



Academic WorldQuest 2011-2012 Study Guide

This year's categories focus on the Six Top National Security Issues facing the United States in the run-up to the 2012 presidential election, voted on and chosen by the leaders of World Affairs Councils across the country, as well as four other pertinent topics. *The categories are: U.S. Education: Competing Globally, U.S. Energy Policy, U.S. Economic Competitiveness, The Middle East, Afghanistan/Pakistan, China, NATO, UN Millennium Goals: Child Health, Azerbaijan, and Current Events.*

All questions will be drawn from the sources in this Study Guide. Questions will focus on overall trends, themes, and ideas presented, as well as graph outliers instead of actual facts and figures. This study guide is best viewed in a current version of Adobe Reader. If you are having trouble clicking on any of the below links, copy and paste them into your browser. Please contact the Council if you are unable to access any of these sites.

NOTE: The Study Guide for the national competition includes additional material not found on this guide and can be found on the World Affairs Councils of America's website. The Montana competition will only include questions from the resources found on the study guide below, but feel free to review additional materials.

To get an idea of the types of questions that will be asked, you may wish to review questions from the 2011 competition, available at:

<http://montanaworldaffairs.org/index.php/education/academic-world-quest/>

CATEGORY 1

U.S. Education: Competing Globally

One of the Six Top National Security Issues facing the United States in the run-up to the 2012 presidential election, this category focuses on the future of American education. Recent international surveys indicate that American students' educational performance has declined relative to their foreign counterparts. To remain competitive, the country must reassess the way it is educating the next generation of Americans, particularly in STEM subjects: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

The White House

- Read the Introduction and Chapter 1 and 2 of *Prepare and Inspire: K-12 Education in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) for America's Future*:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/pcast-stemed-report.pdf>

National Academy of Sciences

- Read Chapter 3 of *Rising Above the Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future*:

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=11463

Partnership for 21st Century Skills

- Read pages 1-10 of *Education & Competitiveness: A Resource and Policy Guide*:

http://www.p21.org/documents/21st_century_skills_education_and_competitiveness_guide.pdf

Commerce Department

- Read *STEM: Good Jobs Now and for the Future*:

http://www.esa.doc.gov/sites/default/files/reports/documents/stemfinaljuly14_1.pdf

American Chemical Society's ChemMatters

- Read *Whose Air is It Anyway?*:

http://portal.acs.org/portal/PublicWebSite/education/resources/highschool/chemmatters/CTP_005392

CATEGORY 2

U.S. Energy Policy

One of the Six Top National Security Issues facing the United States in the run-up to the 2012 presidential election, this category will address the challenges and potential opportunities for U.S. energy usage into the near and long-term future.

Energy Information Agency

- Review *only* the overview of each source of energy listed on the left-hand side under the "Energy Sources" tab:

http://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/index.cfm?page=heating_oil_home

The Pew Charitable Trusts

- Read the Executive Summary, Key Findings, and Who's Winning the Clean Energy Race? (pages 1-16) in *Who's Winning the Clean Energy Race?*:

<http://www.pewenvironment.org/uploadedFiles/PEG/Publications/Report/G-20Report-LOWRes-FINAL.pdf>

International Energy Agency

- Read the Summary of *Are We Entering a Golden Age of Gas? Special Report* (pages 7-9):

http://www.iea.org/weo/docs/weo2011/WEO2011_GoldenAgeofGasReport.pdf

Council on Foreign Relations

- Review *Nuclear Energy Guide*. Go through the Overview, Timeline, A World View, Expert Analysis, and The Future. Be sure to click on all of the links within each section:

http://www.cfr.org/interactives/IG_Nuclear/index.html

CATEGORY 3

U.S. Economic Competitiveness

One of the Six Top National Security Issues facing the United States in the run-up to the 2012 presidential election, this category will discuss the relative economic power held by the United States in the wake of the recent economic crisis and what the U.S. needs to do to remain competitive.

World Economic Forum

- Read Chapter 1.1 (pages 3-42 as numbered by the PDF's page counter) of the *Global Competitiveness Index 2010-2011*:

http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GlobalCompetitivenessReport_2010-11.pdf

Council on Foreign Relations

- Read *The Budget Deficit and U.S. Competitiveness*:

<http://www.cfr.org/economics/budget-deficit-us-competitiveness/p24910>

- Read *U.S. Debt Ceiling: Costs and Consequences*:

<http://www.cfr.org/international-finance/us-debt-ceiling-costs-consequences/p24751>

US Department of Commerce

- Read *Competing – and Winning – in a Global Economy*:

<http://www.manufacturing.gov/report/competing.pdf>

National Academy of Sciences

- Read Chapter 2 of *Rising Above the Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future*:

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=11463

CATEGORY 4

Middle East

One of the Six Top National Security Issues facing the United States in the run-up to the 2012 presidential election, this category will provide an overview of this strategically significant region with special regard to recent momentous events.

