



UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE

Making a World of Difference

CURRENT ISSUES & EVENTS

 @UILCIANDE
2019 • REGION



PHOTO COURTESY 401KCALCULATOR.ORG

DO NOT TURN THIS PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO DO SO!

UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE

CURRENT ISSUES & EVENTS

REGION • 2019

- 1. Talks between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un ended abruptly because of a disagreement over what according to Trump?**
 - a. ending the Korean War
 - b. ending the nuclear program in North Korea
 - c. having democratic elections in North Korea
 - d. lifting sanctions
- 2. After decades of negotiations, the Vatican signed a provisional agreement under which Pope Francis will recognize seven bishops appointed by the state-supervised Catholic Patriotic Association who were not previously accepted by church authorities. In what country?**
 - a. North Korea
 - b. Israel
 - c. China
 - d. Spain
- 3. Deep in a hundred-acre wood, accidental wildfires burned in Ashton Forest on the same day Britain experienced its highest temperatures in February since record-keeping began in 1910 – 70°F (21°C). The real forest is best known for inspiring what fictional forests?**
 - a. the shadowy, dark wood of Dante’s “Inferno”
 - b. the isolated woods that provide freedom in “The Scarlet Letter”
 - c. the forbidden forest of “Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone”
 - d. those in A.A. Milne’s “Winnie the Pooh”
- 4. An outspoken supporter of U.S. President Donald Trump from South Florida sent what to 12 of the president’s critics last fall?**
 - a. threatening letters coated with Anthrax
 - b. Confederate flags
 - c. pipe bombs and explosive devices
 - d. red, white and blue flowers
- 5. In a runoff election set for April, Lori Lightfoot or Toni Preckwinkle will become the first female African-American mayor of what city?**
 - a. Atlanta
 - b. San Francisco
 - c. Chicago
 - d. Missouri City
- 6. The Boeing 737 Max has been grounded after two fatal crashes. Even before the cause of the second crash was determined, what country was the latest country to ground the planes?**
 - a. United States
 - b. Canada
 - c. China
 - d. Indonesia

7. **Texas Rep. Joe Moody, D-El Paso, filed House Bill 63. Even as Moody’s bill begins what is likely to be an uphill battle at the Capitol, several Texas district attorneys have already pledged not to prosecute first-time, low-level offenders in their respective counties in possession of what?**
 - a. fentanyl
 - b. crystal methamphetamine
 - c. marijuana
 - d. alcohol
8. **Authorities used tear gas on hundreds of migrants, prompting officials to shut down operations at one of the busiest border crossings in the world. U.S. Customs and Border Protection suspended all vehicles and pedestrians Thanksgiving weekend. Where?**
 - a. between Laredo (Texas) and Nuevo León
 - b. between San Luis (Arizona) and Sonora
 - c. between Columbus (New Mexico) and Chihuahua
 - d. between San Diego (California) and Tijuana
9. **Frustrating Mayor Bill de Blasio, Amazon reneged on its offer to build a second headquarters “HQ2” because critics lambasted \$1.525 billion in incentives. Where was it going to be built?**
 - a. Queens, New York City
 - b. Nashville, Tennessee
 - c. Dallas
 - d. Crystal City, Virginia
10. **A report from the United Nations says we have just 12 years before the planet reaches how many degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, the limit agreed upon by scientists that could result in global catastrophe?**
 - a. 100.5°C
 - b. 10.5°C
 - c. 1.5°C
 - d. 0.5°C
11. **The state elections board refused to certify the results of the midterm elections in North Carolina. Why?**
 - a. More than 500 mail-in ballots turned up missing.
 - b. A Republican operative allegedly “harvested” ballots.
 - c. Some signatures didn’t match in election-day vote tallies in numerous rural counties.
 - d. Agents required certain forms of identification, something not allowed by state law.
12. **U.S. President Donald Trump nominated William Barr for attorney general. Barr also served as a senior administrator under George H.W. Bush from 1991-1993. In what position did Barr serve then?**
 - a. chief White House counsel
 - b. lead attorney for Planned Parenthood
 - c. judge advocate general for the U.S. Army
 - d. attorney general

