

2011 State Extemp Topics

Round One

First Speaker

1. How will America's growing and spreading Hispanic population transform American politics in the next ten years?
2. In lean economic times, should developed nations still prioritize foreign aid?
3. Would Italy be better off without the leadership of Silvio Berlusconi?

Second Speaker

1. What can the NCAA do to increase the graduation rates of college athletes?
2. Is the international community doing enough to address refugee needs in North Africa?
3. Can government in Turkey maintain its historically secular character under the leadership of an Islamic party?

Third Speaker

1. What can be done to give the International Criminal Court "real teeth" in its prosecution of war criminals?
2. Is it time to end government funding of National Public Radio?
3. Is Evo Morales' popularity with the Bolivian people in jeopardy?

Fourth Speaker

1. What can be done to spur investment in the development of green technology?
2. Is the UN equipped to help rebuild Middle Eastern states after their revolutions?
3. Can revolutionary forces gain a foothold in Syria?

Fifth Speaker

1. What can be done to improve America's foster care system?
2. Can the Arab-Israeli peace process be revived?
3. Can the Japanese economy rebound from recent natural disasters in the short term?

Sixth Speaker

1. What will be the economic impact of rising oil and gas prices?
2. Should the United Nations rethink who has permanent membership on the Security Council?
3. Should Albania be admitted to the European Union?

Seventh Speaker

1. How much of an impact has the Tea Party had since the 2010 elections?
2. Will an independent Southern Sudan enact western-style democratic principles?
3. Can Aung San Suu Kyi do more for her country's cause by leaving it?

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Round Two

First Speaker

1. What do President Obama and Republican leaders most have in common?
2. Should Mitt Romney be viewed as the inside favorite for the 2012 Republican presidential nomination?
3. Will increased military spending by the Chinese spark an arms race in Southeast Asia?

Second Speaker

1. What can Newt Gingrich do to become the favorite presidential candidate of Republican conservatives?
2. Should the US Senate ban the use of the filibuster?
3. Is Lebanon a hostage to Hizbollah?

Third Speaker

1. What steps can be taken to discourage the use of off-shore tax havens by wealthy Americans and corporations?
2. Would Hillary Clinton make an effective Secretary of Defense in a hypothetical second Obama term?
3. Will the gains of Tunisia's "Jasmine Revolution" be enduring?

Fourth Speaker

1. How much of President Obama's original health care reform package will ultimately survive efforts to overturn it?
2. Has the shooting of Representative Giffords changed Americans' views toward gun control?
3. Should the United Nations Security Council have acted on Libya more quickly?

Fifth Speaker

1. What can be done to curb criminal and political violence in Kosovo?
2. Is America ready to deal with a Japan-sized earthquake on its own soil?
3. Is increased extraction of shale-oil in America's best interests?

Sixth Speaker

1. What is at the root of the success of Google?
2. Can the federal government fix the budget deficit without severe cuts to essential services?
3. Will conflict between the various political factions in Yemen turn the country into another failed state?

Seventh Speaker

1. How will the growth in popularity of e-readers change how people acquire knowledge?
2. Are the benefits of nuclear technology worth the risks?
3. Is militant Islam a threat to the long-term stability of Pakistan?

2011 State Extemp Topics

Semifinals

First Speaker

1. What can the world community do to check rising global food prices?
2. Can the world expect successful protests in the Arab world to spread further than North Africa?
3. Is *Time* magazine's comparison of President Reagan to President Obama an accurate one?

Second Speaker

1. Why has 2011 seen the spread of protest movements throughout the world?
2. Is Great Britain's conservative government effectively managing the country's foreign policy?
3. Will Congress' decision to hold hearings about the Muslim community in America reduce or grow religious tolerance in the United States?

Third Speaker

1. What actions must the international community take to curb the growing threat of piracy in the Indian Ocean?
2. Should the United States seek to prosecute Julian Assange for the actions of Wikileaks?
3. Will the Islamic Brotherhood make political gains in Egypt with the fall of Mubarak?

Fourth Speaker

1. What can the international community do to ensure a fair distribution of natural resources in the Arctic?
2. Is Angela Merkel's leadership critical to the future of the European Union?
3. Is Myanmar/Burma's new government democratic, or merely a smokescreen?

Fifth Speaker

1. What steps can Fatah and Hamas take to encourage unity among the Palestinian people?
2. Should Brazil's labor laws be reformed?
3. Should parents restrict children's access to social media?

Sixth Speaker

1. What can Russia do to decrease the incidence of terrorism within its borders?
2. Should the NAFTA countries revive efforts toward greater hemispheric integration?
3. Is America's fear of Chinese and Indian economic growth overblown?

Seventh Speaker

1. What is at the root of Germany's economic success?
2. Has Canada's Stephen Harper abandoned his conservative principles?
3. Should the Obama administration revive its efforts to close the detention center at Guantanamo Bay?

2011 State Extemp Topics

Finals

First Speaker

1. What changes will Ireland's new government bring to the country?
2. Is the international community's focus on events in the Middle East and Japan diverting attention from more important hot spots?
3. Has America's involvement in revolutionary movements in the Middle East been misguided?