Council on Foreign Relations

- Read *Mounting Pressure in Arab Uprisings* :

<http://www.cfr.org/middle-east/mounting-pressure-arab-uprisings/p25143>

- Read *The Arab Spring Has Given Way to a Long, Hot Summer*:

<http://www.cfr.org/middle-east/arab-spring-has-given-way-long-hot-summer/p25426>

G8 Summit

- Read the *Declaration of the G8 on the Arab Spring*:

<http://www.g20-g8.com/g8-g20/g8/english/live/news/declaration-of-the-g8-on-the-arab-springs.1316.html>

State Department

- Read the DipNote Blog: President Obama Delivers Remarks on Events in the Middle East and North Africa, Introductory Remarks by Secretary Clinton, and all Fact Sheets:

<http://www.state.gov/p/nea/c45043.htm>

- Country Reports on Egypt, Iran, Israel, Libya, Saudi Arabia, and Syria:

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/index.htm>

CATEGORY 5

Afghanistan/Pakistan

One of the Six Top National Security Issues facing the United States in the run-up to the 2012 presidential election, this section will cover current political, economic, and cultural events in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and particularly how the U.S.'s future relationship with both countries will be determined by present events such as the Arab Spring, the discovery of Osama bin Laden, and eventual U.S. troop withdrawal from both countries within the next few years.

World Affairs Councils of America

- Go to the Virtual Library and watch the videos, listed under “Latest from the Capital”:
http://www.worldaffairscouncils.org/2011/main/home.cfm?Database=virtual_library&Category=Main&Section=Main
- Presidential Address on Troop Levels in Afghanistan 6/22/11—watch video
- Senate Foreign Relations Committee: Steps needed for a Successful 2014 Transition in Afghanistan 5/10/11- watch video

Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

- Read the testimonies of the speakers:
<http://foreign.senate.gov/hearings/hearing/?id=50dda323-5056-a032-522f-1577e3361280>
- Read Executive Summary of Senate Committee on Foreign Relations’ *Evaluating U.S. Foreign Assistance to Afghanistan* report:
<http://reliefweb.int/node/406742>

Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)

- Read *The Afghan War and the Problem of Pakistan*:
<http://csis.org/publication/afghan-war-and-problem-pakistan>
- Read slides 1-18 of the *The Problem of Pakistan* presentation:
http://csis.org/files/publication/110607_Pakistan-Cordesman.pdf

United States Institute of Peace

- Read *The Future of Pakistan*:
http://www.usip.org/files/resources/The_Future_of_Pakistan.pdf

CATEGORY 6

China

One of the Six Top National Security Issues facing the United States in the run-up to the 2012 presidential election, this section will provide an overview of China as a growing economic, political, and military power.

Council on Foreign Relations

- Read *Asia’s New Growth Model*:
<http://www.cfr.org/economic-development/asias-new-growth-model/p25172>
- Read *Who Will Win as China’s Economy Changes?*:

<http://blogs.cfr.org/asia/2011/07/24/who-will-win-as-china%E2%80%99s-economy-changes/>

United States Department of State

- Read *Background Notes on China*:

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/18902.htm>

- Watch and read the transcript of Secretary Clinton's speech:

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2011/07/168936.htm>

(Each article listed below is between 1-2 pages. You will have to do some digging but don't be intimidated by this list!)

Read *A Journey Shared: The United States and China* 's Introduction; Script of the DVD; Timeline: Beginnings; Timeline: Open Door to the End of a Dynasty; Timeline: The Republic of China to World War II; Timeline: The Cold War in Asia; Timeline: The Opening to China Through Tiananmen Square; 20th Century Relations, 1949-2000: Chinese Americans After the End of Exclusion; Origins to the End of the 19th Century: Chinese Subjects in the United States; Confucius: A Chinese Thinker and Philosopher; From the Open Door to the Chinese Civil War: Diplomacy and Trade From the Open Door to 1937; Origins to the End of the 19th Century: Early Diplomatic Contact; 20th Century Relations, 1949-2000: After the Opening: Educational and Cultural Relations; From the Open Door to the Chinese Civil War: Learning About China; Origins to the End of the 19th Century: U.S. Merchants Look to China; From the Open Door to the Chinese Civil War: Military and Wartime Relations; Origins to the End of the 19th Century: American Missionaries in the 19th Century; 20th Century Relations, 1949-2000: Modern Diplomacy; From the Open Door to the Chinese Civil War: Political Change in China; From the Open Door to the Chinese Civil War: Religious and Educational Contacts; From the Open Door to the Chinese Civil War: The Chinese in America; 20th Century Relations, 1949 -2000: After the Opening: Trade and Technology; 20th Century Relations, 1949-2000: From World War to Cold War:

<http://static.history.state.gov/edu-modules/journey-shared.pdf>

Congressional Research Service

- Read the whole *China-U.S. Trade Issues* report:

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/166797.pdf>

CATEGORY 7

NATO

This summer, the US will be hosting the 2012 NATO summit in Chicago. It is possible that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is facing a historic turning point as a result of engagements in Libya as well as the changing global landscape.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

