



Recent History -- VARSITY AND JUNIOR VARSITY  
Round 1 - Prelims

1. This world leader notoriously composed a song and created a scrapbook in honor of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. This man published his own treatise on socialist governance called the Green Book, which became required reading for residents of the country he governed. This proponent of Pan-Africanism lost his life during his nation's civil war in 2011 and was succeeded by Mustafa Abdul Jalil. For the point, name this longtime leader of Libya.

ANSWER: Muammar **Qaddafi** [or **Gadhafi**]

2. This country seized the Heglig Oil Fields, but withdrew that same month during a 2012 border conflict encompassing the states of Unity and South Kordofan. Its Nuer White Army pledged to "wipe out" this country's Murle people and is fighting a civil war against forces loyal to its Dinka president. Former Vice President Riek Machar was accused of attempting a coup by President Salva Kiir in this country, which plans to move its capital to Ramciel from Juba. For the point-name this country that became independent from its northern neighbor on July 9, 2011.

ANSWER: **South Sudan**

3. A teacher's strike in this city in October 2014 was supported by 200 students who protested outside this city's school for "Creative and Performing Arts." Numerous conservatives have criticized ACORN and other get-out-the-vote organizations for allegedly stationing Black Panther members outside of voting booths during the 2012 election. Over 200 people were injured in an Amtrak train derailment near this city in May 2015. For the point, identify this largest city in Pennsylvania.

ANSWER: **Philadelphia**

4. In 2012 this country reported it had found a unicorn lair that was previously used by a former king. The architect of this country's largest airport was recently put to death over disagreements about the airport's design. The Ryugyong Hotel has been under construction in this country's capital since 1987. In 2015, this country aimed powerful missiles at its two most prominent enemies: the United States and this country's direct Southern neighbor. For the point, name this country currently ruled by Kim Jong-Un.

Answer: **North Korea** [or **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**]

5. Recently, this leader controversially claimed that the Prime Minister of Bangladesh had done a good job in stopping terrorism--for a woman. This man held off the Aam Aadmi party leader to control the Parliament seat he presently holds. This leader has been criticized for his failure to intervene in the killing of hundreds of Muslims in his home state when he governed during the Ayodhya riots. For the point, identify this world leader who was the former Chief Minister of Gujarat and is now Prime Minister of India.

ANSWER: Narendra Damodardas **Modi**

6. This company planned a poorly-named "Bucket List" promotional campaign to give away its product for free after negative publicity. Failed communication with an air traffic control center adversely affected one of this company's vessels. This company's Flight 17 lost communication due to its being attacked by a surface to air missile over Ukrainian airspace, while its Flight 380 is still missing. For the point, name this Asian airline that operates out of Kuala Lumpur

Answer: **Malaysia** Airlines

7. Police officer Shannon Dildine was fired for posting a picture of himself wearing boxer shorts with this object on them. One appearance of this object has been defended by the Supreme Court's ruling in the *Walker* case regarding its ubiquity on license plates. Governor Nikki Haley called for the removal of this object from the capitol building. Following the Charleston shooting, photos were found of Dylann Roof holding this object. For the point, name this flag commonly associated with the C.S.A

Answer: **Confederate** Battle Flag (prompt on "Stars and Bars")

8. Year and country needed. One candidate in this election pledged to prevent the immigration of HIV positive people. Paddy Ashdown said that he would "eat his own hat" if the results of this election turned out to be true. Nigel Farage lost control of the riding of South Thanet in this election, reducing his party, UKIP, to one seat. Nicola Sturgeon's SNP won a breakthrough 56 seats in this election. Polls leading up to this election greatly overestimated the popularity of Ed Miliband, leader of the Labour Party. For the point, name this election that saw David Cameron's Conservatives secure an outright majority in the House of Commons.

ANSWER: **2015** United **K**ingdom General Election

9. While campaigning for Prime Minister, this man asserted that every person of Jewish origin had the right to ascend to the Temple Mount. After this man brought Israel's main parties together into a coalition when he became Prime Minister, the Israeli Defense Force left the West Bank in 2003. This man founded the Kadima party over disagreements with the Likud party about his policies toward Palestine. However, this leader suffered a stroke before he could become Prime Minister for that party. For the point, name this former Israeli general who was Prime Minister from 2001-2006.

ANSWER: Ariel **Sharon**

10. Proponents of this practice criticized a 2012 Matt Damon film named *Promised Land* due to the film's critical view of this activity. Congressman Jared Polis spent much of 2014 attempting to get an initiative outlawing this practice on the ballot in Colorado. This practice has boomed in Pennsylvania in recent years thanks for the Marcellus Shale found underneath the state. Critics of this activity have raised questions about potential groundwater contamination and earthquakes artificially triggered by this practice. For the point, name this method of extracting natural gas that involves injecting pressurized fluid into wells.

ANSWER: hydraulic **fracturing** (accept **fracking**)

11. A newly issued set of bills in this currency features a large stadium designed by Herzog & De Meuron. The exchange rate stood at 8.27 of these currency units per U.S. Dollar from 1997 to 2005. This currency saw an immediate increase in value when the peg was abolished, but the value now floats in a narrow band due strict government oversight. The threat of trade war has caused President Obama to not declare the users of these currency units manipulators of its exchange rate. The latest banknote series of this currency all feature Mao Zedong's image. For the point, name this currency unit that is used in China.

