

University Interscholastic League
Current Issues & Events Contest
Invitational A • 2008

1. Texas Gov. Rick Perry endorsed this GOP presidential hopeful.
 - A. Mike Huckabee
 - B. Mitt Romney
 - C. Rudy Giuliani
 - D. Fred Thompson

2. Why did major makers of over-the-counter infant cough and cold medicines withdraw their products from the market?
 - A. Company officials fear that they could be misused.
 - B. Research indicates that the medicine might contribute to incidences of autism.
 - C. Some cough syrup was contaminated with an industrial chemical.
 - D. Teens distill cough syrup to make illegal drugs.

3. What was the cause of the crash of an airliner that killed 89 people on Thailand's resort island of Phuket?
 - A. miscommunication between flight controllers and the plane's pilots
 - B. pilot error
 - C. mechanical failure
 - D. wind shear

4. Which statement **IS NOT TRUE**?
 - A. A comprehensive global study of abortion has concluded that abortion rates are similar in countries where it is legal and those where it is not, suggesting that outlawing the procedure does little to deter women seeking it.
 - B. A state appeals court tossed out the aggravated battery conviction that could have sent a black teenager to prison for 15 years in the beating of a white classmate in the racially tense Louisiana town of Jena.
 - C. Deaths from cancer have risen by an average of 2.1 percent a year recently in the U.S., a near doubling of increases that began in 1993, researchers reported.
 - D. Afghanistan is suffering its most violent year since the 2001 U.S.-led intervention, according to an internal United Nations report that sharply contrasts with upbeat appraisals by President Bush and his Afghan counterpart, Hamid Karzai.

5. This GOP presidential hopeful is a U.S. senator from Kansas.
 - A. Mike Huckabee
 - B. Sam Brownback
 - C. Duncan Hunter
 - D. Tom Tancredo

6. A troubled Norristown, Pennsylvania teenager was accused of plotting a school attack. What was unique about the case?
 - A. The teenager was a girl.
 - B. The teenager was Amish, and the attack was planned at an Amish school.
 - C. The teen's mother was arrested on charges of buying weapons for her son.
 - D. The teen had plotted the attack against his school's cross-town rival in order to affect the outcome of a high school football game.

7. A former executive with this communications giant said the U.S. federal government withdrew a \$200 million contract after the company refused to participate in a National Security Agency program that the company's top lawyer said was illegal.
- A. Verizon
B. AT&T
C. BellSouth
D. Qwest
8. President Bush selected Michael Mukasey to replace this person.
- A. Alberto Gonzales
B. Tony Snow
C. Karl Rove
D. Dan Bartlett
9. International medical personnel and supplies were airlifted to a remote region of central Congo to combat what threatens to become the world's most serious outbreak of this deadly virus in years.
- A. Marburg
B. West Nile
C. Ebola
D. Lassa
10. Which statement **IS NOT TRUE**?
- A. Reacting to a congressional uproar about the disclosure of secret Justice Department legal opinions permitting the harsh interrogation of terrorism suspects, President Bush declared, "This government does not torture people."
B. A federal judge struck down portions of the USA Patriot Act and ordered the FBI to stop obtaining e-mail and telephone data from private companies for counterterrorism investigations without a warrant.
C. The U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear an appeal filed on behalf of a German citizen of Lebanese descent who claims he was abducted by U.S. agents and tortured while imprisoned in Afghanistan.
D. Children who regularly see doctors get the right care less than half the time, whether it's pre-school shots or Chlamydia tests for teen girls, research shows.
11. Track star Marion Jones returned her five gold medals won during the 2000 Sydney, Olympics. Why?
- A. She admitted using steroids.
B. She pled guilty to lying to federal agents about her drug use.
C. both of the above.
D. neither of the above
12. Who won the 2007 Nobel Prize for Literature?
- A. Doris Lessing
B. Cormac McCarthy
C. Sena Jeter Naslund
D. Joseph Heller
13. What reason did President Bush give for vetoing a \$35 billion expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program?
- A. Insurance for children was covered in an earlier Medicare/Medicaid bill the President signed last year.
B. The bill was a move to "federalize health care."
C. The bill removed too many children from the program.
D. all of the above

