

2009 Oregon State Extemp Questions

Round One

Speaker One

1. Are industrialized nations doing enough to combat the spread of malaria?
2. What steps can the British government take to calm rising tensions in Northern Ireland?
3. Will voters backlash against Republican governors who have resisted accepting federal stimulus funds?

Speaker Two

1. Does the International Criminal Court possess sufficient authority to succeed?
2. How will the election of the FMLN change El Salvador?
3. Is Rush Limbaugh the new leader of the GOP?

Speaker Three

1. Does the international community have an obligation to provide increased aid to Gaza?
2. Who should take primary responsibility for home foreclosures?
3. Who will ultimately prevail in the dispute over Minnesota's Senate seat?

Speaker Four

1. Will planned strategic arms reduction talks result in improved ties between Russia and the United States?
2. How should the Securities and Exchange Commission be reformed?
3. Should Great Britain join the Euro?

Speaker Five

1. Can the United Nations move the government of Myanmar toward political reform?
2. What should be the top priorities for health care reform?
3. Is Sri Lanka's government justly prosecuting the war against the Tamil Tigers?

Speaker Six

1. Will President Obama's olive branch to Iran eventually produce an improvement in relations between the two countries?
2. What are the best steps the government can take to keep people in their homes?
3. Is dictatorship returning to Nicaragua?

Speaker Seven

1. Should NATO redefine the alliance's priorities?
2. What principles should govern American foreign policy in the Obama administration?
3. Should NASA give up its plans to return people to the Moon and travel on to Mars?

Round Two

Speaker One

1. What are the future prospects for military recruiters keeping our forces sufficiently staffed?
2. Are state governments doing enough to serve the needs of underprivileged students?
3. What are the prospects for an easing of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo?

Speaker Two

1. How can the United States strengthen the government of Pakistan?
2. Is the federal government's TARP program a model for future financial bailouts?
3. Can the fuel disputes between Russia and Ukraine be resolved?

Speaker Three

1. How will developments in cellphone technology change the way we receive television programming?
2. Are traditional print newspapers worth saving?
3. Is Bangladesh's restored democracy safe from military overthrow?

Speaker Four

1. What steps should be taken to combat the threat from space debris?
2. Is judicial corruption a serious problem in the United States?
3. Does the growing strength of Mexico's drug cartels threaten civil war in that country?

Speaker Five

1. What can the Labor Party do to win Britain's next parliamentary elections?
2. Can the nuclear power industry be expanded to meet America's need for clean energy?
3. Is federal support for the automobile industry appropriate?

Speaker Six

1. Who will succeed North Korea's Kim Jong Il?
2. Can President Obama's first 100 days in office be declared a success?
3. Are schools doing enough to keep their student athletes safe on the field?

Speaker Seven

1. What nations are in the best position to get Iran to back down on nuclear weapons development?
2. Has the Republican Party changed its core message to the voters?
3. Is President Obama a "science friendly" president?

Semifinals

Speaker One

1. Should the federal government move more aggressively toward nationalization of failing banks?
2. Does the California Supreme Court have a legal basis for overturning the controversial Proposition 8?
3. Can Sharif Ahmed succeed in calming Islamic militants in Somalia?

Speaker Two

1. Are free market solutions the best answer to America's healthcare problems?
2. Should American electric companies move toward the creation of a "smart grid"?
3. Is Ethiopia abusing the human rights of its citizens?

Speaker Three

1. Is the economic stimulus package being invested in the right infrastructure projects?
2. Can European Union membership bring stability to the nations of the Balkans?
3. Will Taiwan's former President Chen be convicted of corruption?

Speaker Four

1. Will the resignation of General Motors' Rick Wagoner improve GM's prospects for recovery?
2. Is Hillary Clinton making a good first impression as America's Secretary of State?
3. Does the United States share responsibility for Mexico's drug violence?

Speaker Five

1. Should efforts to support the automobile industry involve the cooperation of multiple governments?
2. Is Bobby Jindal's stock in the Republican Party on the decline?
3. Can George Mitchell achieve a breakthrough in negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians?

Speaker Six

1. Will increased economic pressures decrease the popularity of Russia's government?
2. Are President Obama's policies a "let down" to his most liberal supporters?
3. Is Columbia facing an increased threat from FARC rebels?

Speaker Seven

1. Is China's fiscal stimulus working to improve its economy?
2. Should the federal government change its method for collecting census data?
3. Is popular support for Bolivia's president, Evo Morales, increasing?

Finals

Speaker One

1. On what issues can the United States and China find common ground?
2. Will America's policies confronting the economic crisis also help other nations confront their economic woes?
3. Is the trend toward globalization slowing down?

Speaker Two

1. Should the world community have the right to limit weapons development by sovereign nations, such as North Korea and Iran?
2. Will the Supreme Court's recent ruling narrowing the scope of the Voting Rights Act hurt minority voters?
3. Can Hamas be negotiated with?

Speaker Three

1. Is Turkey still a reliable diplomatic bridge between Israelis and the Islamic world?
2. Will the drop in oil prices reduce the pressure to improve automobile fuel efficiency standards?
3. Can Pakistan's leading political parties learn to cooperate again?

