



WORLD
AFFAIRS
COUNCILS of
AMERICA



PRACTICE QUESTIONS



2023 Academic WorldQuest

Practice Questions

| | |
|---|----|
| Category One: Securing the Future of the World’s Wildlife | 2 |
| Category Two: The Arctic Council: Frozen Cooperation | 4 |
| Category Three: Combating Global Food Insecurity | 6 |
| Category Five: Economic Sanctions – A Double-Edged Sword | 8 |
| Category Six: Great Decisions | 9 |
| Category Seven: Country in Focus: Ethiopia | 11 |
| Category Eight: The Future of Supply Chains | 13 |
| Category Nine: Battle of the Century: Autocracy vs. Democracy | 15 |
| Category Ten: Current Events | 17 |
| Answer Key | 19 |



Category One: Securing the Future of the World's Wildlife

1. What is the process that caused the concentration of a substance to increase as it moved up the food web?

- a. Absorption
- b. Radiation
- c. Transference
- d. Bioaccumulation

Source: [Understanding Conservation: National Wildlife Federation](#)

2. On average how many species are lost in a year?

- a. 12,000
- b. 10,000
- c. 7,000
- d. 4,000

Source: [How Saving Wildlife Benefits Humans - In Ways We Really Need: One Green Planet](#)

3. What risks are associated with selling wild animals for meat?

- a. High risk of animal related injuries
- b. High risk of inconsumable meat
- c. High risk of animal negligence
- d. High risk of disease emergence

Source: [Preventing Pandemics Through Biodiversity Conservation and Smart Wildlife Regulation: Brookings](#)

4. How has NautreMetrics, in partnership with the Lebanon Reforestation Initiative, used eDNA?

- a. Used eDNA to assess the biodiversity of freshwater ecosystems in the Laurentian Great Lakes, providing crucial data from a previously understudied region to inform rehabilitation and restoration work
- b. Used eDNA to assess the biodiversity of saltwater ecosystems in the Amazon, providing crucial data from a previously understudied region to inform rehabilitation and restoration work
- c. Used eDNA to assess the biodiversity of the deep sea ecosystem, providing crucial data from a previously understudied region to inform rehabilitation and restoration work
- d. Used eDNA to assess the biodiversity of freshwater ecosystems, providing crucial data from a previously understudied region to inform rehabilitation and restoration work

Source: [The Hill](#)



5. Large mammals in which region have experienced the greatest impact from human activity?
- a. Africa
 - b. Eurasia
 - c. Asia
 - d. North America

Source: [Mongabay](#)



Category Two: The Arctic Council: Frozen Cooperation

1. **Why are Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the United States, considered to be Member States of the Arctic Council instead of Permanent Participants?**
 - a. Formerly participated in the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy
 - b. Have territories within the Arctic
 - c. Represent Arctic Indigenous People
 - d. Agreed on a commitment to creating a sustainable Arctic Ocean.

Source: ["What is the Arctic Council"](#)

2. **The Chairmanship of the Arctic Council rotates every two years among the Arctic States. Who was the first country to chair the Arctic Council and which country is the current Chair?**
 - a. United States; Russia
 - b. Canada; Russia
 - c. Finland; Russia
 - d. Kingdom of Denmark; Russia

Source: ["About the Arctic Council" – Arctic Council Official Site](#)

3. **Russia assumed chairmanship of the Arctic Council in May 2021 for a two-year term, during this time what will be Russia's priorities?**
 - a. Addressing socio-economic and cultural development; environmental protection and climate change; strengthening relations with Indigenous peoples.
 - b. Improving economic and living conditions in Arctic communities; Arctic Ocean safety, security and stewardship; climate change
 - c. The Arctic marine environment; climate and green energy solutions; people and communities of the Arctic; a stronger Arctic Council.
 - d. Sustainable development; economic growth; national security concerns

Source: [CRS](#)

4. **Which event led the seven Arctic states other than Russia to issue a joint statement on the limited resumption of Arctic Council cooperation?**
 - a. Russia's war in Ukraine.
 - b. Russia's growing interest in geo-political affairs
 - c. Russia's violation of principles of cooperation.
 - d. Russia's desire to harvest Arctic fossil fuels for domestic use.

