

**Academic WorldQuest – World Affairs Council of the Desert
December 2012**

Round 1 U.S. Economic Competitiveness

1. According to the Council on Foreign Relations' article, *U.S. Corporate Tax Reform*, what was the largest source of federal revenue for the fiscal year 2010?

- A. Corporate Income Taxes
- B. Payroll Taxes
- C. Property Taxes
- D. **Individual Income Taxes**

Council on Foreign Relations, *U.S. Corporate Tax Reform*

<http://www.cfr.org/united-states/us-corporate-tax-reform/p27860>

In 2010, corporate taxes represented the third-largest source of federal revenue, accounting for roughly 9 percent of Treasury's income (**behind the individual income tax [42 percent]** and payroll taxes [40 percent]).

2. According to the World Economic Forum's *The Global Competitiveness Report 2011-2012*, the average of public debt as a percentage of GDP for the G-7 countries crossed what mark in 2010?

- A. 50%
- B. 75%
- C. **100%**
- D. 150%

World Economic Forum. *2011-2012 Global Competitiveness Report: pp.3-44*

http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GCR_Report_2011-12.pdf

The average of public debt as a percentage of GDP for the G-7 countries crossed the 100 percent mark in 2010 (see Table 1 for countries crossed the 100 percent mark in 2010. Indeed, for the first time in 60 years, some advanced economies face the threat of sovereign default. Interventions to economies face the threat of sovereign default.

Country Public debt as percent of GDP: Japan 220.3, Italy 119.0, United States 91.6, France 84.3, Canada 84.0, Germany 80.0, United Kingdom 77.2 **Average 101. P. 6**

3. According to Ben Bernanke's June 2012 testimony before the Congressional Joint Economic Committee, what is a key reason why the housing market has been so slow to recover?

- A. **Many prospective homebuyers cannot obtain mortgages as lending standards have tightened.**
- B. Mortgage rates are at historically high levels and prospective homebuyers cannot afford them.
- C. The construction of new homes continues to increase despite a large stock of vacant homes.
- D. None of the above

The Federal Reserve, Chairman Ben Bernanke's Testimony before the Joint Economic Committee:

<http://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/testimony/bernanke20120607a.htm>

The depressed housing market has also been an important drag on the recovery. **Despite historically low mortgage rates and high levels of affordability, many prospective obtain mortgages, as lending standards have tightened** and the creditworthiness of potential borrowers has been impaired.

4. According to *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*, the U.S. economy has grown by 126% since 1973. By what percentage has energy use increased throughout the same period?

- A. **30%**
- B. 80%
- C. 100%
- D. 150%

National Academy of Sciences, Chapter 2 of *Rising Above the Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future*: http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=11463

The introduction and use of energy-efficient products have enabled the US economy to grow by 126% since 1973 while energy use has increased by only 30% Those improvements in efficiency are the result of work in a broad spectrum of science and engineering fields p. 65

5. According to the World Economic Forum's *The Global Competitiveness Report 2011-2012*, which Asian country is second in the Global Competitiveness Index 2011-2012 rankings, maintaining a lead among Asian economies?

- A. Japan
- B. China
- C. South Korea
- D. **Singapore**

World Economic Forum.\, *2011-2012 Global Competitiveness Report*, pp.3-44:

http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GCR_Report_2011-12.pdf

Singapore moves up by one place to 2nd position, maintaining the lead among Asian economies. p. 18

6. According to the U. S. Commerce Department Report, *The Competitiveness and Innovative Capacity of the United States*, what has been the chief factor for driving U.S. economic competitiveness and growth in jobs and wages?

- A. **Support for innovation in the private sector**
- B. Blockage of cheap products from China
- C. Expansion of free trade throughout the world
- D. Reduction of government debt

United States Department of Commerce , *The Competitiveness and Innovative Capacity of the United States*
http://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2012/january/competes_010511_0.pdf

Innovation is the key driver of competitiveness, wage and job growth, and long- term economic growth.

Therefore, one way to approach the question of how to improve the competitiveness of the United States is to look to the past and examine the factors that helped unleash the tremendous innovative potential of the private sector. p. v.

7. According to the United Nations' *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2012*, what is most likely to weigh on the economic growth in East Asia?

- A. Weak household consumption in the region
- B. Weak demand in developed countries**
- C. Decreasing real wages and lower consumption
- D. The region's weak labor markets

United Nations. *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2012: Update as of mid-2012*
http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wesp/wesp_archive/2012wespupdate.pdf

Weak demand in developed countries and a slowing Chinese economy are likely to weigh on economic growth in Asia in the outlook period. After decelerating from 9.2 per cent in 2010 to 7.1 per cent in 2011, average regional growth is expected to slow further to 6.5 per cent in 2012. In 2013, the pace of growth is projected to pick up as global demand recovers, with regional GDP forecast to expand by 6.9 per cent. The growth slowdown in East Asia reflects weaker import demand in developed countries, increased global uncertainty and the lagged effects of credit tightening in parts of the most importantly in China. **pp. 8-9**

8. According to the Council on Foreign Relations' article, *U.S. Entrepreneurship and Venture Capital*, what is regarded by experts as the most successful innovation cluster due to its capacity to create the most startups and receive more than one-third of all U.S. venture capital investments?