- 13. U.S. President Donald Trump nominated Heather Nauert to be the ambassador to the United Nations based on what qualifications?**
 - a. She was chief of foreign affairs for Morgan Stanley investment company.
 - b. She was a State Department spokesperson and journalist for Fox News.
 - c. She was the chief global affairs correspondent for ABC's World News Tonight.
 - d. She was Trump's deputy national security adviser for strategy.
- 14. Jim Yong Kim made a surprise announcement in January. Kim, born in Seoul, South Korea, and trained as a medical doctor, said he was stepping down after six years as president of what organization, an organization he was not due to leave until 2022?**
 - a. World Bank
 - b. World Health Organization
 - c. International Monetary Fund
 - d. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- 15. A Virginia jury said James Fields should spend the rest of his life in prison, asking for 350 years. What did Fields do to get this sentence?**
 - a. He attacked a woman at a fraternity party at Baylor University.
 - b. He ran over counterprotesters, killing a woman with his car at a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia.
 - c. He shot and killed one man and wounded two others in a Lansing, Michigan barbershop.
 - d. He shot a 17-year-old 16 times in what he says was self-defense.
- 16. The hack exposed data from approximately 500 million Marriott and Starwood hotel customers. To whom was the breach traced?**
 - a. Russian hackers working for the Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation
 - b. Saudi Arabian hackers working for the crown prince
 - c. Chinese hackers working for the Ministry of State Security
 - d. Members of the Yemen Cyber Army working for the Political Security Organization
- 17. To open up more western land for oil and gas drilling, U.S. Interior Department officials said they plan to roll back protections for which bird?**
 - a. sage grouse
 - b. whooping crane
 - c. bald eagle
 - d. Attwater prairie chicken
- 18. Although it was not possible to independently verify, "Bird Box" was reported to have been viewed by more than 45 million people in seven days, making it the best movie opening ever. What company distributed "Bird Box"?**
 - a. Netflix, online, not in theaters
 - b. Amazon Prime Video and on DVD
 - c. Paramount Pictures
 - d. Walt Disney
- 19. Which state passed legislation making the legal blood-alcohol limit 0.05 and giving that state the strictest DUI law in the country?**
 - a. Texas
 - b. Arizona
 - c. Utah
 - d. Tennessee

- 20. It was the first city in Texas to go 100 percent renewable energy in 2017. Now, the city of nearly 70,000 people wants to generate power locally in a move staff members say could change how neighborhoods are designed in the future. What city?**
- Denton
 - Austin
 - Rockport
 - Georgetown
- 21. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 660 points or 2.8 percent in early January after Apple warned it will badly miss its quarterly sales forecast. Apple stock plummeted 10 percent in its darkest day in six years. Why?**
- weakening growth and trade tensions in China
 - continued recalls of the iPhone, which investors said was too expensive
 - competition from Google Pixel also manufactured in China
 - increase in inflation, increase in interest rates and higher unemployment, which made designer phones unaffordable
- 22. While Americans consumed nearly 37 pounds per capita in 2017, it was not enough to reduce the country's 1.4 billion-pound surplus, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The glut, which at 900,000 cubic yards is the largest in U.S. history, means that there is enough sitting in cold storage to wrap around the U.S. Capitol. Enough of what?**
- tobacco
 - cheese
 - soybeans
 - pork
- 23. It can go from 0 to 60 in 3.5 seconds. It costs \$30,000. It can travel at 110mph. Made by Harley-Davidson and launched at the CES 2019 tech convention in Las Vegas, what else is unique about LiveWire?**
- It's Harley-Davidson's first-ever all-electric motorcycle.
 - It can convert to a form of airplane and fly about 180km at low altitudes.
 - It's the first motorcycle that can also function as a traditional bicycle, using no fuel other than the driver's pedal power.
 - It's the first self-driving motorcycle but has not yet been approved by the U.S. Department of Transportation.
- 24. Uber has been given the green light by Pennsylvania officials to restart what program?**
- picking up children younger than 18 in a partnership with local charter schools
 - testing self-driving cars on public roads
 - picking up passengers since the company had been blocked by state officials who bowed to pressure from the taxi companies
 - installing the app on watch-type devices such as the Apple Watch Series 4
- 25. A federal judge in Manhattan ruled that the Trump administration's decision to add a question to the 2020 census was unlawful. What was the topic of the question?**
- immigration status
 - desired gender
 - citizenship
 - political party affiliation

