

Current Events Quiz

JUNE 1 - 7, 2008

Test your knowledge of the news headlines from May 25 - 31, 2008

1. The final Democratic primary elections of the campaign were set to take place in Montana, South Dakota, and:
 - a. Idaho
 - b. Puerto Rico
 - c. Alaska
 2. Sen. Edward Kennedy, resting after a diagnosis of brain cancer, did not speak at Wesleyan University's graduation as planned. Instead:
 - a. Barack Obama spoke
 - b. Hillary Clinton spoke
 - c. President Bush spoke
 3. After devastating losses in the Sichuan region from a major earthquake, China will allow some families there to:
 - a. move to the U.S.
 - b. have more children
 - c. avoid military service
 4. Angry families in China's Sichuan region protested against the government after the earthquake because:
 - a. poorly built schools collapsed
 - b. poorly built dams broke
 - c. poorly built bridges fell
 5. To help meet rising gasoline costs, American Airlines has started charging some passengers \$15:
 - a. for in-flight meals
 - b. for in-flight movies
 - c. to check one bag
 6. NASA's *Phoenix* spacecraft successfully landed on the surface of:
 - a. Venus
 - b. the Moon
 - c. Mars
 7. Movie stars and producers gathered in southern France for the annual film festival in the city of:
 - a. Paris
 - b. Nice
 - c. Cannes
 8. In its first weekend in theaters worldwide, the new *Indiana Jones* movie earned:
 - a. \$311 million
 - b. \$511 million
 - c. \$711 million
 9. The highest-rated show of the recently concluded TV season was:
 - a. *American Idol*
 - b. *60 Minutes*
 - c. *The Office*
 10. The winner of the Indianapolis 500 was:
 - a. Danica Patrick
 - b. Dale Earnhardt, Jr.
 - c. Scott Dixon
- **BONUS:** The government estimates that the number of Americans who will receive high school diplomas this spring is:
- a. 1.9 million
 - b. 3.3 million
 - c. 4.6 million

Answers

1. **b.** Puerto Rico will send 55 pledged delegates to the Democratic National Convention, more than the final two primary states combined. However, residents of the U.S. territory cannot vote in the general election. Hillary Clinton hoped that a win in the territory would convince uncommitted “superdelegates” to the convention that she is more electable nationwide than Barack Obama, who holds a nearly insurmountable lead in delegates.
 2. **a.** Obama, a Presidential candidate and U.S. Senator from Illinois, volunteered to step in and speak at Wesleyan after Kennedy received his diagnosis. In his speech, Obama praised Kennedy and his late brothers, President John F. Kennedy and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, and told students, “I hope you’ll remember, during those times of doubt and frustration, that there is nothing naïve about your impulse to change the world!”
 3. **b.** China, the world’s most populous country, limits most families by law to only one child. Couples that violate the rule pay steep fines and forfeit some government benefits. Families who lost a child in the earthquake, however, will be allowed to have more children without fines or to stop paying fines for an “illegal” child they already have.
 4. **a.** An estimated 10,000 children died when their school buildings collapsed during the earthquake. Many funerals for those children have turned into angry protests over shoddy school construction, with families demanding investigations and accusing officials of corruption. “Why can’t you do the right things for us?” some shouted at one protest. “Why do you cheat us?”
 5. **c.** The airline will begin charging the fees on June 15. Some airlines already charge some passengers \$25 for checking a second bag on their flights. The fees will apply to passengers flying on discounted fares. It’s one of several new fees that airlines are charging to try to make up for some of the money they are losing as fuel prices soar. The cost of jet fuel has gone up 80% in a year, and the industry could lose as much as \$7.2 billion this year.
 6. **c.** The lander touched down on Mars’ northern polar region and soon will begin a scientific mission to collect soil samples and try to determine if there was once ice (and therefore water) on the planet. NASA engineers said the craft’s flight and landing were perfect.
 7. **c.** The 61st Cannes Film Festival gave its grand prize, or Palme d’Or, to the French film *The Class*. Several films that will reach U.S. theaters later this year had their debuts at Cannes. Other movies were screened in the hopes that an American studio would buy the rights to show them in the U.S.
 8. **a.** *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull* earned \$151 million in the U.S. during the long Memorial Day weekend, and \$160 million overseas. It is the fourth film in the series produced by George Lucas, directed by Steven Spielberg, and starring Harrison Ford. Earlier Indiana Jones movies premiered in 1981, 1984, and 1989.
 9. **a.** The seventh season of the talent competition experienced about a 10% drop in ratings this year but was still the country’s top-rated TV show, by far, with an average of 29 million viewers each week. *Dancing With the Stars* was second, with about 21 million viewers each week, followed by *Desperate Housewives*, *House*, *CSI*, and *Grey’s Anatomy*.
 10. **c.** Dixon started the race in pole position and finished first as well. He led the race for 115 of its 200 laps to claim his first Indianapolis 500 victory. Danica Patrick, attempting to become the first woman to win the country’s most famous auto race, finished 22nd, after crashing with another car following a pit stop.
- BONUS:**
- b.** An additional 3 million Americans will receive college diplomas this year as well. According to other government research, Americans without high school diplomas earned an average of \$19,915 in 2005; workers with only a high school diploma earned an average of \$29,448; college graduates earned about \$54,689; and workers with advanced degrees earned an average of \$79,946.