on how to address the problem. Among other strategies, the U.S. has indicated it may use:
- a. Kurdistan to pressure Iran into a settlement.
 - b. the United Nations as the sole mechanism to negotiate a settlement.
 - c. military force to limit Iran's nuclear production.**
 - d. none of the above.

ANS: c, *Great Decisions 2009*, "Egypt: Key Ally in the Middle East," page 60

30. Pakistan's strategic goals toward Afghanistan include
- eliminating Indian influence.
 - maintaining the dependence of the US on Pakistan for security cooperation.
 - eliminating Pashtun ethnic nationalism.
 - all of the above.**

ANS: d, *Great Decisions 2009*, "Afghanistan and Pakistan," page 24

Questions 31-40, *World History*

31. Regarding European colonization of Africa in the 19th Century, which is the most accurate statement?
- European powers were pushed out of Africa by 1880.
 - Gunpowder and weaponry allowed the European powers to conquer all but two countries in Africa by 1880.
 - European control over Africa did not change during the 19th Century.
 - European powers partitioned almost the entire continent within twenty years after the 1885 Berlin Conference.**

ANS: d, *Barron's AP World History*, pages 331, 327; *World History* (Prentice Hall), pages 292-94; *World Almanac*, page 643; *California History-Social Science Standards* 10.4.2 and 10.4.3

32. According to this enlightenment philosopher, life, liberty, and property were natural rights granted by God; it was the duty of all governments to respect and protect these rights. If the government did not, the citizens had a right to revolution. Who is this philosopher?
- Thomas Hobbes
 - John Locke**
 - Charles de Montesquieu
 - Jean Jacques Rousseau

ANS: b, *Princeton Review, AP U.S. Government*, page 41; *World History* (Prentice Hall), pages 55 and 76; *World Almanac*, page 640; *California History-Social Science Standards* 10.2.1 and 7.11.1

33. As a result of Germany's "Final Solution" in World War II, what group suffered the worst proportional losses besides the Jews?
- Hungarians
 - Roma (Gypsies)**
 - Lithuanians
 - Dutch

ANS: b, *Barron's AP World History*, pages 400 and 398; *World History* (Prentice Hall), page 472; *California History-Social Science Standard* 10.8.5

34. During most of the 19th century, the Monroe Doctrine was successful because it depended largely on
- a. **Britain's desire to keep other European powers out of the New World.**
 - b. France's desire to regain control of Louisiana.
 - c. the failure of European powers to realize the potential of the South American market.
 - d. the preoccupation of the European powers with other parts of the world.

ANS: a, *Cliff's Test Prep, Foreign Service Officer Exam*, page 50; *World History* (Prentice Hall), page 341

35. The People's Republic of China and the U.S. started to normalize relations during which U.S. presidential administration?
- a. Carter
 - b. Kennedy
 - c. Ford
 - d. **Nixon**

ANS: d, *Cliff's Test Prep, Foreign Service Officer Exam*, page 49; *World History* (Prentice Hall), page 524

36. Spanish colonies in South America won their independence (1810 – 1824) under revolutionaries such as
- a. Father Miguel Hidalgo.
 - b. **Simon Bolivar.**
 - c. Napoleon Bonaparte.
 - d. Father Jose Morelas.

ANS: b, *World History* (Prentice Hall), page 158; *World Almanac*, page 641, *California History-Social Science Standard 10.4*

37. During World War I, which group experienced genocidal massacre by the Ottoman Empire?
- a. **the Armenians**
 - b. the Turks
 - c. the Jews
 - d. the Uzbekistanis

ANS: a, *Barron's AP World History*, pages 371, 365, and 372; *World History* (Prentice Hall), page 300; *World Almanac*, page 728

38. Which was the key invention that allowed the Industrial Revolution to take place?
- a. the cotton gin
 - b. electricity
 - c. the internal combustion engine
 - d. **the steam engine**

ANS: d, *Barron's AP World History*, pages 479, 278; *World History* (Prentice Hall), page 173; *World Almanac*, page 640; *California History-Social Science Standard 10.3.2 (James Watt)*

39. What global pandemic struck the world just after World War I?

- a. cholera
- b. the Spanish flu**
- c. the Ebola virus
- d. the bubonic plague

ANS: b, *Barron's AP World History*, pages 479 and 369; *World History* (Prentice Hall), page 370; *World Almanac*, pages 358 and 481

40. The First Opium war (1839-1842) was a result of

- a. the British government's efforts to halt the export of opium from China.
- b. American efforts to monopolize legal drug imports from China.
- c. the Chinese government's efforts to halt the importation of opium into China by British and other merchants.**
- d. the Chinese government's refusal to control the production of opium.

