

## **U.S. EXTEMP**

### **1: U.S. Politics and Elections**

1. How should the presidential primary campaign process be reformed?
2. How will the presidential primary results impact current Congressional races?
3. What should the U.S. do to address political apathy in the Millennial generation?
4. Do voter identification laws help or hurt the election process?
5. Has Donald Trump already caused the fracturing of the Republican Party?
6. Have Paul Ryan's attempts to unify the GOP been effective?
7. Does the U.S. need more policies to help alleviate poverty?
8. Does the superdelegate system pose a threat to democratic ideals?
9. How should campaign finance laws be revised?
10. What does Hillary Clinton need to do to increase appeal among younger voters?
11. How effective will Donald Trump's campaign strategies for the GOP nomination be in the general election?
12. What steps can the GOP take to appeal to minority voters?
13. What will be the lasting impact of Bernie Sanders on future Democratic Party primary elections?
14. Do line-item vetoes give state governors too much political power?
15. What factors contributed to Bernie Sanders gaining more momentum than many originally predicted?

### **2: U.S. Business and Economics**

1. What steps should the U.S. take to address income inequality?
2. Does the FBI have too much authority over private businesses like Apple?
3. How should the U.S. increase the rate of wage growth?
4. How have shifts in the price of oil affected the national economy?
5. How should the U.S. reform its tax code?
6. Has the Federal Reserve's approach to monetary policy under Janet Yellen been effective?
7. Does the government need to increase regulations on ride sharing services like Uber?
8. Is the American automobile industry losing global competitiveness?
9. What steps should the U.S. take to strengthen the housing market?
10. Is the U.S. doing enough to enforce laws against tax evasion?
11. Should the U.S. be more concerned about the budget deficit?
12. Should the U.S. lower its corporate tax rate to be more competitive in the world economy?
13. How have U.S. banks fared in the aftermath of the financial crisis?
14. What more should companies do in order to protect customer privacy?
15. How has the ever-growing influence of Internet commerce affected the U.S. economy?

### **3: America's Role Internationally**

1. Is the U.S. losing influence in the Middle East?
2. Should the U.S. continue to pursue more multilateral trade agreements?
3. Should the U.S. seek to influence the Brexit referendum?
4. Is the U.S. doing enough internationally to address climate change?
5. Has the nuclear deal with Iran been effective?
6. Does the U.S. need to change its global counterterrorism strategy?
7. What can the U.S. and Israel do to resolve their differences?
8. How has the U.S. drone strike policy influenced international perceptions of America?

9. Should the U.S. play a more substantial role in addressing the global migrant crisis?
10. Is American influence in the United Nations on the decline?
11. Should the U.S. inform Pakistan before launching airstrikes against the Taliban?
12. Does the U.S. need a stronger response to North Korea?
13. What role can the United States play in the stabilization of Iraq?
14. Should the U.S. reduce its direct involvement in global conflicts?
15. How can tensions between the U.S. and Russia be effectively resolved?

#### **4: Education and the Environment**

1. Is the U.S. too reliant on fossil fuels?
2. Is cap-and-trade a good way to control emissions produced by U.S. businesses?
3. How should the United States balance environmental regulations with economic cost?
4. What can be done to make current domestic energy usage more sustainable?
5. Is U.S. infrastructure prepared for the effects of climate change?
6. Have American colleges and universities done enough to address concerns over campus sexual assault?
7. How successful has Common Core been at improving education?
8. How can the federal government prevent another situation like the Flint water crisis?
9. Are U.S. high school and college graduates adequately prepared for the job market?
10. Will the new SAT prove to be an improvement upon standardized testing?
11. What can the U.S. do to better address air pollution?
12. Is nuclear energy a good investment for the United States?
13. Does the U.S. have reason to be legitimately concerned about genetically modified foods?
14. Should the U.S. guarantee higher education for all citizens?
15. Does the U.S. need to do more to hold school teachers accountable to performance standards?