Source: [Russian Ambassador to US Warns Arctic Council Against Making Decisions Without Moscow](#)



5. **On March 3, 2022, the seven Arctic states other than Russia issued a joint statement in which they announced that they would be “temporarily pausing participation in all meetings of the [Arctic] Council and its subsidiary bodies.” What reasoning did they provide for this pause?**
- a. Russia’s invasion would lead to an accumulation of risks and challenges to soft security in the region.
 - b. Russia’s flagrant violation of the Arctic Councils' core principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, is based on international law.
 - c. Russia’s invasion of Ukraine led to several major oil companies withdrawing from development and projects within the Arctic region.
 - d. Russia’s, the largest Arctic Country, actions created concern for the people, the ecology, and the geography of the Arctic region.

Source: [CRS](#)

Category Three: Combating Global Food Insecurity

- 1. According to the UN Global Crisis response Group on Food, Energy, and Finance how many people globally will become acutely food insecure or are at high risk in 2022?**
- 253 million people
 - 315 million people
 - 323 million people
 - 450 million people

Source: [G7](#)

- 2. In 2021, COVID-19 and widening differences in regions such as Latin America and the Caribbean, widened the gender gap in food insecurity to what percentage?**
- 2.8%
 - 4.3%
 - 5.6%
 - 6.1%

Source: [WFP](#)

- 3. The disruptions to agricultural exports caused by the war in Ukraine have exposed global food and fertilizer markets to all of the following risks, except:**
- Tighter availabilities
 - Unmet import demand
 - Higher international prices
 - Increased dependency on imported food

Source: [WFP](#)

- 4. As of today, which percentage of the world's crop calories feed people directly?**
- 9%
 - 36%
 - 55%**
 - 80%

Source: [National Geographic](#)



5. By 2050 the world's population will likely increase by more than 35%. To feed that population crop production will need to increase by:
- a. 45%
 - b. 50%
 - c. **100%**
 - d. 250%

Source: [National Geographic](#)



Category Five: Economic Sanctions – A Double-Edged Sword

1. In 2022, which country has faced U.S. sanctions that have targeted all ten of their largest financial institutions and have restricted more than half of their high-tech imports?

- a. China
- b. Iran
- c. Myanmar
- d. Russia

Source: [White House](#)

2. Which type of sanction aims to prohibit all contact and trade in order to isolate a target country?

- a. Diplomatic sanctions
- b. Targetted sanctions
- c. Arms Embargos
- d. Economic Sanctions

Source: [The Role of Sanctions](#)

3. According to Carnegie, where does most power of U.S. sanctions come from?

- a. Finance
- b. Trade
- c. Diplomatic Relations

Source: [Carnegie Endowment](#)

4. Which U.S. department is responsible for administering the more than two dozen existing U.S. sanctions?

- a. Office of International Traffic in Arms
- b. Office of Foreign Assests Control
- c. Bureau of Industry and Security
- d. Bureau of Export Administration Regulation

Source: [CFR](#)

5. Since 9/11, how have U.S. sanctions changed?

- a. Shift toward travel sanctions.
- b. Shift toward trade sanctions.
- c. Shift toward smart sanctions.
- d. Shift toward diplomatic sanctions.

Source: [CFR](#)



Category Six: Great Decisions

Climate Change

1. How much have global temperatures risen over the past two hundred years?

- a. 2.9 F
- b. 1.9 F
- c. 0.81 F
- d. 1.7 F

Source: [Climate Change](#)

2. Which technology that puts carbon dioxide back into the ground uses giant fans to suck contaminated air into a filter?

