

Media based m-choice questions, covering media stories 2009 Feb 26 - 2008

1. In 4th week of February 2009, which Asian country halted sales of BlackBerry's Bold model?

- A. Japan
B. China (PRC)
C. Singapore
D. Korea (ROK)

NTT DoCoMo Inc, Japan's biggest mobile phone operator, said on Friday it has halted sales of Research In Motion [RIM-T]'s BlackBerry Bold because the phone can overheat while the battery is being recharged. – reported in Toronto Star, National Post, Globe & Mail – it is a big blow to RIM cause the Japanese HiTech market is a significant driver of their success in Asia.

2. After they made news for leaving their business in the Sudan, Talisman Energy of Alberta is back in the news for operating in another very “hostile” place. Talisman explained the reason why they are doing is because much of the country has not actually been explored properly. Which country is Talisman drilling in (with partner WesternZagros) in Feb/March 2009 . Reported in Toronto Star, National Post, and the Globe & Mail Feb 27th

- A. Iran
C. Afghanistan
E. Uzbekistan
B. Iraq
D. Kazakhstan

3. “Border review” is a phrase that has got Canadian exporters nervous. The head of “Homeland Security” in the U.S. says “it doesn’t mean thickening of checkpoints” but nonetheless, Canadian officials and exporters and Canadian freight forwarders and truckers are anxious about any further delays in cross the border in to the U.S. Who is Obama’s head of Homeland Security?

- A. Jason Kenney
C. Janet Napolitano
E.
B. Stockwell Day
D. James Jones

If you know the answer to this question, you are paying attention to an important Canada-U.S. issue. 2nd ly, “she” is a woman and aside from Condolezza Rice, there have been very few women in charge of security matters in the United States.

Jason Kenney is Canada’s Immigration Minister

Stockwell Day is Canada’s Security Minister

General James Jones is the new US national security advisor, he is a former 4 star Marine general

4. One of the things Alan Bell said in his guest lecture on security was that the Canadian government did not keep as up-to-date as the U.S. in providing Travel Warnings to particular high risk regions. In the 4th week of February, the Canadian government lagged behind the U.S. when it used milder language advising Canadians about risks traveling to this particular Latin American / Caribbean country. Finally on Feb 27th DFAIT issues an official Travel Alert –however the language they used was not as strong as the U.S. In fact Peter Kent, Canada’s junior Foreign Minister said “... the majority tourist locations don’t have any more risk than at normal times”.

What country are we talking about?

- A. Jamaica
C. Cuba
E. Peru
B. Haiti
D. Mexico

The drug wars in Mexico have reached such an intensity that thousands of being are being killed and the U.S. is considering “serious measures” to protect their border towns from the spillover violence. To put this in perspective, the number of people being killed in Mexico is 20X the number killed in violence in Canada – even though Mexico has only 3X our population. It is the personal opinion of Prof. Richardson that DFAIT is being negligent and irresponsible in avoiding strong language to deter Canadians traveling to this country which currently has a very **high personal risk / threat environment**.

5. This country, divided on bitter religious rivalries, has gathered a lot of negative press in the last few years due to violent conflict in the southern region where hundreds of thousands of refugees have been put in life threatening circumstances. In the first week of March 2009 the International Criminal Court in the Hague issued an arrest warrant for the country's leader for crimes against humanity – this is the first time this has ever been done for a "sitting world leader" – meaning someone who is in power at the time the charges are laid. The leader is controversial for his alleged dealings with foreign companies in the context of allowing them access to critical resources in exchange for weapons which have been used against the people in the south of the country. What is the country.

- A. Sierra Leone
- B. Sudan
- C. Chad
- D. Zimbabwe
- E. Libya

Actually, at one time, all 5 of these countries would have been the right answer to this question – especially Mgabe of Zimbabwe – but in March 2009, the question applies to President Bashir of Sudan. It remains to be seen if this leader can be "brought to justice" but there are rumours that some British S.A.S. commandos are hunting this person to "snatch him". When Yugoslavia broke apart into Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia, S.A.S. teams were successfully deployed to hunt down and capture Serbian military leaders who were subsequently put on trial for genocide and other crimes.

6. World Bank's outlook on economic growth - globally. In a report released in the 2nd week of March

- A. Positive
- B. Negative
- C. or Neutral

In a report released in the 2nd week of March, the World Bank said "global economy forecast to shrink for first time since WWII". This was actually the headlines of the business section of the Toronto Star and equally reported in the National Post and Globe & Mail

7. Entertainment is a big part of "international business" due to the spread of the social-cultural environment facilitated by developments in the technological environment. _____ networks are picking up Canadian TV shows, particular crime shows and cop shows in February – March 2009.

- A. British
- B. Australian
- C. American
- D. Mexican
- E. New Zealand

CBS has picked up the original CTV drama The Bridge, a look at street cops; Flashpoint, a cop drama starring Enrico Colantoni and Hugh Dillon, airs Friday nights on CBS, and NBC has ordered 13 episodes of the upcoming series The Listener

8. Billionaire investor Warren Buffett said 2nd week of March (and was quoted in all major newspapers and radio and TV) that the U.S. economy

- A. was "getting better, slightly"
- B. was "doing nothing" - flat, neither improving, or getting worse
- C. had "fallen off a cliff"

9. The worldwide shipping industry has, for years, been straining to keep pace with rising demand, is facing a new problem

- A. Piracy off the south-west coast of North American
- B. lack of employees – people do not want to work on ocean freighters
- C. places to park empty ships not being used
- D. problems with GPS not working due to global warming
- E. receivers not paying for their LCs on time

"shipping industry left with an empty feeling" was the headline on the front page of the business section of the Toronto Star March 10th

10. Auto sector, ailing U.S. giant Ford, will receive 143 million Euros in aid from the government of _____ where the company owns an assembly plant.

- A. England
- B. France
- C. Italy
- D. Germany

E. Romania

From several newspapers March 11th

11. When talking about NGOs in class, Richardson explained that their reports on the economy have much influence. _____ is better placed than most countries to weather the global recession due to a "strong fiscal package" and healthy financial sector, the International Monetary Fund said in a report made public in the newspapers Wednesday, March 12

- A. England
- B. Canada
- C. Italy
- D. Germany

E. Romania

Canada – yeh

12. G20 – meets this weekend coming – where?

- A. England
- B. Canada
- C. Italy
- D. Germany

E. Romania

London, England

13. The auto industry outside North America. Chinese auto sales _____

- A. are doing very poorly
- B. have decline slightly
- C. have stayed flat

D. have jumped high

"China auto sales jump 25% in February" was the title in the Globe March 11th

Chinese auto sales surged 25 per cent in February from a year earlier, as a tax cut for small cars and other measures helped revive the market, an industry group said.

14. Oil prices dictate the value of the Canadian dollar, and subsequently our export competitiveness in pricing export goods in Canadian dollars. It is always useful to know, roughly, the trend in oil prices as it may help with various 4X instruments you plan to utilize in exporting and importing. This week, March 11th and March 12th 2009, oil prices

A. slipped as U.S. inventories swelled with surplus crude and traders started to doubt whether OPEC would cut production further.

B. rose on expected demand as the U.S. recovers from the recession

C. stayed flat because "nobody doing anything" says Warren Buffett

Chinese oil imports have dropped 13 per cent in the first two months of the year, and are now at their lowest level in more than two years - Automobile sales also are plunging around the world