#### **5: The Courts**

1. What will be the implications for the Supreme Court if a ninth justice isn't selected this year?
2. Is President Obama's immigration plan constitutional?
3. Should the death penalty be ruled unconstitutional?
4. Do elections for judges threaten the integrity of the judicial process?
5. What role should the Supreme Court nomination debate play in the 2016 election?
6. What will be Antonin Scalia's legacy?
7. Does Merrick Garland have a chance at being appointed before the 2016 election?
8. Should the Supreme Court take action on political gerrymandering?
9. How can the United States address concerns over racism in its court system?
10. Should Americans be concerned about the politicization of the Supreme Court?
11. How has Obamacare been affected by scrutiny from the courts?
12. Has the federal government overstepped its bounds in its recommendations on transgender rights?
13. How will the Supreme Court's decision over "one person one vote" affect future elections?
14. How should the Supreme Court rule in *Zubik v. Burwell*?
15. How have unions been affected by Supreme Court decisions?

#### **6: Military, Defense, and National Security**

1. Is the U.S. adequately addressing the needs of military veterans?
2. How has Ashton Carter fared as Secretary of Defense?
3. Is the U.S. doing enough to secure its borders?
4. Should the U.S. be more accepting of refugees wishing to enter the country?
5. What changes need to be made to the TSA?

6. What can the Armed Forces do to increase enlistment by women?
7. Will recent restrictions on the NSA's power hurt U.S. national security?
8. Would it be wise to curtail the current U.S. drone strike program?
9. Should the U.S. use torture as an interrogation technique?
10. How can the military improve its counterterrorism strategy?
11. Are current levels of U.S. military spending excessive?
12. Which nations currently pose the greatest threats to U.S. national security?
13. Has the military's response to Chinese assertiveness in the South China Sea been adequate?
14. Is the U.S. making gains in the fight against ISIS?
15. What will be the impact of strengthened military ties between the U.S. and India?

## **O1: President Obama's Last Year**

1. What will the legacy of the Affordable Care Act be?
2. What role should President Obama play in the 2016 election cycle?
3. What changes, if any, should President Obama make to his immigration program?
4. Will President Obama be able to garner support for new initiatives during the lame-duck stage of his presidency?
5. Will President Obama be able to close Guantanamo Bay in his last year?
6. What will be President Obama's foreign policy legacy?
7. What will be the impact of President Obama's latest guidelines on overtime pay?
8. How will President Obama's recent Cuba visit affect U.S.-Cuban relations?
9. Should President Obama give up on his "Pivot to Asia"?
10. How should President Obama work with Congress in his final months?
11. Did President Obama do enough to reduce the threat of gun violence?
12. What domestic policies should President Obama emphasize in his final months?
13. Should President Obama reduce his usage of executive orders?
14. Has President Obama improved or worsened political gridlock?
15. What role, if any, should President Obama play in the upcoming Brexit vote?

## **O2: Entitlements, Health, and Healthcare**

1. Should there be a federal mandate for children to be vaccinated against preventable diseases?
2. Is the FDA sufficiently effective at protecting consumer health?
3. What should the federal government do to control pharmaceutical drug costs?
4. Has the U.S. properly responded to the Zika virus?
5. What more should the federal government do to promote medical research?
6. What should the GOP propose as an alternative to Obamacare?
7. What should the U.S. do to ensure the economic sustainability of entitlement programs?
8. How effective has Obama's Medicaid expansion been?
9. What would be the effect of a repeal of the individual healthcare mandate?
10. How can the US best reduce health insurance premiums?
11. Is the U.S. spending too much on Medicare and Medicaid?
12. What reforms need to be made to Social Security?
13. What does rising life expectancy mean for the future of entitlement programs?
14. Is the U.S. doing enough to promote healthcare for the poor?
15. How effective is SNAP at addressing poverty?

## **Q1: The 114th Congress**

1. How effective has Paul Ryan been as Speaker of the House?
2. Are anti-I.R.S. measures taken by the House justified?

3. Should House Democrats be more willing to compromise with the GOP majority?
4. Was Paul Ryan's refusal to immediately support Donald Trump harmful for party unity?
5. Should the Senate abolish the rules permitting filibusters?
6. Will the "No Labels" movement have a significant impact on the Congressional agenda?
7. Has the current Congress been successful at exercising fiscal discipline?
8. Can anything be done about the influence of money in Congressional politics?
9. How have Senate Republicans' refusal to consider Merrick Garland affected their public perception?
10. Is Congress adequately representing the interests of the U.S. population as a whole?
11. What should Congress do to reform federal criminal law?
12. Will Congress pass any major bipartisan legislation before the election?
13. Why have House Republicans not agreed on a budget to pass?
14. What should Congress do to assist with Puerto Rico's economic troubles?
15. Should Congress appropriate more aid to addressing the Zika threat?

