



Assignment #0.1: Introduction

Contemporary World

Key concepts

- Environment
- Population
- Powers of the state
- Disparity (inequality or differences) of wealth
- Intervention in zones of tension and conflict
- GDP

Description

Students will demonstrate their understanding of the term “contemporary world” and of the five themes which we will be covering throughout the year. This assignment will prepare students for the contemporary world course and will serve as an overview of the five themes:

- The environment and sustainable development;
- Population and migration;
- Powers of the states;
- Disparity (inequality or differences) of wealth; and
- Intervention in zones of tension and conflict.

PART A: SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

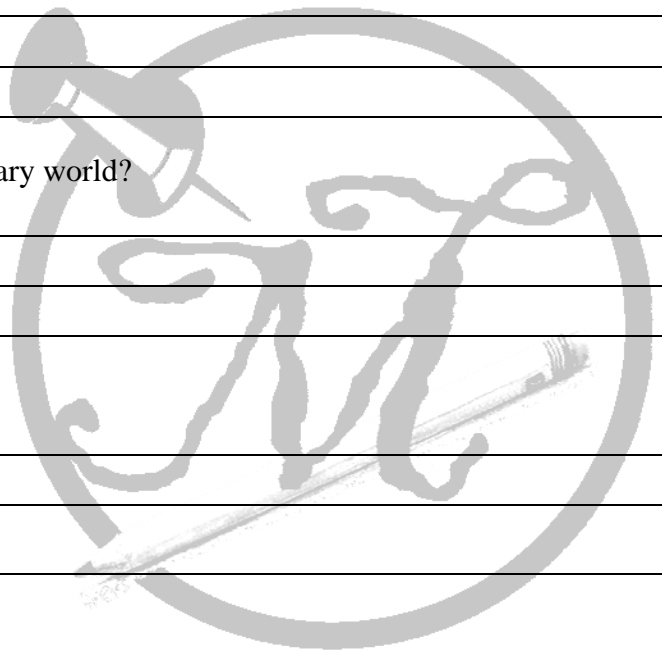
Answer the following questions using correct spelling, grammar and punctuation.

1. What does contemporary mean to you?

2. What characterizes today’s world?

3. What are the main challenges facing the contemporary world?

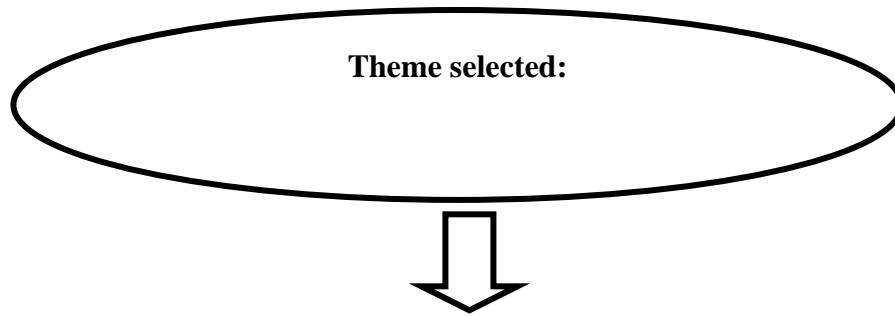
4. What do you think “taking a position” means?



Select one of the following themes and complete the graphic organizer. The information to complete this assignment is your own personal knowledge of your selected topic. Do **not** refer to your workbook, the Internet or any other source.

Themes:

- The environment and sustainable development
- Population and migration
- Powers of the states
- Disparity (inequality or differences) of wealth
- Intervention in zones of tension and conflict



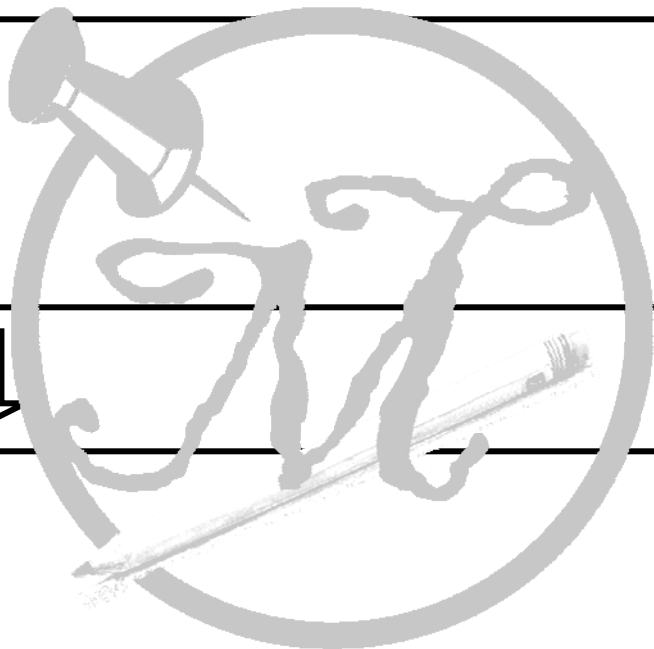
Description of a problem within your selected concept:



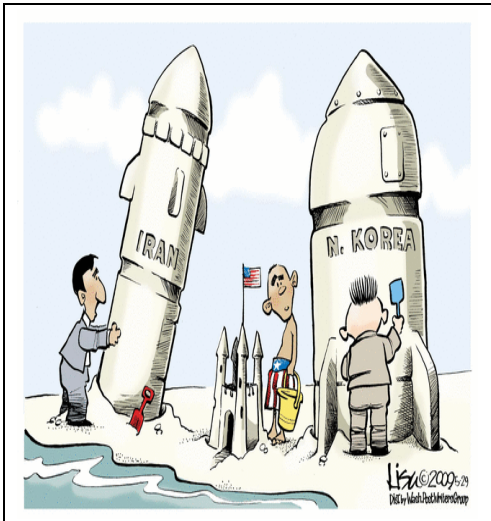
Possible solutions for the problem:



Your own position and views pertaining to the problem:



The following table contains illustrations representing the themes that will be covered during this course. Categorize each of the following illustrations as either “*Environment*”, “*Population and migration*”, “*Powers of the states*”, “*Disparity of wealth*” or “*Tension and conflict*”. Then, provide ample information which demonstrates that you clearly understand the message of each document and the important issues of our present contemporary world.