Answer: **Yuan** (also accept: **Renminbi** or **Kwai**)

12. Nicolas Sarkozy was recorded saying that he could not stand this man and called him "a liar". In response to the kidnapping of three teenage settlers, this politician launched Operation Protective Edge. In March, this politician controversially spoke to Congress about President Obama's negotiations with Iran. On election day, this politician warned that Arabs were coming to the polls in "droves," helping his Likud Party secure victory in a March 2015 election and ensuring that Isaac Herzog would not be able to form a coalition and take power. For the point, name this current Prime Minister of Israel.

ANSWER: Benjamin "Bibi" **Netanyahu**

13. Juan Carlos I said that he was “the King of Spain, not the King of Belgium” when asked if he would endorse a bill legalizing this practice. In 2006, the case *Minister of Home Affairs v. Hourie* legalized this practice in South Africa. *Hollingsworth v. Perry* rendered Proposition 8 against this practice moot in California. In February 2015, the Alabama Supreme Court ordered judges to stop giving out licenses for this practice. Ireland became the first country to legalize this practice via referendum in May 2015. For the point, name this practice where two men or two women can perform their nuptials.

ANSWER: **Same-sex marriage** [accept **gay marriage** or **marriage equality**]

14. In 2015 this country’s king became the first monarch to visit Antarctica. This country issued the Gjørv Report to investigate an incident that targeted members of the AUF. One man from this country issued the manifesto *2083* and carried out an attack on a Worker’s Youth League summer camp. For the point, name this country in which Anders Behring Breivik carried out the Utoya massacre and bombings in Oslo.

ANSWER: Kingdom of **Norway**

15. Lleyton Hewitt played his first grand slam doubles match with this man, winning in a fifth set. He won his first grand slam against Mark Philippoussis in the final, and he defeated Pete Sampras in the round of 16 of the 2001 Wimbledon championships. This man won the 2008 Olympic Doubles Gold Medal with the same man he led the victorious 2014 Davis Cup team. That doubles partner, Stan Wawrinka, recently beat him in the semifinals of the 2015 French Open. For the point, name this Swiss tennis player who has more singles Grand Slam titles than any other man.

Answer: Roger **Federer**

16. This country was suspended from the Commonwealth of Nations in 2002, but chose to leave voluntarily in 2003. In 2009 Morgan Tsvangirai became this nation’s Prime Minister, in a deal that allowed its President to maintain control of the army. Upon ascending to power, this nation’s leader seized land from white landowners and transferred it to this country’s black majority. For the point, name this country led by Robert Mugabe whose hyperinflation caused it to abandon its currency in 2009.

Answer: Republic of **Zimbabwe**

17. The mastermind behind this event was killed during Operation Neptune Spear. In response to this event, Russia presented a statue called the *Tear of Grief* as an official gift, and the United Kingdom played “The Star-Spangled Banner” at Buckingham Palace. After being notified of this event one man continued reading to the students of Booker Elementary School. During this event passengers aboard Flight 93 caused their plane to crash into rural Pennsylvania. For the point, what is this event in which two planes crashed into the Twin Towers?

Answer: **September 11th** Terrorist Attacks (accept **9/11**)

18. The Kmara student youth movement operated in this country. Aslan Abashidze provoked the Adjara crisis in this country. Russian backed forces defeated this country at the Battle of Kodori Valley. The Sochi agreement ended secession wars in this country. The Rose Revolution ousted this country’s leader Eduard Shevardnadze, who was replaced by Mikhail Saakashvili. This country includes the breakaway regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. For the point, name this westernmost country in the Caucasus, whose capital is Tbilisi.

ANSWER: **Georgia**

19. This man was elected to one of his terms after creating a party called The People of Freedom, which formed a coalition with the Northern League. This man was barred from running for office after being convicted of tax fraud involving members of the Mediaset company, which he founded. This owner of the AC Milan soccer team was formally charged in the Rubygate scandal, which publicly revealed his love of “bunga bunga” parties. For the point, name this media tycoon and three-time Prime Minister of Italy.

ANSWER: Silvio **Berlusconi**

20. One president of this country created the Bolsa Familia program and defeated Geraldo Alckmin in another election after Roberto Jefferson, the head of this country’s labor party, revealed that MPs in this country were being bribed by the ruling party. Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva was president of this country, where protests occurred after its state-owned petroleum company saw a bribery scandal. Heavily-populated favelas were bulldozed in preparation for this country to host the World Cup in 2014. For the point, name this country ruled by Dilma Rousseff.

ANSWER: **Brazil**

21. This man has created Central Leading Groups in order to increase the efficiency of the policy-making process. This leader has a background in chemical engineering and studied agriculture in Muscatine, Iowa. That visit occurred while this leader served as a leader in Hebei. This man has vowed to root out tigers and flies as part of a massive campaign that included charges against Xu Caihou and Zhou Yongkang, who served as security czar under this man's predecessor, Hu Jintao. For the point, name this General Secretary who has initiated a massive anti-corruption campaign and is currently president of China.

