



UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Making a World of Difference

CURRENT ISSUES & EVENTS

 @UILCIANDE

2022 • INVITATIONAL B

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- 1. After Angela Merkel's 16-year-tenure, center-left leader Olaf Scholz became the ninth post-World War II chancellor of what country Dec. 8, 2021?**
 - a. Austria
 - b. Germany
 - c. Switzerland
 - d. Finland
- 2. How many congressional seats did Texas gain in the 2020 Census due to massive population growth?**
 - a. 1
 - b. 2
 - c. 3
 - d. 4
- 3. "The individual was at higher risk of severe complications from COVID-19 due to his unvaccinated status and had underlying health conditions," a press release from Harris County Public Health said Dec. 21, 2021. He was the first confirmed death related to what in the United States?**
 - a. the delta variant
 - b. a trial pill from Pfizer, Paxlovid
 - c. a reaction from the mRNA vaccine
 - d. the omicron variant
- 4. Levar Burton. Katie Couric. Aaron Rogers. George Stephanopoulos. All were trial hosts. However, it was Executive Producer Mike Richards and Big Bang Theory actor Mayim Bialik who were named hosts of what popular television show?**
 - a. Jeopardy!
 - b. Saturday Night Live
 - c. Family Feud
 - d. The Price is Right
- 5. On Sept. 1, 2021, 666 new Texas laws went into effect including SB8 related to abortion. Which of the following is true of this law?**
 - a. It only allows abortions after six weeks of pregnancy when a fetal heartbeat can be detected, and a woman can be sure she's pregnant.
 - b. It only allows abortions in the cases of rape or when the mother's life is in jeopardy.
 - c. In lieu of government enforcement, private individuals can sue abortion providers or people who assist in an abortion.
 - d. It takes into account family income when determining whether a woman can have an abortion.
- 6. For the second year, teen use of electronic cigarettes did what?**
 - a. fell sharply (down 19.6% from 2020)
 - b. fell slightly (<1%)
 - c. increased slightly (about 1%)
 - d. increased dramatically (up 27.5%)

- 7. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott directed the Texas Education Agency, which does not employ law enforcement officers, to investigate criminal activity related to what activity in public schools?**
- availability of materials related to critical race theory
 - availability of library news sources such as *The New York Times*
 - availability of drug paraphernalia in schools
 - availability of pornographic books
- 8. According to a report from the U.S. Office of Special Counsel, 13 senior Trump administration officials violated the Hatch Act. What is the Hatch Act?**
- a 1965 law that seeks to provide affirmative action in government positions
 - a 1939 law that seeks to keep government functions nonpartisan
 - a 1983 law that prohibits current and past federal employees from lobbying
 - a 2002 landmark piece of legislation created to deter and punish terrorist acts
- 9. The City Council of Charlottesville, Virginia, voted to donate a statue of Robert E. Lee to an African American heritage center. That center plans to do what with it?**
- Place it in a museum.
 - Create a new row of statues and put it next to a statue of Malcolm X.
 - Sell it, using funds for a new building focusing on early American art.
 - Melt it down into material for a new piece of art.
- 10. U.S. President Joe Biden’s reaction to the deaths of U.S. service members in late August was what?**
- “We will not forgive. We will not forget. We will hunt you down and make you pay.”
 - “Today, our nation saw evil — the very worst of human nature — and we responded with the best of America.”
 - “Yesterday, a day that will live in infamy, the United States was suddenly and deliberately attacked. May God have mercy upon my enemies, because I won’t.”
 - “Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.”
- 11. Hurricane Ida made landfall as a Category 4 storm, Aug. 29, 2021, 16 years after Hurricane Katrina made landfall. Which of the following is also true about Ida?**
- It was the strongest storm to make landfall in the continental United States.
 - It set a record for the highest wind speeds ever recorded by a storm in August.
 - It tied for the strongest storm on record to make landfall in Louisiana.
 - More people lost power because of Ida than any other storm in recorded history.
- 12. Texas HB3979 prohibits social studies teachers specifically from what?**
- discussing any current events
 - including Caesar Chavez, Frederick Douglass, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Ona Judge in the curriculum
 - teaching the history of Native Americans
 - requiring an understanding of the 1619 project
- 13. The Supreme Court of what nation ruled that criminalizing abortion is illegal?**
- Belize
 - Honduras
 - Cuba
 - Mexico