Theme: _____

Information which demonstrates your understanding of the illustration and issue(s) of our present contemporary world: _____



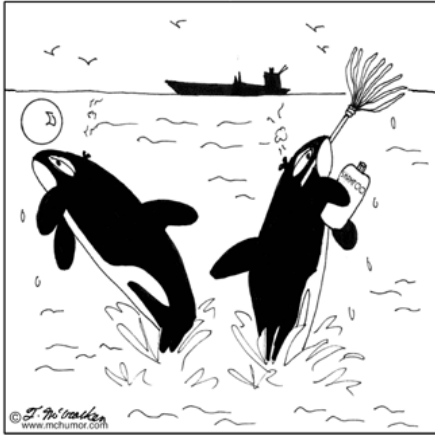
Theme: _____

Information which demonstrates your understanding of the illustration and issue(s) of our present contemporary world: _____



Theme: _____

Information which demonstrates your understanding of the illustration and issue(s) of our present contemporary world: _____



Shamu, the Killer Whale and Shampoo, the Oil Spill Cleaning Whale.

Theme: _____

Information which demonstrates your understanding of the illustration and issue(s) of our present contemporary world: _____



"Well, I grew up in a household where we burned our trash, plastics and all ..."

Theme: _____

Information which demonstrates your understanding of the illustration and issue(s) of our present contemporary world: _____

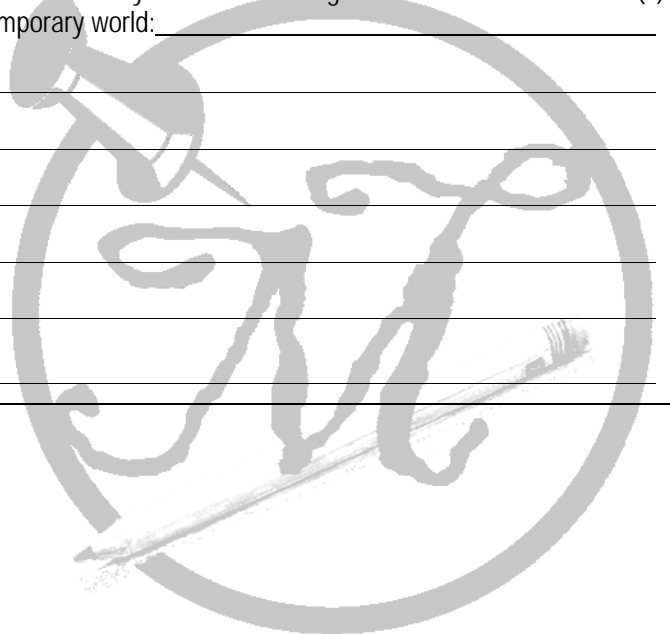
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Theme: _____

Information which demonstrates your understanding of the illustration and issue(s) of our present contemporary world: _____



PART D: THE WORLD IN 2009 ACCORDING TO “THE ECONOMIST”

In the spring of 2009, *The Economist* released a study called “The World in Figures” that focused on several countries of the world. The goal was to evaluate the economic and social development of these countries.

Your first task is to complete the chart below. You are to select one country from the 5 geographic regions that has been studied by The Economist. Your second task is to answer the 2 questions found on the following page.

Important Terminology

The **GDP (Gross Domestic Product)** is the basic measure of a country's economic performance; it is the market value of all final goods and services made within the borders of a nation in a year.

GDP per capita (or per head) refers to the total GDP divided by a country's population. The GDP per capita gives a figure of output per person. GDP per capita allows us to compare the relative wealth of each country regardless of their population size.

GDP Growth is the increase in economic activity. Economic growth refers only to the quantity of goods and services produced.

Inflation (or increase in the cost of living) refers to the rise in the general level of prices of goods and services in an economy over a period of time. Inflation is also the erosion in the purchasing power of money.

Complete the following table using *The Economist* article.

C1: 1 2 3 4 5

Geographic region	Country	GDP	GDP Growth	GDP Per Head	Inflation
<i>Europe</i>					
<i>Asia</i>					
<i>North America</i>					
<i>Latin America</i>					
<i>Middle East /Africa</i>					

The Economist provided a small description for each country. Re-read these small descriptions and in your own words, write a sentence or two that communicates your understanding of the description.

C1: 1 2 3 4 5

Europe

Country: _____

Your perspective:

Asia

Country: _____

Your perspective:

North America

Country: _____

Your perspective:

Latin America

Country: _____

Your perspective:

Middle East/ Africa

Country: _____

Your perspective:

Please answer the two following questions using well-written sentences.

C2: 1 2 3 4 5

1. Which countries would you **not** want to live in? Please explain your answer using data from the article.

2. Which countries would you want to live in? Please explain your answer using data from the article.