ANSWER: **Xi** Jinping

22. This man defeated Shashi Tharoor to hold his current position. His campaign for his current position was helped by his position as a Minister of Foreign Affairs in his home country. This organizer and moderator of the Geneva II Conference on Syria will step down at the end of 2016, at which point it is speculated his successor may come from Eastern Europe. This man succeeded Kofi Annan in 2007. For the point, name this South Korean diplomat and current Secretary-General of the United Nations.

ANSWER: **Ban** Ki-Moon

23. This man posted a picture of him during the fall of the Berlin Wall that has come into question. This man made potentially racist comments when he referenced "African peasants" during a speech in Senegal. This former mayor of Neuilly-sur-Seine oversaw 2005 riots in his post as Minister of the Interior. This man married singer Carla Bruni a year after leaving his first wife. He defeated Ségolène Royal to ascend to his highest post in 2007. For the point, name this conservative President of France who lost the 2012 election.

ANSWER: Nicolas **Sarkozy**

24. An investigation into this type of scandal was assisted by the testimony of Jason Grimsley. This type of scandal ended the career of Floyd Landis. Another of these scandals involved a package that Dino Laurenzi sent by FedEx two days late, which eventually led to an investigation of Anthony Bosch. The Mitchell Report implicated certain people involved in one of these actions, while bicyclist Lance Armstrong was disgraced by a scandal of this type. For the point, name these drugs believed to boost athletic performance.

ANSWER: **PED** scandals [or performance enhancing drug scandals; accept **steroids**]

25. The forces of Andal Ampatuan Jr. targeted journalists in this country's Maguindanao massacre. Protesters in this country have used the tactic of "Noynoying", criticizing the president's idolatry. This country agreed to the creation of the autonomous region of Bangasmoro with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. This country's city of Tacloban was devastated by Typhoon Haiyan in 2013. For the point, name this country home to the Aquino and Marcos families, who both led it from Manila.

ANSWER: **Philippines**

26. This state recently banned the practice of breeding pigeons, and imposed penalties that could lead to offender being reported to police called the Hisbah. This state's court system consists of 12 judges from Saudi Arabia. It recently opened its first five-star hotel in Mosul. This state's leader has claimed that "Islam is a religion of fighting" and claimed responsibility for attacks across the Arabian Peninsula. For the point, identify this terrorist state led by Abu-Bakr Al-Baghdadi and current controls portions of Iraq and Syria.

ANSWER: **Islamic State** (accept ISIS, ISIL, and IS)

27. After a 1999 earthquake this country and its eastern neighbor began a policy of "earthquake diplomacy." A fascist party in this country, the Golden Dawn, won its first seats in Parliament in 2012. More recently, voters in this country rejected bail-out measures advanced by the European Union. This nation's finance minister, Yanis Varoufakis, stepped down following that vote in July 2015. For the point, what is this European country with capital at Athens?

Answer: **Greece** [or The **Hellenic Republic**]

28. This man commissioned a Qu'ran to be written in his own blood as a way to thank god for saving his life. From 1995 to 2003, this leader benefited from UN Resolution 986, which became known as the Oil-for-Food Programme. This man was captured outside of ad-Dawr during Operation Red Dawn, and afterwards he was taken to Camp Cropper. Ultimately, this world leader was forced to account for the Dujail Massacre and bombing of Kurdish villages in Iran, as he was sentenced to death in 2003. For the point, name this man who started the Kuwait War as dictator of Iraq.

Answer: Saddam **Hussein**

29. Private security contractor Raymond Allen Davis was imprisoned in this country. This country operates the infamous Adiala jail. This country controls the area north of the Line of Control, which was crossed by this country during the Kargil War. Operation Zarb-e-Azb was launched by this country's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Benazir Bhutto was assassinated in this country after a rally in Rawalpindi. Osama Bin Laden was captured in this country. For the point, name this country that disputes Kashmir with India.

ANSWER: Islamic Republic of **Pakistan**

30. Daniel Domscheit-Berg wrote *Inside* “this organization” after a dispute in which he was suspended for disloyalty. This organization has several encrypted “insurance files” which are meant to be released in case of emergency. This website came to prominence for releasing a video that showed an American helicopter attack on Iraqi women and children. After a security breach this organization released all of the United States’ diplomatic cables. For the point, name this website founded by Julian Assange meant to share classified material.

Answer: **Wikileaks**

**Extra Tossup – ONLY READ IF A QUESTION IS BOTCHED!**

REPLACEMENT. The Butler Review in the United Kingdom established that claims about the construction of these items were likely overstated. Both UNSCOM and UNMOVIC were task forces created for monitoring these things. After the failure of one nation to comply with UN Resolution 687, these items were targeted in a bombing operation known as Desert Fox. The stated goal of Operation Iraqi Freedom was to locate and disarm these devices. For the point, name these things used as justification to invade Iraq, that come in chemical and nuclear forms and have a three-letter acronym.

Answer: **Weapons of Mass Destruction** (accept **WMD**)