

AD Testing Services

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UIL CURRENT EVENTS

TEST #5

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AD TESTING SERVICES
UIL CURRENT EVENTS TEST #5
RELEASED: November 12th, 2009

1. This East Texas state representative has recently announced that he/she will switch from the Democratic Party to the GOP. This comes after 70% of the votes in his/her district went for Republican John McCain.
 - a. Tom Craddick
 - b. Jodie Laubenberg
 - c. Chuck Hopson
 - d. Joe Straus
 - e. Kay Bailey Hutchinson

2. Which of the following military bases in Texas has been in the news following the devastating outbreak of violence that resulted in more than 10 casualties?
 - a. Fort Sam Houston
 - b. Fort Hood
 - c. Ingleside Army Depot
 - d. Red River Army Depot
 - e. Fort Bliss

3. Which of the following about the November 3, 2009 elections in Texas is NOT correct?
 - a. The ballot contained 11 potential amendments to the state constitution.
 - b. A measure that would open up \$500 million to be used to increase the number of national research universities in Texas narrowly failed.
 - c. A proposal to limit the power of eminent domain by state agencies overwhelmingly passed, with nearly 80% of votes in favor of the amendment.
 - d. The election did not change any of the representatives to the US House of Representatives
 - e. All of the above about the election are true.

4. Who won the Governor race in New Jersey?
 - a. Christopher Christie
 - b. Jon Corzine
 - c. R. Creigh Deeds
 - d. Michael Bloomberg
 - e. Bob McDonnell

5. Who won the governor race in Virginia?
 - a. Christopher Christie
 - b. Jon Corzine
 - c. R. Creigh Deeds
 - d. Michael Bloomberg
 - e. Bob McDonnell

6. Which of the following about the November 3, 2009 elections is NOT true?
 - a. Two Republican governors were elected, replacing two Democrats. Originally the elections were thought to be a tossup.
 - b. New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg won a third term.
 - c. In Ohio voters approved the construction of casinos.
 - d. Despite Republican victories independents continued to support the Democratic party throughout the election.
 - e. In New York Democrat Bill Owens won an election that allowed him to take a long held GOP seat, following a disagreement that results in a conservative running as a third party.

7. Which of the following G20 countries is the only one that is expected to run a budget surplus in the 2010 fiscal year?
 - a. Saudi Arabia
 - b. China
 - c. United Kingdom
 - d. Japan
 - e. Canada

8. Recently the world's largest cruise ship was completed. It is named the Oasis of the Seas, and was built in Finland. What cruise operator will run the Oasis of the Seas?
 - a. Carnival
 - b. Royal Caribbean
 - c. Disney Cruise Lines
 - d. Star Cruises
 - e. Transocean Tours

9. Which of the following about the elections in Afghanistan is NOT accurate?
- The incumbent Hamid Karzai was not able to capture the necessary 50% in order to be elected without a runoff.
 - The election process was plagued with fraud. Almost 1 million votes were thought to be illegitimate.
 - The leading opponent to Hamid Karzai, Abdullah Abdullah, pulled out of the runoff because of the fraud in the system.
 - Despite the fact the Abdullah Abdullah pulled out of the runoff the country must still hold a runoff election in order for it to be considered legitimate.
 - President Obama is not focused on the best way to work with the government that many people believe is illegitimate because of the fraud that was involved in the election.
10. One of the largest lenders to small business and medium sized businesses recently filed for bankruptcy. It was particularly known for making loans to retailers to help them to buy inventory for holiday seasons. This company had nearly a million customers. Which of the following is the described company?
- CIT
 - Lehman Brothers
 - General Motors
 - Washington Mutual
 - Bank of America
11. One of the largest church building campaigns in recent history will build a \$130 million campus in which Texas city?
- Houston
 - Fort Worth
 - Dallas
 - San Antonio
 - Austin
12. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner has finally acknowledged that the budget deficit is too high, but he said that there are other priorities right now than fixing the deficit. Which of the following about the priorities is TRUE?
- The main concerns are currently economic growth and job creation.
 - Although President Obama wanted to not raise taxes on people making less than \$250,000 a year doing so is necessary to fix the deficit.
 - Geithner said that the stimulus package has been very successful at keeping unemployment low.
 - He said that he would like to help small businesses, but that doing so is just not possible in this current environment.
 - All of the above are false.

