

# United States Extemp – Round One

## Politics / Government

1. Will Congress address the issue of immigration policy in the near future?
2. Why have Republicans in Congress fallen short in their attempts to change the Affordable Care Act?
3. Has the debt ceiling issue caused a major rift between President Trump and Republican leaders?
4. Is political polarization hampering the effectiveness of the U.S. government?
5. Why does Donald Trump appear to be seeking common ground with Democrats in Congress?
6. Has recovery from hurricanes Harvey and Irma posed a major challenge for FEMA?
7. What factors contributed to the resignation of Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price?
8. Is Securities and Exchange Commission falling short in its efforts to reduce computer hacking attacks?
9. Would more dialogue and less rhetoric help improve the U.S. political climate?
10. Is the political dominance of the two-party system in the United States on the decline?
11. Does President Trump have the full support of House Speaker Paul Ryan?
12. Should Congress consider major reform of the nation's immigration policy?
13. Does First Lady Melania Trump have a pivotal role in the Trump administration?
14. Are major changes in store for the Affordable Care Act in the near future?
15. Has Bernie Sanders become the unofficial leader of the populist movement in the United States?

## **United States Extemp – Round Two Finances and Economics**

1. Will hurricane recovery efforts provide a meaningful boost to the U.S. economy?
2. Has Janet Yellen provided effective leadership for the Federal Reserve Board?
3. In light of lower inflation estimates should the Fed change its projected interest rate increases?
4. Would a formidable tax reform bill ultimately stimulate increased U.S. economic growth?
5. Will long-term environmental damage mitigate the economic gains associated with U.S. oil production?
6. In light of the Wells Fargo scandal, are increased federal banking regulations in order?
7. What factors contribute to value fluctuations of bitcoin?
8. In terms of wages and salaries, does a formidable gender gap exist in the American work place?
9. What do the latest trends on Wall Street suggest about the relative strength of the U.S. economy?
10. What factors led to the Equifax data-disclosure security breach?
11. Is “Operation Twist” an effective tool of the U.S. Federal Reserve?
12. Are Uber’s executive leaders successfully repairing their company’s public image?
13. Does Federal Reserve policy with respect to interest rates result in pessimism among stock investors?
14. Do high levels of federal government debt pose a long-term economic threat to the United States?

15. In terms of U.S. foreign policy, who are President Trump's most trusted advisors?

## **United States Extemp – Round Three Science and Technology / Social Issues and Controversies**

1. Are U.S. medical researchers on the brink of curing cancer?
2. Is too much emphasis placed on STEM education in U.S. public schools?
3. Do social networking websites contribute to political dialogue in the United States?
4. Has the United States federal government fallen short with respect to Puerto Rico relief efforts?
5. What challenges are California's political leaders facing as a result of wildfires in their state?
6. Is eroded civility the result of political polarization in the United States today?
7. Was the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons deserving of the Nobel Peace Prize?
8. What are the causes of the current opioid abuse crisis in the United States?
9. Are sanctuary cities in the United States effectively protecting human rights?
10. What are the key items on the current agenda of the U.S. Supreme Court?
11. What are the principal objectives of special prosecutor Robert Mueller?
12. Are high prices for pharmaceutical drugs necessary in order to finance future research?

13. Based on investigation reports, what were some of the contributing factors in the Las Vegas massacre?
14. Did the Cassini space probe make a significant contribution to U.S. space exploration?
15. Is climate change contributing to extreme weather conditions in the United States today?

## **United States Extemp – Finals**

### **U. S. Foreign Policy**

1. What are the latest developments with respect to U.S. relations with Israel?
2. Should the United States reconsider its position with respect to the Syrian conflict?
3. Did the U.S. State Department have a valid reason for staff reduction at the Cuban embassy?
4. Why does it appear that a growing rift is developing between Donald Trump and Rex Tillerson?
5. What does Justin Trudeau's recent White House visit suggest about U.S. relations with Canada?
6. Should President Trump refrain from criticizing Puerto Rico's leaders?
7. Should the United States withdraw from the Iran nuclear agreement?
8. What approach should the Trump administration take with regard to Qatar?
9. Is the United States justified in withdrawing from UNESCO?
10. Should the United States increase its military commitment to Afghanistan?

11. Does current U.S. foreign policy support geo-economics over geo-politics in the international arena?
12. What factors lead to the deaths of U.S. servicemen in the western African nation of Niger?
13. Was the United States justified in relaxing sanctions against Sudan?
14. Should the United States increase its current level of diplomatic pressure on North Korea?
15. Is the Trump administration committed to major changes in U.S. relations with Iran?

