



Academic WorldQuest 2020 Study Guide

All questions for the 2020 Academic WorldQuest Competition will be drawn from the sources found in this document. We do not expect that students will memorize all of the facts and figures found within the study guide, rather questions will focus on overall trends, themes, and ideas presented, as well as graph outliers and surprising facts. This study guide is best viewed in a current version of Adobe Reader. If you are having trouble clicking on any of the links below, copy and paste them into your browser or try Googling the title or site. 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 material.

Category 1: US- Russia Relations

The international community has a vested interest in stabilizing the tumultuous relationship between the two great powers United States and Russia. Diplomatic relations have been on a downward trend for the almost two decades with a steep deterioration following Russian aggression towards Ukraine. The threat of Russian expansionism fuels international cooperation to bring Russia in-line with the democratic ideals governing the international system. This topic will cover the history of U.S-Russia relations; what led to today’s rocky ties; American and Russian roles in major sectors affecting security; the nature of U.S.- Russia economic relations and how trade and sanctions affect this partnership; Russia’s effect on the global order and international cooperation to maintain stability; and the future of relations.

- **Overview and Historical Context:**

- Watch “**Introduction**” (Video); explore “**Timeline**,” read summary and watch “**Nuclear Security: Overview**” section of “**Military & Cyber**,” read summary and watch “**Cyber & Information Warfare: Overview**” section of “**Military & Cyber**,” and watch “**Seeking Stability**” (Video) – Carnegie Corporation of New York

<https://usrussiarelations.org/1/introduction>

- Read “**A Guide to the United States’ History of Recognition, Diplomatic, and Consular Relations, by Country, Since 1776: Russia**” – Office of the Historian; U.S. Department of State

<https://history.state.gov/countries/russia>

(If there is a prompt for credentials, please click “Ok” without inputting anything, and it should lead you to the page.)

- Read “**Russia Fast Facts**” – CNN
<https://www.cnn.com/2013/10/29/world/russia-fast-facts/index.html>

- Read “**How the U.S.-Russian Relationship Went Bad**” William Burns – The Atlantic, April 2019
<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2019/04/william-j-burns-putin-russia/583255/>

- **Economics and Trade**

- Read “**Russia**” – Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
<https://ustr.gov/Russia>

- Read “**Have Sanctions on Russia Changed Putin’s Calculus?**” Andrew Chatzky – Council on Foreign Relations, May 2, 2019
<https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/have-sanctions-russia-changed-putins-calculus>

- **International Cooperation**

- Read “**Managing Global Disorder: Prospects for U.S.-Russian Cooperation**” – Council on Foreign Relations, August 23, 2017
<https://www.cfr.org/report/managing-global-disorder-prospects-us-russian-cooperation>

- Read “**The U.S. and Russia Have Plenty of Areas for Cooperation. Let’s Get to Work.**” Debra Decker – Defense One, July 24, 2019
<https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2018/07/us-and-russia-have-plenty-areas-cooperation-lets-get-work/149996/>

- **Recent Developments**

- Read “**The Reset That Wasn’t: The Permanent Crisis of U.S.-Russia Relations**” Robert Hamilton – Foreign Policy Research Institute, December 14, 2018
<https://www.fpri.org/article/2018/12/the-reset-that-wasnt-the-permanent-crisis-of-u-s-russia-relations/>

- Read the “**Democracy and Human Rights**” pg. 5 and “**Security Issues**” pg. 9-10 – “**U.S.-Russia Relations: Reaching the Point of No Return**” – European Parliament
[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/628230/EPRS_BRI\(2018\)628230_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/628230/EPRS_BRI(2018)628230_EN.pdf)

Category 2: Country in Focus: South Korea

Following an intense period of aggression and animosity on the Korea Peninsula, the Korea War represented a pivotal moment for the development of South Korea, or Republic of Korea. Following the war, the Republic of Korea experienced a steep increase in its economy and moved away from authoritarian rule. Although tension and ideological polarization remains on the peninsula, South Korea is now a major player on the world stage. South Korea is one of the world's largest economies and most advanced democracies. This topic will focus on the history that shaped today's South Korea; an overview of U.S.-South Korea relations; the partnerships that categorized Korean diplomacy and foreign policy; the biggest regional conflicts that threaten the country today; and the Hallyu cultural phenomenon.