13. The only major US automaker to not take a bailout from the government unexpectedly reported a second consecutive quarterly profit, topped off by a profit in its North America division. Which automaker was this?
- General Motors
 - Chrysler
 - Ford
 - Nissan
 - Toyota
14. All but one of the following car companies saw its sales rise in October, which one was it?
- General Motors
 - Ford
 - Nissan
 - Chrysler
 - Hyundai
15. Which United States baseball team won the World Series?
- Philadelphia Phillies
 - Texas Rangers
 - Boston Red Sox
 - New York Yankees
 - Houston Astros
16. Who was the World Series MVP?
- Pedro Martinez
 - Hideki Matsui
 - Nick Swisher
 - Derek Jeter
 - Charlie Manuel
17. Galactic Suite is now taking reservations for rooms in a first for hotels. Where will the hotel that opens in 2012 be located?
- Pacific Ocean
 - Mount Everest
 - Space
 - Desert Oasis
 - Atlantic Ocean

18. Berkshire Hathaway, the investment vehicle of guru Warren Buffett, announced that his company would buy the rest of the shares that it didn't own already in one of the nation's major railroads. Which company is he buying for about \$44 billion?
- Union Pacific
 - CSX Corporation
 - Norfolk Southern
 - Kansas City Southern
 - Burlington Northern Santa Fe
19. An international trade agency in charge of ensuring safety in the extraction of a hot commodity decided to not ban Zimbabwe from producing this commodity. It instead gave Zimbabwe more time to reform its mining practices. To what commodity is the statement referring?
- Oil
 - Diamonds
 - Salt
 - Wheat
 - Bananas
20. China recently issued rules that ban the beating of youths that are being treated with this condition.
- Internet addiction
 - Alcohol addiction
 - Poppy addiction
 - Heroin addiction
 - Food addiction
21. This past week marked the anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Recently polls were conducted by the Pew Research Center. One of the polls questioned Hungarians on economic systems. Which percentage of Hungarians said that they think communism is a better economic system than capitalistic democracy?
- Less than 10 percent.
 - Between 10 and 30 percent.
 - Between 30 and 60 percent.
 - Between 60 and 80 percent.
 - Greater than 80 percent.

22. The most bailed out company by the United States government reported its second consecutive quarterly profit, following enormous losses previously. It was also once the largest insurer in the world. United States tax payers have made \$180 billion available to the company. What is the company that is described?
- American International Group
 - Met Life
 - Bank of American
 - Geico
 - State Farm
23. The October unemployment numbers show that there are nearly 16 million people without jobs. It also showed that the unemployment rate hit 10.2%, a level not seen since 1983, despite promises by the Obama administration that the stimulus package would keep below a certain level. What level did the administration say that the stimulus package would keep unemployment below?
- 3%
 - 5%
 - 8%
 - 10%
 - 15%
24. In a significant breakthrough French scientists used a virus to help cure the deadly brain disease ALD. What virus did they use in the treatment process?
- HIV
 - Influenza
 - Measles
 - SARS
 - Rabies
25. Which major Texas school district is considering new guidelines that would end the controversial practice of giving minimum grades?
- Houston ISD
 - Fort Worth ISD
 - Dallas ISD
 - San Antonio ISD
 - Plano ISD

26. The Senate is considering a proposal to extend and expand the homebuyer tax credit. Which of the following about the tax credit program is NOT true?
- Under the program a buyer of a vacation home can still receive the tax credit.
 - Singles have to make less than \$125,000 and couples less than \$225,000 to be eligible.
 - The buyer must be at least 18 years old.
 - It is estimated that the extended program will cost taxpayers an additional \$10.8 billion.
 - All of the above are true.
27. In Niger it was once thought that this easily spotted long neck animal would go extinct. Their numbers had fallen to about 50, but have since risen to about 200. Which long necked animal almost went extinct?
- Cheetah
 - Lion
 - Rhinoceros
 - Elephant
 - Giraffe
28. Which of the following economic measures made by European agencies is NOT true?
- The European Central Bank chose not to raise interest rates at its meeting.
 - The Bank of England also did not change interest rates.
 - Both the European Central Bank and the Bank of England have interest rates that are less than 2%.
 - The European Central Bank pumped more money into the economy.
 - The Bank of England pumped more money into the economy by buying more bonds.
29. This country, along with Yemen, is working to push rebels out from the mountainous regions at the border between the two countries.
- United Arab Emirates
 - Saudi Arabia
 - Somalia
 - Djibouti
 - Qatar
30. In a reversal of its original intentions General Motors has decided to not sell one of its divisions. Which division did they decide to keep?
- Hummer
 - Jeep
 - Opel
 - Pontiac
 - Saturn

