

AD TESTING SERVICES  
2013-2014 UIL CURRENT EVENTS  
PRACTICE TEST 2

UIL CURRENT  
EVENTS PRACTICE  
TESTS FOR 2013-  
2014

**1. Who is Silvio Berlusconi?**

- a. Italy's former Prime Minister
- b. Germany's former Chancellor
- c. France's former Prime Minister
- d. England's Former Prime Minister
- e. The United States' ambassador to Italy

**2. A shopping mall in Kenya was tragically the recent target of an Al-Shabab attack.**

**Where is this mall located in Kenya?**

- a. Hola
- b. Baragoi
- c. Busia
- d. Embu
- e. Nairobi

**3. Who is the president of Iran?**

- a. Mohammad Beheshti
- b. Mohammad-Ali Rajai
- c. Hassan Rouhani
- d. Hasein Khatami
- e. Ali Khamenei

**4. The crumbling infrastructure and poor building standards of Mumbai were recently reiterated through what?**

- a. A public protest
- b. A new piece of legislation proposed in the Indian government
- c. A new public safety survey report
- d. The collapse of Mumbai's fifth major building
- e. The backflow of Mumbai's sewer systems

**5. Why are women's rights groups suing the State of Texas?**

- a. To gain more equality
- b. For supporting the expansion of 'Obamacare'
- c. To block a new abortion law
- d. To support the political efforts of Wendy Davis
- e. To demand more equal work pay

**6. Earlier in the summer, 19 Arizona firefighters fell victim to wildfires that ravaged Arizona. A recent report gives some insight as to how these men died on the job. What was the reasoning?**

- a. A glitch in Oxygen tanks
- b. Radio communication issues
- c. The overwhelming nature of the wild fire
- d. Severe dehydration
- e. An immense amount of smoke inhalation

**7. The Miss World Pageant this year received significant protest from \_\_\_\_\_.**

- a. Islamic communities
- b. Women's rights groups
- c. Citizens of Indonesia
- d. The United States Pageant committee
- e. The Miss World contestants that did not make the final 10 rankings.

**8. Which Greek leader was recently arrested under accusations of forming a criminal organization?**

- a. Karolos Papoulias
- b. Antonis Samaras
- c. Ioannis Kapodistrias
- d. Theodoros Deligiannis
- e. Nikolaos Michaloliakos

**9. A large earthquake recently hit Southern Pakistan, injuring more than 600 and destroying more than 21,000 homes. Where was the epicenter of the earthquake?**

- a. Gilgit
- b. Khyber
- c. Punjab
- d. Balochistan
- e. Sindh

**10. Why has Nadezhda Tolokonnikova been placed in a medical ward in Moscow?**

- a. She sustained injuries after a severe car accident
- b. To receive a kidney transplant
- c. For participating in a hunger strike
- d. For cancer treatments
- e. To treat severe dehydration

**11. Who is Joseph Hunter?**

- a. A candidate for the position of US Attorney General
- b. A former Army sergeant facing conspiracy charges
- c. A candidate for director of the CIA
- d. A former Marine facing conspiracy charges
- e. The most recipient of the Purple Heart

**12. What is the recent development in the Florida case of Marissa Alexander?**

- a. She has been convicted of first degree murder
- b. A new trial has been ordered for the 'stand your ground' case
- c. She has been convicted of aggravated assault
- d. Her appeal process failed, and she will continue serving her sentence
- e. She has been set free following a mistake with obtaining evidence

**13. Which state become the most recent state to overturn a gay marriage ban?**

- a. Texas
- b. California
- c. Washington
- d. New Jersey
- e. New York

**14. Which bill backed by celebrity Halle Berry recently became law in the State of California?**

- a. An equal rights bill
- b. A 'right to work' bill
- c. An anti-paparazzi bill
- d. A bill backing the rights of union workers
- e. An immigration bill

**15. 21 drowned in a sunken boat of the coast of Java while attempting to seek asylum in another country. Where were they headed?**

