

Geopolitics Bee – Prelim Round (MS)

Regulation Tossups

(1) To establish a single community within this regional bloc, its members adopted 2009 blueprints in Cha-am after first conceiving of it at a 2007 summit in Cebu. Containing some of the fastest growing economies in the world, this regional bloc incorporates the Jabodetabek metropolitan area, including Tangerang, as well as the Greater Mekong cluster. Jakarta is home to the headquarters of, for the point, what international organization named for a region of Asia?

ANSWER: **Association of Southeast Asian Nations** (or **ASEAN**)

(2) Radom National Park is situated strictly within the southern sector of this region, where Kafia Kingi is the site of an international dispute. This region is officially divided into five distinct states, including a "Central" one headquartered at Zalingei. This region's city of El Fasher fell in October 2025 to the Rapid Support Forces, forcing mass migrations of non-Arab populations. Geographically bounded by the Central African Republic to its south and Chad directly to its west, for the point, what is this region of western Sudan?

ANSWER: **Darfur** (accept Central **Darfur** State)

(3) The Samur Forest within this administrative region has been the subject of numerous transboundary water disputes. Sulak Canyon in this region is the subject of wildlife preservation efforts involving rare vulture species. Derbent is strategically situated along the southeastern coast of this region. Mount Bazardüzü forms the highest point of both this region and a country on its southern geopolitical border, Azerbaijan. For the point, name this Russian republic governed from Makhachkala.

ANSWER: **Dagestan** (accept Republic of **Dagestan** or Respublika **Dagestan**)

(4) Early ambitions for the autonomy of this region were labelled in the Baker Plan, and in 1975, the Spanish withdrew from this region following the Green March. A wall into this region was expanded to include the Guerguerat village inside a UN buffer strip in response to clashes with a liberation group known as the Polisario Front. For the point, name this partially recognized state, which seeks independence through armed resistance from Morocco and is partially named for a major desert.

ANSWER: **Western Sahara** (or **Sahrawi** Arab Democratic Republic; or **Sahrawi** Republic)

(5) Though not a private company, this organization's staff operates out of a brutalist structure known as HQ1 and a glass-encased sibling building known as HQ2 on 19th Street Northwest. A set of non-medical health checks conducted on the geographic constituents of this entity are known as Article IV consultations. This entity is required to always be led by a European managing director. For the point, name this global macroeconomic fund that acts as a "lender of last resort" for 191 countries.

ANSWER: **International Monetary Fund** (accept **IMF** or **Fonds monétaire international** or **FMI**)

(6) On this waterway, a major container terminal formerly known as Port Swettenham was renamed Port Klang. In order to avoid travel through this waterway, which is the subject of a dilemma coined by Hu Jintao, the Kra Isthmus Canal has been proposed as part of the maritime Silk Road plan. An important shipping channel which links the Indian and Pacific Oceans, for the point, what strait runs between Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula?

ANSWER: Strait of **Malacca**

(7) A maritime extension known as the Northern Limit Line projects from the western terminus of this geographic feature. The Bridge of No Return can be found in this region's Joint Security Area. Two isolated civilian settlements known natively as Daeseong-dong and Kijong-dong sit inside this region. Geographically bisecting a large Asian peninsula along the thirty-eighth parallel, for the point, what is this buffer zone separating North and South Korea?

ANSWER: **DMZ** (accept Korean **Demilitarized Zone** or Hanbandui **Bimujangidae**)

(8) A 3,510-foot pass in the Yablonoi Mountains marks the highest point in this system, which has a component designated FER. A major maritime terminus for this corridor is Vostochny Port. To alleviate extreme commercial congestion, the parallel Baikal-Amur Mainline was constructed geographically to its north specifically to handle raw mineral exports. Operating as the core of the Eurasian Land Bridge, for the point, what is this globe-spanning railway connecting Vladivostok directly to Moscow?

ANSWER: **Trans-Siberian** Railway (accept **Trans-Siberian** Network or **TSR**)

(9) Following a 2025 earthquake in this country, the National Unity Government under Duwa Lashi La announced a pause on offensives. In 2023, Operation 1027 was launched by the Three Brotherhood Alliance in this country, which involved the Arakan Army. That military force in this country also seized Mrauk U during an offensive in the northern Rakhine state. For the point, name this country where civil war has escalated following a 2021 coup by the Tatmadaw.

