



46th Annual Harvard National Forensics Tournament

Extemporaneous Speaking

Question Packet

February 15th - 17th, 2020

These questions were written by Kevin Bi, Benjamin Hoffner-Brodsky, Jun Kim, Jacqueline Wei, and Alicia Zhang for the 2020 Harvard Forensics tournament. Please feel free to use them for practice rounds; however, we ask that these questions not be used for any official tournaments.

We have also included statistics that we compiled for certain rounds; these can be found at the end of the packet.

US Politics - Round 1

Written by Jun Kim

1. What should Democrats do in the wake of Trump's acquittal?
2. What precedent does President Trump's acquittal set for future presidencies?
3. Can Pete Buttigieg leverage his momentum from Iowa to the democratic nomination?
4. How will the state of the economy affect the upcoming democratic primary?
5. What is Elizabeth Warren's pathway to the Presidency?
6. Has impeachment helped or hurt the Democrats' chances of winning back the presidency?
7. How do the DoJ's new round of sanctions affect the future of sanctuary cities?
8. Will Donald Trump's approval ratings hike carry into the presidential election?
9. How much should electability matter for the democratic nomination?
10. Has Hunter Biden's involvement in Ukraine permanently derailed Joe Biden's presidential bid?

Europe - Round 2

Written by Benjamin Hoffner-Brodsky

1. Should European nations reinstate sanctions on Iran?
2. Will Scotland rejoin the European Union?
3. How should Mike Pompeo address 'Westlessness' at the Munich Security Conference?
4. Who should succeed Angela Merkel?
5. How should European countries tax global software firms?
6. What does Sinn Féin's victory say for Ireland's future?
7. What can European populist leaders learn from Salvini's parliamentary woes?
8. Should the European Central Bank be concerned about negative interest rates?
9. Is Europe ready for its own army?
10. How can the UK's Labour Party challenge Boris Johnson?

US Economics - Round 3

Written by Jun Kim

1. Will there be an economic recession in 2020?
2. How will the coronavirus outbreak affect the American economy?
3. Can 5G gain a foothold in the United States without Huawei?
4. How will President Trump's proposed entitlement funding cuts affect the American middle class?
5. Are the current rates of economic growth in the United States sustainable?
6. How concerning is the American income inequality gap?
7. Would a higher tax rate on the 1% help or hinder the American economy?
8. How would Judy Shelton shape the direction of the Federal Reserve?
9. Will the coronavirus outbreak threaten the US-China trade deal?
10. Will the USMCA be a substantial upgrade over NAFTA?

Asia & Australia - Round 4

Written by Jacqueline Wei

1. What changes should China implement to ensure a better response to a potential disease outbreak?
2. Will the controversy surrounding India's citizenship bill hurt the BJP's political prospects?
3. Will the impending indictment of Benjamin Netanyahu drastically reduce his political support?
4. What steps should the US take to reduce Iranian influence in the Middle East?
5. What steps should Taiwan take to thwart Chinese attempts to take control of the island?
6. Seven years later, has Abenomics worked?
7. What changes should the Australian government implement in order to prevent another wildfire disaster?
8. How can the international community ensure Myanmar complies with the ICJ's recent court order?
9. What steps should the United States take to denuclearize North Korea?
10. Will Turkey's intervention in Libya help or hurt its attempts to increase its geopolitical power in the Middle East?

Warfare - Doubles (unused)

Written by Kevin Bi, Alicia Zhang and Jacqueline Wei

1. Will there be further fallout from the United States's killing of Iranian general Qasem Soleimani?
2. What will be the geopolitical impact of the United States's new Space Force?
3. Is the U.S. military still capable of winning two simultaneous armed conflicts?
4. Where will the next major military conflict be instigated?
5. What will be the role of artificial intelligence in future military conflicts?
6. Is a war between Pakistan and India likely?
7. What steps should the US take to prevent further Russian encroachment in Ukraine?
8. Should the US ban private military companies?
9. What steps should the international community take to prevent armed conflict in the Central African Republic?
10. What steps should the US take to prevent an ISIS resurgence?