- a. Japan
- b. Australia
- c. China
- d. Indonesia
- e. United States

**16. The IPCC recently release a report citing the dominant cause of global warming. What is the cause?**

- a. Humans
- b. The natural progressions of greenhouse gasses
- c. The ice age cycle
- d. The progressive, steeper, tilt of the Earth over time towards the Sun
- e. Emissions from ocean floor volcanoes

**17. The Mars Curiosity rover recently discovered what in the planets soil?**

- a. Microbial life forms
- b. Excess oxygen
- c. Water
- d. Liquid mercury
- e. Fossils of past life

**18. An earthquake recently created a new island. Which nation coast is this island located on?**

- a. France
- b. Somalia
- c. Chile
- d. Pakistan
- e. India

**19. How much Federal Aid is the Obama Administration prepared to provide to Detroit?**

- a. \$100 million
- b. \$1 trillion
- c. \$25 million
- d. \$500 million
- e. \$300 million

**20. Who is the former President of Liberia who is serving a 50-year prison sentence for crimes against humanity?**

- a. Charles Taylor
- b. George Dweh
- c. Ernest Eastman
- d. Gyude Bryant
- e. Lewis Brown

**21. Which aspect of the NSA activities are Senators fighting to preserve?**

- a. Internet monitoring
- b. Security camera tapping
- c. Phone surveillance
- d. Credit card surveillance
- e. International government surveillance

**22. Which Senator is leading a panel to encourage a bill to continue a NSA phone surveillance program?**

- a. Lisa Murkowski
- b. Dianne Feinstein
- c. John McCain
- d. Jeff Flake
- e. John Boozman

**23. Which Texas State senator recently entered the race for Governor of Texas?**

- a. Kevin Eltife
- b. Bob Deuell
- c. Robert Nichols
- d. Sylvia Garcia
- e. Wendy Davis

**24. Under growing pressure to offer healthy meals, how has McDonald's adapted its menu?**

- a. By offering a side option of a salad
- b. By making calorie counts even more prevalent
- c. By taking high calorie meals off the menu completely
- d. By charging less for healthier drinks such as juices and water
- e. By retiring the 'super size' meal option

**25. What payment start up has EBay recently acquired?**

- a. CashCow
- b. Braintree
- c. PayPal
- d. InstantMoney
- e. PayMeNow

**26. A former FBI agent is set to plead guilty to leaking classified information to the Associate Press regarding a foiled bomb plot. Who is this agent?**

- a. John Stamos
- b. Donald Sachtleben
- c. Peter Letoya
- d. Stanley Hummings
- e. Patricia Smith

**27. Which broadcast company has Twitter recently signed with in an advertisement deal?**

- a. NBC
- b. ABC
- c. CBS
- d. HBO
- e. ShowTime

**28. Why has Nicholas Lowinger made national headlines in the US?**

- a. For being the youngest person to complete a triathlon
- b. For being the youngest person to be admitted to a four year university
- c. For kick-starting the 'Gotta Have Sole Foundation'
- d. For organizing a massive fundraiser for the Red Cross
- e. For saving his family from a burning apartment building

**29. A bus explosion in Pakistan killed 17 people, including government employees. Where did these government employees serve?**

- a. Peshawar
- b. Punjab
- c. Sindh
- d. Gilgit
- e. Islamabad

**30. Over 500 people have been stung and 19 killed in China by a particular venomous insect. Which arthropod is causing so much chaos in the nation?**

- a. Black widow spider
- b. The anopheles mosquito
- c. The African honey bee
- d. The Vespa mandarinia hornet
- e. The Manaridva yellow jacket