- a. Carbon Mineralization
- b. Direct Air Capture
- c. Bio-Energy with Carbon Capture and Storage
- d. Electrochemical Plates

Source: [Climate Change](#)

3. What is NOT an impact of continued use of fossil fuels according to experts?

- a. Increased temperatures
- b. Rising sea levels
- c. Increased wildfires
- d. Air pollution

Source: [Climate Change](#)

Space Race

1. In today's Space Race, we are witnessing many private companies enter the fray. Between 2000 and 2018, how much did the U.S. government invest in privately owned space companies?

- a. \$6.9 billion
- b. \$7.2 billion
- c. \$7.8 billion
- d. \$9.9 billion

Source: [Space Race](#)



2. Which country is not a major player in commercial space exploration?

- a. China
- b. The United States
- c. Russia
- d. United Arab Emirates

Source: [Space Race](#)



Category Seven: Country in Focus: Ethiopia

1. What country financed more than \$12 billion in many large-scale infrastructure projects, including expansive road and rail networks since 2000?

- a. Great Britain
- b. Russia
- c. China
- d. The U.S.

Source: [CFR](#)

2. What is the number of major turning points in the history of USAID assistance to Ethiopia?

- a. Five
- b. Three
- c. Seven
- d. Two

Source: [USAID](#)

3. What conflict did arise after Ethiopia sought to move away from three decades of authoritarian rule by the Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF)?

- a. Operation Enduring Freedom – Horn of Africa
- b. Tigray Conflict
- c. Eritrean–Ethiopian War
- d. Oromo conflict

Source: [Brookings](#)

4. What is a key differentiator of other countries like Turkey, India, Iran and Gulf countries from the U.S. as partner states?

- a. A policy of “noninterference” in internal affairs
- b. Budget spending
- c. Political reforms
- d. Trade agreements

Source: [Atlantic Council](#)



5. Prior to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, what percent of Ethiopian grain was coming from Ukraine?

- a. About 35%
- b. About 60%
- c. About 80%
- d. About 20%

Source: [Youtube](#)



Category Eight: The Future of Supply Chains

Sponsored by ILO

1. **The "Sustainable Supply Chains to Build Forward Better" project by the European Commission and the ILO will work with worker organizations, employers, and enterprises to:**
 - a. Make supply chains more resilient, fair, and sustainable.
 - b. Shape a future that leaves no one behind.
 - c. Ensure the longevity of supply chains, by focusing on nearshoring of many products.
 - d. Take steps in advancing decent work in response to The Grunwick Dispute.

Source: [*"Sustainable Supply Chains to Build Forward Better"*](#)

2. **G7 Leaders renewed their commitment to reform the WTO to achieve a fair, predictable, and stable trade environment with a revived multilateral trade system by focusing on the following issues at the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference, except:**
 - a. Advancing negotiations in E-Commerce and finding a permanent solution for the moratorium on E-Commerce customs duties.
 - b. Closing the gap in fishing negotiations.
 - c. Streamlining customs procedures, simplifying documentation requirements, temporarily reducing or adjusting tariff rates and other charges on COVID-19 vaccines.
 - d. Addressing agricultural reform.

Source: [*2022-06-28-leaders-communique-data.pdf \(europa.eu\)*](#)

3. **According to the 2020 report by Bank of America via the U.S.-China Economic and Security and Review Commission, what is the total combined cost for U.S. & European companies to move manufacturing out of China and closer to home?**
 - a. \$2.5 trillion
 - b. \$1 trillion
 - c. \$250 billion
 - d. \$886 billion

Source: [*How Companies Are Overhauling Supply Chains to Ease Bottlenecks | WSJ*](#)



4. According to the EC-ILO "Sustainable Supply Chains to Build Forward Better" project, Columbia coffee production suffers from decent work deficits such as long working hours, low wages, limited access to social security and insurance, lack of information, and limited inspections. This is largely due to:
- 35% of coffee production takes place in the informal economy.
 - 65% of coffee production takes place in the informal economy.
 - 75% of coffee production takes place in the informal economy.
 - 85% of coffee production takes place in the informal economy.

