

1. The USA's state and political system

Glossary: nation state, 'founding fathers', the sheer longevity of the Constitution, the drafters of the Constitution, legislature, the Presidency, the Civil War, desegregation, The Declaration of Independence, political entity, federal government, promote the ratification, amendment, the Bill of Rights, constitutional settlement, immutability, the state legislatures, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), 'separation of powers', to coin the term, different terms of office, 'checks and balances' principle, contemporary society, ratification, different approaches to, the interpretation of the Constitution, Originalism, be eligible, to hold elections, The total Electoral College vote, Congressional Districts, nationwide, executive branch, bypassing, the Congress, executive orders, to veto, current practice, Representatives, acquitted at the trials, the President's "Cabinet", the Senate, patronage, Vice-President, presidential primaries, contending candidates, be allocated to, decided on a candidate, drafting Bills, Capitol Hill, created top-down, created bottom-up, the Governor, prescribe.

Questions:

1. What makes American political system similar to most nation states?
2. What basic documents define American political system?
3. What are the distinctive features and the major principles of the USA's Constitution?
4. Who are the 'founding fathers'?
5. What is the Presidency?
6. Who is eligible to become a President?
7. How is a President chosen?
8. What is The total Electoral College vote for the USA's Presidency?
9. What are the powers of the President?
10. What are the major parties in the political system of the USA?
11. What does the term "presidential primaries" mean?
12. What is the House of Representatives?
13. Who is eligible to become a member of the House of Representatives?
14. How is a member of the House of Representatives chosen?
15. What are the powers of the House of Representatives?
16. What is the Senate?
17. Who is eligible to become a member of the Senate?
18. How is a member of the Senate chosen?
19. What are the powers of the Senate?
20. What is the Supreme Court?

21. Who is eligible to become a member of the Court?
22. How is a member of the Court chosen?
23. What are the powers of the Court?
24. What does “the federal nature of the United States” mean?
25. What are the recent trends in the political system of America?

References:

1. <http://www.rogerdarlington.me.uk/Americanpoliticalsystem.html>.
2. www.native-english.ru/topics/the-political-system-of-the-usa.
3. <http://www.studfiles.ru>.
4. Страноведение США = American Studies: пособие для студентов II курса гуманитар. спец. фак. междунар. отношений. В 2 ч. Ч. 1: История / авт.-сост.: Е. А. Жильская [и др.].

2. American culture and religion.

Glossary: abolitionism, African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, agnostic, Anglican, Baptist, Black Muslims, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Congregationalism, Darwinism, Dawes Act, evangelicalism, feminist theology, Freemasonry, fundamentalism, Great Awakening, Holiness tradition, Jehovah's Witnesses, liberal Protestantism, Lutheran, Methodist, Protestant ethics, Quakers, revivalism, scientific naturalism, Southern Baptist convention, Theosophy,

Questions :

1. American nation, national character and American way of life.
2. Why is the USA sometimes described as “melting pot”?
3. What language communities are there in the USA?
4. What is the American English like?
5. What religions are confessed?
6. What religious movements are there in the USA?
7. Why is the United States widely known around the world as a leader in mass media production?
8. Why is the United States considered to be a sports-minded country?
9. Education in the USA, its basic philosophy. Elementary and Secondary education, types of schools.
10. The system of higher education. Colleges and universities.
11. Museums and art galleries in the USA.
12. Theatre and cinema in the USA, their commercial character.
13. Press, radio and television of the USA. Monopolization of mass media in America.
14. Speak on American character and values.
15. National holidays and celebrations.

16. American lifestyle: myths and the truth.

17. Youth's culture in the USA.

References:

1. www.livescience.com.

2. Страноведение США = American Studies: пособие для студентов II курса гуманитар. спец. фак. междунар. отношений. В 2 ч. Ч. 1: История / авт.-сост.: Е. А. Жильская [и др.].