Speaker Four

1. Will Saudi Arabia's recent political reforms make a significant difference in the lives of average Saudis?
2. Can President Obama heal the rift between himself and his Democratic colleagues created by the debate over the budget?
3. Is American politics turning "populist"?

Speaker Five

1. Should the European Union bail out its bankrupt Eastern European members and neighbors?
2. Is the United States withdrawing from Iraq too quickly?
3. Is access to clean water a basic human right?

Speaker Six

1. Will the war crimes trials of former Khmer Rouge leaders in Cambodia serve the cause of justice?
2. Will President Obama's reversal of the Bush administration's policy on stem cell research cost him political support?
3. Can the United States prepare the Afghan military to take more responsibility in the struggle against the Taliban?

Speaker Seven

1. Are Raul Castro's changes to the Cuban leadership indicative of plans for significant political reform?
2. Will Hugo Chavez's successful referendum to remove presidential term limits prevent him or help him become a dictator?
3. Are cellphones a negative influence on America's youth?

EXTRA TOPICS

1. Is cyber-warfare a significant threat to international security?
2. Was the International Criminal Court's indictment of Sudan's President warranted?
3. Can Zimbabwe's power sharing arrangement endure continuing stresses?
4. Will a more moderate president emerge from Iran's next elections?
5. Should Somaliland maintain its independence from the newly formed transitional government of Somalia?
6. Is the COPE Party a serious challenger to South Africa's African National Congress (ANC)?
7. Is conflict between Shia and Sunni Muslims spreading to Persian Gulf states beyond Iraq?
8. Is the Kurdish region in Iraq and Turkey becoming more stable?
9. Can the Ugandan government muster the resources necessary to defeat the Lord's Resistance Army?
10. Can the Italian government succeed in its efforts to reform the judiciary?
11. Should Iceland become a member of the European Union?
12. Will France's return to NATO's integrated military structure strengthen the alliance?
13. Can Iceland free itself from the grip of its economic crisis?
14. Will Italy's People of Freedom Party become the dominant force in Italian politics?
15. Should the west be concerned about the collapse of Eastern European governments?
16. Will Recept Tayyip Erdogan's continued leadership of Turkey produce desired governmental reforms?
17. Has the exiled government of Tibet, under the Dalai Lama, taken the correct course in dealing with the Chinese government?
18. Will Cambodia succeed in its efforts to exploit its petroleum resources?
19. Will the conflict in Sri Lanka have an impact on India's political fortunes?
20. Is China at increased risk for political instability?
21. Should the United States move toward withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan?
22. Is it time for military action to stop North Korea's missile program?
23. Is there danger of an army takeover of the government in Pakistan?
24. Should France and Britain grant independence to their Caribbean colonies?
25. Will the Peronists hold on to power in upcoming midterm elections in Argentina?
26. Should Canada repeal or amend the Indian Act which governs the rights of indigenous peoples?
27. Are relations between Cuba and the rest of Latin America improving?
28. Will Brazil emerge from the world economic crisis unscathed?
29. Is Quebec nationalism experiencing resurgence?
30. Should government regulate the sources of income for ex-Presidents?
31. Is America's continued reverence for the memory of Abraham Lincoln justified?
32. Is President Obama spending too much time on television?
33. What steps can be taken to encourage the growth of small start-up banks?
34. Should the federal government devote more resources to researching vaccine safety?
35. Should limitations be placed on the number of births a fertility doctor can permit a mother to have in a single pregnancy?
36. Should the Attorney General reverse his decision to suspend raids on medical marijuana dispensaries?
37. Will President Obama's reversal of the so called "Global Gag Rule" result in a loss of domestic political support?
38. Can Robert Gates succeed in his efforts to reform the Pentagon?
39. Has President Obama's election resulted in an improved image for America abroad?

40. Can African nations expect a change in American foreign policy toward them under the Obama administration?
41. Should the United States military discard its standing doctrine of preparing to fight in two theaters of war simultaneously?
42. Will Robert Gates' decision to end the "stop loss" policy heal an overstressed military?
43. Should the United States be doing more to control piracy off the African coast?
44. Has Twitter helped or harmed the practice of American journalism?
45. Are Jatropha seeds a promising biofuel alternative?
46. Are electric cars a practical product in the near term?
47. Can we expect the practice of planting "victory gardens" to catch-on among American homeowners?
48. Are the executive officers of America's colleges and universities paid excessively?
49. Is government doing enough to educate young people about the threat of STDs?
50. Are Americans overly concerned with athletes' use of performance enhancing drugs?
51. Is Michael Phelps' previous use of marijuana sufficient justification for his loss of public support?
52. Are California and Texas' approaches to college admissions fair alternatives to affirmative action?
53. Should the Obama administration back-off previous policies favoring abstinence-only sex education?
54. Should Texas pass its proposal to allow university students to carry concealed weapons on campus?
55. Should the process of teacher education and training be reformed?
56. Does the success of "Slumdog Millionaire" suggest improved prospects for foreign films in the American market?
57. Should the United States open direct talks with the Iranian government?
58. Will President Obama's election change the relationship of the United States and Israel?
59. Should American businesses fear increase protectionism in Asia?