Mardi Gras Extemp Questions

**DOMESTIC**

1. Can the Democrats maintain control of the Senate in the 2014 midterm elections?

2. How will the primary process affect the political landscape of the House of Representatives in the 2014 midterm elections?

3. Was Arizona governor Jan Brewer wise to veto legislation allowing business owners to refuse service to people if they believe it violates their religious views?

4. Does legislation on comprehensive immigration reform stand a chance before the 2014 midterm elections?

5. Is it time for the United States to move forward with building the Keystone Pipeline?

6. Is the decision of factory workers at the Tennessee-based Volkswagen plant not to unionize evidence that organized labor is losing power in the private sector?

7. What reforms are necessary for the National Security Agency to regain the trust of the American people?

8. How will the George Washington Bridge closure scandal affect New Jersey Governor Chris Christie’s presidential ambitions?

9. Should Congress approve Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel’s proposed Pentagon budget cuts?

10. Do recent toxic chemical leaks in West Virginia and North Carolina indicate the need for greater environmental regulation of the coal mining industry?

11. What do Republicans need to do to attract more women voters?

12. How will Obama’s decision to use executive orders when Congress refuses to act affect his legacy?

**INTERNATIONAL**

1.  Has British Prime Minister David Cameron responded adequately to the flooding disaster?

2.  What has caused Argentina’s decline?

3.  What needs to be done to restore stability to the Ukraine?

4.  Can China control its pollution problem?

5.  Did the recent Thai election solve the political crisis?

6.  Have the Olympics helped Russia to claim its place as a world power?

7.  What needs to happen in Thailand for democracy to be restored?

8.  Can Chinese government censors stay ahead of online technologies?

9.  Can Matteo Renzi bring reforms to Italy?

10.  Are the talks on Syria doomed to fail?

11.  Which party will prevail in India’s next national election?

12.  Are Chinese claims to territorial waters intended to provoke other Asian nations?

**ECONOMIC**

1. Will Target suffer long-term damage from the data breach that exposed the personal information of millions of its customers?

2. Is Ukraine facing an economic crisis?

3. Has America’s crackdown on tax evasion had a major impact on Swiss private banking?

4. Is the European Union’s economic recovery gaining ground?

5. To what can we attribute the improvement in the world economy?

6. Is Bitcoin on track to become a real and stable global form of monetary exchange?

7. Will Congress be able to agree upon a plan to rescue the highway trust fund before it becomes insolvent?

8. Can the Recovery Act of 2009 be deemed a success?

9. Is hosting the Olympic Games a good economic investment?

10. Should the U.S. place more emphasis on natural resources in the Arctic Circle?

11. Is the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership a good idea?

12. How will Janet Yellen change the direction of U.S. monetary policy?

**FINALS - Social/Cultural issues (U.S. and international)**

1. Is it time for owners of the Washington Redskins to change the football team’s controversial name?

2. Has the United States lost its position as the world’s educational hub?

3. Has crowd-sourcing  become a dominant force in fundraising?

4.  What does the Northwestern University student-athlete fight to unionize portend?

5. Has the fight for environmental rights spread beyond urban elites?

6. WiIl new copyright laws strangle American cultural innovation?

7. Will recently proposed cable mergers lead to the demise of the internet’s free culture?

8. What accounts for the increasing social stratification of America?

9. How tough is the rise of rich, low-job corporations on local communities?

10. What are the social costs of U.S. government policies promoting low-cost food and merchandise?

11. What does the Michael Dunn case murder acquittal suggest?

12. What do proposed changes to the New York Public Library suggest for American culture?