



World Affairs Councils of America



2014-2015



World Affairs Councils of America

2014-2015 Academic WorldQuest Introductory Packet

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World Affairs Councils of America

Welcome to the 2014-2015 Academic WorldQuest™!

This year, we host the 13th Annual Academic WorldQuest™, the flagship education program of the World Affairs Councils of America.

One of the greatest challenges facing our nation and our schools across the country is preparing our youth for the globally interconnected world of the 21st Century. America's ability to face the economic and security challenges of the 21st Century and seize new opportunities is dependent on an informed citizenry and a well-educated workforce. Academic WorldQuest™ is a unique opportunity to expose youth to the world outside our borders and prepare them for the challenges and the opportunities of the 21st Century.

Founded in 2003, Academic WorldQuest™ is a team game testing high school students' knowledge of international affairs. In the game, four-person teams compete by answering questions divided into ten unique and engaging thematic categories. The winner is the team with the most correct answers.

Structure of Program:

During the academic year preceding the National Competition in the spring, approximately 4,000 students nationwide participate in competitions hosted by more than 40 local World Affairs Councils across the United States.

A study guide is provided with detailed resources on each of the categories to help students and teachers to prepare for the competition. Questions for the competition are drawn from the resources in the study guide.

Winning teams are invited to represent their high school, city, and local Council at the AWQ National Competition, held in the spring each year in our nation's capital, Washington, DC. This special weekend includes the competition as well as substantive programming planned to enhance the global education experience.

Common Core Standards

Academic WorldQuest contributes to the national [Common Core State Standards Initiative](#) by fostering reading comprehension skills for informational text.

To find a local competition in your area, contact the World Affairs Councils of America at 202-833-4557 or waca@worldaffairsCouncils.org.



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Academic WorldQuest 2014-2015 Categories

This year's categories were selected by the leaders of World Affairs Councils across the country as the most critical global and U.S. foreign policy issues.

Russia / Eurasia
Youth, Jobs, and Social Unrest
Food and Water
Future of Energy
Africa Rising
Human Trafficking
Asia and the New Global Economy
Millennium Development Goals: 2015 and Beyond
Great Decisions
Current Events

Study Guide

A study guide is provided on page 6 by the World Affairs Councils of America with detailed resources on each of these categories. Questions for all categories, with the exception of Current Events, are drawn from the resources in this study guide.



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National Competition Details

Date:

April 25, 2015

Location:

Georgetown University Hotel and Conference Center
3800 Reservoir Road Northwest, Washington D.C.

Located in a beautiful and historic waterfront DC neighborhood, Georgetown University is one of the world's leading academic and research institutions, offering a unique educational experience that prepares the next generation of global citizens to lead and make a difference in the world.

Event Details:

The national Academic WorldQuest competition is attended by more than 225 of the nation's most promising students, along with their parents, teachers, and chaperones. The 3-hour competition is a unique opportunity for many students to visit the nation's capital for the first time. There is a weekend of substantive programming to enhance the experience.

Examples of Past National Competition Weekend Activities:

- Embassy Receptions
- Speeches by ambassadors
- Discussions with experts of competition topics
- Panel discussions with university faculty about careers in international relations.
- Performance by African Dance troupe and other cultural activities
- Opportunities to socialize with students from across the country and international students who are invited as special guests to the competition



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Qualifying for National Academic WorldQuest™ Rules and Regulations

All teams who compete in the National Competition must win a local competition sponsored by a member organization of the World Affairs Councils of America.

Teams may compete in only one (1) local competition in order to qualify to compete in the National Competition.

A team consists of four (4) Primary Teammates who are currently high school students (freshman – senior year). No more than four players per team will be able to compete in the National Competition.

Teams may designate Alternate Teammates to replace one or more of the four Primary Teammates in the case of sickness or other circumstances which would prevent one of the four Primary Teammates from competing in the National Competition. Please note that local Councils may be unable to send Alternate Teammates to the National Competition.

Once the National Competition has begun, no substitutions of Alternate Teammates may be made.

Teams of fewer than four students are allowed to compete, but are strongly discouraged.