Technology - Octafinals

Written by Kevin Bi, Alicia Zhang and Jacqueline Wei

1. Should technology companies be held legally liable for content posted on social media platforms?
2. Should European governments prioritize potential economic benefits or national security concerns when it comes to Huawei?
3. How will the rise of automated vehicles impact employment in the United States?
4. What will be the future role of blockchain based cryptocurrencies in the global economy?
5. Should nuclear energy be prioritized over renewable energy in the fight against climate change?
6. How will the prevalence of end-to-end encryption technologies impact law-enforcement efforts in the United States?
7. What steps should US election officials take to improve the security of electronic voting machines?
8. How will the rise of 5G impact consumer technology usage?
9. What impact will ICANN's sale of the .org domain have?
10. What steps should the US government take to prevent a cyberattack from inflicting significant damage to the energy sector?

The Americas - Quarterfinals

Written by Benjamin Hoffner-Brodsky

1. How can the Honduran government reign in MS-13?
2. How should Venezuelan opposition leaders adjust their strategy in response to the incarceration of Juan José Márquez?
3. If ratified, who stands to profit from the European Union-Mercosur free trade agreement?
4. How should the IMF intervene in Argentina's debt crisis?
5. Would it be tactical for Nicolas Maduro to arrest Juan Guaido?
6. Will Nayib Bukelele retain control over the Salvadoran Armed Forces?
7. Has AMLO followed through on his campaign promises?
8. How can Colombia combat shark poaching?
9. Will Oscar Dávila, succeed as head of Guatemala's anti-graft body?
10. How should Paraguay's health institutions reform in the wake of recent Dengue outbreaks?

Africa - Semifinals

Written by Benjamin Hoffner-Brodsky

1. Will Abiy Ahmed's support be upheld in the August elections?
2. Should Sudan send Omar al-Bashir to the International Criminal Court?
3. Will the UN-led ceasefire in Libya bring an end to fighting?
4. How can Gambian activists fight female genital mutilation?
5. Should foreign powers continue backing Khalifa Haftar in Libya?
6. How can the government of Lesotho prepare for future droughts?
7. How will the Luanda Leaks impact Isabel dos Santos' businesses?
8. Should South Sudan welcome further investment from China?
9. Should Kenya cooperate with the US in the fight against Al-Shabaab?
10. Should Tunisia expand relations with Turkey?

Hypothetical Triads - Finals

Written by Jacqueline Wei

1. The Iranian government collapses. How can the United States take advantage of the collapse to undermine Russia's influence in the Middle East?
2. Khalifa Haftar takes control of Libya. How can Russia leverage its newfound influence in Libya to reduce Europe's geopolitical power?
3. UN Peacekeepers leave the Democratic Republic of Congo. What steps should the African Union take to ensure the UN's departure does not worsen the Ebola crisis in the DRC?
4. The US defaults on its debt. How should the Federal Reserve respond to a US debt default in order to ensure the survival of the banking system?
5. The National Rally comes to power in France. What steps should Germany take to prevent the National Rally from sowing discord in the European Union?
6. Turkey exits NATO. What steps should the US take to minimize the benefit a Turkish exit brings to Russia?
7. Japan and South Korea formally cut all military cooperation. How can China take advantage of a Japan-South Korea split to benefit its alliance with North Korea?
8. The EU refuses to negotiate with the UK, effectively creating a "hard Brexit." How can the US take advantage of an EU-UK divide to negotiate a favorable trade deal with the UK?
9. Maduro declares war on Colombia. How can Juan Guaido take advantage of a Venezuela-Colombia war to remove Maduro from office?

10. China imposes military rule in Hong Kong. What steps should the United States take to prevent China from eradicating economic and political liberties in Hong Kong?

Statistics

Some results are excluded due to unclear or unrecorded question numbers

Round 4 (Asia & Australia)

Question	Count (out of 42)	Average Rank	% Cleared to Octas
1	40	3.98	15.00%
2	20	3.35	25.00%
3	20	4.45	5.00%
4	33	3.70	27.27%
5	31	3.52	22.58%
6	24	3.96	20.83%
7	36	4.83	2.78%
8	18	2.50	33.33%
9	34	4.12	8.82%
10	23	3.61	34.78%

Octafinals (Technology)

Question	Count (out of 8)	Average Rank	% Cleared to Quarters
1	4	3.58	50.00%
2	8	3.54	50.00%
3	4	4.33	0.00%
4	4	3.42	75.00%
5	8	3.54	37.50%
6	1	3.33	100.00%
7	7	4.19	28.57%
8	7	3.48	71.43%
9	2	2.17	100.00%
10	6	4.28	33.33%