14. The Chilean Supreme Court ruled that Alberto Fujimori, the former president of _____ must be extradited back to his homeland to face human rights and corruption charges.
- A. Brazil
B. Argentina
C. Uruguay
D. Peru
15. This organization was roundly criticized for a newspaper ad taken out in *The New York Times* that assailed U.S. Army Gen. Peter Petraeus and accused him of “cooking the books” on progress in Iraq.
- A. MeetwithCindy.org
B. Iraq Veterans Against the War
C. MoveOn.org
D. United for Peace & Justice
16. Members of the U.S. House of Representatives withdrew their support for a resolution supported by Democratic leadership that would have condemned as genocide the mass killings of Armenians nearly a century ago. Why?
- A. The resolution antagonized Turkish leaders.
B. President Bush promised to veto the resolution.
C. The resolution was strongly opposed by House speaker Nancy Pelosi.
D. all of the above
17. In October, James D. Watson, who shared the 1962 Nobel Prize for deciphering the double helix of DNA, apologized “unreservedly” for his comments that suggested the following:
- A. that blacks are not as intelligent as whites
B. that skin color and sex drive are connected
C. that God is a fantasy, and that religion is a means of control
D. that women are not emotionally stable enough to serve in the military or lead countries
18. Which statement **IS NOT** true?
- A. Retired Texas educators received an extra monthly pension check in January, the first increase in benefits since 2001.
B. Scientists have amassed persuasive evidence that drinking alcohol — any form of alcohol, even in large amounts — poses little serious threat to your health.
C. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said that the housing crisis poses a significant risk to the economy and called for Congress and private mortgage companies to move more quickly to help.
D. A B-52 bomber mistakenly armed with live nuclear missiles flew from an airbase in Louisiana to an airbase in North Dakota.
19. What was the major roadblock in the passing of legislation overhauling the nation’s electronic surveillance rules?
- A. tax breaks for giant telecommunications companies
B. anti-union provisions within the legislation
C. failure to provide liability protection for companies that secretly helped the Bush administration eavesdrop on terror suspects without warrants after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.
D. provisions banning domestic spying against U.S. citizens without a court warrant

20. Forty-seven GOP House members urged Atty. Gen. Michael Mukasey to conduct an “unbiased review” of the case of Jose Alonzo Compean and Ignacio Ramos. Who are Compean and Ramos?
- A. Mexican nationals held in U.S. jails for more than three years without charges being filed. According to the Bush administration, the two are terror suspects.
 - B. Border Patrol agents serving more than 10 years in prison for wounding a Mexican drug dealer who had entered the U.S. illegally in a van with more than 700 pounds of marijuana
 - C. U.S. soldiers imprisoned after being convicted in the revenge murder of an Iraqi man, his wife and two children
 - D. Los Angeles teens caught with traces of crack cocaine in their possession but sentenced to life in prison under California’s strict “Three Strikes” law
21. Who is Haleh Esfandiari?
- A. the winner of the 2007 Nobel Prize for Peace
 - B. Iran’s top nuclear negotiator who resigned in October. He was viewed as more moderate than President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.
 - C. the former Pakistani Prime Minister who was almost killed when two bombs exploded about 10 yards from the truck ferrying her through crowds of supporters
 - D. an American scholar accused of promoting revolution in Iran and imprisoned there for more than four months
22. Which statement about Ron Paul **IS NOT TRUE**?
- A. He is a Congressman from Lake Jackson, Texas.
 - B. He has argued that U.S. intervention in the Middle East has provoked terrorism.
 - C. He has campaigned for a return to the gold standard and the need to dismantle the Federal Reserve.
 - D. He is a strong supporter of President Bush’s war against al Qaeda in Iraq.
23. The FBI, working with an oil contractor, secretly taped telephone calls with this U.S. senator — the longest-serving Republican member of the Senate — as part of a public corruption sting.
- A. Robert Byrd of West Virginia
 - B. Daniel Inouye of Hawaii
 - C. Ted Stevens of Alaska
 - D. Pete Domenici of New Mexico
24. Who is Erik Prince?
- A. Texas state education commissioner
 - B. the chief executive officer of Blackwater USA
 - C. pedophilia suspect shown in Internet photos abusing young boys
 - D. the stone-faced comic and last survivor of Frank Sinatra’s infamous “Rat Pack”
25. To what did the Bush administration credit the shrinking federal budget deficit, which fell to \$162.8 billion, the lowest amount of red ink in five years?
- A. reduced spending on the war in Iraq
 - B. more efficient tax collection procedures
 - C. the president’s tax cuts
 - D. Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid reforms