ANSWER: Union of **Burma** (or Republic of the Union of **Myanmar**; or Pyidaungzu Thammada **Myanma** Naingngandaw; or **Myanma** Naingngandaw)

(10) The Ben Aknoun district of this country houses the notorious "Antar" intelligence and interrogation center within a military barracks. This country's military intelligence directorate maintains a massive forward operating base in the southern desert province of Tamanrasset. That directorate in this country is specifically designed to intercept militant communications crossing its borders with Mali and Niger. For the point, name this North African nation where espionage missions sometimes affect its western neighbor, Morocco.

ANSWER: People's Democratic Republic of **Algeria** (or Al Jumhuriyah **al Jaza'iriyah** ad Dimuqratiyah ash Sha'biyah)

(11) This country is the world's largest producer of iodine, which is exported globally through the SQM company. Despite being in South America, this high-income republic trades mostly with China and the United States and is not a member of the Andean Community trade blocs. This country is the southernmost of the fast-growing Pacific Pumas and serves as a major wine-producing hub of Latin America, along with Argentina. For the point, name this country, a major producer of copper, home to lithium reserves in the Atacama Desert.

ANSWER: Republic of **Chile** (or República de **Chile**)

(12) This organization's Fund for International Development is headquartered in a historic palace along the Parkring. This organization officially relocated its secretariat to a from Geneva to a bordering nation after the Swiss government refused to grant it full diplomatic privileges. Following severe diplomatic friction, Angola officially withdrew its membership from this bloc in 2024, mirroring the previous territorial exits of Ecuador and Qatar. For the point, Vienna contains the headquarters of what major global petroleum cartel?

ANSWER: **OPEC** (accept **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries**)

(13) A subterranean complex featuring five underground levels designed by Tilla Theus serves as the headquarters of this organization. This organization operates a namesake museum in the Enge quarter of Zurich, where its headquarters is located. This entity geographically divides the globe into six continental confederations and determines the geographic host nations for a quadrennial global event with a rotating continental bidding system. For the point, name this global governing body of association football.

ANSWER: **FIFA** (accept **Fédération Internationale de Football Association** or **International Association Football Federation**)

(14) This body of water is subject to a logistical contingency plan known as Operation Brock. To prevent commercial collisions among over 400 daily cargo vessels, the International Maritime Organization established the world's first Traffic Separation Scheme in this waterway. A rail service known as The Shuttle passes directly beneath this body of water, whose chokepoints include its narrowest section, the Strait of Dover. For the point, name this waterway where trade is facilitated by the Chunnel.

ANSWER: **English Channel**

(15) An unmarked office in the Brickfields neighborhood of this city was the site of an arms-smuggling front known as Glocom. An international espionage incident occurred within this city in 2017 when suspected foreign operatives fatally deployed VX nerve agent against Kim Jong-nam within the departure hall of an airport terminal in the Sepang District. Located within the Klang Valley, for the point, what is this Asian capital city where corporate espionage affected a company based in its Petronas Towers?

ANSWER: **Kuala Lumpur**

Geopolitics Bee – Final Round (MS)

Regulation Tossups

(1) **Prior to the Second War named for this territory, a self-proclaimed republic controlled the adjacent Kalbajar and Zangilan districts, whose population had been expelled. (+) From 2020 until a 2022 blockade, this region's only link to the outside world was through the Lachin corridor, patrolled by Russian peacekeepers. We Are Our Mountains was once a symbol of this unrecognized state, located in its capital of (*) Stepanakert. For the points, name this formerly Armenian-populated area retaken by Azerbaijan in 2023.**

ANSWER: Republic of **Nagorno-Karabakh** (or **Nagorno-Karabakh**skaya Respublika; or Republic of **Artsakh**; or **Artsakh**i Hanrapetutyun; accept Second **Nagorno-Karabakh** War)

(2) **It's not in Europe, but this organization explicitly adheres to its region's Single Market and Economy framework. The administrative headquarters of this organization are housed in a national capital on the Demerara River. (+) The only non-sovereign, British overseas territory included as a full voting member of this bloc is Montserrat. Based in Georgetown, this organization serves as the primary regional integration zone for the Lesser Antilles and Jamaica. (*) For the points, name this intergovernmental organization of Caribbean nations.**

ANSWER: **CARICOM** (or **Caribbean Community**)