- 31. The Pink Star diamond is expected to auction off for a selling price of \_\_\_\_\_.**
- a. \$20 million
  - b. \$30 million
  - c. \$40 million
  - d. \$50 million
  - e. \$60 million
- 32. What surprising discovery was recently made atop a French glacier?**
- a. Fossils pre-dating all previously found fossils
  - b. A mysterious plane crash
  - c. A new microbial species
  - d. A cache of glittering jewels
  - e. The remains of lost adventurers
- 33. Who was the captain of the Costa Concordia at the time of its capsizing?**
- a. Francesco Schettino
  - b. Paulino Guablo
  - c. Steve Pettociley
  - d. Jonathon Parker
  - e. Schettino Franceso
- 34. China plans to offer tax breaks to which manufacturers who produce what?**
- a. Genetically modified foods
  - b. Electric cars
  - c. Wind Turbines
  - d. Nuclear energy plants
  - e. Solar power products
- 35. Greenpeace activists protesting Arctic offshore drilling aboard the Arctic Sunrise are being held in custody in which nation?**
- a. Russia
  - b. Canada
  - c. Iceland
  - d. Greenland
  - e. Japan



**36. US prosecutors are accusing which ex-Mexican governor of laundering millions of dollars?**

- a. Jose Ricardo
- b. Jorge Torres
- c. Yamone Inez
- d. Torres Undane
- e. Franciso Butchelli

**37. A group of prominent Mexican citizens have rallied together to urge their government to decriminalize \_\_\_\_\_.**

- a. Money laundering
- b. Cocaine use
- c. Marijuana use
- d. Speeding
- e. Driving without a seatbelt

**38. Japan's Toray Industries is buying out which American company for \$584 million?**

- a. Toyota
- b. Mitsubishi
- c. Zoltek
- d. Volvax
- e. Chrysler

**39. What unmanned rocket recently blasted off from a launch pad in California by the private company SpaceX?**

- a. Falcon 9
- b. Intel 39
- c. Discovery
- d. Yarvis Unlimited
- e. Josiah 369

**40. Why is Amanda Knox back in the headlines?**

- a. For releasing a tell-all book
- b. For kick starting a new charity
- c. For returning to Italy
- d. For the retrial of her 2009 murder case
- e. For appealing the Italian court's final verdicts

Essay Question:

Is there any way that the United States government can reach a happy medium to avoid a government shutdown? Or is another complete government shutdown an inevitable event?

Answers:

**1. A** Silvio Berlusconi is the now former Prime Minister of Italy, who stepped down in late September. Berlusconi says all five of Italy's ministers are resigning amid the now shaky structure of the Italian government.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-24319274#>"

**2. E** The capital of Kenya, Nairobi, was where the Westgate Mall siege took place. Over the course of the four day attack, at least 72 people have been confirmed dead.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-24317002#>"

**3. C** Hassan Rouhani serves as the current president of Iran, and recently made headlines by engaging in diplomatic conversation with President Barack Obama this past week. This marks the first time in the three decades following the Tehran hostage crisis that leaders of either nation have spoken to each other.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/28/world/obama-says-he-spoke-to-irans-president-by-phone.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit\\_th\\_20130928&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/28/world/obama-says-he-spoke-to-irans-president-by-phone.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_20130928&_r=0)

**4. D** Mumbai's fifth major city center building collapsed in late September, unfortunately harming and killing some of its inhabitants. The collapse of this residential building further highlighted the city's poor infrastructure and below par building standards.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/28/world/asia/scores-feared-trapped-in-collapse-of-mumbai-building.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit\\_th\\_20130928](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/28/world/asia/scores-feared-trapped-in-collapse-of-mumbai-building.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_20130928)

**5. C** Women's rights groups and Texas abortion clinics have decided to sue the State of Texas to block provisions of a new state abortion law that would have 'dramatic and draconian effects' on women's access to abortions.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/28/us/rights-groups-and-clinics-sue-texas-over-abortion-law.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit\\_th\\_20130928](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/28/us/rights-groups-and-clinics-sue-texas-over-abortion-law.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_20130928)

**6. B** Radio communication errors were sighted in the death of 19 fire fighters in an Arizona blaze in late June. It was seen that there was a 30-minute communication gap between the team and command center, which lead to miscommunications and confusion about the team's movements and locations.