## **Q2: Social Issues**

1. Should undocumented children who have been raised in the U.S. be offered a path to citizenship?
2. Would it be wise for the U.S. to decriminalize marijuana possession?
3. Have states done an adequate job of protecting the rights of the LGBT community?
4. Should more cities follow San Francisco's lead on paid family leave?
5. Do recent state laws pose a threat to workplace discrimination protections?
6. Should convicted felons retain the right to vote?
7. Are mandatory minimum sentencing laws an effective system for criminal justice?
8. What additional steps need to be taken to promote gender equality?
9. How can the U.S. address the racial gap in employment?
10. Would mandatory police body cameras improve the legitimacy of law enforcement?
11. What action can be taken to address concerns over racial bias in the judiciary?
12. What additional steps can be taken by the government to reduce the rate of violent crime?
13. Was Louisiana right to pass its recent "Blue Lives Matter" legislation?
14. What can states do to better help the homeless population?
15. What steps can the film industry take to respond to charges of racism and sexism?

## **S1: Science and Technology**

1. Do copyright laws need to be revised to keep up with changing technology?
2. Should technology companies enable the government to bypass their encryption?
3. Are technology consumers losing control over their right to privacy?
4. What will be the impact of wearable technology on American consumers?
5. What will be the long-term impact of artificial intelligence on the U.S. economy?
6. Should the U.S. increase funding to NASA?
7. What should brick-and-mortar retail business do in response to the rise of Internet commerce?
8. Has patent use by large technology companies become too excessive?
9. How has the internet impacted the state of global terrorism?
10. Does the U.S. need to raise fuel efficiency standards?
11. How can technology better be used to address climate change?
12. Should the federal government allocate more money to non-defense research and development?
13. Is the U.S. in need of more regulations on Unmanned Aircraft Systems?
14. What can the federal government do to improve cybersecurity infrastructure?
15. How will self-driving cars impact the U.S. economy?

## **S2: Contemporary Conflicts over the Bill of Rights**

1. Would universal background checks on gun purchases unduly burden Second Amendment rights?
2. Is the existing civil forfeiture system constitutionally legitimate?
3. How should the use of bail in the US criminal justice system be reformed?
4. Should campaign contributions continue to be considered protected speech?
5. What changes should be made to ensure that public defenders can adequately protect due process rights?
6. Is the Supreme Court's decision on same-sex marriage in conflict with religious freedom?
7. Do current punishments for marijuana possession constitute cruel and unusual punishment?
8. How can colleges and universities best balance free speech against other interests?
9. Is the current system of grand juries consistent with due process and fairness before the law?
10. Should the federal government be able to subpoena journalists for sources?
11. Should the Supreme Court overturn *Roe v. Wade*?
12. What steps should be taken to make the death penalty more legitimate?
13. Is eminent domain overused?
14. Should police be required to have a warrant to search a cell phone?
15. How can the government better balance the need for surveillance with protecting privacy?

## **F: The U.S. Next Week**

1. How should the U.S. government respond to concerns over Americans named in the Panama Papers?
2. What reforms should be made to American immigration policy?
3. How should the U.S. change its counterterrorism strategy?
4. Should monetary policy decisions be subject to Congressional review?
5. What impact will Donald Trump's nomination have on the Republican Party?
6. Would more sanctions effectively deter North Korean aggression?
7. What should the federal government do to address rising student loan debt?
8. Is single-payer healthcare a feasible system for the United States?
9. What structural reforms need to be made to the U.S. prison system?
10. Will the Every Student Succeeds Act improve the quality of American public schools?
11. If confirmed, how would Merrick Garland change the balance of power on the Supreme Court?
12. What action should the federal government take in response to Mississippi and North Carolina's LGBT laws?
13. What steps should the U.S. take to reduce the budget deficit?
14. How will America's relationship with Cuba change given efforts to re-establish diplomatic relations?
15. What should the federal government do to address concerns over rising healthcare premiums?