3. The USA's economy

Glossary: accounts, annual bonus, annual percentage rate (APR), assets, average earnings growth, bitcoins, budget, bull market, business cycle, Commercial Bank, Investment Bank, Bonds, Checking Account, Credit, Debt, current account, deflation, diminishing returns, National Debt, Personal Debt, Great Depression, Dow Jones Industrial Average, FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation), fiscal policy, Foreclosure, Gross domestic product (GDP), Gross national product (GNP), Hedge funds, Interest, interest rate, Investment, Layoff, Loan/Lend, merger, Mortgage, Recession, mutual fund, net asset value, occupational pension scheme, operating profit, operating loss, public company, savings account, stock, stock market, income tax, quota, rate of returns, Retail Prices Index (RPI), sales tax, Adam Smith, Special liquidity scheme, takeover, Treasury Department, turnover, unemployment benefits, underwriter, value added tax (VAT), without-profit policy, zero interest rate.

Questions:

1. What are the most distinctive features of the USA's economy?
2. The USA's role in the world's economy.
3. The most popular economic issues: should the government raise the minimum federal wages?
4. The most popular economic issues: Should employers be required to pay men and women the same salary for the same job?
5. Should the U.S. raise taxes on the rich? Substantiate the answer.
6. Should the government make cuts to public spending in order to reduce the national debt? Substantiate the answer.
7. Should there be fewer or more restrictions on current welfare benefits? Substantiate the answer.
8. Should the U.S. raise or lower the tax rate for corporations? Substantiate the answer.
9. Should businesses be required to provide paid leave for full-time employees during the birth of a child or sick family member? Substantiate the answer.
10. Do you believe labor unions help or hurt the economy?

11. Should the government prevent “mega mergers” of corporations that could potentially control a large percentage of market share within its industry? Substantiate the answer.
12. Should the President offer tax breaks to individual companies to keep jobs in the U.S.? Substantiate the answer.
13. Should the government increase the tax rate on profits earned from the sale of stocks, bonds, and real estate? Substantiate the answer.
14. What economic stimulus should the government use to aid the country during times of recession?
15. Should the U.S. continue to participate in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)? Substantiate the answer.
16. Should the Federal Reserve Bank be audited by Congress? Substantiate the answer.
17. Should the U.S. increase tariffs on imported products from China? Substantiate the answer.
18. **Speak on** the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).
19. Should the government subsidize farmers? Substantiate the answer.
20. **Should U.S. citizens be allowed to save or invest their money in offshore bank accounts?** Substantiate the answer.
21. Should the government classify the Bitcoin as a legal currency? Substantiate the answer.

References:

1. <http://www.scholastic.com>.
2. www.theguardian.com/business/glossary-business-terms-a-z.
3. www.isidewith.com/poll/1569980570.

4. Globalization

Glossary: to alter, to acknowledge, allegiance, alleged corruption, to abandon, authority, to assume identity, backlash, to cause offence, cosmopolitanism, to counter, cacophony, contrived nation, to derive from, devolution, de facto, diversity, dispense benefits, detract from, to draw on the expertise of, jingoistic, long-established, long-standing, motto, national aspirations, national identification, to nip in the bud, to overlap, to plunge, pernicious influence, to replace, radicalism, to run amok, revenge, to revolutionize, to recede, supremacy, stagnation, succession, speculation, to distance oneself from, emigrant, to eclipse, to encompass, to face an uphill battle, global powers, to give up, to issue, inevitable, sigh up to, strivings for, to surge, to a lesser extent, understatement, unity, to update, to vent differences through.

Questions:

1. What is the notion of the term “globalization”?
2. What is the notion of the term “national identity”?
3. What is the loss of national identity fraught with for a given nation?
4. In what way does identity crisis manifest itself?
5. What measures should be taken by authorities to alleviate national identity crisis?
6. Will all countries eventually lose their national identities and turn into the nations of the world?
7. What are advantages and disadvantages of globalization?
8. Does globalization mean Americanization?
9. Comment on E. V. Debs’ phrase “ I have no country to fight for: my country is the earth, and I am a citizen of the world”.
10. Comment on Confucious’ words “The strength of a nation is derived from the integrity of its homes”.
11. Speak on anti-globalist organizations: their aims.
12. Speak on radical anti-globalist organizations.
13. What is the skinheads’ movement?
14. Do you agree that nowadays globalization is a controversial issue? Why? Why not?
15. What are the consequences of globalization?
16. Speak on transnational companies: cons and pros.