ANS: c, *Cliff's Test Prep; Foreign Service Officer Exam*, page 48; *World History* (Prentice Hall), page 309

Questions 41-50, Current Events

41. Mahmoud Abbas is the leader of which organization?

- a. Hamas
- b. Palestinian Authority**
- c. Gaza Authority
- d. Hezbollah



ANS: b, *Economist*, 11/7/09, page 45; *Time Online*, 11/17/09; *Newsweek Online*, 11/6/09

42. The former president of this country is now being investigated for corruption, stealing and misusing public money.

- a. Singapore
- b. Indonesia
- c. Taiwan**
- d. Philippines

ANS: c, *Economist*, 10/22/09; *New York Times*, 9/11/09

43. The member countries of the European Union recently selected the European Union's first full-time President. Whom did they select?

- a. Tony Blair
- b. Jose Manuel Barosso
- c. Angela Merkel
- d. **Herman Van Rompuy**

ANS: d, *New York Times*, 11/19/09

44. The scheduled second election in Afghanistan was to be a contest between Hamid Karzai and this man, who pulled out.

- a. Mahmoud Abbas
- b. Mohammed Vagas
- c. **Abdullah Abdullah**
- d. Ahmad Wali



ANS: c, *Economist*, page 12; *New York Times*, 10/22/09

45. The recent election in Iran was criticized as being fixed and unjust. The Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, supported the result. Who was declared the winner of the election?

- a. **Mahmoud Ahmadinejad**
- b. Mehdi Karroubi
- c. Hossein Ali Montazeri
- d. Mohammad Khatami

ANS: a, *Los Angeles Times*, 11/7/09 and 11/22/09

46. The G-20 was established in 1999 to bring together important countries to discuss key issues in the global economy. Which country is **NOT** a member of the G -20?

- a. **Pakistan**
- b. South Korea
- c. Turkey
- d. India

ANS: a, *About G-20 website*; *Wall Street Journal*, 9/25/09

47. **Pope** Benedict XVI recently opened the door to a group and will allow them to join the Roman Catholic Church. Which group is this?

- a. Lutherans
- b. Anglicans**
- c. Agnostics
- d. Baptists



ANS: b, *Economist*, 10/22/09; *New York Times*, 10/21/09

48. Who was the manager of baseball's winning World Series team this fall?

- a. Joe Torre
- b. Derek Jeter
- c. Jim Tracy
- d. Joe Girardi**

ANS: c, Joe Girardi; *The New York Times*, 11/05/09

49. The world's biggest and most expensive science experiment produced its first collision on November 23, 2009. What is the name of this facility and who was responsible for the experiment?

- a. Lawrence Livermore Laboratory; U.S. Department of Energy
- b. Large Hadron Collider; European Organization for Nuclear Research**
- c. Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory; U.S. Department of Energy
- d. Beijing Collider; Institute of High Energy Physics, China

ANS: b, *New York Times*, 11/24/09

50. After being interrupted by Kanye at the MTV Video Music Awards, this singer made history at the Country Music Awards by being the youngest artist ever to win the coveted *Entertainer of the Year Award*. Who is she?

- a. Taylor Swift**
- b. Beyonce
- c. Madonna
- d. Lady Gaga

ANS: a, *New York Times*, 11/12/09

TIEBREAKERS

51. A planned U.S. missile defense system was recently scrapped by the Obama Administration. Name the country where most of the defensive installations were to be located.

- a. Romania
- b. Poland**
- c. Hungary
- d. East Germany

ANS: d, *Wall Street Journal*, 10/21/09

52. The Kyoto Treaty on climate change is expiring. The site chosen for a summit to discuss updating of those issues and commitments is?

- a. Kyoto
- b. New York
- c. Brussels
- d. Copenhagen**

ANS: d, UN Climate Change website; *New York Times*, 11/16/2009

53. The U.S. Geological Survey has estimated that Cuba may possess 4.6 billion barrels of off-shore oil reserves. Which country has leap-frogged ahead to become Cuba's second largest trading partner behind Venezuela?

- a. Canada
- b. China**
- c. Spain
- d. United States

ANS. b, *Great Decisions*, "Cuba on the Verge" pages 82, 84.

