

Yale 2009 Extemp Questions

Round 1. Domestic Politics

101. Is the Birther movement undermining the Republican Party?
102. How will the 2010 midterm elections affect the House?
103. Does a supermajority in the Senate reflect the will of the American public?
104. Is Obama going to help or hurt Congressional Democrats in 2010?
105. Will the climate bill pass through the Senate?
106. Should Massachusetts have appointed an interim senator to replace Ted Kennedy?
107. Is Harry Reid in danger of losing re-election to the Senate?
108. What would signal a resurgence of the GOP?
109. Can the Democratic party remain united as Obama tackles contentious issues?
110. Should President Obama focus less on global opinion and more on achieving America's goals?
111. What strategy holds the most promise for Republicans to gain Congressional seats in the 2010 midterm elections?
112. How is the White House relationship with news media influencing the success of its agenda?

Round 2. The Developing World

201. Should Alvaro Uribe be allowed to run for a third term as president of Columbia?
202. What role should Hezbollah play in the Lebanese government?
203. What effect is Rahul Gandhi's star power having on Indian politics?
204. Should the developed world increase foreign aid to Africa?
205. What can be done to repair fraying relations between India and Pakistan?
206. Will further sanctions against Iran be effective in deterring their nuclear ambitions?
207. Should the People's Republic China take a more active political role on the world stage?
208. What can the developed world do to help the developing world better prepare for natural disasters?
209. How will Brazil benefit from hosting the 2016 olympics?
210. Should the developing world be allocated more seats/voting shares in the IMF and the World Bank?
211. How can emerging economies gain more power within the global economy?
212. Should there be a NATO of the south?

Round 3. US Foreign Policy

301. Does the US have a responsibility to assist other nations in their attempts to prepare for a potential H1N1 flu pandemic?
302. Does Netanyahu's prime ministership make progress on Arab-Israeli peace impossible?
303. Can the United States push Myanmar's military junta towards democracy?
304. Does home-grown terrorism pose a greater threat to the United States than foreign terrorism?
305. Will a troop surge in Afghanistan reduce the threat of Islamic militancy in that region?
306. Should the US continue its phased withdrawal from Iraq?
307. Should the US remove its embargo from Cuba?
308. Is the United States ready for Iran's emergence as a regional power?
309. Should the United States continue to support Plan Columbia?
310. How can the United States work with the international community to enhance governance and transparency in global economies?
311. By formulating alternative foreign policy, are members of the GOP undermining U.S. diplomatic efforts?

312. How will Obama's decision to reconfigure the proposed missile shield in Eastern Europe impact domestic security?

Round 4. Domestic Policy & Law

- 401. What explains the Supreme Court's shrinking docket?
- 402. Does the partisanship of the Supreme Court confirmation process hurt the quality of appointees?
- 403. Should the federal government mandate that all companies provide retirement accounts for employees?
- 404. Should CIA opposition sway the president's desire to prosecute the agency's interrogators?
- 405. Should the government continue its crack down on advertising of off-label uses of drugs?
- 406. Will the Supreme Court's business-heavy dock prove a challenge for Justice Sotomayor?
- 407. Will the Supreme Court declare the McCain-Feingold Act unconstitutional?
- 408. Should undocumented immigrants in good standing be given the opportunity to become citizens?
- 409. Does the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act effectively protect children from the dangers of smoking?
- 410. Should anti-discrimination employment laws be expanded to include sexual orientation and gender identity?
- 411. Should there be increased federal leadership in the enforcement of the Olmstead decision?
- 412. Should education laws be expanded to mandate one year of higher education or job training?

ECONOMICS

- Q01. What structural changes are needed in the global financial system and institutions to protect against future crises?
- Q02. How should governments deal with growing deficits and rising levels of unemployment?
- Q03. What will be the fallout of the brewing US-Chinese trade war?
- Q04. How should policy makers act in order to foster domestic growth?
- Q05. Would Obama's proposed health care overhaul create jobs?
- Q06. Should companies take it upon themselves to enforce above market labor and environmental standards, or is that the responsibility of government?
- Q07. Will the extension of the cash for clunkers program prove effective?
- Q08. Has the Recovery Act proven successful?
- Q09. How will the passage of the CARD Act of 2009 impact consumer access to credit?
- Q10. Can the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission effectively investigate questionable financial practices?
- Q11. Is the increasing US savings rate crimping global economic recovery?

SEMIS-THE DEVELOPED WORD

- S01. How can Italian opposition leaders best undermine Silvio Berlusconi?
- S02. How will the new "black-yellow" government change Germany?
- S03. Are prisoner exchanges in Israel's best interest?
- S04. Will Croatia be successful in its bid for EU membership?
- S05. Should Gordon Brown take part in a TV debate with other party leaders ahead of the election?
- S06. Assuming that Ireland votes "yes", how will the Lisbon Treaty affect the lives of

people living in the EU states?

S07. What will Angela Merkel's reelection mean for Europe?

S08. Can Russia work effectively with the United States to prevent nuclear proliferation in Iran?

S09. Has Japan's recent election proven to be revolutionary?

S10. Can French pressure force Tehran to prove that it isn't building a nuclear arsenal?

S11. Can the current Canadian government survive the year?

S12. Should developed countries have more liberal immigration policies?

Finals. Health Care

F01. Is the US prepared for the outbreak of potential pandemics?

F02. Can health care reform be effective without a public option?

F03. Why is the public option in danger politically despite being popular with voters?

F04. Why has the health care debate become so divisive?

F05. Is a national version of the "Massachusetts Plan" the solution to the current health care debate?

F06. What action should the federal government take to fight America's childcare obesity crisis?

F07. Can products and services developed abroad improve American health care?

F08. Will the current health care overhaul require substantial tax increases?

F09. Should Washington model health care reform after the Swiss system?

F10. Should the federal government start nonprofit, member-run co-ops?

F11. Will seniors see a decrease in their current entitlement benefits as a result of health care reform?

F12. Does Gov. Schwarzenegger's failure to implement universal health coverage in California provide lessons for the national effort?