- Read the text of the *North Atlantic Treaty*:

http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/official_texts_17120.htm

- Review *Discover NATO*. Go through the interactive presentation for Basics, Activities, and Dynamics. Be sure to move your mouse over all of the question marks and listen to all of the audio and video components within the presentation:

http://www.nato.int/cps/en/SID-D37BC814-6673563D/natolive/what_is_nato.htm

Council on Foreign Relations

- Download the PDF and read *The Future of NATO*, pages 3-23:

<http://www.cfr.org/nato/future-nato/p21044>

The Atlantic Council

- Read *Gates: NATO a Two Tiered Alliance with a Dim, Dismal Future*:

http://www.acus.org/new_atlanticist/gates-nato-two-tiered-alliance-dim-dismal-future

- Download the PDF and read the Executive Summary, Chapters 1-2, and the Conclusion of *Alliance Reborn: An Atlantic Compact for the 21st Century*:

<http://www.acus.org/publication/alliance-reborn-atlantic-compact-21st-century>

The World Affairs Council of America and The World Affairs Council of Atlanta

- Read *NATO: Preserving Unity Through Solidarity*:

http://www.worldaffairscouncils.org/images/insert/NATO_SG_Rasmussen_Address_to_the_World_Affairs_Council_of_Atlanta.pdf

CATEGORY 8

UN Millennium Goals: Child Health

Each year until 2015, AWQ will feature one United Nations Development Goal. This year's topic will address the United Nations Development Goal #4: Reduce Child Mortality.

United Nations (UN)

- Read The Millennium Development Goal Report:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2010/2010_Addendum_Goal4.pdf

- Read fact sheet, pages 1-2:

http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/MDG_FS_4_EN.pdf

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

- Click on each of the bullets to see the progress in each of the sub-goals in improving child health:

http://www.unicef.org/progressforchildren/2007n6/index_41799.htm

- On the sidebar click each of the labels to learn about the greatest health risks to children under 5, then at the bottom click on Main Menu and explore each tab of wheels entitled Causes, Countdown, and Action:

<http://www.unicef.org/mdg/mortalitymultimedia/index.html>

World Bank

- Read *Learning from Maternal and Child Health Successes in Africa*:

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/AFRICAEXT/0,,contentMDK:22658551~pagePK:146736~piPK:146830~theSitePK:258644,00.html>

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

- Read *Progress Toward Maternal, Newborn, & Child Health*:

<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/livingproofproject/Documents/progress-towards-maternal-newborn-child-health.pdf>

- Watch *Impatient Optimists: Mother, Child Health*:

<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/videos/Pages/default.aspx#video=/livingproofproject/Pages/impatient-optimists-speech-maternal-newborn-health.aspx&pager=0&filter=Maternal%252C%2520Newborn%252C%2520%2526%2520Child%2520Health&autostart=true>

CATEGORY 9

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan is a country at the nexus point of the Middle East, Asia, and Europe. Historically, the country has always been a middleman for the East and West—in ancient and medieval times it was a central point along the Silk Road. Today its strategic placement keeps it a focal point for commercial and energy policies and regional and global geopolitics. The World Affairs Councils of America conducted a Leadership Mission to Azerbaijan in spring 2011.

State Department

- Read the State Department’s Background Notes on the Republic of Azerbaijan:
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2909.htm>

Washington Post

- Read *Azerbaijan wavers between East and West*:
http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/azerbaijan-wavers-between-east-andwest/2011/06/03/AGmdvgRH_story.html

Youtube—Discovery Channel’s *Build it Bigger*:

- Watch video until 4:25
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9gl0q_Didvo

Smithsonian Institute

- Under the left-hand side bar, read *Azerbaijan* under *Site Overviews*, *Azerbaijan* under *Cultural History* (including each “period” link), and each subcategory under *Shared Heritage*
<http://agt.si.edu/>

CATEGORY 10

Current Events

This round will consist of questions on world news and world events happening in early 2012. This year, there will be a focus on the history of the Olympics to prepare for the 2012 London Games.

In general, for the questions on world events, we recommend keeping up to date on current events by reading reputable national news sources and watching news broadcasts. Many news sources can be obtained free through their websites. Suggested sources include: The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, BBC, and The Economist.

Questions on the Olympics will come directly from the following sources:

Council on Foreign Relations

- Read *Politics and the Olympics: A Slideshow (takes time to load)*:
<http://www.cfr.org/world/politics-olympics/p16366>

London 2012

- Read about the 26 sports which will be feature at the 2012 Olympics:
<http://www.london2012.com/sport>

- Read *Torch History*:

<http://www.london2012.com/games/olympic-torch-relay/history/>

- Read *Games Heritage: Olympic Heritage and Paralympics Heritage* :

<http://www.london2012.com/games-heritage>

U.S. Department of State

- Read Pages 1-19 of *Sports and Diplomacy in the Global Arena*:

<http://static.history.state.gov/edu-modules/sports.pdf>