Second Speaker

1. How important a role does the Chinese military play in the country's politics?
2. Is the Eurozone in danger of collapsing?
3. Is Wisconsin's budget battle a symbol of similar conflicts to come nationwide?

Third Speaker

1. What can the government of India do to reduce corruption there?
2. In the face of pressure from state governments, are labor unions gaining strength?
3. Should states and municipalities reconsider how they compensate government workers?

Fourth Speaker

1. What steps can be taken to curtail the activity of drug gangs in Central America?
2. Has NATO become an obstacle to United States foreign policy?
3. Has the federal government achieved lasting reform of the Securities and Exchange Commission?

Fifth Speaker

1. How will President Obama's relaxed restrictions on travel and remittances to Cuba impact the economy there?
2. Should colleges and universities heed Ralph Nader's call to eliminate college athletic scholarships?
3. Will hopes of EU membership bring Serbians and Kosovars to forge a more lasting peace?

Sixth Speaker

1. What policies can be adopted to better regulate the growing number of medical marijuana dispensaries?
2. Would menu nutrition labeling help combat obesity in America?
3. Is increased economic integration between China and Taiwan reducing the risk of conflict between the two nations?

Seventh Speaker

1. What steps can be taken to revive the Venezuelan economy?
2. Will threats by cities and school districts to close schools and fire teachers prompt a change in how schools are funded?
3. Should the United States encourage the resumption of direct negotiations with North Korea?

Extras

1. Should more stringent rules be imposed on international banks' management of the assets of world leaders?
2. Can Senegal's armed forces succeed in their efforts to integrate women?
3. Will the royal family succeed in suppressing protests by Shiites in Bahrain?
4. Is Iran strengthened by protests in the Arab world?
5. Can the rebel movement in Libya oust Gaddafi?
6. Are Middle Eastern governments doing enough to address the concerns of their Shiite populations?
7. Has the west forgotten the threat posed by Iran?
8. Has intervention in Libya helped or hurt Nicholas Sarkozy's political standing in France?
9. Will France ever bring Jacques Chirac to trial?
10. Is the far right gaining influence over European voters?
11. Should Italy act to slow immigration from North Africa?
12. Will Central Asian countries with predominantly Muslim populations face revolutionary movements in the way Arab nations have?
13. What steps should China take to restore the balance between the genders?
14. Can India be relied upon to keep a rising China in check?
15. Can growing protest movements make a difference in China?
16. Is the Rajapaksa family laying the groundwork for a political dynasty in Sri Lanka?
17. Is it time for the United States to withdraw from Afghanistan?
18. Should the administration of Manuel Zelaya be restored in Honduras?
19. Can Haiti's new President accelerate the rebuilding of the battered country?
20. Should the United States authorize American telecommunications companies to provide Internet services to Cuba?
21. Is Canada's lumber industry becoming less competitive?
22. Will Brazil's undersea oil exploration transform its economy?
23. How will the growth of evangelical Christianity in Central America change the political landscape there?
24. Will former Haitian dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier be brought to justice by the Haitian courts?
25. How will Rahm Emanuel differ than his predecessors as Mayor of Chicago?
26. Is abortion gaining strength as an issue in state-level politics?
27. Does the economic impact of college basketball's "March Madness" suggest we need similar events for other college sports?
28. Should physicians lessen their use of drugs in the treatment of chronic pain?
29. Are professional football players holding-out for too much in contract negotiations?
30. Should America worry about its fall in the Legatum Prosperity Index?
31. Did American intervention in Libya violate the US Constitution?
32. Is the United States moving too quickly to abandon authoritarian allies in the Middle East?
33. Does America's budget deficit justify a decrease in military spending?
34. Will the military's repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell result in improved recruitment for the armed services?
35. Should the United States exert more pressure on Saudi Arabia to reform politically?
36. Is the United States inconsistent in its promotion of democracy abroad?
37. Should the United States and China forge more direct military-to-military cooperation?
38. Is the United States military doing enough to protect soldiers from the risk of sexual assault?
39. Is NASA doing enough to mitigate the threat posed by "space junk"?
40. Is America's air traffic control system safe?
41. Should government place restrictions on the practice of data-mining?

42. Should high-speed rail be a higher governmental priority?
43. Will the Internet's "Groupon" revolutionize American commerce?
44. Is technology sufficiently advanced to allow the American economy to go fully paperless?
45. Will electrical cars catch-on with the American consumer?
46. Should America reform its system for patenting inventions?
47. Does Apple still dominate the market for innovation in tablet computers?
48. Should NASA extend the use of the space shuttle fleet?
49. Are American citizens ignorant of basic topics in civics?
50. Has the Obama administration's education policy helped or hurt public education?
51. Does the American media pay too much attention to the problems of Charlie Sheen and celebrities with similar challenges?
52. Should childhood depression be a serious cause for concern among physicians and educators?
53. Was the U.S. Supreme Court mistaken in its decision to uphold the rights of the Westboro Baptist Church in *Snyder v. Phelps*?
54. Should Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) be allowed to fund programs that school districts cannot afford?
55. Should other States model Georgia's "Drug Courts" in order to fight repeat offenses among drug abusers?
56. Will California's Proposition 8 ultimately be upheld after it completes its journey through the courts?