Source: [*Country Case Study: Coffee Production in Colombia for the European Market*](#)



Category Nine: Battle of the Century: Autocracy vs. Democracy

1. **Secretary of State Antony Blinken traveled to the Middle East to ...**
 - a. Coordinate more effectively around its concerns about authoritarian action by China
 - b. Develop mutually beneficial trade agreements
 - c. Control the situation in conflict regions
 - d. Press the region's authoritarian states into action against Russia

Source: [Carnegie Europe](#)

2. **What is the main reason for Taiwan being an exception in deploying the democracy-versus-autocracy narrative in Asia?**
 - a. National security
 - b. Government officials
 - c. Political regime type
 - d. Impact of globalization

Source: [Carnegie Europe](#)

3. **Which neighboring country of Russia enabled and supported Russia's invasion of Ukraine from the beginning of the war?**
 - a. Mongolia
 - b. Azerbaijan
 - c. Belarus
 - d. Latvia

Source: [Freedom House](#)

4. **What percentage of Africa's democracies are in conflict?**
 - a. 0%
 - b. 25%
 - c. 23%
 - d. 56%

Source: [Africa Center for Strategic Studies](#)



5. What crime by the Chinese government did the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres refuse to publicly condemn?

- a. Violation of migrants' rights
- b. Modern slavery
- c. Sexual violence and violations of reproductive rights
- d. Crimes against humanity in Xinjiang

Source: [Human Rights Watch](#)



Category Ten: Current Events

Sourced from August 1, 2022 — October 31, 2022 WWNU

- 1. In August 2022, which US government official made a historic visit to Taiwan, sending a clear message that the United States would “not abandon” the democratically governed island due to rising tensions between China and Taiwan?**

- a. Joe Biden
- b. Anthony Blinken
- c. Nancy Pelosi
- d. Kamala Harris

Source: [CNN](#)

- 2. Which country declared that they would repeal the law that makes adult consensual sex between men a criminal offense, in the summer of 2022?**

- a. Vietnam
- b. Thailand
- c. Taiwan
- d. Singapore

Source: [Human Rights Watch](#)

- 3. Which hurricane hit Puerto Rico bringing catastrophic flooding and power outages to the island?**

- a. Hurricane Fiona
- b. Hurricane Maria
- c. Hurricane Nicole
- d. Hurricane Ian

Source: [Axios](#)

- 4. What event caused Iranian men and women to fill the streets, setting fire to head coverings?**

- a. The death of Nika Shakarami during a street protest.
- b. The reinstatement of a mandatory dress code.
- c. The arrest of Elnaz Rekabi after she competed in competitive climbing without wearing the mandatory Islamic hijab.
- d. The death of 22-year-old Mahas Amini after hijab arrest.

Source: [The Atlantic](#)



5. In October 2022, what bridge did Ukraine hit, causing a turning point in the Russia-Ukraine War?

- a. Kherson Bridge
- b. Kerch Strait Bridge
- c. Antonivsky Bridge
- d. Pivichnyi Bridge

Source: [The Atlantic](#)



Answer Key

Category One: Securing the Future of the World's Wildlife

1. D
2. B
3. D
4. D
5. A

Category Two: The Arctic Council: Frozen Cooperation

1. B
2. B
3. D
4. A
5. B

Category Three: Combating Global Food Insecurity

1. C
2. B
3. D
4. C
5. C

Category Five: Economic Sanctions – A Double-Edged Sword

1. D
2. D
3. A
4. B
5. C

Category Six: Great Decisions

1. B
2. B
3. C
4. B
5. D



Category Seven: Country in Focus: Ethiopia

1. D
2. D
3. B
4. A
5. C

Category Eight: The Future of Supply Chains

1. A
2. C
3. B
4. D

Category Nine: Battle of the Century: Autocracy vs. Democracy

1. D
2. A
3. C
4. A
5. D

Category Ten: Current Events

1. C
2. D
3. A
4. D
5. B