

## Oregon State Tournament – Extemp Questions

### Round One

#### **Speaker One**

1. Should African nations take a more leading role in resolving civil conflicts in neighboring states?
2. What is most needed to bring renewed political stability to Thailand?
3. Has the SAT outlived its usefulness to the educational system?

#### **Speaker Two**

1. Are Libyan rebel groups a significant threat to the stability of the young Libyan government?
2. What is the secret of the South Korean president's continuing popularity?
3. Are digital currencies, such as Bitcoin, good or bad for the world economy?

#### **Speaker Three**

1. Should Europe fear Russian aggression beyond the territory of Ukraine?
2. How will Egypt's suppression of the Muslim Brotherhood impact the future stability of the country?
3. Should the federal government tighten regulations over the transport of fuel and chemicals on the nation's railroads?

#### **Speaker Four**

1. Has the Malaysian government properly handled the crisis following the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines flight 370?
2. How is the rising problem of organized extortion impacting the Mexican economy?
3. Can the Republican Party retake control of the U.S. Senate?

#### **Speaker Five**

1. Is Mexico making significant progress in its war against drug cartels?
2. What steps should the Food and Drug Administration take to improve labeling on food packaging?
3. Does the attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi still haunt Hillary Clinton?

#### **Speaker Six**

1. Are prospects for a Israeli-Palestinian peace accord improving?
2. What factors most account for the decline in Americans ending pregnancies through abortion?
3. Was President Obama correct in labeling Russia a regional power instead of a world power?

#### **Speaker Seven**

1. Are hardliners limiting the options of Hassan Rouhani to advance reforms in Iran?
2. What can be done to control the rising price of medicine?
3. Is the African National Congress' dominance of South African politics slowly beginning to unravel?

## **Round Two**

### **Speaker One**

1. Do American voters take Joe Biden seriously enough for him to be a viable presidential contender in 2016?
2. What can California do to combat its significant drop in water supply?
3. Does the defeat of the Parti Quebecois in provincial elections mean the death of the separatist movement in Quebec?

### **Speaker Two**

1. Should states adopt President Obama's proposed minimum wage increase?
2. What can be done to combat the threat of toxic coal ash on the environment?
3. Can Pakistan succeed in achieving peace through negotiation with the Pakistani Taliban?

### **Speaker Three**

1. Can the United States defend itself against foreseeable threats under proposed force reductions?
2. What can President Obama do to advance the cause of criminal justice reform?

### **Speaker Four**

1. Should e-mail users have an expectation of privacy from government surveillance?
2. Why does public support for the death penalty seem to be decreasing?
3. Is Britain likely to hold a referendum on continued EU membership?

### **Speaker Five**

1. Should American higher education turn to place a greater emphasis on vocational and career training?
2. What is the significance of the discovery of a new dwarf planet at the edge of our solar system?
3. Is China's anti-corruption campaign succeeding?

### **Speaker Six**

1. Is Chris Christie succeeding at putting "Bridgegate" behind him?
2. What can the United States do to improve chilled relations with Saudi Arabia?
3. Does Spain's Basque separatist movement, ETA, really intend to disarm?

### **Speaker Seven**

1. Is Obamacare good or bad for America's seniors?
2. How can the process of providing discipline at public schools be made more consistent?
3. Is there a workable solution to Syria's civil war?

## Semifinals

### **Speaker One**

1. Are the European Union's climate change goals unreasonable?
2. What can the federal government do to reduce significant delays at America's airports?
3. Is Detroit's bankruptcy the first of many municipal bankruptcies to come?

### **Speaker Two**

1. Is Sudan withering under the rule of Omar al-Bashir?
2. How can companies use advances in technology to better combat the problem of identity theft?
3. Would banning child labor in Bolivia help children and their families out of poverty or make the problem worse?

### **Speaker Three**

1. Has the NATO alliance lost its credibility?
2. How is the increase in so-called "concierge physicians" going to impact America's health care system?
3. Can President Pena Nieto and his team bring successful economic reforms to Mexico?

### **Speaker Four**

1. Is Hamid Karzai's leadership in Afghanistan bad for the stability of his country?
2. With recent outbreaks of Mumps, Measles, and other common childhood diseases, what steps can be taken to increase the number of parents vaccinating their children?
3. Does China have the capability of limiting its significant pollution levels?

### **Speaker Five**

1. Are Venezuela's opposition parties sufficiently organized to pose a threat to the government of Nicolas Maduro?
2. What is the significance of recent court decisions invalidating state-level prohibitions on same-sex marriage?
3. Are Putin's recent actions in Ukraine an attempt to divert Russian attention away from the country's domestic problems?

### **Speaker Six**

1. Is the world on the brink of another "Cold War"?
2. What can President Obama do to bring entitlement spending under control?
3. Why is Germany opposed to economic sanctions against Russia?

### **Speaker Seven**

1. Is Abdul Fattah al-Sisi likely to become Egypt's next elected president?
2. Why do members of Congress have such a hard time coming to agreement on the federal budget?
3. Is Brazil's recent economic success beginning to dissolve?

## **Finals**

### **Speaker One**

1. Is cable news to blame for America's polarized politics?
2. How will Australia's policy toward asylum-seekers impact its relations with its Asian neighbors?
3. A year into her tenure as CEO, is Marissa Mayer succeeding at keeping Yahoo! a competitive brand?