• Overview & History

- Read **"Economy," "Cultural Life,"** and **"History"** sections of **"South Korea"** – Chan Lee; Hyug-BaegIm; Young Ick Lew; Woo-ik Yu; Bae-ho Hahn, Encyclopedia Britannica, October 3, 2019
<https://www.britannica.com/place/South-Korea>
- Read **"Korean History and Political Geography"** – Asia Society
<https://asiasociety.org/education/korean-history-and-political-geography>
- Take the **"How Much Do You Know About South Korea"** quiz – Michael Gonchar, New York Times, February 5, 2018
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/02/05/learning/05SouthKoreaGeographyQuizLN.html>

• History of U.S.-South Korea Relations

- Read **"Timeline of U.S.-South Korean Relations"** – Christopher Connell, Share America, April 12, 2019
<https://share.america.gov/timeline-u-s-south-korean-relations/>
- Read **"U.S. Enters the Korean Conflict"** – Social Education, U.S. National Archives
<https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/korean-conflict>

• Partners in Foreign Affairs

- Read **"South Korea Is a Hesitant, but Friendly, U.S. Ally in the Indo-Pacific"** – Cheol Hee Park, Council on Foreign Relations, March 26, 2019
<https://www.cfr.org/blog/south-korea-hesitant-friendly-us-ally-indo-pacific>
- Read **"The U.S.-ROK Alliance and Policy Coordination Toward China"** – Scott Snyder, Council on Foreign Relations, March 19, 2019
<https://www.cfr.org/blog/us-rok-alliance-and-policy-coordination-toward-china>

• Regional Conflicts

- Read **"Collateral Damage: What U.S.-China Competition Means for Korea"** – Victor Cha, Center for Strategic and International Studies, October 10, 2019
<https://www.csis.org/analysis/collateral-damage-what-us-china-competition-means-korea>

• Hallyu - The Korean Wave

- Read “Hallyu (Korean Wave)” – Korea.net

<http://www.korea.net/AboutKorea/Culture-and-the-Arts/Hallyu>

- Read “How K-Pop Conquered the West” – Amy Wang, Rolling Stone, August 21, 2018

<https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-features/bts-kpop-albums-bands-global-takeover-707139/>

Category 3: Preventing Extremism in Fragile States

Extremism is something that appears in the news more and more these days. Around the world, such as ISIS, Boko Haram, and al-Shabab—fuel, and often stem from, instability and violent conflict and present a complex challenge to communities and countries, and to U.S. national security.

Increasingly, efforts to address the underlying causes of violent extremism focus on ways to **transform fragility into resilience** – looking at how extremism can take root when the compact between society and the state has broken down, and at opportunities to empower fragile states to resist the threat of extremism. This strategy of prevention seeks to get ahead of future threats, break the cycle of crisis response, and help make peace possible even in the most difficult contexts.

The resources included here, curated by the category’s sponsor, the United States Institute of Peace, provide a snapshot of the current approaches to address the threat of extremism in fragile states; introduce some tools used to bridge divides and prevent violence in conflict zones; and highlight examples of people, organizations, and communities that are making peace possible. Learn more at www.usip.org.

• Task Force on Extremism in Fragile States

- Read “**Preventing Extremism in Fragile States: A New Approach**” – Task Force on Extremism in Fragile States, United States Institute of Peace, February 2019
<https://www.usip.org/publications/2019/02/three-recommendations-new-approach-preventing-extremism-fragile-states>
- Read “**The Complex Threat of Extremism – And a Pathway to Quashing It for Good**” – Task Force on Extremism in Fragile States, United States Institute of Peace, February 2019
<https://www.usip.org/blog/2019/02/complex-threat-extremism-and-pathway-quashing-it-good>
- Read “**Why Security Sector Governance Matters in Fragile States**” – Nathaniel Allen and Rachel Kleinfeld, United States Institute of Peace, June 2019
<https://www.usip.org/index.php/publications/2019/06/why-security-sector-governance-matters-fragile-states>
- Read “**How Civil Society Can Help Prevent Violence and Extremism**” – Leanne Erdberg and Bridget Moix, United States Institute of Peace, June 2019
<https://www.usip.org/publications/2019/06/how-civil-society-can-help-prevent-violence-and-extremism>