[http://www.cnn.com/2013/09/28/us/arizona-firefighters-report/index.html?hpt=hp\\_t2](http://www.cnn.com/2013/09/28/us/arizona-firefighters-report/index.html?hpt=hp_t2)

**7. A** This year, the global pageant is taking place in Indonesia, the most populous Muslim nation in the world. As a result, many Islamic and Muslim fundamentalists are calling the pageant an outrage, and an exploitation of women.

[http://www.cnn.com/2013/09/27/world/asia/miss-world-pageant/index.html?hpt=wo\\_c2](http://www.cnn.com/2013/09/27/world/asia/miss-world-pageant/index.html?hpt=wo_c2)

**8. E** Michaloliako was formally charged with forming and belonging to a criminal organization in Greece. Four more Golden Dawn MPs are facing the same charges. The organization has been blamed for several homicides and stabbings.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-24314319#>

**9. D** Balochistan is a sparsely populated region of Pakistan, and yet the magnitude 7.7 earthquake still managed to wreak mass havoc. The remote nature of the area has made rescue efforts rather difficult and damaged communication have hindered some rescue operations.

[http://www.cnn.com/2013/09/27/world/asia/pakistan-earthquake/index.html?hpt=wo\\_c2](http://www.cnn.com/2013/09/27/world/asia/pakistan-earthquake/index.html?hpt=wo_c2)

**10. C** Tolokonnikova, a prisoned member of the Pussy Riot in Russia, has been placed in the medical ward of a penal colony in Mordovia, where she is serving a two year sentence. She was participating in a food strike to protest slave labor.

[http://www.cnn.com/2013/09/27/world/europe/pussy-riot-hunger-strike/index.html?hpt=wo\\_c2](http://www.cnn.com/2013/09/27/world/europe/pussy-riot-hunger-strike/index.html?hpt=wo_c2)

**11. B** Joseph Hood and several others acted as a security team to survey the transport of illegal drugs, but acted as contract killers and planned to eliminate anyone who threatened the drug trade. Including law enforcement.

[http://www.cnn.com/2013/09/27/us/ex-army-drug-trafficking/index.html?hpt=us\\_c2](http://www.cnn.com/2013/09/27/us/ex-army-drug-trafficking/index.html?hpt=us_c2)

**12. B** Marissa Alexander was originally convicted of aggravated assault for firing warning shots to scare off her abusive husband. An appellate court recently order a retrial in this Florida 'stand your ground' case.

[http://www.cnn.com/2013/09/26/justice/florida-stand-your-ground-domestic-violence/index.html?hpt=us\\_c2](http://www.cnn.com/2013/09/26/justice/florida-stand-your-ground-domestic-violence/index.html?hpt=us_c2)

**13. D** The Superior Court of New Jersey handed down the decision to lift the gay marriage ban, finding that the state's civil union system deprived gay couples from certain federal benefits. Governor Chris Christie intends to appeal the decision.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-24309214>

**14. C** Halle Berry adamantly and publicly backed an anti-paparazzi bill in the state of California which limits the paparazzo's ability to photograph the children of celebrities. The bill lays out penalties for taking photos and video of a celebrity's child in a harassing manner without parental consent.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-24294901>

**15. B** The asylum boat was carrying people from Lebanon, Jordan and Yemen that were seeking asylum in Australia when the boat capsized and sank off the coast of Java. Of the group, 50 survivors have been reported.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-24304276>

**16. A** In a released IPCC report, scientists were cited as 95% certain that humans are the dominant cause of global warming, and have been since the 1950s. The panel warned that continued emissions of greenhouse gases will cause further warming and destruction.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-24292615>

**17. C** After heating a small pinch of dirt, a surprising amount of water vapor was detected. Further calculations suggest that the planet's soil holds about 2% by weight of water.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-24287207>

**18. D** A recent 7.7 magnitude earthquake in Pakistan gave rise to a 'quake island'. The island is almost completely circular, but is not expected to persist due to the eroding forces of the ocean.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-21468664>