- A. New York City, NY
- B. Silicon Valley, CA**
- C. Denver-Boulder, CO
- D. Boston, MA

U.S. Entrepreneurship and Venture Capital:
<http://www.cfr.org/united-states/us-entrepreneurship-venture-capital/p28433>

Experts regard Silicon Valley as the most successful innovation cluster; it creates the most startups and receives more than one-third of all U.S. VC investment. Its strengths include: technical talent, experienced entrepreneurs, deep sources of capital, noted research, startup incubators and accelerators, and specialized business support.

9. According to the World Economic Forum's *The Global Competitiveness Report 2011-2012*, the U.S., previously ranked first overall in 2005, is now ranked in what position in the Global Competitiveness Index (GCI)?

- A. 2nd
- B. 3rd
- C. 5th**
- D. 7th

World Economic Forum, *2011-2012 Global Competitiveness Report: pp.3-44*
http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GCR_Report_2011-12.pdf

The United States continues the decline that began three years ago, falling one position to 5th place. p. 14

10. According to the United Nations' *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2012*, what is the biggest threat facing global growth during the report's outlook period?

- A. Slow growth of BRIC nations such as China and Brazil
- B. African countries defaulting on IMF and World Bank loans
- C. Rising unemployment levels across the globe
- D. **The Euro area crisis**

United Nations, *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2012: Update as of mid-2012*

http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wesp/wesp_archive/2012wespupdate.pdf

The euro area debt crisis remains the biggest threat to the economy. An escalation of the crisis would likely be associated with severe on financial markets and a sharp rise in global risk aversion, leading to contraction of economic activity in developed countries, which would spill to developing countries and economies in transition. [Summary page]

Round 2: Middle East

11. According to Tamara Wittes' testimony on Syria before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, United States policy on Syria should **NOT**

- A. drain the ability of the Syrian military to fight.
- B. help to induce a political transition.
- C. **try to halt the militarization of the Syrian uprising.**
- D. support the development of the Syrian opposition.

Syria: U.S. Policy Options, the testimonies of the witnesses:

http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/syria_us-policy-options

Testimony of Tamara Wittes April, 19, 2012 p.3.

But this possibility must not deter clear thinking: **the United States cannot halt or reverse the militarization of the Syrian uprising, and should not try.** What the United States can usefully do is manage this militarization by working with other governments, especially Syria's neighbors in the region, to try to shape the activities of armed elements on the ground in a manner that will most effectively increase pressure on the regime – to drain the Syrian military's ability and will to fight, to help induce a political transition, and thereby to bring an end to the violence as quickly as possible.

12. According to the Council on Foreign Relations' article, *Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood*, the Muslim Brotherhood is

- A. Egypt's most infamous terrorist organization.
- B. **Egypt's oldest and largest Islamist organization.**
- C. a political organization founded in the aftermath of the recent 2011 uprising
- D. Egypt's Salafist political party.

COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, Backgrounder: *Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood*:

<http://www.cfr.org/africa/egypts-muslim-brotherhood/p23991>

The Muslim Brotherhood (known in Arabic as al-Ikhwan al-Muslimeen) is Egypt's oldest and largest Islamist organization. Founded in 1928 by Hasan al-Banna, it is widely considered the world's most influential Islamist organization, with numerous branches and affiliates. It is "the mother of all Islamist movements," says Shadi Hamid, a East expert.

13. According to Larry Diamond in the Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions article, *Promoting Democracy: foreign policy imperative?*, the principal driver of American decisions to wage all-out war has been

- A. ensuring access to oil.
- B. promoting democracy.
- C. ridding the world of dictators.
- D. protecting national security.

Great Decisions, 2012

o *Promoting democracy: foreign policy imperative?* By Larry Diamond p.24

14. According to U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta's Statement on Syria before the Senate Armed Services Committee in March 2012, the unrest in Syria has most notably weakened which country's position in the Middle East, as Syria is this country's only state ally in the region?

- A. Iran
- B. Saudi Arabia
- C. Turkey
- D. Lebanon

Statement on Syria before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta:
<http://www.defense.gov/speeches/speech.aspx?speechid=1660>

But perhaps most notably, Syria is a pivotal country for Iran. **Syria is Iran's only state ally in the region, and is crucial to Iran's efforts to support those militants throughout the region who threaten Israel and regional stability. Unrest in Syria has already greatly weakened Iran's position in the region,** and it is clear that Iran only stands to lose further as Assad is weakened further. As groups such as Hamas distance themselves from the Assad regime, Iran is quickly becoming the Assad regime's lone backer. This shows the world the hypocrisy of Tehran.

15. According to the Center for Strategic and International Studies, *Underlying Causes of Stability and Unrest in the Middle East and North Africa: An Analytic Survey*, Arab countries have the lowest labor participation rate in the world due to

- A. generous welfare supported by oil revenues.
- B. large retirement age populations.
- C. Government censorship of internet job sites.
- D. low female participation rates.