## **International Extemp – Round One The Americas**

1. What challenges are facing Mexico's leaders as a result of recent earthquake damage?
2. Are international diplomats in Cuba facing safety and security threats?
3. How has the Caribbean tourism industry been affected by adverse weather conditions?
4. Are Mexico's political leaders achieving success in their anti-crime efforts?
5. Why did Panama's leaders make the decision to cut ties with Taiwan?
6. What factors are contributing to the political comeback of Argentina's Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner?
7. Will Colombia's agreement with FARC rebel leaders result in lasting peace and stability for the nation?
8. What are the consequences of Venezuela's current malaria outbreak?

9. Is widespread political corruption fueling a rebirth of austerity programs in South America?
10. Why are the nations of Central America becoming increasingly more vulnerable to violent crime?
11. Is President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski successfully strengthening his legislative base in Peru?
12. Are major political divisions becoming increasingly more severe in Ecuador?
13. Should Brazil take steps to preserve cultural diversity in its Amazon region?
14. Is Guatemala's President Jimmy Morales facing a major political crisis?
15. Has fragmentation diminished the strength and influence of the Mercosur trade group in South America?

## **International Extemp – Round Two Europe / Russia**

1. Is Britain in the midst of a substantial political transition?
2. Are the efforts of Emmanuel Macron and Angela Merkel strengthening the Franco-German partnership?
3. Should the European Union reconsider its current policies regarding migration of political refugees?
4. Will the growth of political populism in Western Europe continue for the foreseeable future?
5. Is Jeremy Corbyn gaining political strength in Britain?
6. Was the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons deserving of the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize?

7. Is “hardline” politics becoming the order of the day in Austria?
8. Is France in the midst of a labor crisis?
9. Has Russia’s President Vladimir Putin emerged as one of the world’s most powerful leaders?
10. Is Chancellor Angela Merkel losing the support of Germany’s voters?
11. Are substantial human rights abuses occurring in Turkey?
12. Is the European Union justified in increasing taxes on technology firms?
13. Do Chechen activists pose a threat to Russia’s stability?
14. Will independence for Catalonia have a significant effect on Spain’s economy?
15. In what ways will fulfillment of the Brexit process lead to greater economic strength in Britain?

### **International Extemp – Round Three Asia/Australia/Oceania**

1. Is President Rodrigo Duterte successfully governing the Philippines?
2. Does the diplomatic rift between Pakistan and India appear to be waning?
3. Should increasing levels of Taliban strength and influence be a concern to Afghanistan’s political leaders?
4. Is China seeking a diplomatic partnership with Russia in dealing with North Korea?

5. Is Xi Jinping China's most powerful political leader in modern history?
6. Are Rohingya Muslims suffering from an ethnic cleansing movement in Myanmar?
7. What issues have caused Australia's prime minister, Malcolm Turnbull, to attract criticism?
8. Should Japan's leaders take steps to enhance their nation's military capability?
9. Do lingering effects of political corruption hamper Malaysia's political stability?
10. Is political corruption hampering reform efforts in Pakistan?
11. In an effort to boost the nation's infrastructure, what projects are China's leaders supporting?
12. Why are Malaysia and Indonesia joining forces in the fight against Islamic militants?
13. Do nuclear weapons in the hands of North Korea's Leader, Kim Jong Un, threaten Asian security?
14. Should Australia consider major changes in its policy regarding political refugees?
15. Should India's leaders be concerned about unemployment levels in their country?

## **International Extemp – finals Africa / Middle East**

1. Why are Palestinian leaders urging reconciliation of the Hamas and Fatah political factions?
2. Is economic instability on the rise among nations of sub-Saharan Africa?
3. Is Yoweri Museveni on the verge of becoming Uganda's "president for life?"

4. What major challenges are currently confronting Iraq's political and military leaders?
5. Is Saudi Arabia too economically dependent on its oil industry?
6. What factors are contributing to strained relations between Qatar and Saudi Arabia?
7. Are Sudan's current political leaders committed to reversing their nation's recent history of violence?
8. Will the recent water rights agreement between Ethiopia, Sudan, and Egypt promote African stability?
9. Is Kenya on the verge of a major political crisis?
10. Are Saudi Arabia's leaders making a serious effort to enhance women's rights in their nation?
11. Are Israel's concerns about UNESCO policies warranted?
12. Should Kurdish groups in Iraq be granted autonomy?
13. Why is the Middle Eastern nation of Qatar dramatically increasing its level of military defense spending?
14. Should Israel face scrutiny by the United Nations for arms sales to Myanmar?
15. Does it appear likely that Bashar al-Assad will remain the leader of Syria indefinitely?