## **INTERNATIONAL EXTEMP**

### **1: Africa**

1. What will be the result of the ICC's investigation into Burundi?
2. Is Nigeria winning the fight against Boko Haram?
3. What should Ethiopia's government do in response to recent public protests?
4. How effective has el-Sisi been at stabilizing Egypt?
5. How have falling commodity prices impacted the African economy?
6. Should the African Union do more to aid the fight against ISIS?
7. Is West Africa prepared for a future disease outbreak?
8. Is Ghana's economy on the path to recovery?
9. Has South Africa's government done enough in response to the country's drought?
10. What will be the impact of Ethiopia's Grand Renaissance dam project?
11. Is the crisis in South Sudan worsening?
12. Are concerns about the legitimacy of Uganda's recent election justified?

13. Is the human rights situation in Egypt improving?
14. Is Kenya doing enough to combat corruption in its government?
15. Should Jacob Zuma resign?

## **2: International Economics**

1. How would a British exit from the European Union affect the global economy?
2. Are bailouts the solution to Greece's economic troubles?
3. What factors have contributed to decreasing poverty rates among African nations?
4. What challenges face the global energy market?
5. Is the U.K. borrowing too much money?
6. What factors are threatening global economic growth?
7. Is China taking the right approach to addressing its debt problems?
8. How have fluctuating commodity prices impacted the global economy?
9. What does the European Central Bank need to do to reach its inflation target?
10. What impact will the Summer Olympics have on Brazil's economy?
11. Has the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank been a net positive for the region?
12. Should European nations adopt the IMF's recommendation of more forceful stimulus spending?
13. Are developed nations adequately prepared for another financial crisis?
14. Should developed nations increase financial assistance to address the refugee crisis?
15. What can the World Bank do in response to a growing demand for loans?

## **3: Eastern Europe and Russia**

1. Was Arseniy Yatsenyuk's decision to resign a good one for Ukraine?
2. Should Serbia join the European Union?
3. How effective has Russia's intervention in Syria been?
4. What impact has the refugee crisis had on the Czech Republic?
5. Was it a good decision for Hungary's central bank to cut interest rates?
6. What more does Poland need to do to protect the environment?
7. What should Vladimir Putin do to promote economic stability in Russia?
8. Are ceasefire violations in Ukraine a sign that no end to the conflict is in sight?
9. What can Hungary do to reduce tensions with the rest of the European Union?
10. Should eastern European countries be more concerned about the refugee crisis?
11. How can Russian democracy advocates best resist Putin's authoritarianism?
12. Is Croatia's economy stabilizing?
13. What are the implications of Russia's latest space facility?
14. Is it wise for Poland to remain in the European Union?
15. How has Russia's relationship with Iran changed in the aftermath of the nuclear deal?

## **4: The Americas**

1. How will the vote to impeach Dilma Rousseff impact Brazil?
2. What can Ecuador do to better prepare itself for earthquakes?
3. Is Argentina on the path to economic sustainability?
4. Does Nicolas Maduro have any chance at political legitimacy in Venezuela?
5. How has Canada changed under the leadership of Justin Trudeau?
6. Is Cuba on the verge of major political change?
7. Why has Brazil continued to attract foreign direct investment?
8. What should Mexico do about its recent economic concerns?
9. What more can South American nations do to promote regional security?



10. How effective has Mexico's war on drugs been?
11. Do political conflicts in Peru threaten the nation's recent economic success?
12. What should Venezuela do about recent protests and resource shortages?
13. What agenda should Evo Morales adopt as he finishes his last term as Bolivian president?
14. What more should Latin American countries do in response to the Zika virus?
15. What will be the impact of the two-day work week in Venezuela?