The Underlying Causes of Stability and Unrest in the Middle East and North Africa: An Analytic Survey by Anthony H. Cordesman http://csis.org/files/publication/120514_MENA_Stability.pdf

The Arab region is going through a demographic transition, with more participants entering the labor force each year (in 2010, ages 15–64 made up 62.45% of the Arab Population) • Employment in Arab countries has averaged an impressive 3.3% annual growth rate, amongst the highest in developing regions. **However, they also exhibit one of the lowest labor force participation rates in the world (due to low female participation rates).** p. 82

16. According to President Obama’s remarks on the Middle East North Africa region at the State Department in 2011, the U.S. is willing to relieve a democratic Egypt of how much debt?

- A. Up to \$100 million
- B. Up to \$500 million
- C. Up to \$1 billion
- D. Up to \$10 billion

President Obama Delivers Remarks on Events in the Middle East and North Africa

<http://www.state.gov/p/nea/c45043.htm>

“Second, we do not want a democratic Egypt to be saddled by the debts of its past. So we will relieve a democratic Egypt of up to \$1 billion in debt, and work with our Egyptian partners to invest these resources to foster growth and entrepreneurship. We will help Egypt regain access to markets by guaranteeing \$1 billion in borrowing that is needed to finance infrastructure and job creation. And we will help newly democratic governments recover assets that were stolen.

17. According to the Center for Strategic and International Studies, *Underlying Causes of Stability and Unrest in the Middle East and North Africa: An Analytic Survey*, what will be the source of future instability in the Arab Spring countries?

- A. No real political parties
- B. No experience with political compromise
- C. Weak justice systems
- D. All of the above

The Underlying Causes of Stability and Unrest in the Middle East and North Africa: An Analytic Survey by Anthony H. Cordesman http://csis.org/files/publication/120514_MENA_Stability.pdf

Finally, the broader patterns that emerge from the entire set of indicators warn that the “Arab spring” is likely to involve a decade more of political, economic, and social unrest. The causes of are deep, complex, and involve structural problems in governance, demographics, and economics. None can be solved in a few months or years. Even the most successful nations –and the briefing shows that such nations clearly exist –still face major challenges over the next decade. Others must fight their way out of problems that have brought them close to the edge of becoming “failed states.”

Most MENA states have no real political parties or pluralistic structures, and only the monarchies have a history of political legitimacy.

There is no clear basis for representative government, **no experience with political compromise and making elections work,** and no pattern of effective governance combined with economic progress and social evolution to build upon. Ethnic and religious issues often cut deep and have been repressed for decades. **Justice systems are weak and/or corrupt,** religious extremism challenges necessary social and economic change, and the security forces are often an equal or more serious problem. **p. 4**

18. According to Augustus Richard Norton in the Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions article, *Middle East realignment: the Arab upheaval*, the Arab League requested a no-fly zone over which country during its uprising?

- A. Libya
- B. Syria
- C. Egypt
- D. Tunisia

Great Decisions. 2012 *Middle East realignment: the Arab upheaval* by Augustus Richard Norton, p. 12

19. In Thomas Pickering's testimony on Iran before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, he said that Iran began its nuclear program

- A. in 1979 under Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khomeini.
- B. In the 1990's with German help.
- C. under the Shah before the Iranian Revolution.
- D. in the late 1990's with material bought from A. Q. Khan of Pakistan.

High Stakes and Hard Choices: U.S. Policy On Iran, testimonies of the witnesses:

http://www.foreign.senate.gov/hearings/high-stakes-and-hard-choices_us-policy-oniran

Thomas Pickering testimony March 28, 2012 p.1.

Let me begin by saying Iran was interested in nuclear questions at the time of the Shah, He started a large program. Indeed, the Shah was responsible for articulating a program to build 20 civil power reactors which has now been readopted by the present, revolutionary government. There were many of us who had suspicions that the Shah— much as Brazil, South Korea, and Taiwan in those days—was interested in objectives beyond the civil program. But, out of deference to the Shah and his position in the world and his influence, the US asked fewer questions than it should have.

20. The article by Larry Diamond in the Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions , *Promoting Democracy: foreign policy imperative ?*, summarized the Pew Research Center polls from 2001 to 2011 on the foreign policy priorities of the American people. Which priority ranked LOWEST?

- A. Protecting American jobs
- B. Promoting human rights
- C. Reducing foreign energy dependence
- D. Promoting democracy abroad

Great Decisions, 2012 *Promoting democracy: foreign policy imperative?* By Larry Diamond, p. 21

Round 3 China

21. According to the Council on Foreign Relations' *Timeline: U.S. Relations with China*, the United States' trade deficit with China reached \$273.1 billion in 2010. In 2011, it reached an all-time high of what amount?

- A. **\$295.5 billion**
- B. \$315 billion
- C. \$326.2 billion
- D. \$338.6 billion

Council on Foreign Relations *Timeline: U.S. Relations With China*:
<http://www.cfr.org/china/us-relations-china-1949---present/p17698>

U.S. trade deficit with China rises from \$273.1 billion in 2010 to an all-time high of \$295.5 billion in 2011. The increase in the imbalance accounts for three-quarters of the growth in the U.S. trade deficit for 2011.