26. Israel's air strike on Syria in September was directed against a site that Israeli and U.S. intelligence analysts judged was _____.
- A. a partially constructed nuclear reactor
 - B. an al-Qaeda training facility
 - C. a staging area for Sunni insurgents infiltrating Iraq
 - D. an airfield used by Iranian operatives assisting Shiite insurgents in and around Baghdad
27. Las Vegas police arrested O.J. Simpson and charged the former football star with six felony counts in connection with _____.
- A. an alleged hotel-room robbery
 - B. a plan to purchase and distribute cocaine and black tar heroin
 - C. the murder of his wife and another man
 - D. failure to pay compensatory damages to the family of his former wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and to the family of Ron Goldman
28. This person is considered the "swing" vote on the U.S. Supreme Court.
- A. Anthony Scalia
 - B. Clarence Thomas
 - C. Anthony Kennedy
 - D. Samuel Alito
29. Federal officials from the U.S. Department of Justice announced they would review the acquittal of seven persons in the death of a Florida black teenager. What made this case special?
- A. The teen, an honor student and highly recruited basketball player, was killed by white supremacists after a confrontation at an Orlando convenience store.
 - B. The teen collapsed while running laps and was hit and kicked by guards at a Panama City boot camp. He died the next day.
 - C. The 19-year-old had just returned to the U.S. after his first tour in Iraq, where he won several decorations for bravery.
 - D. The guards charged were former U.S. soldiers now working for the Blackwater security firm.
30. Conservation groups strenuously opposed plans by the Texas Land Board to sell _____ near the Big Bend National Park.
- A. Fort Lancaster
 - B. the Christmas Mountains
 - C. the Davis Mountain Indian Lodge
 - D. Seminole Canyon
31. Who is the U.S. Secretary of Defense?
- A. Robert Gates
 - B. Condoleezza Rice
 - C. Michael Chertoff
 - D. Stephen Hadley
32. Texas' highest criminal appeals court stood by a decision to dismiss a conspiracy charge against this former high-ranking Texas legislator. The charges stem from allegations that \$190,000 in corporate contributions was illegally funneled to Republican candidates in Texas House races in 2002.
- A. John Sharp
 - B. Richard Armev
 - C. Tom DeLay
 - D. Dan Morales