If the winning team from a local competition is unable to compete in the National Competition and has no Alternate Teammates, the second place team may compete in its place.



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National Competition Rules and Regulations

How to Play

There are 10 rounds of 10 questions each. All of the questions are multiple-choice except for Current Events, which will feature fill-in-the-blank, true/false, and open-ended questions.

Teams have up to 1 minute to answer each question.

Rules

Teams are not allowed to consult with the audience, wireless devices, cell phones, other teams, books or written material at any point during the competition. Any team found by World Affairs Councils of America judges, runners, or staff to be violating this rule will forfeit that round.

If a team believes another team is cheating, they may tell a World Affairs Councils of America representative, however if the other team is not found to be in violation of any rules, the accusing team will forfeit one (1) point.

A team consists of four (4) players. Player substitutions are not allowed. A player can only use the bathroom during the break. If a player leaves at any other point during the rounds, he or she cannot return until after the break.

Parents, alternates, and other guests must remain off the floor at all times.

If your team wishes to challenge an answer, one (1) team member may bring the challenge calmly and politely to the judges within the time period allotted after answers are announced. Teams are not allowed to discuss challenges with audience members. The decision of the head judge is final. If your challenge is unsuccessful, your team will forfeit one (1) point.

Scoring

1 point for each correct answer.

No penalty for incorrect answers or no answer.

If there is a tie for 1st through 3rd place, tie-breaker rounds will be played.



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Study Guide



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Academic WorldQuest 2014-2015 Study Guide

All questions for the Academic WorldQuest competition will be drawn from the sources in this Study Guide.

This study guide is best viewed in a current version of Adobe Reader. If you are having trouble clicking any of the below links, cut and paste them into your browser instead of clicking them or try a different browser.

Current Events

This round will consist of questions on world news and world events. For local competitions, the emphasis will be on the second half of 2014. For the National Competition, the emphasis will be on the beginning of 2015. In general, we recommend reading a variety of reputable national and international news sources.

Great Decisions

Great Decisions is an annual program about critical international issues issued by the Foreign Policy Association, a member of the World Affairs Councils of America. This year's categories are: Defense Technology; Israel and the U.S.; Turkey's Challenges; Islamic Awakening; Energy Independence; Food and Climate; China's Foreign Policy; and U.S. Trade Policy.

Great Decisions 2014 Briefing Books are required study material for the program. They will be made available through the World Affairs Councils.

In addition to the Briefing Books, please also study the following online information:

- **Foreign Policy Association**
http://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/?act=gd_topics
 - Under each topic's page, read the Glossary, Background Guide, and all available Updates

Russia/Eurasia

As one of the world's largest and most powerful states, Russia will continue to be an important player in global affairs. Eurasia, a developing region at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, will also continue to be a region of geostrategic importance. The relationship between Russia and Eurasia is complex and certainly an issue that merits continued attention. Moreover, Russia-US relations have become increasingly strained over the past year as a result of developments in Syria and Ukraine, among other reasons. This category will provide an overview of the strategically significant region with special regard to its history, as well as recent and ongoing events.

- **The Central Intelligence Agency World Factbook**
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/rs.html>



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- Click and read through the various subheadings on Russia (Introduction, Geography, People and Society, etc.) (Link above)
- Click and study the map of Russia (Link above)
- **US Department of State**
 - Read “200 Years of U.S.-Russia Relations”
<http://www.state.gov/p/eur/ci/rs/200years/>
- **Council on Foreign Relations**
 - Read “Is the West at a Breaking Point with Russia?”
<http://www.cfr.org/russian-federation/west-breaking-point-russia/p32681>
 - Click and read through the various subheadings (Intro, A Post-Cold War Pivot, etc.) on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
<http://www.cfr.org/nato/north-atlantic-treaty-organization-nato/p28287>
- **The Washington Post**
 - Read “Comparing the Crimea conflict with the Georgia-Russia situation of 2008”
http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/crimea-crisis-may-seem-like-georgia-russia-situation-of-2008-but-its-really-not/2014/03/02/39db1890-a242-11e3-a5fa-55f0c77bf39c_story.html
- **CNN**
 - Read “2008 Georgia Russia Conflict Fast Facts”
<http://www.cnn.com/2014/03/13/world/europe/2008-georgia-russia-conflict/>
- **BBC**
 - Read about the history of the Cold War and related events/topics.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/coldwar/>