22. Who is the President of Taiwan?

- A. Chiang Kai-Shek
- B. Lee Teng-hui
- C. **Ma Ying-Jeou**
- D. Chen Guangcheng

US Department of Defense, *Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China 2012*: http://www.defense.gov/pubs/pdfs/2012_CMPR_Final.pdf

Since the election of Taiwan President Ma Ying-Jeou in March 2008 (Ma was re-elected in January 2012), the PRC and Taiwan have significantly improved cross-Strait relations. p. 16

23. According to the Congressional Research Service report, *Understanding China's Political System*, what is the name of the Chinese Communist Party's most powerful policy and decision-making entity?

- A. The Central Military Commission
- B. The Party Congress
- C. The Central Committee
- D. **The Politburo Standing Committee**

Congressional Research Service, *Understanding China's Political System*:
<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R41007.pdf>

The nine men who sit on the country's most senior decision-making body, the Communist Party's Politburo Standing Committee (PSC), form a collective leadership in which each man has a rank, from one to nine, and is responsible for a specific portfolio.

24. According to *China 2030 – Building a Modern, Harmonious, and Creative High-Income Society*, who is described as the “architect” of China’s reforms and played an important role in building consensus for a fundamental shift in the country’s economic strategy?

- A. **Deng Xiaoping**
- B. Hu Jintao
- C. Mao Zedong
- D. Chen Guangcheng

World Bank, *China 2030 – Building a Modern, Harmonious, and Creative High-Income Society*: pp. 1-24

http://www.wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2012/02/28/000356161_20120228001303/Rendered/PDF/671790WPOP127500China020300complete.pdf

The architect of China’s reforms was Deng Xiaoping, who played an important role in building consensus for a fundamental shift in the country’s strategy. After more than 30 years of rapid growth, China has reached another turning point in its development path, one that calls for a second strategic, and no less fundamental, shift. p. 15

25. According to *China 2030 – Building a Modern, Harmonious, and Creative High-Income Society*, when is China’s labor force expected to start shrinking?

- A. **2015**
- B. 2020
- C. 2030
- D. 2050

World Bank *China 2030 – Building a Modern, Harmonious, and Creative High-Income Society*: pp. 1-24

http://www.wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2012/02/28/000356161_20120228001303/Rendered/PDF/671790WPOP127500China020300complete.pdf

Moreover, China is poised to go through wrenching demographic change: the old age dependency ratio will double in the next two decades, reaching the current level in Norway and the Netherlands by 2030 (between 22 and 23 percent); and the size of China’s labor force is projected to start shrinking as soon as 2015. p. 6

26. According to the Congressional Research Service report, *Understanding China’s Political System*, which Chinese official affiliated with the Communist Party is said to have plotted a murder with his wife, and whose family is strongly suspected of having exercised other abuses of power?

- A. Jiang Zemin
- B. Wen Jiabao
- C. Li Changchun
- D. **Bo Xilai**

Congressional Research Service, *Understanding China’s Political System*:
<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R41007.pdf>

On April 10, 2012, the Communist Party suspended one of its top leaders, Bo Xilai, from his posts on the Party's Politburo and Central Committee, and announced that the Party's graft-fighting arm, the Central Discipline Inspection Commission, would be investigating him for alleged "serious discipline violations." The Party had removed Bo from his post as Party Secretary of powerful Chongqing Municipality just weeks earlier, on March 15. Also on April 10, China's official Xinhua News Agency announced that Bo's wife, Gu Kailai, had been handed over to state judicial authorities on suspicion of involvement in the November 2011 murder in Chongqing of a British businessman.

As details of the Bo family's wealth emerge, it has also highlighted the degree to which the families of top Party officials have been able to parlay access to political power into vast wealth. p.16

27. Who is the current United States Ambassador to China?

- A. Jon Huntsman
- B. **Gary Locke**
- C. Steven Chu
- D. None of the above

Department of State, *Background Notes on China* <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/18902.htm>

The U.S. Ambassador to China is [Gary Locke](#)

28. According to the Council on Foreign Relations' *Timeline: U.S. Relations with China*, Goldman Sachs chief economist, Jim O'Neill, predicts that China will overtake the U.S. and become the world's largest economy by what year?

- A. 2016
- B. 2020
- C. **2027**
- D. 2048

Council on Foreign Relations, *Timeline: U.S. Relations With China*:
<http://www.cfr.org/china/us-relations-china-1949---present/p17698>

China surpasses Japan as the world's second-largest economy after it is valued at \$1.33 trillion for the second quarter of 2010, slightly above Japan's \$1.28 trillion for that year. **China is on track to overtake the United States as the world's number one economy by 2027, according to Goldman Sachs chief economist Jim O'Neill.** At the start of 2011, China reports a total GDP of \$5.88 trillion for 2010, compared to Japan's \$5.47 trillion.