- 26. The Senate approved former coal lobbyist Andrew Wheeler to head the what agency by a vote of 52 to 47?**
- U.S. Department of Energy
 - U.S. Chamber of Commerce
 - Energy and Natural Resources Commission
 - Environmental Protection Agency
- 27. “The Internet and social media are a resource of our time,” the pope said. The pope has made earnest efforts to embrace technology, tweeting frequently and calling the Web “a gift from God.” What was his solution in January?**
- ClickToPray, an app for communal prayer
 - ReportToGod, an app for confessions online
 - ReportHarassment, an app to report, anonymously, abuses by priests in the Catholic church
 - GiveToChurch, an app to make donations to the church easier.
- 28. What history did the Los Angeles Rams cheerleaders make at the Super Bowl this year?**
- The squad included the first male cheerleaders ever to perform at the Super Bowl.
 - The squad didn’t show up, supporting the #metoo movement and higher wages for NFL cheerleaders.
 - The squad was all-male for the first time since WWII.
 - The Los Angeles Rams doesn’t have cheerleaders. So they used high school cheerleaders for the first time in NFL history.
- 29. Democratic leaders all across the country were calling for the resignation of Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam for something he allegedly did in 1984. What?**
- Northam campaigned as a Republican, voted Republican and supported Republican candidates before becoming a Democrat a year later.
 - Northam gave a speech saying that slavery was not the root cause of the Civil War.
 - Northam apparently appeared in a racially charged photo in his medical school yearbook.
 - Northam, as a medical school student, refused to work in a segregated hospital.
- 30. According to the Annual Global Climate Report released in February, how did last year fare in terms of global warming?**
- The year 2018 was the hottest year in the 139-year record.
 - The year 2018 wasn’t even in the top-10 warmest years, bucking a recent trend.
 - The year 2018 saw warmer ocean average temperatures, particularly at the Arctic, but the land average actually dropped by 1.39°F.
 - The year 2018 became the fourth warmest year in the 139-year record.
- 31. Which of the following items did U.S. President Donald Trump NOT mention in his State of the Union address?**
- infrastructure improvements
 - partisan investigations
 - immigration and border security
 - climate change or any efforts to help the environment

- 32. The costs ballooned to \$77 billion for a project that was going to change the face of transportation in California. But the governor of California said he was abandoning the plan to build what?**
- a plant to build enough electric cars to replace the existing cars in San Francisco
 - cycling paths on every road in downtown Los Angeles and San Francisco
 - a high-speed rail line between Los Angeles and San Francisco
 - a dedicated highway system just for 18-wheelers
- 33. “For perhaps the first time ever, snow has fallen,” state officials reported on Feb. 10, warning of extended power outages and urging “extra caution while driving.” It could be the lowest elevation snow ever recorded in the state. Where?**
- Badwater Basin in Death Valley, California
 - Polipoli State Park on Maui, Hawaii
 - Prospect Creek Camp, Alaska
 - Bullhead City, Arizona.
- 34. NASA officially declared an end to the mission of a six-wheeled rover. It lost power in a dust storm last June, and all efforts to make contact have failed. Where was this rover exploring?**
- Curiosity was orbiting a large asteroid, Ultima Thule.
 - Opportunity was exploring Mars.
 - Express was on the surface of Saturn’s moon Titan looking for water in the polar regions.
 - Mariner was on Kepler-186f, an Earth-size planet orbiting a nearby star.
- 35. The disappearance of Jamal Khashoggi in October set off a diplomatic feud between Saudi Arabia and Turkey. What did Khashoggi do?**
- He was an American politician visiting the country for trade negotiations.
 - He was the United States ambassador to Turkey.
 - He was a private businessman hoping to build a Trump Tower in Riyadh.
 - He was a journalist.
- 36. General Motors will end production of six vehicles by the end of 2019. Which of the following is NOT one of these?**
- Buick LaCrosse
 - Cadillac CT6
 - Chevrolet Tahoe
 - Chevrolet Impala
- 37. Following the lead of stores like Sears and Toys R Us, what shoe store chain filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy and would close 2,100 stores in the United States and 248 stores in Canada?**
- DSW Inc.
 - Famous Footwear Outlet
 - Foot Locker
 - Payless ShoeSource
- 38. Calling it “unconstitutionally vague,” Texas’s highest criminal court struck down a significant provision of what law in February, a major blow to the state’s government transparency laws?**
- Texas Recording Law
 - Texas Open Meeting Act
 - Texas Penal Code
 - 242 S. W. 3d 805 (Tex. App. 2007) otherwise known as “Legal Protection for Anonymous Speech”

- 39. Veronica Escobar of El Paso and Sylvia Garcia of Houston became the first what?**
- the first Democrats to represent Texas in the U.S. House in the 21st century
 - the first Latinas elected to represent Texas in the U.S. House
 - the first Native-American women elected to Congress
 - the first pro-life Democrats who openly supported limited government and Trump's wall on the U.S. border.
- 40. The citizens of Toledo, Ohio, granted legal rights reserved for people to what 9,940-square-mile body of water on which their city depends?**
- Lake Huron
 - Mississippi River
 - Canadian ice cap
 - Lake Erie

ESSAY PROMPT

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, current events 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.