## **5: China, The Koreans, and Japan**

1. Is Japan's infrastructure equipped to handle another major natural disaster?
2. Has the international community acted effectively to reduce the threat of North Korea?
3. What are the long-term implications of North Korea's recent Party Congress?
4. How will Japan's declining population affect the country economically?
5. Will China's aggressive moves compel a negotiated resolution to the South China Sea dispute?
6. What will be the impact of China's latest regulations on non-governmental organizations?
7. How will South Korea's political landscape change in response to recent legislative elections?
8. What factors are slowing South Korean economic growth?
9. How effective has Shinzo Abe been as Prime Minister of Japan?
10. How has government-imposed censorship influenced China's youth?
11. Is South Korea adopting the right strategy to deal with North Korean aggression?
12. What will be the impact of recent cooperation between South Korea and Uganda?
13. Has China effectively dealt with its recent economic slowdown?
14. What does China need to do to reform working conditions?
15. How effective has Xi Jinping's anti-corruption campaign been?

## **6: Western Europe**

1. How can Belgium improve its efforts to combat terrorism?
2. What factors have contributed to the popularity of Austria's Freedom Party?
3. What should England do in response to recent strikes by doctors?
4. What will be the impact of Spain's upcoming elections?
5. Should Germany cut back on its surveillance programs?
6. How should France revise its labor laws?
7. Would it be in the UK's best interest to leave the European Union?
8. How has Matteo Renzi changed Italy's role in regional affairs?
9. How can Germany better handle the large influx of migrants?
10. Is austerity the solution to Spain's economic problems?
11. Does France have the right approach to counterterrorism?
12. Should the European Union limit the right to be forgotten from internet searches?
13. Should the UK be more willing to accept refugees into the country?
14. Is Greece on the right path to economic recovery?
15. What can Italy do to revive economic growth?

## **01: The Middle East**

1. Is Iran's influence in global politics on the rise?
2. How have Israel-Palestine relations fared under Benjamin Netanyahu?
3. What steps should Middle Eastern nations take to bring recovery and stability to the Gaza Strip?
4. How have falling oil prices impacted the Middle East?

5. What more can Turkey do to address unease within the Armenian community?
6. Is Iraq's political system still functional?
7. Will peace talks in Yemen ultimately be successful?
8. What can Turkey do about its increasingly strained relationship with Russia?
9. Has Erdogan failed to promote civil rights in Turkey?
10. What should be done to further reverse ISIS's gains in Iraq?
11. Has the Iran nuclear deal been effective?
12. Should the international community act on alleged civil rights violations in Iran?
13. What does Saudi Arabia need to do to restore economic stability?
14. Are Middle Eastern nations winning the fight against ISIS?
15. Is OPEC still a major force?

## **O2: U.S. Foreign Policy**

1. What more should the U.S. do to protect human rights globally?
2. What are the prospects for relations between the United States and Israel in the remainder of President Obama's term?
3. How promising is the future of U.S.-Argentina relations?
4. What has been the impact of President Obama's "Pivot to Asia"?
5. Should the U.S. seek to strengthen ties with Nigeria?
6. Will President Obama's decision to send additional special operations forces into Syria be effective?
7. What will be the impact of increased military cooperation between the U.S. and South Korea?
8. Has the U.S. taken sufficient steps to rebuild its image after revelations of NSA surveillance?
9. Should the U.S. be doing more to promote stability in the Middle East?
10. Has the U.S. taken the right approach to addressing global disease outbreaks?
11. What more should the U.S. do to assist developing nations in Africa?
12. Will relations between the U.S. and Russia continue to decline in the near future?
13. What should the U.S. be willing to do to repair its strained relationship with Saudi Arabia?
14. Does the U.S. have the right strategy regarding Cuba?
15. How should the U.S. revise its strategy in Afghanistan?

## **Q1: Global Energy and Environment**

1. Will recent global agreements substantially reduce the rate of climate change?
2. What more should African nations do to end the ivory trade?
3. Should struggling economies value environmental protection over economic growth?
4. What can Africa do to improve its response to droughts?
5. Should more nations adopt nuclear energy?
6. Are carbon taxes effective methods of reducing pollution?
7. How should Sub-Saharan African nations improve access to clean drinking water?
8. What can developed nations do to improve natural disaster preparedness?
9. How should India respond to desertification?
10. What more can coastal nations do to address oceanic pollution?
11. What has been the environmental impact of low oil prices?
12. Is China on track to achieving its emissions goal?
13. What more should developed nations do to assist the growth of renewable energy?
14. What factors are contributing to deforestation in South America?
15. How effective will India's clean energy initiatives be?