33. Long the only welcoming country in the region for Iraqi refugees, this country has closed its borders to all but a small group of Iraqis and imposed new visa rules that will legally require the 1.5 million Iraqis currently there to return to Iraq.
- A. Iran
B. Lebanon
- C. Jordan
D. Syria
34. Who wrote of the 2006 mid-term elections, "The Republicans in Congress lost their way. They swapped principle for power. They ended up with neither. They deserved to lose."
- A. I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby
B. Karl Rove
- C. Newt Gingrich
D. Alan Greenspan
35. A lawsuit was filed by three of this university's former professors, who say they lost their jobs after reporting that the university president and his family lavishly spent school money for personal expenses.
- A. Liberty University
B. Oral Roberts University
- C. Bob Jones University
D. Spelman College
36. Who said there were no homosexuals in Iran and that the Nazi slaughter of 6 million Jews should not be treated as fact, but theory, and therefore open to debate and more research?
- A. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the president of Iran
B. Osama bin Laden
C. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's religious leader
D. Mohammad Javad Zarif, Iran's ambassador to the United Nations
37. The government of Iraq's Kurdish region signed a gas and oil production-sharing contract with a unit of this Dallas-based oil company, triggering fears the deal could undermine the Iraqi national government in Baghdad.
- A. Amerada Hess
B. Marathon Oil
- C. Hunt Oil Co.
D. Aera Energy
38. Which statement **IS NOT TRUE**?
- A. The Marine Corps wants to remove its forces from Iraq and send marines to Afghanistan to take over the lead role in combat there, senior military officials said.
B. Prime Minister Gordon Brown said he would remove half of the 5,000 British troops in Iraq by next spring and suggested that all British soldiers would leave by the end of 2008.
C. A dangerous staph germ kills more people in the U.S. each year than the AIDS virus, federal health officials reported.
D. A report on the quality of women's health care gives Texas high marks in nearly all areas. They found that Texas had the third lowest percentage of women ages 18 to 64 without health insurance — fewer than 10 percent, compared with 18 percent nationally.
39. The conservative prime minister of _____ won re-election by a slim margin, despite heavy voter dissatisfaction in a nation that was wracked by deadly forest fires last summer.
- A. Italy
B. Greece
- C. Spain
D. Portugal

40. Which statement regarding the White House-sponsored climate conference, held in Washington D.C., **IS NOT TRUE**?
- A. The conference included representatives of the nations that are the world's biggest emitters of greenhouse gases.
 - B. President Bush called for stronger U.N.-mandated cuts in greenhouse gases.
 - C. President Bush called for a new fund that would pay for clean-energy projects in poor countries.
 - D. A number of the delegates at the conference criticized the President's plan, calling him "isolated" and questioning his leadership on the problem of global warming.

Essay Question

After the two-day Values Voter Summit in Washington D.C., Gary L. Bauer, an influential Christian conservative leader and former Republican candidate for president in 2000, said, "I don't think the question is anywhere close to settled. I think it's going to play out over the next several months."

Explain what "it" is, and why "it's" going to play out over the next several months.

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Answer Key

- | | |
|-------|-------|
| 1. C | 21. D |
| 2. A | 22. D |
| 3. D | 23. C |
| 4. C | 24. B |
| 5. B | 25. C |
| 6. C | 26. A |
| 7. D | 27. A |
| 8. A | 28. C |
| 9. C | 29. B |
| 10. C | 30. B |
| 11. C | 31. A |
| 12. A | 32. C |
| 13. B | 33. D |
| 14. D | 34. D |
| 15. C | 35. B |
| 16. A | 36. A |
| 17. A | 37. C |
| 18. B | 38. D |
| 19. C | 39. B |
| 20. B | 40. B |

CLARIFICATIONS

4. C. Deaths from cancer have fallen.
10. C. The Supreme Court declined to hear the appeal filed on behalf of the German citizen.
18. B. Scientists say even moderate consumption of alcohol can pose a serious threat to your health.
22. D. Paul opposes the war in Iraq.
38. D. The report gives Texas failing or unsatisfactory grades in nearly all areas.
40. B. President Bush opposes U.N.-mandated cuts in greenhouse gases. He called for a worldwide fund that would pay for clean-energy projects in poor countries.

ESSAY POINTS

The Religious Right and so-called "values voters" are unhappy with almost all of the GOP candidates. Pat Robertson has endorsed Rudy Giuliani despite his liberal views on social issues and his messy personal life. Many Christian conservatives have yet to warm to Mitt Romney because he is a Mormon and because he has changed his stance on abortion and gay rights. They like former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee but do not believe he is strong enough to defeat Hillary Clinton in the general election.

Influential Christian broadcaster James Dobson says he won't support Fred Thompson because he thinks Thompson is weak on social issues. John McCain's campaign has floundered down the stretch. Ron Paul is an unknown. Some Christian conservatives say a third party candidate may yet emerge. The great fear among "values" voters is that they will be divided in 2008 and thus marginalized.