31. Which of the following is true?
- Business productivity has continued to fall through the recession, most recently reaching a 6 year low.
 - Emerging research shows that over time a new ocean/sea will be opened up in Russia.
 - Japan has recently announced plans to build a solar power plant in space within the next 10 years.
 - Following months of uncertainty the United States has decided that it will not attend climate talks in Copenhagen because it is unlikely that Congress will pass legislation anyway.
 - Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has announced that he will not seek reelection in January.
32. Which African country has been accused of using measles vaccination sites as a way to target civilians in the area of North Kivu?
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
 - Rwanda
 - Ethiopia
 - Turkey
 - Sudan
33. Madagascar leader _____ signed a power sharing agreement with several political rivals that will create several co-presidents that represent the various political groups.
- Andry Rajoelina
 - Addis Ababa
 - Marc Ravalomanana
 - Didier Ratsiraka
 - Albert Zafy
34. Prime Minister Omar Sharmarke of Somalia has said that his country would work to eliminate this from the country by 2011.
- Garbage off of the coast
 - Famine throughout the country
 - Piracy off of the coast
 - Malaria
 - None of the above
35. After months of political turmoil that involved an ousted president hiding in the Brazilian embassy a deal that could have potentially shored up the issue has been deemed dead. In what country did this potential deal fail to gain ground?
- Chile
 - Honduras
 - Panama
 - Uruguay
 - Mexico

36. After drastically undercutting prices on pipes, especially those used in oil extraction the United States has implemented a tax of up to 99% on these imported goods. What country was the tax imposed on?
- Russia
 - Japan
 - Indonesia
 - China
 - Taiwan
37. Who was the only Republican to vote for the healthcare bill that passed the House?
- Joseph Cao
 - Paul Ryan
 - Ron Paul
 - John Shadegg
 - Ralph Hall
38. The plan to raise the water level in a reservoir has been postponed because the water flowing down the Yangtze River has been less than expected because of a prolonged drought.
- Garrison Dam
 - Oahe Dam
 - Glen Canyon Dam
 - Hoover Dam
 - Three Gorges Dam
39. A European country has been considering legislation that would ban the construction of minarets. In response Muslim mosques have opened up their doors in an effort to counter potential fear and prejudice. What country is considering this legislation?
- United Kingdom
 - Denmark
 - Spain
 - Switzerland
 - Norway
40. Which of the following about the agreement between Hezbollah and Lebanon is NOT true?
- Hezbollah is both a political and military organization.
 - Under the agreement there will be 15 ministers in the unity government.
 - Ten of the members will be picked by Hezbollah
 - Five of the members will be picked by current President Michel Suleiman
 - All of the above are true.

Essay:

The November 3rd elections had some unexpected results on both the Republican and Democratic side. How much of an impact will the elections have on the midterm elections next year?

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ANSWER KEY

1. C. All of the people listed are Republican except for Chuck Hopson, until now. Also Tom Craddick was and Joe Straus currently is Speaker of the House. Kay Bailey Hutchinson is a US Senator that is going to run to be Governor of Texas. Chuck's move is significant because the split in the Texas House is 76-74, slightly in favor of the GOP. Following his transfer the split will be 77-73.
 - http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/texasouthwest/legislature/stories/DN-partyswitch_07met.ART.State.Edition1.4b97e66.html
2. B. Fort Hood in Killeen, Texas was the site of a tragic rampage where an engineer opened fire at the troop readiness center prior to deployment. The event left more than 10 people dead.
 - <http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/latestnews/stories/1107dntexshootmain.420b91d.html>
3. B. All of the proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution passed on voting day, including the one to fund public universities. Under Proposition 4 the state will be able to shift \$500 million to a fund that will allow qualified universities to access funds in order to gain "Tier 1" research status.
 - http://enr.sos.state.tx.us/enr/results/nov09_147_state.htm?x=0&y=984&id=374
4. A. Christopher Christie ousted the unpopular Democrat Jon Corzine. John Corzine was the incumbent. He had only completed one term and had left the state with budget deficits and an unemployment rate that had not been seen in three decades.
 - http://news.yahoo.com/s/bloomberg/20091104/pl_bloomberg/afdjpystfl2s_1
5. E. Bob McDonnell beat his Democratic opponent with 59% of the vote compared to Deeds' 39%. Originally the vote appeared to be a tossup but independents came out to support McDonnell. In Virginia a governor cannot run for two consecutive terms.
 - http://news.yahoo.com/s/cq/20091104/pl_cq_politics/politics3238925_3
6. D. Independents are what allowed Republicans to capture the governorships; they are what helped President Obama win in Virginia. Following the deep recession many are backing Republicans now. All of the rest of the statements are true.
 - http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20091104/ap_on_el_ge/us_election_rdp_76
7. A. Only Saudi Arabia is expected to run a budget surplus in 2010. By percentage of GDP the United Kingdom is expected to run the largest deficit, estimated at 13.3%. The United States will run the largest overall deficit, even though it is estimated to be 9.7%.
 - <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/8214272.stm>
8. B. Despite the difficult economic situation Royal Caribbean is launching the world's largest cruise ship. Its maiden voyage will be on December 1st. The Oasis of the Seas is more than twice the size of the Titanic.
 - <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iT99nzmMMjqyBON81Gi3p8s3Aw8w>