Youth, Jobs, and Social Unrest

Millennials are the largest generation in American history. At present, nearly 40% of this generation is unemployed. This startling statistic is largely a product of the Great Recession, which has detrimentally impacted employment rates across the globe. In Spain for example, the unemployment rate is 25.1%. Accordingly, it is not surprising that the world has witnessed multiple instances of social unrest in the midst of global economic inequality. As a global community, we must come together to find a solution.

- **Center for Strategic and International Studies**
 - Read “The Global Youth Wellbeing Index”
<http://www.youthindex.org/reports/globalyouthwellbeingindex.pdf>
- **International Labor Organization**
 - Read the Executive Summary of “Global Employment Trends for Youth 2013 - A generation at risk”
<http://www.ilo.org/global/research/global-reports/global-employment-trends/youth/2013/lang--en/index.htm>
- **United Nations**
 - Read Chapter One of the “World Youth Report “



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<http://www.unworldyouthreport.org/>

- **The Guardian**

- Read “Spain Youth Unemployment Reaches Record 56.1%”

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2013/aug/30/spain-youth-unemployment-record-high>

- **Pew Research**

- Read “Millennials in Adulthood”

<http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2014/03/07/millennials-in-adulthood/>

Food and Water

As the global population continues to grow, access to food and water has become increasingly difficult for many people across the world. Nearly 780 million people do not have access to clean water and nearly 2.5 billion people do not have access to adequate sanitation. That means 1 in 9 people do not have access to one of the most basic needs in life. Without water, there is no life. Moreover, according to the UN, nearly 1.2 billion people are living in extreme poverty. Needless to say, this is one of the most important topics in the world at present, and an issue that requires imminent attention.

- **UN Water**

- Read the factsheets on water

<http://www.unwater.org/water-cooperation-2013/get-involved/campaign-materials/water-factsheets/en/>

- **Water.org**

- Read “Water facts”

<http://water.org/water-crisis/water-facts/water/>

- **Global Water Partnership**

- Read “Water Statistics”

<http://www.gwp.org/Press-Room/Water-Statistics/>

- **US Geological Survey**

- Read “The World’s Water”

<http://water.usgs.gov/edu/earthwherewater.html>

- **World Food Programme**

- Read all subtopics under “Learn more about Hunger”

<http://www.wfp.org/hunger>

- **Feed the Future – The US Government’s Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative**

- Read the “Feed the Future Progress Report”

http://www.feedthefuture.gov/sites/default/files/ftf_progressreport_2014.pdf

- **United Nations**

- Read the fact sheet “Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger”

http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Goal_1_fs.pdf

- **Foreign Policy Association**

- Read the Glossary, Background Guide, and all available Updates

http://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/index.cfm?act=topic_detail&topic_id=39

- Read “Food and Climate” in the Great Decisions Briefing book

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Future of Energy

As the world's resources continue to dwindle, all countries will inevitably have to find alternative approaches to energy in order to limit environmental degradation and pollution. The Obama administration has made a commitment to clean energy, in order to reduce pollution while sustaining America's access to various resources. This approach includes a reduction in dependence on foreign oil, as well as finding ways to make the use of various energy resources more efficient. When it comes to energy, the world must find balance and compromise between what is practical and what is profitable. Accordingly, this issue is extremely relevant at present, and worthy of careful attention and discussion.

