

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key: Clear Contemporary Current Events Concepts for College

How do shifting global powers and digital trends shape our reality? Build a solid foundation for identifying major international shifts and domestic policy changes.

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**1. Which term describes the diplomatic strategy where a country, such as modern-day India or South Africa, avoids formal alignment with any major power bloc to maintain strategic autonomy?**

**Answer:** B) Non-alignment

Non-alignment is an active foreign policy stance where states choose not to join formal military or political alliances with major superpowers.

**2. The rise of Decentralized Finance (DeFi) aims to remove traditional intermediaries, like commercial banks, from financial transactions.**

**Answer:** A) True

DeFi uses blockchain technology to eliminate the middleman, allowing peer-to-peer financial services without traditional banking institutions.

**3. The global movement toward \_\_\_ involves shifting reliance from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources like wind, solar, and green hydrogen.**

**Answer:** A) Energy transition

Energy transition refers to the structural change of the energy sector from carbon-intensive to zero-carbon power sources.

**4. Which phenomenon occurs when social media algorithms show users content that reinforces their existing beliefs, limiting exposure to diverse perspectives?**

**Answer:** B) Echo chambers

Echo chambers represent environments where a person only encounters information or opinions that reflect and reinforce their own.

**5. A 'sovereign wealth fund' is a state-owned investment fund that manages a country's surplus reserves for national economic benefit.**

**Answer:** A) True

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Sovereign wealth funds, like those in Norway or Kuwait, are government-owned investment vehicles used to manage national savings.

**6. Which of the following describes a 'Gig Economy' worker in the modern labor market?**

**Answer:** C) An independent freelancer taking short-term tasks via apps

The gig economy is characterized by flexible, temporary, or freelance jobs, often connecting workers and customers through digital platforms.

**7. The concept of \_\_\_ refers to the practice of companies making misleading claims about the environmental benefits of their products or practices.**

**Answer:** B) Greenwashing

Greenwashing is a marketing tactic used to deceive consumers into believing that a company's products are environmentally friendly.

**8. Universal Basic Income (UBI) is a policy where the government provides a periodic cash payment to all citizens regardless of their income level.**

**Answer:** A) True

UBI is a social welfare proposal that guarantees a minimum income to all members of a community to ensure basic financial security.

**9. What is the primary goal of 'Soft Power' in international relations, as seen through cultural exports like South Korean music (K-Pop) or American cinema?**

**Answer:** B) Influencing others through attraction and cultural appeal

Soft power is the ability to shape the preferences of others through appeal and attraction rather than coercion or payment.

**10. In contemporary geopolitics, a \_\_\_ state is one that is geographically located between two major rival powers and may be influenced by both.**

**Answer:** B) Buffer

A buffer state is a neutral country situated between two larger, potentially hostile nations, often serving to prevent direct conflict.