**19. E** Two months after Detroit filed for bankruptcy, the Obama Administration is prepared to propose \$300 million of combined federal and provide aid. This however is only a fraction of what the city owes.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/27/us/300-million-in-detroit-aid-but-no-bailout.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit\\_th\\_20130927](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/27/us/300-million-in-detroit-aid-but-no-bailout.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_20130927)

**20. A** Charles Taylor recently appealed his sentence for crimes committed against humanity, but lost the appeal. The court believes that Taylor's sentencing had been fair and reasonable of the 11-count indictment handed down in April of 2012.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/27/world/africa/charles-taylor-sierra-leone-war-crimes-case.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit\\_th\\_20130927](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/27/world/africa/charles-taylor-sierra-leone-war-crimes-case.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_20130927)

**21. C** The Senate Intelligence Committee is working to 'change but preserve' the NSA program focusing on phone surveillance. Senators drafting a new bill are seeking to increase public confidence in the program and uphold the lawful nature of phone surveillance.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/27/us/politics/senators-push-to-preserve-nsa-phone-surveillance.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit\\_th\\_20130927](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/27/us/politics/senators-push-to-preserve-nsa-phone-surveillance.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_20130927)

**22. B** Senator Feinstein is leading a panel to push a new bill that changes yet preserves the phone surveillance program of the NSA. The new measure would require public reports of how often the NSA used the calling log database.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/27/us/politics/senators-push-to-preserve-nsa-phone-surveillance.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit\\_th\\_20130927](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/27/us/politics/senators-push-to-preserve-nsa-phone-surveillance.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_20130927)

**23. E** Wendy Davis plans to announce her candidacy for Governor of Texas. Davis gained prominence in the political atmosphere after successfully filibustering an abortion bill in early June.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/27/us/politics/wendy-davis-is-expected-to-run-for-texas-governor.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit\\_th\\_20130927&r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/27/us/politics/wendy-davis-is-expected-to-run-for-texas-governor.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_20130927&r=0)

**24. A** Along with offering side salads, McDonalds also aims to quit marketing less healthy options to children. These changes come in an increasingly health conscious consumer base.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/27/business/mcdonalds-moves-toward-a-healthier-menu.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit\\_th\\_20130927](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/27/business/mcdonalds-moves-toward-a-healthier-menu.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_20130927)

**25. B** Braintree, a Chicago payments start up, is being incorporated in EBay for \$800 million. EBay intends on combing Braintree into its payments division along with PayPal. The payment start up allows the option to pay for items over the Web and on mobile devices.

[http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/09/26/paypal-buys-braintree-a-payments-start-up/?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit\\_th\\_20130927](http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/09/26/paypal-buys-braintree-a-payments-start-up/?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_20130927)

**26. B** Sachtleben, a former bomb technician, was identified as a suspect after obtaining the phone logs of AP reporters. He is pleading guilty for leaking information to the press regarding a foiled bomb plot in Yemen.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/24/us/fbi-ex-agent-pleads-guilty-in-leak-to-ap.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit\\_th\\_20130924](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/24/us/fbi-ex-agent-pleads-guilty-in-leak-to-ap.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_20130924)

**27. C** Twitter has signed CBS into its ever growing arsenal of advertisement providers. The networks intend to use Twitter Amplify to showcase content from 42 different products.

[http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/09/23/twitter-adds-cbs-to-its-stable-of-big-advertising-partners/?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit\\_th\\_20130924](http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/09/23/twitter-adds-cbs-to-its-stable-of-big-advertising-partners/?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_20130924)

**28. C** 15 year old Lowinger has kick started the ‘Gotta Have Sole Foundation’ to provide shoes to homeless children. To date, he has helped to distribute shoes to more than 10,000 homeless children.

[http://www.cnn.com/2013/09/26/us/cnnheroes-lowinger-homeless-shoes/index.html?hpt=us\\_c2](http://www.cnn.com/2013/09/26/us/cnnheroes-lowinger-homeless-shoes/index.html?hpt=us_c2)

**29. A** A bus carrying government employees of Peshawar exploded while traveling through northwest Pakistan. It has been suggested that the attack acts as a sabotage effort to stall recent efforts to pursue peace with the Taliban.