- **WhiteHouse.Gov**
 - Read "Advancing America's Energy"
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/energy/securing-american-energy#energy-menu>
- **Rational Middle Energy Series**
 - Watch Episodes 1.1 through 1.10
<http://rationalmiddle.com/movies/?sort=episode>
- **US Energy Information Agency**
 - Read all tabs plus "Energy Explained"
http://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/index.cfm?page=renewable_home
- **Energy.Gov**
 - Read (and watch video) "EPA's Clean Power Plan to Fight Climate Change and Build the Clean Energy Economy"
<http://www.energy.gov/articles/epas-clean-power-plan-fight-climate-change-and-build-clean-energy-economy>
 - Read "Power Africa's Beyond the Grid Increasing Access through Small- Scale Energy Solutions"
<http://www.energy.gov/articles/power-africa-s-beyond-grid-increasing-access-through-small-scale-energy-solutions>
- **The Economist**
 - Read "The Future of Energy"
<http://www.economist.com/node/11580723>
- **Foreign Policy**
 - Read "How Is Energy Remaking the World?"
http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2012/06/18/how_is_energy_remaking_the_world
 - Read "Another Russia-China Energy Deal?"
http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2014/06/05/another_russia_china_energy_deal
 - Read "Energy Independence: A Short History"
http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2012/01/03/energy_independence_a_short_history?page=0,0
- **Council on Foreign Relations**
 - Read "The Geopolitical Potential of the U.S. Energy Boom"
<http://www.cfr.org/north-america/geopolitical-potential-us-energy-boom/p32667>
 - Read "How Will China Clean its Air?"



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http://blogs.cfr.org/levi/2014/05/30/how-will-china-clean-its-air/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+mlevi+%28Michaël+Levi%3A+Energy%2C+Security%2C+and+Climate%29

- **Foreign Policy Association**

- Read the Glossary, Background Guide, and all available Updates
http://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/index.cfm?act=topic_detail&topic_id=38
- Read “Energy Independence” in the Great Decisions Briefing book

Africa Rising

Africa is often stigmatized due to the extreme poverty that is observable in many countries across the continent. While it is important for these issues to be addressed, it is also notable that Africa has seen a great deal of development and growth in recent years and has come a long way since the cessation of colonialism. Africa is the world’s second most populous continent, with 1.1 billion people. It is also the second largest continent in terms of geography. It’s a dynamic region with a diverse array of peoples and languages. It also contains 30% of the earth’s remaining mineral resources. With that said, there are some very serious issues that must be addressed in Africa in order to ensure its continued development. Some of these include the reduction of HIV/AIDS rates, improving access to clean water, raising literacy rates, and reducing the spread of diseases like malaria.

- **The Central Intelligence Agency World Factbook**

- Study the political and physical maps of Africa
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/docs/refmaps.html>

- **National Geographic**

- Read “Getting to Know Africa”
<http://newswatch.nationalgeographic.com/2013/10/31/getting-to-know-africa-50-facts/>

- **Brookings Institution**

- Read “Top Five Reasons Why Africa Should Be A Priority for the United States”
http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Research/Files/Reports/2013/04/africa%20priority%20united%20states/04_africa_priority_united_states.pdf
- Read “U.S. and French Collaboration in Africa: Security and Defense Considerations”
<http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/africa-in-focus/posts/2014/06/20-us-french-collaboration-africa-security-sy>

- **The World Bank**

- Study the Economic Statistics for Sub-Saharan Africa
<http://data.worldbank.org/region/SSA>

- **Council on Foreign Relations**

- Read “Xi Jinping’s Africa Policy: The First Year”
<http://www.cfr.org/politics-and-strategy/brookings-xi-jinpings-africa-policy-first-year/p32797>

- **Al Jazeera**

- Read “The struggle for a free press in Africa”



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http://america.aljazeera.com/opinions/2014/7/free-press-africajournalistsjournalismisnotacrime.html?utm_campaign=ajam&utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=SocialFlow

Human Trafficking

The United Nations defines Human Trafficking as “recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.” This category will explore the extent of this human rights problem worldwide as well as the actions being taken to counteract it.