29. According to Secretary Clinton's speech in May 2012, on what international issue do both China and the U.S. agree?

- A. Providing military assistance to South Sudan during its infancy as a country
- B. **Preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons**
- C. Working together to reach an agreement regarding the status of Tibet
- D. None of the above

Transcript of Secretary Clinton's speech <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2012/05/189213.htm>

The United States welcomes China’s increased engagement on the highest priority regional and global issues, and in our strategic track, we will be discussing these. **For example, on Iran, the United States and China share the goal of preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon.** And we had a productive first meeting as members of the P-5+1 in Istanbul, and are looking forward to the next meeting in Baghdad because we both understand it is critical to keep pressure on Iran to meet its international obligations, to negotiate seriously, and prove that its nuclear program is solely for peaceful purposes.

30. According to the Atlantic Council’s Issue Brief, *A New Framework for US-China Economic Relations*, how much money in foreign exchange reserves does China hold, thus underscoring the need for more investment to flow from China?

- A. \$500 billion
- B. \$1.5 trillion
- C. **\$3 trillion**
- D. \$7 trillion

Atlantc Council, *A New Framework for US-China Economic Relations*:
<http://www.acus.org/publication/new-framework-us-china-economic-relations>

After all, China is sitting on over \$3 trillion in foreign exchange reserves (much of it in US dollars), with billions more in the hands of corporations eager to invest here and become global companies.

Round 4 Geography

31. Iran has access to the international markets for its oil from ports on the

- A. **Persian Gulf.**
- B. Mediterranean Sea.
- C. Indian Ocean.
- D. Caspian Sea.

World Atlas <http://www.worldatlas.com/>



32. According to the Migration Policy Institute report, *Migration and Development: Policy Perspectives from the United States*, the U.S. is home to about what fraction of the world’s total international migrants?

- A. 1/10
- B. 1/8
- C. **1/5**
- D. 1/3

Migration Policy Institute, *Migration and Development: Policy Perspectives from the United States*.
<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/migdevpolicy-2011.pdf>

Much of this growth was driven by immigration from poorer countries to wealthier ones: the number of immigrants in more-developed countries grew more than twice as fast as the number of immigrants in less-developed countries. **In the United States — which, as home to about one-fifth of the world’s total international migrants is their top destination — the number of foreign born from developing countries increased from 14.8 million to 31.1 million between 1990 and 2009 (see Appendix). By comparison, the number of immigrants entering the United States from developed countries increased more modestly, from 4.2 million to 6.2 million. p. 2**

33. Two countries in South America are landlocked. Paraguay is one. What is the other?

- A. Guyana
- B. Bolivia
- C. Ecuador
- D. Uruguay

World Atlas <http://www.worldatlas.com/>



34. What is the largest urban agglomeration in the world?

- A. Jakarta, Indonesia
- B. Shanghai, China
- C. Los Angeles , U.S.A.
- D. Tokyo, Japan

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2011 Revision*, pp. 1-19

http://esa.un.org/unpd/wup/pdf/FINAL_REPORT%20WUP2011_Annexables_01Aug2012_Final.pdf

Tokyo, the capital of Japan, is today the most populous urban agglomeration. Its population, estimated at 37.2 million in 2011, is higher than that of 196 countries or areas. If it were a country, it would rank 35th in population size, surpassing the populations of Algeria, Canada or Uganda. To reach such a large number of inhabitants, Tokyo, the megacity, is actually an urban agglomeration that comprises not only Tokyo-to but also 87 surrounding cities and towns, including Yokohama, Kawasaki and Chiba, large cities in their own right. Often, megacities arise because of the fusion of several cities or urban localities that are functionally linked and form an urban agglomeration. p. 6

35. In which of these countries is a majority of the population Muslim?

- A. South Africa
- B. Armenia
- C. India
- D. Indonesia

National Geographic Final Report of the National Geographic-Roper Public Affairs 2006 Geographic Literacy Study pp.1-42 <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/roper2006/pdf/FINALReport2006GeogLitsurvey.pdf>
Three-quarters (75%) of young Americans cannot find Indonesia on a world map, despite its being the worlds most populous Muslim country, and having been in the news in 2005 for terrorist attacks in Bali, and several human cases of avian influenza, as well as for having sustained the largest loss of life of any country affected by the 2004 tsunami. p. 35

36. Gallup estimates that 16% of the world’s adult population would like to move permanently to another country. What percent of the world’s population currently lives outside of their country of birth?