9. D. Afghanistan does not have to hold the runoff election since Abdullah Abdullah pulled out. Abdullah believed that not participating in the runoff would ultimately be better for the country's stability.
- <http://www.examiner.com/x-17947-Wilmington-Foreign-Policy-Examiner-y2009m11d3-Karzai-named-president-in-Afghanistan-after-Abdullah-pulls-out-of-runoff-election>
10. A. CIT filed for bankruptcy. It hopes that it can move quickly through the Chapter 11 process and even emerge by the end of the year. Under the plan the company hopes to shed \$10 billion in debt. A loan made by the United States government to the company last year will be wiped out by the plan.
- http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125709781695721315.html?mod=rss_Today's_Most_Popular
11. C. First Baptist Church of Dallas will build a \$130 million complex in downtown Dallas. It is believed to be the largest project in modern history. The project has been viewed an important part of revitalizing the city center.
- <http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/latestnews/stories/110109dnmetfirstbaptist.274b283f4.html>
12. A. Timothy Geithner has said that the top priorities right now are job creation and economic growth. He also said that the administration does not plan to raise taxes on those making under \$250,000 a year.
- http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/bus/stories/DN-geithner_02bus.ART.State.Edition1.3d4c3c4.html
13. C. Only three of the answer choices are American car companies, and only one of them did not take a government bailout. Ford unexpectedly reported a nearly \$1 billion profit and raised its guidance for the years to come.
- <http://www.statesman.com/business/content/business/stories/other/2009/11/03/1103ford.html>
14. D. Chrysler reported a 30% sales decline for October. All of the others reported sales increases. Hyundai reported a 49% sales increase.
- <http://finance.yahoo.com/news/GM-sees-October-sales-bounce-rb-3531456211.html?x=0&.v=9>
15. D. The New York Yankees won the World Series, beating the Philadelphia Phillies to win for the 27th time. They had significant help from Hideki Matsui.
- http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20091105/sp_nm/us_baseball_series_22
16. B. Hideki Matsui became the first Japanese-born player to named World Series MVP. During the World Series Matsui hit homes runs, doubled, singled, and drove in six runs.
- <http://sports.yahoo.com/mlb/news?slug=ap-worldseries-mvp&prov=ap&type=lqns>
17. C. The Galactic Suite Space Resort is taking reservations for the hotel that it hopes to open up in 2012. If and when, built guests will be able to travel around the world every hour and a half, and see 15 sunrises a day. The three-night trip costs \$4.4 million.
- http://news.yahoo.com/s/space/20091104/sc_space/spacehoteltakesreservationsfor2012opening

18. E. Warren Buffet's company bought the Fort Worth based BNSF for \$100 per share. The purchase is a significant bet on the economic health of the United States, as railroads are closely tied to the economy's performance.
- <http://finance.yahoo.com/news/Berkshire-Hathaway-Inc-to-bw-3107425432.html?x=0&.v=1>
19. B. Zimbabwe narrowly escaped an international diamond sale ban. The organization gave the country more time to fix its mining practices.
- <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8343710.stm>
20. A. Apparently China has a significant problem with youths being addicted to the internet. As many as 10 million youths in China are reported to be addicted to the web. Across the nation there are 400 private clinics to help internet addiction. The Chinese government release rules saying, "Parents and teachers must analyse the causes and not arbitrarily condemn, hit or scold youths... intervention methods that restrict personal freedom are strictly forbidden and corporal punishment (is) strictly forbidden."
- http://tech.yahoo.com/news/afp/20091105/tc_afp/healthchinainternetcrimeaddiction_20091105061525
21. D. A whopping 72% of Hungarians believe that communism was a better economic system. All across Europe there is a growing portion of people that believe that democracy does not provide for the best economic system.
- http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_13725525
22. A. AIG posted a \$1.9 billion adjusted profit. The company continues to sell off assets as it tries to stabilize and works to repay the federal government.
- http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20091106/bs_nm/us_aig_2
23. D. The Obama administration said that the stimulus package would keep unemployment rates below 8%. Economists predict that the unemployment rate will continue to rise, even though there was a positive GDP report for last quarter.
- http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20091106/ap_on_bi_go_ec_fi/us_economy_64
24. A. French scientists used HIV to stop the progression of ALD. In the process they took and HIV virus and modified it so that it no longer contained the parts that cause AIDS. They then inserted coding necessary to generate myelin.
- http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/us_med_gene_therapy
25. C. Officials of Dallas ISD are considering a proposal that would end the requirement that teachers do not assign a grade of less than a 50. The policy to not assign a grade of less than a 50 has been under fire from those that say that students can play the system.
- http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/city/dallas/stories/DN-grades_06met.ART.State.Edition1.4b6dfb4.html
26. A. The home that is to be purchase has to be a primary residence; it can't be a secondary home. The expanded plan allows the homebuyer to be a repeat buyer. It doesn't have to be their first home.
- <http://finance.yahoo.com/news/Proposed-Home-Buyer-Tax-prnews-3512547950.html?x=0&.v=1>