- **U.S. Department of State**
 - Read “Trafficking in Persons Report 2014”
<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/226844.pdf>
- **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes**
 - Read all content on the Human Trafficking page
<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html>
 - Read “Human Trafficking FAQs”
<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/faqs.html>
 - View the Signatories to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Crime and its Protocols by clicking “Status of Ratification” under the Convention and its protocols
<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/signatures.html>
- **U.S. Department of Homeland Security**
 - Read each subtopic un “Learn About Human Trafficking”
<http://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/learn-about-human-trafficking>
- **Polaris Project**
 - Read the Human Trafficking “Overview” and each sub-topic underneath “Overview” in the left-hand column
<http://www.polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/overview>
- **McCain Institute for International Leadership**
 - Read “How do Fortune 100 Corporations Address Potential Links to Human Rights Violations in a Globally Integrated Economy?”
http://www.mccaininstitute.org/applications/Fortune_100_Report_on_Trafficking.pdf

Millennium Development Goals: 2015 and Beyond

For the past five years, Academic WorldQuest has featured the UN Millennium Development Goals. This year brings the final deadline for the goals in 2015. Therefore, this category will review that progress that has been made on all of the goals and offer insight into how progress will continue after 2015.

- **The United Nations**
 - Read “Millennium Development Goals Report 2014”
<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2014%20MDG%20report/MDG%202014%20English%20web.pdf>



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- Read “Millennium Goals: 2014 Progress Chart”
http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2014/Progress_E.pdf
- Read the Fact Sheet for each Goal
<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/bkgd.shtml>
- Read the Press Release following the 2013 UN General Assembly
http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Press_release_Special_Event_FINAL.pdf
- **World Bank**
 - Read the *Report Card UN Millennium Goals 2013*
http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPROSPECTS/Resources/334934-1327948020811/8401693-1355753354515/8980448-1366123749799/GMR_2013_Report_Card.pdf
- **High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda**
 - Read the Executive Summary and Chapter 1 of the *Report of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda*
<http://report.post2015hlp.org/digital-report-executive-summary.html>

Asia and the New Global Economy

One of the Obama administration’s signature policy initiatives was the “pivot to Asia.” This shift occurred for two reasons: the need for American influence in the region to counterbalance a growing China, and an acknowledgement of the increasing economic importance of South and East Asia. The region’s economic growth hinges on a variety of factors, perhaps most importantly being the rise of a technologically savvy and productive, young workforce. The following articles will paint a picture of the burgeoning economic issues in the region, examining all sides of the region’s growing economic strength.

- **The Central Intelligence Agency World Factbook**
 - Study the map of China and read through the various subheadings on China (Introduction, Geography, People and Society, etc.)
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ch.html>
 - Study the map of Japan and read through the various subheadings on China (Introduction, Geography, People and Society, etc.)
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ja.html>
 - Study the Maps and read the “Introduction” and “Transnational Issues” information for all East and South Asian countries
https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/wfbExt/region_eas.html
- **Council on Foreign Relations**
 - Read through the article “A Changing East Asia and U.S. Foreign Policy”
<http://www.cfr.org/south-korea/changing-east-asia-us-foreign-policy/p28385>
 - Read “The U.S.-Japan Security Alliance”
<http://www.cfr.org/japan/us-japan-security-alliance/p31437>
- **World Economic Forum**
 - Read “Why Globalization doesn't need the West”
<http://forumblog.org/2014/05/pharag-khanna-new-globalization-west-global-growth-emerging-economies/>



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- Read “Five key facts for the future of India’s economy”
<http://forumblog.org/2014/05/india-economy-narendra-modi-election/>
- Read “Top 10 Trends of 2014: 8. The expanding middle class in Asia”
<http://reports.weforum.org/outlook-14/top-ten-trends-category-page/8-the-expanding-middle-class-in-asia/>
- **International Monetary Fund**
 - Read Chapter 1 of “World Economic Outlook”
<http://www.imf.org/external/Pubs/ft/weo/2014/01/pdf/c1.pdf>
- **Brookings Institution**
 - Read “China’s Rebalancing Opens New Opportunities for Developing Countries”
<http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/up-front/posts/2014/05/30-china-rebalance-developing-countries-dollar>
- **McKinsey & Company**
 - Read the Executive Summary of “Global flows in a digital age”
http://www.mckinsey.com/insights/globalization/global_flows_in_a_digital_age
- **Foreign Policy Association**
 - Read the Glossary, Background Guide, and all available Updates
http://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/index.cfm?act=topic_detail&topic_id=40
 - Read “China’s Foreign Policy” in the Great Decisions Briefing book

Good Luck!