- A. 1%
- B. 3%
- C. 9%
- D. 18%

Migration Policy Institute, *Migration and Development: Policy Perspectives from the United States*, <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/migdevpolicy-2011.pdf>

There are substantial costs and enormous barriers to migration. The public opinion group Gallup estimates that about 16 percent of the world’s adults would like to move permanently to another country if given the opportunity, with the highest rates reported in Sub-Saharan Africa. But only about 3 percent of the world’s population currently resides outside of their country of birth, and Sub-Saharan Africans’ emigration rates are among the lowest p. 5

37. Which country is highlighted in red on the map shown below?

- A. Israel
- B. Iraq
- C. Turkey
- D. Syria



World Atlas <http://www.worldatlas.com/>



38. Which language is spoken by the most people in the world as their primary language?

- A. Arabic
- B. Mandarin Chinese**
- C. Russian
- D. English

National Geographic Final Report of the National Geographic-Roper Public Affairs 2006 Geographic Literacy Study pp. 1-48 <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/roper2006/pdf/FINALReport2006GeogLitsurvey.pdf>

Which language is spoken by the most people in the world as their primary language? Mandarin Chinese
This knowledge is more common among: young adults with some college education (28% correct, vs. 9% of those with up to a high school education); international travelers (29% correct); internet news users (32% correct); those who know more about geography (29% correct). Young Americans believe that English is the most common native tongue (as well as the United States relative geographic isolation from non-native English speaking countries other than Mexico) may help explain the lack of effort they have personally put into learning one themselves (62% do not speak a second language fluently). **p. 33**

39. Turkey, Georgia, Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, Russia, and Bulgaria all border what body of water?

- A. The Mediterranean Sea
- B. The Black Sea**
- C. The Caspian Sea
- D. Baltic Sea

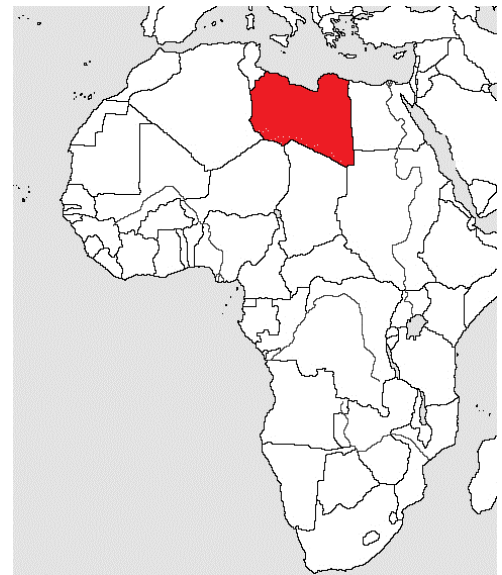
World Atlas <http://www.worldatlas.com/>



40. Which country is highlighted in red on the map shown below?

- A. Nigeria
- B. Algeria
- C. Libya
- D. Egypt

World Atlas <http://www.worldatlas.com/>



Round 5 Current Events

41. Xi Jinping was recently named the General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party. He will become President of China in March 2013. How long ago was the last change in top-level Chinese leadership?

- A. Two years
- B. Four years
- C. Six years
- D. Ten years

BBC NEWS 14 November 2012 Last updated at 13:41 ET

China party congress wraps up ahead of leadership unveiling China's leadership change happens every 10 years. The party congress opened on 8 November with a televised work report from Mr Hu, but since then the decision-making has been taking place behind closed doors. Xi Jinping and Li Keqiang are expected to become party leader and deputy respectively. Mr Xi is also expected to take over from Hu Jintao as China's president in March 2013. Both were appointed to the Central Committee, as were the leading contenders for inclusion in the Standing Committee.

The Economist: Xi Jinping will soon be named as China's next president. He must be ready to break with the past Oct 27th 2012 | from the print edition JUST after the 18th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party, which starts in Beijing on November 8th, a short line of dark-suited men, and perhaps one woman, will step onto a red carpet in a room in the Great Hall of the People and meet the world's press. At their head will be Xi Jinping, the newly anointed party chief, who in March will also take over as president of China. Behind him will file the new members of the Politburo Standing Committee, China's supreme body. In the past ten years under the current leader, Hu Jintao, the economy has quadrupled in size in dollar terms.

42. In September 2012, which African country agreed to host a regional military deployment aimed at dislodging radical Islamists that had gained control of its northern territory in April 2012?

- A. Sudan
- B. Somalia
- C. **Mali**
- D. Nigeria

BBC NEWS SEPT 24 Mali agrees to host anti-Islamist Ecowas force. The West African state of Mali has agreed to host a regional military deployment aimed at dislodging radical Islamists in control in the north. UN backing for the force is being sought by the Malian government and the West African regional body Ecowas. On Monday France - which has offered to provide logistical support for a West African-led operation - said Mali had formally requested the approval of the UN Security Council for such a force.

43. Which Western power was the first to recognize Syria's opposition coalition as the sole legitimate representative of the Syrian people?

- A. **France**
- B. United Kingdom
- C. Germany
- D. Spain

BBC NEWS NOV 20 Syria conflict: UK recognises opposition, says William Hague Foreign Secretary William Hague has said the UK has decided to recognise the Syrian opposition coalition. France, Turkey and six Gulf states have already recognised the opposition although the US has stopped short of doing so.

CNN NEWS 20 NOV UK joins France in supporting Syrian rebel coalition For months, the rebels fighting to oust Syrian President Bashar al-Assad were considered by the global community to be unorganized. But that appears to be changing, after the leaders of various fighting units agreed to move forward in lockstep with a uniform military plan. And now France and the United Kingdom are giving help to those rebels and their unified opposition organization.

44. Economic difficulties and government austerity measures in Spain have rekindled nationalism and secessionist aspirations in which Spanish region?