[http://www.cnn.com/2013/09/27/world/asia/pakistan-violence/index.html?hpt=wo\\_c2](http://www.cnn.com/2013/09/27/world/asia/pakistan-violence/index.html?hpt=wo_c2)

**30. D** The Vespa mandarinia is a particularly vicious species of hornet that resides in the Shaanxi province. Over the course of 3 months, 19 people in the area have been stung to death.

[http://www.cnn.com/2013/09/27/world/asia/china-asian-hornet-deaths/index.html?hpt=wo\\_c2](http://www.cnn.com/2013/09/27/world/asia/china-asian-hornet-deaths/index.html?hpt=wo_c2)

**31. E** The 59.6 carat diamond is set to go on auction in November. The diamond is internally flawless, a naturally rare quality in a diamond, and it has been said that the diamond cutters working on the stone needed two years to cut and polish it. Understandably, the stone is expected to sell for \$60 million.

[http://www.cnn.com/2013/09/25/world/europe/pink-star-diamond-60-million-dollars/index.html?hpt=wo\\_mid](http://www.cnn.com/2013/09/25/world/europe/pink-star-diamond-60-million-dollars/index.html?hpt=wo_mid)

**32. D** A mountaineer discovered a cache of jewels atop a French glacier. It is suggested that the jewels were made in India and may be from a plane crash that occurred in either 1950 or 1966.

[http://www.cnn.com/2013/09/26/world/europe/france-mountain-jewels/index.html?hpt=wo\\_mid](http://www.cnn.com/2013/09/26/world/europe/france-mountain-jewels/index.html?hpt=wo_mid)

**33. A** Francesco Schettino was the captain of the Costa Concordia at the time the cruise liner capsized. He is currently on trial for the loss of 32 lives when the ship sunk, and has asked a panel of judges to investigate the ship's bridge and engine room to prove he couldn't have been the only one responsible for the disaster.

[http://www.cnn.com/2013/09/25/world/europe/italy-costa-concordia-trial/index.html?hpt=wo\\_bn6](http://www.cnn.com/2013/09/25/world/europe/italy-costa-concordia-trial/index.html?hpt=wo_bn6)

**34. E** In an effort to support the green energy, China's Ministry of Finance announced the offer of tax breaks to those who manufacture solar power products, as a way to offset massive overcapacity and weak demand.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/29/us-china-solar-idUSBRE98S0CJ20130929>

**35. A** Russian courts are ordering eight Greenpeace activists to be held in custody for two months following an incident in international waters as the group was protesting Arctic offshore drilling.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/29/us-russia-greenpeace-idUSBRE98O09I20130929>

**36. B** It has been alleged that in 2008, Torres used another local government official to funnel millions of dollars in illicit funds to a Bermuda account from bank accounts in Texas.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/26/us-mexico-suit-idUSBRE98P19B20130926>

**37. C** Prominent Mexican citizens, including former ministers, business men, and Nobel Prize winners are urging the government to decriminalize marijuana use in an effort to curb gang violence and corruption.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/25/us-mexico-drugs-idUSBRE98O19A20130925>

**38. C** The Japanese industry is buying US based Zoltek in order to increase its share of the worldwide carbon fiber market. By acquiring Zoltek, the company can supply lower cost carbon fibers for wind turbines and cars

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/27/us-toray-zoltek-idUSBRE98Q01L20130927>

**39. A** The SpaceX Falcon 9 was launched from a pad in California to test system upgrades before commercial satellite launch services for the company begin later this year.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/30/us-space-spacex-idUSBRE98S0C120130930>

**40. D** The case of Amanda Knox has been sent for a retrial in Italian courts. She was convicted in 2009 of killing her then roommate, was freed in 2011 after an appeal process, and is now facing a retrial. She will not return to Italy for the proceedings.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/29/us-italy-knox-idUSBRE98S0HN20130929>