- 14. The World Health Organization last October began recommending widespread use of the RTS,S/AS01, a vaccine that it said would reduce deadly, severe cases of what disease by 30%?**
- malaria
 - Ebola
 - COVID-19
 - cholera
- 15. Texas law requires people to provide their dogs with adequate shelter from extreme weather. On Oct. 19, 2021, in Senate Bill 5, legislators added more strict enforcement concerning what?**
- dog racing
 - puppy farms
 - tethering of dogs
 - betting on dogs in any form or fashion
- 16. What company changed its parent company name to a new name focused on “the metaverse”?**
- Pinterest
 - Disney
 - Facebook
 - Tencent
- 17. “Let’s go Brandon” became a chant for what group?**
- supporters of using American oil
 - conservatives against Joe Biden
 - opponents of NASCAR
 - followers who support Brandon Brown for president
- 18. An influx of some 10,000 migrants mostly originally from Haiti led to squalor and tensions under a bridge and a dispirited town in Texas beyond it. Where?**
- Laredo
 - Del Rio
 - Matamoros
 - El Paso
- 19. As people cautiously come back to the theaters, what movie from Disney (Marvel) set a new domestic box office record for Labor Day weekend surpassing the \$30 million “Halloween” made in 2007?**
- “Encanto”
 - “Don’t Look Up”
 - “F9: The Fast Saga”
 - “Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings”
- 20. It is expected to be able to observe things that happened 13.7 billion years ago at the beginning of the universe after being put into space on Christmas Day. What?**
- the Hubble 2 Telescope
 - the James Webb Telescope
 - the Matrix
 - the Blue Origin Enterprise

- 21. Making it the chain's first unionized shop, workers at what store in Buffalo, New York, decided to unionize?**
 - a. Target
 - b. Dunkin'
 - c. Starbucks
 - d. Buffalo Wild Wings

- 22. The three white men who chased down and killed Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year-old Black man who was jogging through their Georgia neighborhood last year, were convicted on what charges?**
 - a. murder and other charges
 - b. larceny
 - c. carrying a weapon without a license
 - d. none

- 23. Trying to distance the company from remarks made by the former CEO, Papa John's is changing its logo and making a change to its name. What's the change to the name?**
 - a. Topsy Tomato
 - b. Pizza Peddlers
 - c. Papa Johns
 - d. Pie in the Sky

- 24. Now, 186 countries offer it. Six countries, including the United States, don't. But if Biden's Build Back Better plan becomes law, the U.S. will be among the rich nations that offer what?**
 - a. national paid family and medical leave
 - b. a national abortion policy giving women choice in all 50 states
 - c. a national minimum wage of \$15
 - d. a tax on billionaires

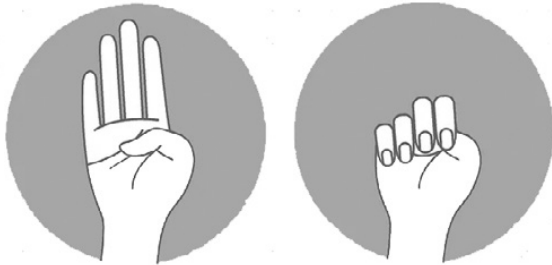
- 25. Suspected to be the 400 Mawozo street gang, the gang kidnapped a group of 17 American and Canadian missionaries and asked for \$1 million each for their release. Where?**
 - a. Equador
 - b. Kenya
 - c. Belgium
 - d. Haiti

- 26. August 2021 was the driest and hottest August on record since the state began reporting data. What state is experiencing its worst drought since 1800s?**
 - a. Texas
 - b. California
 - c. Oregon
 - d. New Mexico

- 27. Texas Republicans will be able to redraw politically advantageous district maps without federal oversight for the first time in decades. Why?**
 - a. Republicans have the majority in both houses of the Texas Legislature for the first time.
 - b. HB1619 removed the courts from the redistricting process.
 - c. Because whites are no longer a majority in the state, redistricting will be more fair to people of color.
 - d. Despite "grave concerns" about past conduct, courts ruled that legal intervention was no longer necessary.