- A. Galicia
- B. Andalusia
- C. **Catalonia**
- D. Murcia

BBC NEWS 5 October 2012 Catalonia, one of Spain's richest regions, is having a serious bout of secessionist fever, and this time it might just happen. Catalan nationalists, emboldened by the Madrid government's refusal to dole out extra money for the region last month, have ratcheted up calls for independence. Members of the Catalanian parliament accuse the government of "fiscal looting", and have now voted overwhelmingly for a referendum on leaving Spain. So, could the region really say adios to Spain?

45. Regarding the disputed islands between China and Japan, the U.S. administration

- A. takes no position on the sovereignty of the islands.**
- B. supports Japan's claim, after Japan won the islands as the spoils of the 1895 Sino-Japanese war.**
- C. supports China's claim, after Japan was defeated and lost sovereignty over the islands at the end of WWII.**
- D. supports Japan's claim, after the 1951 San Francisco Peace Treaty, which clearly established Japan's sovereignty.**

WASHINGTON POST China and Japan looking to the U.S. on disputed islands Posted by [Max Fisher](#) on October 31, 2012 at 3:44 pm As China and Japan continue to wrangle over a chain of uninhabited islands that have sparked protests in both countries, near-miss naval incidents, and lots of tough words, diplomats from both Asian powers are increasingly emphasizing the United States's role in the dispute. The United States seems to be trying to stay as far away from the dispute as possible. But the fact that both China and Japan already seem to perceive the United States as implicitly involved, simply by virtue of it being the dominant Pacific military and diplomatic power, speaks to the difficulty America may face in navigating the coming Pacific century. The official U.S. position on the islands — Diaoyu in Chinese, Senkaku in Japanese, claimed by both — is [a bit contradictory](#). The State Department says it has no position and leaves it to China and Japan to decide, but also that, in the event of a military conflict over the island, America's treaty with Japan would require it to take that country's side.

46. The US Ambassador to which country was recently killed as anti-US protests swept through many predominantly Muslim countries?

- A. Iraq**
- B. Libya**
- C. Egypt**
- D. Pakistan**

September 13, 2012 (CNN) -- **Inside a safe room of the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya, Ambassador Chris Stevens took cover with two other foreign service officers.** Just minutes earlier, a group of heavily armed militants launched an attack on the complex, pelting it with gunfire and rocket-propelled grenades. The attackers ignited a fire in the building and the safe room was filling with smoke. Stevens, Foreign Service information management officer Sean Smith and a U.S. regional security officer would soon be forced to leave their temporary refuge from the assault. Senior administration officials called the conditions inside "awful," describing "incredibly thick smoke and fire." The officials, while still trying to piece together the details of how the Tuesday night consulate attack unfolded, began Wednesday to give a clearer picture of events. **Four hours later, the consulate was destroyed, its walls blackened by shooting flames. Four Americans, including Stevens and Smith, were dead.**

47. In the upcoming 2013 elections, the German Social Democratic Party will attempt to defeat the Christian Democrats and the current German chancellor, who is

- A. Sigmar Gabriel.
- B. Angela Merkel.
- C. Francois Hollande.
- D. Peer Steinbrück.

THE ECONOMIST In Europe it will be Germany that calls the tune, says John Peet Nov 21st 2012 | from **The World In 2013** print edition The lady's not for turning

The euro crisis has become a misnomer: the word "crisis" refers to a decisive moment or turning-point, which the euro never seems to reach. The single currency's complaint is more like a chronic illness that is neither strong enough to kill the patient nor weak enough to be easily cured. That will remain true in 2013: the euro will survive, but not regain its full health. Europe will have several important ballots in 2013. **Yet it will not happen in the most important election of all in 2013: Germany's, due in September. The significance of the German election was captured in a cartoon before the Spanish election in November 2011, in which one Spaniard asks another who will run the country afterwards and gets the reply: "Angela Merkel".** Ever since she became German chancellor in 2005, Mrs Merkel has been by far Europe's most important political leader. In the euro crisis, it has been Mrs Merkel, head of the biggest creditor country, who has ultimately decided what to do and how fast to do it. The issue will then be Mrs Merkel's choice of coalition partner. **Because the weakened Free Democrats will not be of much use and any alliance with the Greens will be tricky, the most likely outcome is a repeat of her 2005 "grand coalition" with the Social Democrats.** That may suit her temperamentally, and it could make it easier to deal with the euro crisis. The pressure of events and markets has steadily pushed her into being more accommodating to her euro-zone partners. In a grand coalition, she may be able to shift even more, perhaps to the point of accepting the notion of debt mutualisation through Eurobonds.

