**NCFL Quals Extemp**

**International Conflict**

1. How ready is Afghanistan’s government to assume primary responsibility for its own security?

2. To what extent will Iraq backslide into chaos?

3. How successful will be the peace talks in Myanmar?

4. How likely is the Syrian conflict to spread into neighboring countries?

5. How much of a threat of greater conflict is the China-Japan standoff in the East China Sea?

6.  How likely is South Sudan to implode?

7. What are the chances that Pakistani-Indian tensions will flame into open conflict?

8. How likely is continued peace on the Korean peninsula?

9. How successful will China be in spreading its regional hegemony?

10. How legitimate are Israeli fears of Iran’s nuclear program?

11. What role will cyber warfare play in international conflicts in 2014?

12. How close is Columbia to domestic peace?

**U.S. & International Economy**

1.  What makes the Chinese market difficult for foreign companies?

2.  Why are Western companies leaving China?

3.  Should the Basel Committee maintain strong leverage requirements for banks?

4.  What progress has Cuba made in reforming the economy?

5.  What challenges does Janet Yellen face as she takes over leadership of the Federal Reserve?

6.  Will 2014 be a growth year for the US economy?

7.  Will the taxation of recreational marijuana discourage consumption?

8.  Will President Francois Hollande introduce economic reforms in France?

9.  Do governments benefit in the long-term from the privatization of assets?

10.  What is causing the shrinking of the US current account deficit?

11.  Should the US continue to extend unemployment benefits?

12.  Should the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) be expanded?

**U.S. Politics**

1. How badly has Chris Christie been hurts by recent revelations?

2. Can anyone stop Hillary Clinton?

3. Can Obama save his legacy?

4. Will Republicans be able to successfully woo Hispanics?

5. Is the Tea Party on the ropes?

6. Does the election of DeBlasio as mayor of NYC mean the politicians can safely run as unapologetic liberals?

7. Is Texas still a safe Republican state?

8. How much of a gift to the Republican party is the failed rollout of Obamacare?

9. Are Republicans poised to take the Senate in 2014?

10.Is the fact that a higher percentage of blacks than whites voted in the 2012 election evidence of a trend?

11. Will John Boehner be able to maintain his position as speaker of the House?

12. Are voter ID laws just a modern form of Jim Crow?

**U.S. Foreign Policy**

1. How should the U.S. respond if an al-Qaeda affiliated rebel group replaces the Assad regime in Syria?

2. How should the United States continue to promote democracy abroad?

3. Should the United States continue to support the Egyptian military government?

4. Should the Obama Administration fast track plans to close Guantanamo Bay?

5. Is the U.S. government doing enough to assist in the humanitarian crisis of Syrian refugees?

6. Does President Obama’s threat to veto any new sanctions for Iran strengthen our chances of success in the recent agreement to remove the threat of Iranian nuclear proliferation?

7. Can President Obama’s promise to move the U.S.  off a “permanent war footing” succeed in the next 12 months?

8. What can the U.S. do to curb the narcotics wars in Mexico?

9.  Will the revelations of U.S. data collection by Edward Snowden have lasting negative effects on our relationships with our European allies?

10. Has the U.S. done enough to insure the security of  American  athletes at the Sochi Olympics?

11. What can the U.S. do to promote peace and stability in the violence plagued country of Ukraine?

12.  How has the U.S. influenced climate change initiatives in other developed countries?

**Foreign Leaders**

1.    How successful will Angela Merkel's third term be in protecting German interests?

2.    Have government scandals undermined public confidence in Turkey's Prime Minister Erdogan?

3.    Would Russia be better off without Putin?

4.    Has the administration of Shinzo Abe strengthened or weakened Japan's relationship with the US?

5.   Will Daniel Ortega win a third term if he runs for the Nicaraguan presidency in 2016?

6.    Would it be in al-Assad’s best interest to seek asylum in Russia?

7.    Is Hollande’s personal life clouding his ability to govern France?

8.   Will Netanyahu’s issues with his right-wing political partners stall peace talks with Palestine?

9.   Will Jacob Zuma win re-election?

10.  Can Xi Jinping’s trip to the Sochi Olympics really boost Sino-Russian relations?