References:

1. Английский для специалистов-международников / Л.Н. Кубьяс, И.В. Кудачкина. – М.: АСТ: Восток – Запад. 2006. –576 с.
2. <http://engmaster.ru>.

5. International economic units.

Glossary: trade bloc, common market, customs unit, freedom of movement of goods, economic and monetary unit, external trade policy, economic efficiency, trade pact, Benelux Union, Belgium–Luxembourg Economic Union, CARICOM Single Market and Economy’ Central American Common Market’, Eurasian Economic Union’, Mercosur’ Gulf Cooperation Council, currency unit, East African Community (EAC), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Arab Customs Union and Common Market’ African Economic Community (AEC), Union of South American Nations (USAN), Andean Community (CAN) , Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Closer Economic Relations of Australia and New Zealand, Central American Common Market (CACM)

Questions:

1. What is international economic integration?
2. What are the forms of economic integration?
3. What are the levels of economic integration?
4. What are well-known continental economic blocs?
5. What stages can the degree of economic integration be categorized into?
6. What are the principles of "free trade area" (FTA) 's formation?
7. What does "customs unit" mean?
8. What does the notion "common market" refer to?
9. What are the main idea of "monetary union"?
10. How are the notions "economic union", "common market", "currency unit" and "fiscal unit" related?
11. Whom was the framework of the theory of economic integration laid out by?
12. What are the requirements for successful development of economic integration?
13. What are trade creation and trade diversion?
14. What are the obstacles of achieving integration?
15. What are the World trade organization's aims?
16. What are advantages and disadvantages of single currencies/monetary integration?

References:

1. Economic union between all EU member states, but those of them inside the [Eurozone](#) are also part of an [economic and monetary union](#).
2. Established by the [Treaty of Rome](#) in force from 1958-1-1. [WT/REG138/2](#)
3. Established by the [Treaty of Chaguaramas](#) in force from 1973-8-1 [WT/REG92/R/B/1](#)
4. Common market since 1960, customs union since 2004.
5. Customs union since 2010, common market since 2012.

6. The world's geopolitics.

Glossary: foreign policy, foreign policy, international relations, area studies, topography, political power, theories of historical and geographic determinism, geopolitical prognosis, Alfred Thayer Mahan, Emil Reich, Homer Lea, Mackinder, Karl Haushofer, the Heartland theory, Geographical Pivot of History, the Royal Geographic Society, The Rimland, The Offshore Islands and Continents (Mackinder's "outer or insular crescent"), "The Geographical Pivot of History", the World Island or Core, Henry Kissinger, Zbigniew Brzezinski, the Grand Chessboard, American Primacy and Its Geostrategic Imperatives, Friedrich Ratzel, German Geopolitik with Nazism, Human

Geography , Political Geography , Élisée Reclus, Jacques Ancel , possibilism, Vadim Tsymbursky , Meta-geopolitics.

Questions:

1. What is the definition of the term “geopolitics”?
2. What issues is geopolitics focused on?
3. Who are the most prominent scholars who have contributed into contemporary American geopolitical scientific view?
4. What is the essence of Sir Halford Mackinder's Heartland Theory?
5. Explain the terms “The Heartland”, “The Rimland ”, “The Offshore Islands & Continents.
6. What are Henry Kissinger’s and Zbigniew Brzezinski's roles in the Anglo-American classical geopolitical theories development?
7. Speak on German geopolitics studies: origin, coming into being, founders,
8. Speak on the association of German Geopolitik with Nazism.
9. How are French geopolitical doctrines and German Geopolitik related?
10. What are Lacoste’s assumptions about every local or global conflict reasons?
11. Develop the ideas "island-Russia" and developed the "Great Limitrophe" concept that were coined in the Russian geopolitical doctrine.
12. What are the principles of contemporary “map of the world” formation?

References:

1. Английский для специалистов-международников / Л.Н. Кубъяс, И.В. Кудачкина. – М.: АСТ: Восток – Запад. 2006. –576 с.
2. [www. geopoliticalfutures.com](http://www.geopoliticalfutures.com).
3. www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/geopolitics.