48. Which Eurozone country is currently experiencing the highest unemployment rate in the region?

- A. Italy
- B. Spain
- C. Portugal
- D. Greece

BBC NEWS 30 November 2012 Last updated at 08:08 ET Eurozone unemployment rate hits new high in October Unemployment is highest in Spain, partly due to the collapse in the property market. **The respective fortunes of northern and southern Europe diverged further. In Spain, the jobless rate rose to 26.2% from 25.8% the previous month, and in Italy it rose to 11.1% from 10.8%.** In contrast, unemployment in Germany held steady at 5.4% of the labour force, while in Austria

Eurozone unemployment rates

Country	October 2012
Spain	26.2%
Greece*	25.4%
Portugal	16.3%
Ireland	14.7%
Eurozone	11.7%
Italy	11.1%
France	10.7%
Netherlands	5.5%
Germany	5.4%

Country October 2012

Austria 4.3%

*Greece data for August of each year Source: Eurostat

49. For the first time, NATO has agreed to position a missile defense system on the border of its member state Turkey to guard against Syrian attacks. What is the name of this missile system?

- A. Iron Dome
- B. Vulcan Phalanx
- C. Patriot
- D. SA-2 Surface-to-Air Missile

BBC NEWS 21 November 2012 Last updated at 12:39 ET Nato to consider Turkey's Patriot missile request
Patriot anti-missile batteries were deployed at Diyarbakir airbase in Turkey during the invasion of Iraq in 2003
Nato says it will consider "without delay" Turkey's request to deploy Patriot anti-missile systems to protect its border with the unrest-torn Syria. The comments were made by the military bloc's chief Anders Fogh Rasmussen. Germany's foreign minister has already said the request by Turkey, a Nato member, should be approved. On several occasions last month, Turkey's army returned fire across the border into Syria after Syrian mortar shells landed inside its territory. A decision by Nato to deploy Patriot missile batteries to Turkey would be a powerful signal of alliance solidarity and a clear warning to the Syrian government to make sure the fighting does not spill over onto Turkish soil. The request for Patriot - a sophisticated anti-aircraft system with a capability to shoot down some ballistic missiles as well - is in a sense a curious one. Stray artillery and mortar fire from Syria has landed in Turkey on several occasions. Syrian aircraft have frequently bombed targets near the border, sometimes prompting the Turks to scramble aircraft to protect their airspace. Patriot missiles have the range to reach well into Syrian airspace but the Nato secretary general has made it clear that what is being considered is a "defensive deployment" only. In other words, this is not to be seen as the first stage in the establishment of a no-fly zone over Syria. On Wednesday, Mr Rasmussen said he had received a letter from Turkey - a Nato member - to deploy Patriot missiles. He said such a move would "augment Turkey's air defence capabilities" and "contribute to the de-escalation of the crisis along Nato's south-eastern border". Patriot batteries use radar to locate incoming missiles. Surface-to-air missiles are then launched from giant containers and are guided onto their targets. The system has been extensively used by the US and allied troops since it was first deployed in 1986. It has previously been deployed in Turkey during the invasion of Iraq in 2003. German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle said he had instructed the country's ambassador to Nato to approve Ankara's request for a further deployment of the system "It would be a serious mistake if we were to refuse defensive support to a Nato member country in a moment when this member country feels that it is exposed to attacks from outside," Mr Westerwelle said. Until last year, Turkey and Syria were close allies, but Ankara is now backing the Syrian opposition and calls for the resignation of President Bashar al-Assad. While Turkey may not be at war with Syria, correspondents say it is now increasingly involved in its neighbour's conflict Turkey has a 900km (560 miles) border with Syria.

BBC NEWS 4 December 2012 Last updated at 13:31 ET Syria crisis: Nato approves Patriots for Turkey

Nato has approved the deployment of Patriot anti-missile batteries along Turkey's border with Syria.

The long-expected move emerged from a meeting of Nato foreign ministers in Brussels, and amid growing fears that Syria could use chemical weapons. Nato's Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said the ministers had "unanimously expressed grave concerns" about the use of chemical weapons. Syria has said it would never use such weapons against its own people. The meeting of the 28-member Western military alliance's foreign ministers in Brussels follows a request from Turkey to boost its defences along the border.

In a statement, Nato said it had "agreed to augment Turkey's air defence capabilities in order to defend the population and territory of Turkey and to contribute to the de-escalation of the crisis along the alliance's border".

50. Protests against austerity reforms recently took place in Syntagma Square in which country?

- A. Greece
- B. Egypt
- C. Spain
- D. Portugal

BBC NEWS 14 November 2012 Last updated at 08:59 ET Correspondents on EU austerity protests Guy De Launey, Athens, Greece. **Athens saw protests against job cuts on Tuesday. Armoured police buses have parked at Syntagma Square in front of parliament, ready for the expected arrival of thousands of demonstrators. This has been the location for most of the major clashes since Athens became the unofficial protest capital of Europe.** Last week a 48-hour strike ended with tear gas and petrol bombs. There was a smaller, more peaceful demonstration on Sunday as MPs voted to pass the government's latest austerity budget. But today's events are likely to be low-key. Instead of a general strike, there will be a three-hour stoppage which is meant as a gesture of solidarity with people in Spain, Italy and Portugal. Transport workers are not joining the strike, in order to allow people to travel to the protests. But firefighters, civil servants and teachers will take part. Two thousand public sector workers are due to receive notices of redundancy within the next five days. According to government plans, 150,000 more may follow by 2015.