• USIP Resources

- Read “**Reflecting on 9/11: It Is Time for a Policy of Prevention**” – Nancy Lindborg, Olive Branch Blog, September 2019
<https://www.usip.org/blog/2019/09/reflecting-911-its-time-policy-prevention>
- Read “**Nigeria’s Worst Violence is Not Boko Haram**” – Ena Dion and Isioma Kemakolam, United States Institute of Peace, November 2018
<https://www.usip.org/index.php/publications/2018/11/nigerias-worst-violence-not-boko-haram>

- Read **“To Defeat Terrorism, Use ‘People Power’”** – Maria Stephan and Leanne Erdberg, United States Institute of Peace, March 2018
<https://www.usip.org/publications/2018/03/defeat-terrorism-use-people-power>

• **Other Resources**

- Read **“Global Peace Index 2019”** pg. 2-12 – Institute for Economics and Peace, 2019
<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/GPI-2019-web003.pdf>
- Read **“Global Peace Index 2019 Briefing”** – Institute for Economics and Peace
<http://visionofhumanity.org/app/uploads/2019/06/GPI-2019-Briefingweb-2.pdf>

Category 4: Oceans: The World's Garbage Dump

Climate change is an increasingly contentious and unavoidable issue impacting the international community. Environmental protection is a shared responsibility requiring high levels of international cooperation and agreement. Marine pollution is a major threat against environmental stability. Chemicals, industrial and agricultural waste, domestic garbage, air debris, and other toxic materials are dumped into oceans at an alarming rate harming thousands of species of marine life and endangering entire ecosystems. This topic will explore the many facets of marine pollution; the sources and types of ocean garbage and their negative impact; why marine pollution is a major international threat and what can be done to combat it; and the future of the environment if marine pollution continues at the current rate.

- **Overview**

- Read “**Dimensions of Pollution: Marine**”- UN Environment Assembly
<https://web.unep.org/environmentassembly/marine>
- Read “**Trash Pollution**”- Ocean Health Index
<http://www.oceanhealthindex.org/methodology/components/trash-pollution>
- Read “**What Is Marine Debris?**” – Debris Free Oceans
<https://debrisfreeoceans.org/marine-debris>

- **Sources of Ocean Garbage**

- Read “90% of Plastic Polluting Our Oceans Comes From Just 10 Rivers”- Alex Gray, World Economic Forum, June 8, 2018
<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/06/90-of-plastic-polluting-our-oceans-comes-from-just-10-rivers/>

- **Types of Ocean Garbage**

- Explore “Plastic in the Ocean Facts” – The World Counts
https://www.theworldcounts.com/counters/waste_pollution_facts/plastic_in_the_ocean_facts
- Read “Top 10 Trash Items Found Littering Our Beaches and Waterways- and the Weirdest”- David Carring, USA Today, June 27, 2018
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2018/06/27/ocean-beach-pollution-plastic-trash/738173002/>

• How to Combat This Problem and Looking Ahead

- Read **“‘Great Pacific Garbage Patch’ Clean-Up Project Launches Trial Run: UN Environment”** – UN News, September 10, 2018
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/09/1018862>
- Read **“UN Clinches Deal to Stop Plastic Waste Ending Up in the Sea”** – Tom Miles, Reuters, May 10, 2019
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-environment-plastic/u-n-clinches-deal-to-stop-plastic-waste-ending-up-in-the-sea-idUSKCN1SG19S>
- Read **“The Future of Our Plastic Oceans”** – Steve Roman, Wartsila, August 7, 2018
<https://www.wartsila.com/twentyfour7/environment/the-future-of-our-plastic-oceans>
- Read **“Where Mismanaged Plastic Waste Is Generated and Possible Paths of Change”** – Laurent Lebreton, The Ocean Clean Up, January 28, 2019 <https://theoceancleanup.com/updates/where-mismanaged-plastic-waste-is-generated-and-possible-paths-of-change/>

Category 5: Great Decisions

Great Decisions is an annual program that focuses on critical international issues issued by the Foreign Policy Association, a member of the World Affairs Councils of America. This year's Great Decisions categories are:

- **Refugees and Global Migration**
https://www.fpa.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/refugees_glossary2019.pdf
- **The Middle East: Regional Disorder**
https://www.fpa.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Mideast_glossary2019.pdf
- **Nuclear Negotiations: Back to the Future?**
https://www.fpa.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/nuclear_glossary2019.pdf
- **The Rise of Populism in Europe**
https://www.fpa.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/populism_glossary2019.pdf
- **Decoding U.S.-China Trade**
[https://www.fpa.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/china_glossary\(2019\).pdf](https://www.fpa.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/china_glossary(2019).pdf)
- **Cyber Conflict and Geopolitics**
https://www.fpa.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/cyber_glossary2019.pdf
- **United States and Mexico: Partnership Tested**
https://www.fpa.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Mexico_glossary2019.pdf
- **State of the State Department and Diplomacy**
https://www.fpa.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/stateDEPT_glossary2019.pdf

The Montana Academic WorldQuest Competition will only have questions regarding the topic's glossary.

Foreign Policy Association https://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/?act=gd_topics

(For 2019 topics, please choose "Past Topics" at the bottom of the page and select "2019")

Category 6: Brexit and the EU

Brexit (Britain's exit) is the scheduled withdrawal of the UK from the European Union following a June 2016 referendum. In March 2017, the UK government began the exit process, which was scheduled to end on March 29, 2019. Without the UK parliament consistently voting against the withdrawal agreement, the deadline has been extended twice with a current deadline of October 31, 2019. Brexit is a complex and heated issue dividing the British population on how closely the UK will be entangled with the EU – influencing some to push for a no-deal Brexit. This topic explores the events that lead the UK to Brexit; the developments since the 2016 referendum; the various efforts of multiple Prime Ministers to work with UK Parliament; the Irish role in the conversation; and the economic impact of Brexit on the U.S. and EU.

• Overview & Background

○ Read “**The History Behind Brexit**” – Sarah Pruitt, History.com, June 20, 2019
<https://www.history.com/news/the-history-behind-brexit>

○ Read “**The Roots of Brexit**” – Bloomberg, March 20, 2019
<https://www.bloomberg.com/quicktake/will-uk-leave-eu>
Video is optional

○ Read “**Brexit: Why Britain Left the EU, Explained With a Simple Cartoon**” – Alvin Chang, VOX, June 24, 2016
<https://www.vox.com/2016/6/24/12025514/brexit-cartoon>

○ Read “**Brexit: All You Need to Know About the UK Leaving the EU**” – BBC, September 16, 2019
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-32810887>
Video is optional

• The UK Prime Minister and Brexit

○ Read “**Brexit Failure Forces British Prime Minister Theresa May to Announce Resignation**” – Eliza Mackintosh and Tara John, CNN, May 24, 2019
<https://www.cnn.com/2019/05/24/europe/theresa-may-resigns-brexit-gbr-intl/index.html>

○ Read “**Boris Johnson Suffers Two Major Losses in Parliament, Leaving His Governing Authority and the Terms of Brexit in Doubt**” – Kevin Sullivan and Karla Adam, The Washington Post, September 4, 2019
https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/uk-parliament-brexit-vote/2019/09/04/cc934b1c-cb6d-11e9-9615-8f1a32962e04_story.html
Video is optional

• Impact of Brexit

○ View “**Making Sense of the Issues**” infographic – NHS Confederation EU, February 3, 2017
<https://www.nhsconfed.org/-/media/Confederation/Files/EU-Office/Making-sense-of-the-issues-infographic.pdf>

• Irish Backstop

- Read “What Is the Brexit Backstop and Why Is It Important?” – Heather Conley and Donatienne Ruy, Center for Strategic and International Studies, August 22, 2019

https://www.csis.org/analysis/what-brexit-backstop-and-why-it-important?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIj8TSjOr95AIVx5-zCh17iwvrEAAyAAEgLVYfD_BwE

• No-Deal Brexit

- Read “What Is a 'No-Deal Brexit'?” – BBC, September 13, 2019

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-48511379>

Watch Video 2:45

• How Does Brexit Affect the U.S.?