- 28. SpaceX made history in mid-September, sending four civilians where?**
- the International Space Station
 - Mars
 - 363 miles into space, orbiting the Earth
 - the edge of space via a revolutionary space plane
- 29. The rupture in a pipeline owned by Amplify Energy subsequently resulted in the leak of 144,000 gallons of oil into the Pacific Ocean. What caused the rupture in the pipeline?**
- a ship's anchor
 - Hurricane Pamela
 - domestic terrorism
 - insufficient maintenance
- 30. Texas House Bill 25, as signed by the governor, would have what effect on transgender athletes in K-12 public schools?**
- They would be required to compete on sports teams that correspond with the gender listed at the beginning of the season.
 - They would not be allowed to compete in any interscholastic sports.
 - They would be required to compete on sports teams that correspond with the gender listed on their birth certificate at or near the time of birth.
 - They would be required to compete on sports teams that correspond with the gender currently listed on their birth certificate even if that certificate were changed later.
- 31. According to a report released by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature in October, in the last 10 years or so, due to climate change, the world lost about 14% of what?**
- ozone layer
 - glaciers
 - rain forests
 - coral reefs
- 32. Home to 2,000 giant sequoias including the General Sherman, one of the world's largest trees, the Giant Forest in Sequoia National Park was threatened by what?**
- a wildfire
 - the nests of murder hornets
 - drought caused by retreating glaciers
 - deforestation to increase crop land
- 33. TikTok hosted more than 94,000 videos under the #deviouslicks or #diabolicallick as part of what movement?**
- blocking teachers from posting stickers supporting members of LGBT community
 - stealing things from school
 - a movement supporting DACA students
 - students vocally supporting vaccination and masking despite orders from state executives
- 34. Financed largely by \$6.7 million in donations from far-right groups, a review of the 2020 election in Arizona's largest county found what?**
- Biden won, and by 99 more votes than originally counted.
 - Biden won, but by 261 fewer votes than originally counted.
 - Trump actually won Maricopa County but still lost the state.
 - Trump won the state by 10,500 votes.

- 35. He attempted to assassinate former President Ronald Reagan, yet the courts scheduled him for unconditional release as of June 2022. Who?**
- Gregory Lee
 - John Hinckley Jr.
 - Jack L. Ruby
 - Ramzi Yousef
- 36. Once one of the biggest names in popular music, R&B artist R. Kelly was found guilty in September of what charges?**
- paying off college admission officers to get students admitted to top colleges
 - assisting with the Jan. 6, 2021, attacks on the U.S. Capitol
 - sex-trafficking
 - embezzlement and evading taxes, after documents were released with Pandora Papers
- 37. World leaders at the G20 summit in Rome agreed to a 15% tax. What kind of tax?**
- a minimum corporate tax
 - a tax on carbon emissions
 - a tax on surplus inventory
 - a standardized income tax
- 38. Former Gov. Terry McAulife, a Democrat, lost to first-time politician and Republican Glenn Yougkin in what state?**
- North Carolina
 - Virginia
 - Massachusetts
 - New Jersey



- 39. A driver in a nearby car recognized the hand sign above from TikTok when a girl flashed it. Created by the Canadian Women's Foundation, the symbol indicates what?**
- The person flashing it is in risk of abuse.
 - The person flashing it wants you to follow them on TikTok.
 - The person flashing it is being abducted by an escaped convict.
 - The person flashing it is looking for someone to go out with.
- 40. She joined Kermit, Bert, Cookie Monster, Ernie and Miss Piggy on Sesame Street, the longest running children's program in November. Who?**
- Julia, the show's first autistic Muppet
 - Lily, the show's first food insecure and unhoused character
 - Ji-Young, the first Asian American Muppet
 - Alex, the first character to have a parent in jail