The U.S. economy, the world's third-largest economy, is strong. The Gross Domestic Product is growing at about 2.6 percent per year. Unemployment was only 3.8 percent in February. Inflation is only 2.2 percent. While the national debt is about \$22 trillion, 113 percent of GDP, most economists say that is only unhealthy for short periods.

Not all other countries have economies that are that healthy.

Pick three *other* countries — not the United States — and discuss economic problems they have been having so far this academic year and the sociopolitical situations surrounding them.

DO NOT DISTRIBUTE TO STUDENTS BEFORE OR DURING THE CONTEST!

ANSWER KEY

ESSAY PROMPT

The U.S. economy, the world's third-largest economy, is strong. The Gross Domestic Product is growing at about 2.6 percent per year. Unemployment was only 3.8 percent in February. Inflation is only 2.2 percent. While the national debt is about \$22 trillion, 113 percent of GDP, most economists say that is only unhealthy for short periods.

Not all other countries have economies that are that healthy.

Pick three other countries — not the United States — and discuss economic problems they have been having so far this academic year and the sociopolitical situations surrounding them.

POTENTIAL DISCUSSION POINTS

might include, but should not be limited to...

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

- *Zimbabwe.* After hyperinflation destroyed the value of the Zimbabwean dollar, the country switched to the Real Time Gross Settlement dollar. In January, Zimbabwe imposed a “total internet shutdown” in what critics called an attempt to hide growing reports of a violent crackdown on protests against a dramatic fuel price increase. Gasoline in the economically shattered country is now the world’s most expensive. Soldiers controlled the long fuel lines in the capital, and many wary residents stayed at home because they were running out of money to afford even a bus fare.
- *France.* As part of his environmental policy strategy, French President Emmanuel Macron announced a green tax on fuel to go into effect Jan. 1. The move set off nearly a month of protests around France with hundreds of thousands of “yellow vest” protesters, saying they said they couldn’t afford the hike in fuel prices. The protests grew into a larger movement that includes members of the working and middle classes who said their incomes are too high to qualify for social welfare benefits but too low to make ends meet. The movement was organized through social media groups. Now, others want the current minimum wage to be raised. Eventually, Macron decided to “get rid” of the tax planned for next year, actually part of efforts to wean France off fossil fuels to reduce greenhouse gases and help slow climate change.
- *Venezuela.* Venezuela’s economy has collapsed after years of socialism, incompetence and corruption. Venezuela’s annual inflation rate at the beginning of 2019 topped 1 million percent. An economic plan launched in August 2018 included the removal of five zeroes from the currency, a massive devaluation, and another large increase in the minimum wage. Venezuela has the world’s largest proven oil reserves, and oil accounts for almost all exports and half of state revenues. Production is down because of government mismanagement of the state-owned oil company but oil production is seen as the salvation to the country’s economic woes. In early 2019, opposition leader Juan Guaidó declared himself interim president and appealed to that country’s military, that really controls the country, to oust President Maduro on the grounds that the 2018 election was rigged. Trump said the U.S. stands behind Guaidó, whom the U.S. recognizes as the country’s rightful president.
- *Democratic Republic of the Congo.* A war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo claimed an up to 6 million lives. Fighting was fueled by the country’s vast mineral wealth, with all sides taking advantage of the anarchy to plunder natural resources. Deposits of copper, gold, diamonds, cobalt, uranium and oil are just some of the minerals that should make it one of the world’s richest countries. Felix Tshisekedi, the first opposition challenger to win since the DR Congo gained independence in 1960, was declared the surprise winner of the Dec. 30 presidential election. The U.S. State Department voiced its support for Tshisekedi’s government.
- *Mozambique.* As Mozambique begins to emerge from a two-year economic downturn, a new World Bank report warns that the country’s fiscal outlook remains fragile. Buoyed by a drop in inflation and the advancement of one of two major gas projects, the country is more stable since the 2016 debt crisis, but growth prospects are limited with a growth rate of only about 2 percent in the fourth quarter of 2018.
- *United Kingdom.* As Britain prepares for life outside the EU, there have been repeated warnings of economic oblivion. Despite this, things have been good enough for the economy to create half a million more jobs over the past year, sending employment to a record high. The UK economy had a tumultuous 2018, with growth slowing, the Bank of England raising rates to the highest level since the financial crisis and pay rising faster than inflation. It seems growth will continue to stagnate until the situation over Brexit becomes clear.