- Read “5 Reasons Americans Ought to Care About Brexit” – Taylor Rockhill, PRI, January 21, 2019

<https://www.pri.org/stories/2019-01-21/5-reasons-americans-ought-care-about-brexit>

Category 7: China's Belt & Road Initiative

The Belt and Road Initiative is a Chinese global infrastructure and investment development strategy introduced by President Xi Jinping in 2013. With routes in the Silk Road, the Belt refers to the aboveground economic road and rail transportation routes, and the Road refers to the maritime economic routes. This topic covers the background behind the initiative and the historical, cultural ties to the Chinese Silk Road; the effects on the U.S., the EU, and the global marketplace; the regional impact on large Eastern powers and smaller Pacific nations; and the environmental implications of the construction and operation of these economic routes.

• Overview & Background

- Read “**What Is China's Belt and Road Initiative?**” – Lily Kuo and Niko Kommenda, The Guardian <https://www.theguardian.com/cities/ng-interactive/2018/jul/30/what-china-belt-road-initiative-silk-road-explainer>

*Read only the first page- do not need to read “more from the cities of the new Silk Road Series”

- Read “**The New Silk Road – The Belt and Road Initiative**” – China Highlights, January 23, 2019 <https://www.chinahighlights.com/silkroad/new-silk-road.htm>

- Read “**China's Maritime Silk Road Initiative: Economic Drivers and Challenges**” – Matthew Funaiolo and Jonathan Hillman, Center for Strategic and International Studies, April 2, 2018 https://www.csis.org/analysis/chinas-maritime-silk-road-initiative-economic-drivers-and-challenges?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIjbXck9OA5QIV8IFaBR0sCQ6vEAAYAAEgLyJvD_BwE

• U.S. and the Belt & Road

- Read “**Belt & Road Full of Opportunities for U.S. Companies in Third Markets**” – Belt & Road News, April 25, 2019 <https://www.beltandroad.news/2019/04/25/belt-road-full-of-opportunities-for-u-s-companies-in-third-markets/>

• India and the Belt & Road

- Read “**Why the Belt and Road Feels India's Fears of Encirclement**” – Stratfor, April 19, 2019 <https://worldview.stratfor.com/article/chinas-belt-and-road-fuels-indias-fears-encirclement-cpec-saarc-bri>

Optional Video: India's Geographic Challenge 2:13

- Read “**What Are India's Stakes in China's Belt and Road Plan**” – Bruno Mações, Quartz India, February 11, 2019 <https://qz.com/india/1547154/what-are-indias-stakes-in-chinas-belt-and-road-plan/>

• Europe and the Belt and Road

- Read “**European Pragmatism at the Belt and Road Forum**” – Erik Brattberg, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, April 30, 2019
<https://carnegieendowment.org/2019/04/30/european-pragmatism-at-belt-and-road-forum-pub-79037>
- Read “**China’s Belt and Road Gets a Win in Italy**” – Andrew Chatzky, Council on Foreign Relations, March 27, 2019
<https://www.cfr.org/article/chinas-belt-and-road-gets-win-italy>

• The Green Belt and Road

- Read “**Is a Green Belt and Road Feasible? How to Mitigate the Environmental Risk of BRI Infrastructure Project**” – World Bank Blogs, January 29, 2019
<https://blogs.worldbank.org/trade/green-belt-and-road-feasible-how-mitigate-environmental-risk-bri-infrastructure-project>

• Debt Trap Diplomacy

- Read “**Unequal Sequel: China’s Belt and Road Initiative**” – Felix Chang, Foreign Policy Research Institute, August 6, 2019
<https://www.fpri.org/article/2019/08/unequal-sequel-chinas-belt-and-road-initiative/>

Category 8: Germany: 30 Years After the Fall of the Berlin Wall

The Berlin wall physically and ideologically divided East and West Germany for over 20 years at the heart of the Cold War. Years of oppression, turmoil, and struggle culminated in a series of revolutions in and around East Germany resulting in the fall of the wall in 1989. Thirty years later, Germany has risen to a major political, economic, and democratic force in the EU and the world, taking the lead on many international issues. This topic explores the historical progression of Germany during the Cold War; evolving narrative of the Berlin Wall in Germany and how it affects national identity; the rise of the Right and the shifting domestic ideologies; Germany's transatlantic relations; German leadership in the EU; and the German role in the global refugee crisis.