THE ESSAY

NOTE: *Contestants who do not write an essay will be disqualified.* **Essay length is not a major grading factor as long as the essay is substantial and demonstrates a sincere effort to discuss the assigned topic. Cover as many corners of the issue as practical, including historical, political, economic, social and cultural, when relevant. Avoid including your personal opinions, as more than enough information on the subject has been published. A focused, concise and specific essay beats a vague and rambling essay.**

PROMPT

As children all over the country were opening their holiday presents, parents were showing frustration at being unable to get the gifts their children wanted due to problems with the supply chain. Despite the supply chain issues, at least up through the holidays, the economy showed both signs of strength and signs of concern.

What is the supply chain (define and provide an example)? What issues was the supply chain facing and why? Along the way, discuss one sign of weakness in the U.S. economy and one sign of strength in the U.S. economy that might be impacting these supply chain problems.

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ANSWER KEY

ESSAY PROMPT

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

POTENTIAL DISCUSSION POINTS PREPARED Jan. 3, 2022 might include, but should not be limited to...

- *Supply chain* — A supply chain is a network between a company and its suppliers to produce and distribute a specific product to the final buyer. *The New York Times* defined it as, “the usually invisible pathway of manufacturing, transportation and logistics that gets goods from where they are manufactured, mined or grown to where they are going.” The supply chain is a worldwide function for many goods and services showing how interdependent we all are for everything from toys to coffee. For example, the cup of coffees comes from beans purchased by the local shop owners, beans purchased by a vendor from a grower probably in a foreign country. This means the beans have to be grown, harvested, packaged and shipped, all points of vulnerability in the chain. Forbes even said supply chain management would be one of the top careers in 2022.
- *The pandemic’s impact* — The pandemic has disrupted nearly every aspect of the global supply chain. As Peter Goodman said in a Oct. 22, 2021, article in *The New York Times*, factories in parts of the world where a lot of the globe’s manufacturing capacity sits — places like China, South Korea and Taiwan as well as Southeast Asian nations like Vietnam and European industrial giants like Germany — were hit hard by the spread of coronavirus cases. Many factories shut down or were forced to reduce production because workers were sick or in lockdown. In response, shipping companies cut their schedules in anticipation of a drop in demand for moving goods around the world. But Americans redirected their income to goods for their homes now doubling as offices and classrooms. There was a supply shortage on some things (face masks) and increased demand for other things (computer chips). Neither factories nor shipping companies could keep up. Ultimately, this resulted in a supply shortage and subsequent price increases.
- *Inflation: a weakness* — The U.S. inflation rate rose to 6.8% over the last year to its highest point since 1982, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported late last fall. The consumer price index for all urban consumers (CPI-U) rose by 0.8% in November after rising 0.9% in October. However, as *The Economist* reported, “The only thing that proved transitory about inflation in America in 2021 was the consensus that it would subside.”
- *Interest rates: a strength* — The Fed has kept interest rates near zero throughout the pandemic in an effort to prop up the economy. Twelve of the 18 members of the Fed’s rate-setting committee said late in 2021 that they expect interest rates to rise by three-quarters of a percent or more in 2022.
- *Jobs: a strength* — The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits dropped to a 52-year low in late 2021, suggesting economic activity was accelerating. The overall unemployment rate was low, about 4.2% down to almost pre-pandemic levels (3.5% in February of 2020).
- *Jobs: a weakness* — Then there was the so-called “Great Retirement.” Fully two-thirds of the folks leaving jobs this past August were retiring. One million were ‘normal’ retirements, an additional 1.5 million opted for early retirement. Job losses during the pandemic particularly hit the age extremes, the under-30s and the over-50s. This has resulted in some wage increases particularly for hourly workers. Twenty-six U.S. states — not Texas — will raise their minimum wage in 2022, but many workers will see more significant pay gains from employers that are raising their pay floor.