### **Speaker Two**

1. Are other states likely to follow Colorado and legalize recreational marijuana use?
2. How could oil and gas deposits in the Eastern Mediterranean change the politics of the Middle East?
3. Are American communications services, such as cable, Internet, and satellite, controlled by too few companies?

### **Speaker Three**

1. Over a decade after 9/11, does global airline security still have significant gaps?
2. What is the significance of Switzerland's decision to impose quotas on immigration from European Union countries?
3. Will Facebook's acquisition of Oculus help improve the company's profitability?

### **Speaker Four**

1. Should private citizens and corporations be allowed to operate aerial drones?
2. How will the outcome of April's state-level elections impact the power and influence of India's top political parties?
3. What will be the impact of slowing global trade on the U.S. economy?

### **Speaker Five**

1. Should the effectiveness of an education be measured based on whether a graduate succeeds at getting a good job?
2. What can the government of Guatemala do to slow the growth of violent crime in that country?
3. How can Ukraine's new leadership honor the democratic goals of its recent revolution?

### **Speaker Six**

1. Has near constant infighting among members of Congress helped or hurt members' individual prospects of reelection?
2. How has Pope Francis' leadership changed the view of the Vatican toward the world?
3. Is Africa's population growth helping or undermining its prosperity?

### **Speaker Seven**

1. Is the United States doing enough to combat income inequality among its citizens?
2. What steps are required to make Algeria's democracy more competitive?
3. Is Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) for meat products bad for U.S. relations with its trading partners?

## Extras

1. Should the world community react more strongly against countries like Uganda and Nigeria who adopt harsh anti-homosexual laws?
2. Amidst criticism of recent Russian decisions at home and abroad, was the Olympic movement represented well by Russia's hosting of the games in Sochi?
3. Is Kenya emerging as one of the leading nations of Africa?
4. Can the reinforced UN peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo succeed at its mission?
5. Has Yemen's Conference of National Dialog succeed in improving national unity?
6. Does South Sudan's civil war threaten to undermine its fragile peace with Sudan?
7. Have recent actions by Turkey's AK Party undermined Turkey's claim to success as an Islamic democracy?
8. Can Francois Hollande succeed at reviving the French economy?
9. Can Nicholas Sarkozy make a comeback in French politics?
10. Do the latest round of talks aimed at reunifying Cyprus hold any hope of success?
11. Does America's continued presence in Afghanistan hinder the end of the civil war there?
12. Should Shinzo Abe apologize for his recent visit to the Yasukuni Shrine?
13. Is the Aam Aadmi party becoming a strong political force in India?
14. Should China's neighbors fear its fast-growing defense budget?
15. Can the Philippine government maintain the fragile peace in Mindanao?
16. Does China share responsibility for North Korean abuses of human rights?
17. Will Argentina default on its foreign debt?
18. Should Columbia continue its efforts to reach a negotiated settlement with the FARC?
19. Can Mexico's PRI weather the current sex scandal undermining its reputation?
20. Is El Salvador taking a turn to the left politically?
21. Should Venezuela's neighbors intervene to bring greater stability to that country?
22. Should the United States be more actively pressing for the return of Alan Gross from Cuba?
23. Is Ben Carson a likely contender for the Republican presidential nomination in 2016?
24. Should it be a criminal offense to lie in a political campaign?
25. Are younger voters becoming more inclined toward the Democratic Party?
26. Will voters this fall be more inclined than normal to vote against incumbents?
27. Is voter support for gay marriage rapidly increasing in the United States?
28. Is gender bias still a significant problem in America's businesses?
29. With the death of Fred Phelps, will Westboro Baptist Church remain an active protest group?
30. Is the Trans-Pacific Partnership for free trade with Asia a good idea?
31. Is the United States nuclear missile stockpile safe?
32. Is it time, as President Obama has said, for the United State to "move off a permanent war footing" with respect to terrorism?
33. With respect to Iran is it wiser for the United States to expand or reduce sanctions?
34. Should the United States provide arms to Syria's rebels?
35. Is it time for America to close the detention center at Guantanamo Bay?
36. Is America's growing energy independence straining its relationship with its Persian Gulf allies?
37. Should U.S. intelligence services be more transparent about their use of electronic surveillance?
38. Is the military capable of handling cases of sexual assault among its personnel?
39. Does Mark Zuckerberg's dream of using drones, satellites, and lasers to extend the Internet's research worldwide have any basis in reality?
40. Are scientists closer to developing "synthetic life"?
41. Will President Obama's executive actions to curb methane emissions have much impact?
42. Can Tesla Motors anticipate continued growth in sales?
43. Are the growing number of prominent heroines in literature for youth good for the self-image of young women?
44. Should the federal government take a more active role in curtailing the public's consumption of added sugar?
45. Is technology helping or hurting America's educational system?
46. Should the execution of mentally disabled inmates be limited?
47. Should police change their policies regarding armed response to threats?

48. Is public support for the death penalty declining?
49. Will courts continue to uphold Texas' restrictive abortion law?
50. Should the Secret Service be held "above the law" when it comes to responding to perceived security threats?
51. Is public resistance to the Common Core Curriculum justified?