• Historical Timeline

- Explore the “**Germany 1945-1990**” photo series – The Federal Republic of Germany, November 7, 2014

<https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/issues/europe/germany-1945-1990-414054>

- Read “**From Shame to Pride: The Fall of the Berlin Wall**” – The Wilson Quarterly, Fall 2014
<https://wilsonquarterly.com/quarterly/summer-2014-1989-and-the-making-of-our-modern-world/from-shame-pride-fall-berlin-wall-through-german-eyes/>

• Culture & Society

- Read “**The Triumph of German Democracy**” – The Atlantic, May 8, 2019

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2019/05/its-70th-anniversary-germany-democracy-alive/588955/>

- Read “**How United Is Germany 28 Years After the Berlin Wall’s Fall?**” – The Local, November 9, 2017
<https://www.thelocal.de/20171109/how-united-is-germany-28-years-after-the-berlin-walls-fall>

- Read “**The German Culture**” – Expatrio, June 24, 2019

<https://www.expatrio.com/living-germany/german-culture>

• Germany & Foreign Affairs

- Read “**Germany and Europe**” – The Federal Government of Germany

<https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/issues/europe/germany-and-europe-228936>

- Read “**Ten Facts About Germany in Europe**” – Deutschland, September 5, 2018

<https://www.deutschland.de/en/topic/politics/germanys-role-in-the-eu-ten-facts-and-figures>

Optional Video: Europe 1857-2017 4:11

• Shifting Ideologies

- Read “**The Changing Political Party Landscape in Germany**” – Andreas Kluth, American Institute for Contemporary German Studies, May 9, 2019

<https://www.aicgs.org/2019/05/the-changing-political-party-landscape-in-germany/>

- Read “**Berlin’s Neglects East-Central-Europe at Its Own Peril**” – Daniel Hegedüs, German Marshall Fund, July 10, 2019

<http://www.gmfus.org/blog/2019/07/10/berlins-neglects-east-central-europe-its-own-peril>

• **The Rise of the Right**

- Read the “**Right-Wing Populism in Germany: Muslims and Minorities After the 2015 Refugee Crisis**” – Jeffrey Gedmin, Brookings Institution, July 24, 2019

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/right-wing-populism-in-germany-muslims-and-minorities-after-the-2015-refugee-crisis/#rise>

Category 9: The Future of the Gulf Cooperation Council

The Gulf Cooperation Council is an intergovernmental political and economic union consisting of six Arab states on the Persian Gulf. The GCC promotes economics, security, cultural, and social cooperation in regional affairs. Recent tensions between Qatar and the other GCC members has put the future direction of the Council into question. This topic discusses the history, structure, and purpose of the Gulf Cooperation Council; how the Qatar embargo is affecting economic relations and the future of economic policies; and how the Gulf crisis is shaping the future of the GCC.

• History & Overview

- Read “**What Is the GCC?**” – Al Jazeera, December 4, 2017
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/12/gcc-171204094537378.html>
- Read “**Gulf Cooperation Council**” – Adam Zeidan, Britannica, June 15, 2019
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Gulf-Cooperation-Council>

• Economics

- Read “**Gulf Cooperation Council Home – Overview**” – The World Bank, September 1, 2018
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/gcc/overview>
- Read “**World Bank Gulf Economic Monitor**” – The World Bank, April 29, 2019
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/gcc/publication/gulf-economic-monitor>

• GCC

- Read “**Shaping Effective Strategic Partnerships in the MENA Region**” – Anthony Cordesman, Center for Strategic and International Studies, April 9, 2019
<https://www.csis.org/analysis/shaping-effective-strategic-partnerships-mena-region>
- Read “**Is Time Running Out for the Gulf Cooperation Council?**” – Dominic Dudley, Forbes, July 25, 2019
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/dominicdudley/2018/07/25/is-time-running-out-for-the-gulf-cooperation-council/#6fd6dda856b8>
- Read “**Gulf Cooperation Council- GCC Countries: Six Rich Counties that Own the World’s Oil**” – Kimberly Amadeo, The Balance, October 2019
<https://www.thebalance.com/gulf-cooperation-council-3306357>

Category 10: Current Events

This round will consist of questions on world news and events. The emphasis will be from October 2019-March 2020.

In general, we recommend reading a variety of reputable national and international news sources. Most news sources (Wall Street Journal, BBC, CNN, PBS, NPR, FOX, Al Jazeera, Washington Post, United Nations, New York Times, etc.) can be obtained free online.