54. Which of these countries has been supportive of Islamic militant groups, maintained close relations with Iran and is strongly suspected by the U.S. and others of involvement in the 2005 assassination of the Lebanese political leader Rafik Hariri?

- a. Saudi Arabia
- b. Jordan
- c. Syria**
- d. Yemen

ANS: c, *New York Times*, 10/04/09; *BBC News*, 7/29/09

55. An Arctic route from Europe to Asia or from Alaska to the Eastern Seaboard is up to how many nautical miles shorter than a trip through the Suez or Panama Canals?

- a. 3,400
- b. 4,600
- c. 5,200
- d. 6,500**

ANS: d, *Great Decisions*, "The Arctic Age," page 42

56. Which of these countries has no active military?

- a. **Costa Rica**
- b. Portugal
- c. Uruguay
- d. Denmark

ANS: c, *World Almanac*, page 749; U.S. State Department Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, July, 2009

57. Egypt has the Arab world's

- a. second largest population and largest economy.
- b. second largest population and largest military.
- c. largest population and largest economy.
- d. **largest population and second-largest economy.**

ANS: d, *Great Decisions*, "Egypt: Key Ally in the Middle East," page 53

58. Under British law, parliamentary elections in the U.K. must take place by June 3, 2010. The Conservative Party holds a strong poll lead over the incumbent Labor Party and its Prime Minister, Gordon Brown. Who would be the new Prime Minister if the Conservative Party wins the election?

- a. Tony Blair
- b. Peter Mandelson
- c. **David Cameron**
- d. Eric Pickles

ANS: c, *BBC News*; Conservative Party web-site; *New York Times*, 7/12 and 7/13/09; *Financial Times*, 9/16/09; *London Times*, 9/9/09; many press sources for both parties; *CNN* - Nov 18, 2009

59. The level of worldwide trade (measured as ratio of exports to GDP) compared to a century ago, is

- a. about the same.
- b. **twice as high.**
- c. three times as high
- d. four times as high.

ANS: b, *Great Decisions*, "U.S. and Rising Powers," page 10

60. Eight countries, with their respective 200 nautical mile economic zones from their coasts, are said to have legitimate claims to areas within the Arctic Circle. Five of these countries, however, have indicated they will exercise the option of claiming territory that lies beyond these boundaries. These five countries are:

- a. U.S., Canada, Russia, Finland, and Sweden.
- b. Canada, Russia, Finland, Sweden, and Norway.
- c. **U.S., Canada, Russia, Norway, and Denmark (Greenland).**
- d. U.S., Russia, Finland, Sweden, Norway, and Denmark (Greenland).

ANS: c, *Great Decisions*, "The Arctic Age," page 42

61. The Federally Administrated Tribal Areas in Pakistan (FATA) do NOT include which of the following agencies or regions:

- a. Khyber
- b. Peshewar
- c. Kurram
- d. Hyderabad**

ANS: d, *Great Decisions*, "Afghanistan and Pakistan," page 20

62. Iran has indicated that it may be willing to have an undetermined portion of its low-enriched uranium shipped to this country for processing. Which country is it?

- a. Russia**
- b. China
- c. Canada
- d. France

ANS: a, New York Times, 10/3/09

63. Which of these large countries has weathered the global financial crisis with remarkable resilience but suffers from increasing organized crime and corrupt and dysfunctional local governments?

- a. Russia
- b. Italy
- c. Argentina
- d. China**

ANS: d, Economist, 10/03/09

64. The Lisbon Treaty is now becoming a reality now that it has been voted on favorably by the voters of Ireland. There was just one final step left and that was?

- a. Approval by the Czech Republic President**
- b. Brussels vote UN
- c. General Assembly Agreement
- d. Selection of an EU President

ANS: a, Economist, 11/7, page 13

65. The twentieth century's first concentration camps were used by whom and in what conflict?

- a. the French during the Fashoda Incident
- b. the Germans during the First Moroccan Crisis
- c. the Italians during their takeover of Libya
- d. the British during the Boer War**

66. Which of these countries recently reversed its previous controversial opposition to the adoption of the Lisbon Treaty, which would further integrate the European Union, create a new, full-time EU president and secretary of state, allow for closely linking EU countries' foreign policies, and providing the region with new global clout?

- a. Ireland**
- b. France
- c. Denmark
- d. Germany

ANS: a, Washington Post, 10/3/09, London Daily Telegraph , 10/3/09, New York Times , 10/04/09