CONTESTANT NUMBER _____

CURRENT ISSUES & EVENTS

CONTESTANT ANSWER SHEET

DO NOT write your name or school on this paper. Clearly write the **LETTER** corresponding to the best response to each question in the space below. Each objective question is worth 1 point. Write your response to the essay on the paper provided. The essay is worth as much as 10 points. You have 60 minutes.

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



FOR JUDGE'S USE

Points from **OBJECTIVE**
questions (each correct
answer counts 1 point) _____

If in the top eight places,
add the points from the
ESSAY question _____

TOTAL POINTS _____

Reminder: Team score is based
on the cumulative score of the
multiple choice portion of the
contest only. Do not count the
essay scores toward the team
championship.

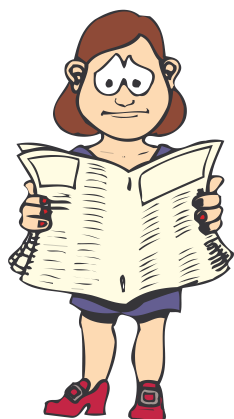
Grading

the CI&E Contest



**University
Interscholastic
League**

*Making a World
of Difference*



*Current
Issues
&
Events*

1. Distribute contests to students, who will then have 60 minutes to finish.
2. Grade the objective portions of the test.
3. Enter results of the objective portion of the contest into the UIL online entry system. Do not add essay scores to determine the overall team winner!
4. To determine the overall individual winner, pull the top eight papers. In the event of ties, select enough papers to fill eight slots. For example:

Slot	Place	# of correct answers
1	1	36
2	2 (tie)	35
3	2 (tie)	35
4	4	34
5	5 (tie)	32
6	5 (tie)	32
7	5 (tie)	32
8	8	30

Tie for last slot: If a tie for the eighth slot exists, then grade all those tied for the eighth slot, as in the example below. Then, add the scores from the essay portion of the contest to the objective scores.

Slot	Obj. only place	Objective score	Essay score	Total score	Final place
1 (Joe)	1st	36	5	41	2 (tie)
2 (Bo)	2nd (tie)	35	7	42	1
3 (Moe)	2nd (tie)	35	3	38	5
4 (Sue)	4th	34	7	41	2 (tie)
5 (Flo)	5th (tie)	32	8	40	4
6 (Bill)	5th (tie)	32	5	37	6
7 (Mary)	5th (tie)	32	4	36	did not place
8 (Lina)	8th (tie)	26	7	33	did not place
(Jim)	8th (tie)	26	6	32	did not place

Tie for second place: To break tie for second place, judge Joe's essay against Sue's essay. Award points accordingly. Break all ties for first through sixth place.

5. In a 3-person judging panel, must every judge grade each essay? Yes. If more than one person judges essays, make certain that judges reach agreement on which essay is the best. Do not rely solely on point totals. One judge may be more stringent than another. It is possible that a weaker essay, graded by a more lenient judge, can be awarded more points than a stronger essay, graded by a more strict judge.
6. Judges should not be excused until verification is completed and results announced as official.

Rubric

for the CI&E Essay

Judges may award all or no points. This is a working document for as many as three judges. Final points are a compromise among judges, NOT A RUNNING POINT TOTAL or pure point averaging. Return this form to the student with the objective portion of the contest.

■ Points AWARDED:

Judge 1

Judge 2

Judge 3

Consensus

An 8-10 ESSAY opens with a declarative statement that extends the prompt without re-stating it. The thesis is supported by substantial, relevant information that analyzes the prompt from a range of perspectives — for example, political, social, cultural and economic. It does not provide a mere shopping list of facts. It interprets the facts without editorializing. The essay is well written and organized with few spelling, grammar or punctuation errors. The essay is clear, precise and succinct.

A 5-7 ESSAY offers a clear thesis with limited development. It either deals with one aspect in depth or with all aspects more superficially while providing limited analysis. Generally good writing and organization skills displayed. May contain errors of fact that do not seriously detract from the quality of the essay.

A 2-4 ESSAY lacks a thesis or presents a confused or undeveloped thesis. It deals with the prompt in a superficial way and offers no analysis. Instead, it tends to editorialize. May contain major fact errors, display poor writing skills and rely on bloated, pretentious language.

A 0-1 ESSAY displays little or no understanding of the prompt. The response is poorly written and organized and may contain significant fact, grammar, punctuation and/or spelling errors that detract from the clarity of the response.

Comments:

OVERALL ESSAY SCORE

(maximum of 10 points)

OBJECTIVE SCORE

(score from the objective portion of the test)

OVERALL SCORE

(add essay score to objective score)