27. E. Only one of the listed animals has a long neck. There were once thousands of giraffe across West Africa. Ten years ago their numbers were down to 50.
- <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8349712.stm>
28. D. The European Central Bank did not put more money into the system. The ECB has set rates at 1% and the Bank of England has rates set at .5%. Both banks left rates at their previous levels as they try to get the economy back on track.
- http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20091105/ap_on_bi_ge/eu_europe_interest_rates_14
29. B. Saudi Arabia is using warplanes to attack rebels in the mountainous regions between the two countries. The countries have said that they will not open dialogue with the rebels and will continue until the end.
- http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=akNzxFfpF_BU&pos=9
30. General Motors decided to not sell its Opel division citing an improving operating environment for the company. The move sparked anger by the labor unions that had made agreements with Magna and the German government.
- <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/04/business/global/04gm.html>
31. E. Business productivity has in fact reached a 6 year high. Emerging research shows that a new ocean will eventually open up in Ethiopia. Japan wants to open a solar power plant in space by 2030. It is still unknown whether the United States will attend the climate talks in Copenhagen. The Palestinian president did in fact announce that he would not be running for reelection in January, following failed peace talks.
- http://news.yahoo.com/s/csm/20091105/wl_csm/oabbas_1
32. A. The country has been criticized by outsiders for using the aid sites as a method to target civilians. The United Nations withdrew support for the army unit accused of attacking the civilians. The strange move was carried out as a method to attack rebels in the region.
- <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8347503.stm>
33. A. Andry Rajoelina is currently the leader of Madagascar. He took over Marc Ravalomanana after accusing his of tyranny and misuse of public money. Andry Rajoelina never got international support, and actually had foreign aid frozen after being accused of taking over the government with a coup.
- <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8347942.stm>
34. C. The Prime Minister had said that in the past the country did not have the resources to tackle piracy problems. He said that the country will work to eradicate piracy through an information campaign and military action. Outsiders have said that it will be difficult for the government to accomplish this goal, as the government is only able to control parts of the capital city.
- <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8347942.stm>
35. B. Honduras President Manuel Zelaya was ousted in a coup earlier this year and sought refuge in a Brazilian embassy. The interim leader, Roberto Micheletti, has been forming a new government but does not intend to include Zelaya's representatives, effectively voiding the agreement that had been worked on internationally.
- <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/8345899.stm>
36. D. The United States continues to be in trade disagreements with China. Most are concerned about the continuing deficit that continues with China. The move to implement the tax of up to 99% comes as China has cut prices of the goods up to 99% below their normal levels
- <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/8345881.stm>

37. A. Joseph Cao, a representative from Louisiana, was the lone Republican to vote for the healthcare bill. John Shadegg was the lone Republican that did not vote for the Republican alternative, instead opting to vote "present". Overall the bill barely passed 220-215, the next step is for the bill to pass the Senate.
- <http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1109/29282.html>
38. E. This question was actually quite simple. The Three Gorges Dam is the only one that is in China, where the Yangtze River is located. The company in charge of the Three Gorges Dam has had to let more water out of the reservoir than originally anticipated because of a drought downstream. The mammoth project was started in 1993.
- <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/8343726.stm>
39. D. The conservative group that is in the majority in Switzerland proposed legislation to ban the construction of minarets. Muslim leaders have called the proposal "open discrimination".
- <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/8348279.stm>
40. E. All of the statements are true. Internationally there was growing concern that the lack of a deal would lead to regional instability. Concessions had to be made by Prime Minister designate Saad Hariri in order for the agreement to be reached.
- http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/8347965.stm