## **Q2: Pakistan, India, and Southeast Asia**

1. Should Pakistan more aggressively combat the Taliban?
2. What should Indonesia do to combat growing income inequality?
3. Does Thailand's government have any real interest in political liberalization?
4. How will the Philippines fare under new presidential leadership?
5. Are relations between India and Pakistan improving?
6. What has been the impact of foreign direct investment on India's economy?
7. What challenges face Aung San Suu Kyi in Myanmar?
8. Does Indonesia need to reduce its usage of the death penalty?
9. How can Thailand re-invigorate its shaky economy?
10. Is it wise for the Philippines to increase patrols in the South China Sea?
11. How effective has Narendra Modi been at governing India?
12. What impact has government corruption had on the general population in Malaysia?
13. What factors are most responsible for India's economic growth?
14. What should Vietnam do about its widening wealth gap?
15. How can Indonesia improve its counterterrorism efforts?

## **S1: The Arab Spring: Five Years Later**

1. Is Tunisia a success story for the rise of democracy?
2. Why have Libya and Syria seen more violence than other Arab Spring nations?
3. How effective is Libya's current government?
4. How could Egypt, under el-Sisi's leadership, have better handled pro-Morsi protesters?
5. Has the Arab Spring improved or worsened the civil rights situation in Egypt?
6. Is a resolution to the Syrian refugee crisis in sight?
7. Does Egypt have a realistic chance of moving away from autocracy?
8. What steps can Yemen take to reduce its current conflict?
9. Did the international response to the Arab Spring promote stability?
10. Is Tunisia's government effectively able to deal with the threat of terrorism?
11. What should be done to promote free speech protections in Bahrain?
12. Would removing Bashar al-Assad from power help the fight against ISIS?
13. How can humanitarian assistance to Arab Spring nations be improved?
14. What impact have foreign airstrikes had on stability in Yemen and Syria?
15. Has the political situation in Iraq improved in the aftermath of the Arab Spring?

## **S2: International Relations and Organizations**

1. What will be the impact of the United Nations global drug policy summit?
2. What will be the impact of increased aid from France to Nigeria?
3. Has Russia's involvement in Syria made the situation more stable?
4. Can the UN do more about the human rights situation in North Korea?
5. Why is South Korea attempting to strengthen ties with Iran?
6. What would be the effects of Sweden joining NATO?
7. How have Greece's financial woes impacted the global economy?
8. Would the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership help or hurt European nations?
9. What more should the European Union do to address conflict in Ukraine?
10. What can the international community do to better prepare for future disease outbreaks?
11. Will Turkey and Iran be able to effectively cooperate to reduce terrorism?
12. How should the UN handle the humanitarian crisis in the DRC?
13. Is Turkey appropriately dealing with the European migration crisis?

14. What steps should the international community take to address global hunger and poverty?
15. Should EU sanctions against Russia be lifted?

#### **F: The World Next Week**

1. Will Colombia and the FARC be able to establish a lasting peace?
2. What impact will Brazil's political crisis have on the nation's economy?
3. Should non-claimants in the South China Sea dispute play a role in resolving the conflict?
4. Is there a realistic path to stability for Ukraine?
5. What role should Iran play in the conflicts in Yemen and Syria?
6. What should the international community do about the North Korean threat?
7. How will the Trans-Pacific Partnership affect global economies?
8. Would a partitioning of Iraq help to reduce turmoil?
9. Will the United Nations be able to achieve its Sustainable Development Goals?
10. Is South Sudan's new coalition government a meaningful step toward stability?
11. What can Spain do to address its current political stalemate?
12. How should nations revise their financial laws in response to the Panama Papers leak?
13. Will European nations be able to effectively respond to the Syrian refugee crisis?
14. Should the International Monetary Fund give Greece another bailout?
15. How can global leaders better coordinate and collaborate in the fight against terrorism?