(3) **The Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center operates within this unincorporated community, directly adjacent to the Scattergood-Thorne Tract. The physical entrance to one building in this community is accessible via Dolley Madison Boulevard. (+) This community is bounded by the Potomac River to its northeast and is home to a center named after George H. W. Bush, who (*) directed an organization based in it. For the points, identify this census-designated place in Fairfax County, Virginia, home to the CIA.**

ANSWER: **Langley**

(4) **The meltwaters from this feature form the primary source of the Nubra River, feeding the larger Shyok River system. This feature's southern terminus begins at the disputed map coordinate N19842. (+) The strategic Indira Col anchors the extreme northwestern boundary of this geographic feature, and the jagged peaks of the Saltoro Ridge run parallel to the western edge of this feature, which serves as the militarized Actual Ground Position Line. (*) Found in the Karakoram range, for the points, what glacier is heavily disputed between India and Pakistan?**

ANSWER: **Siachen** Glacier (accept **Siachen** Muztagh)

(5) Daniel Noboa was a major figure behind this regional alliance, which was formed in 2026 to combat groups like Los Choneros. This group functions as a military and political alliance between populist leaders such as Jose Antonio Kast. (+) Javier Milei, and Nayib Bukele. Despite a regional framing, this organization excludes the left-leaning presidents of Mexico, Brazil, and Colombia. (*) For the points, name this coalition established by Donald Trump, primarily aimed at combating drug cartels in the Western Hemisphere.

ANSWER: Shield of the Americas (or Americas Counter Cartel Coalition; or ACCC; or A3C)

(6) The Mareb River forms the northern boundary of this administrative region, and the city of Mekelle operates as the primary administrative hub of this heavily mountainous northern state. (+) This "National Regional State" borders Amhara and the neighboring country of Eritrea, both of which experienced significant migration between 2020 and 2022. (*) For the points, name this region bordering Sudan, which experienced a namesake 2020 to 2022 territorial conflict.

ANSWER: Tigray Region (or Tigray National Regional State; or Killil Tigray; accept Tigray War)

(7) Venues in this city, such as Druzhba Arena, were planned to hold the IIHF World Championship before it was forced to withdraw as a host. This city names a region where an airport named for Sergei Prokofiev was forced to close its airspace after the MH17 Incident. (+) This city on the Kalmius River is completely landlocked despite its namesake administrative oblast stretching south to the Sea of Azov. (*) For the points, name this largest city in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine, currently occupied by Russia.

ANSWER: Donetsk (accept Donetsk Oblast; accept Donechchyna)

(8) In this country's west, the Mobondo militia, which is mainly recruited from the Yaka peoples in this country's southwest, have engaged in clashes against government forces and Teke civilians. In 2003, France led a European Union peacekeeping force in Operation Artemis (+) during this country's Ituri conflict, and the March 23 Movement has launched offensives in this country's Kivu region. (*) For the points, name this African country where two generations of the Kabila family led from Kinshasa.

ANSWER: Democratic Republic of the Congo (or DRC; or République démocratique du Congo; or RDC; or DR Congo; or Congo-Kinshasa; prompt on "Congo"; do NOT accept or prompt on "Republic of the Congo")

(9) In Ayacucho's Huanca Sancos Province, this group perpetrated the 1983 Lucanamarca massacre. This group conducted operations in the Huallaga River region under Eleuterio Flores, also known as "Comrade Artemio," until his capture in 2012. (+) This group was founded by Abimael Guzmán, who was captured in Operation Victoria by Alberto Fujimori. (*) Currently waging a low-level resistance in South America, for the points, what is this militant communist group based in Peru?

ANSWER: Shining Path (or Sendero Luminoso; or SL; accept Communist Party of Peru, Partido Comunista del Perú, or PCP before "communist" is mentioned)

(10) **The administrative headquarters of this international organization's parliament is located within the Asokoro district. This entity operates a specialized coordinating center for its regional Power Pool from the city of Cotonou. (+)** A transnational infrastructure project spearheaded by this bloc is the six-lane Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Highway. The landlocked Sahelian nations of Mali, (*) Burkina Faso, and Niger recently announced their withdrawal from this bloc. For the points, name this regional intergovernmental organization composed of West African states.

ANSWER: **ECOWAS** (accept **Economic Community of West African States** or **CEDEAO**)