**CANDIDATES QUIZ**

This test is open book. Keep answers short (ideally no more than a paragraph) and in your own words (no copy/pasting from the website). Good luck!

1. What is The Borgen Project?

The Borgen Project strives to make global poverty a focus of US foreign aid. Its areas of focus within global poverty are: global food security; food aid reform; newborn, child and mother survival; and access to clean water, sanitization, and power. The project seeks to spread awareness in this area but does not focus on directly sending people out to volunteer. Instead, it understands that the US already has resources in place to combat global poverty, but it has not made it a priority.

1. What is the story behind The Borgen Project?

After volunteering in refugee camps in Kosovo, Clint Borgen saw the need spreading awareness in the US for combating global poverty. From it’s founding, The Borgen Project has harnessed the abilities of individuals no matter their circumstances. Mr. Borgen propelled the project forward from his computer while living Alaska, and although the group now has a central location, it is still largely fueled from individuals doing their part no matter where they are.

1. *When it comes to helping the world’s poor, is the United States (Congress and the White House) doing enough? How does the U.S. compare to other wealthy nations?*

Americans greatly overestimate the amount their government spends on foreign aid. According to Oxfam International, the US government spends 0.8% of their budget on development aid but most Americans think we spend close to 26%. Compared to other wealthy nations, we rank relatively low in foreign assistance given from our governments. We place 22nd in contributions (Official Development Assistant compared to Gross National Income), and are vastly behind nations such as Sweden, the UAE and Norway.

1. How does addressing global poverty improve the economy and create jobs in the United States?

95% of potential consumers of US goods live outside the US. Decreasing global poverty allows consumers to purchase more US goods, thus leading to more demand for US goods and the creation of more jobs.

1. How does addressing global poverty improve national security?

As the project’s website correctly identifies, many of the world’s most violent nations are also the poorest. Funding anti-poverty programs can be seen as preventative policy. Reducing poverty can reduce disenfranchisement may lead people to terrorist groups or gangs.

1. *What are some strategies being used on the ground to improve living conditions for people living in extreme poverty?*

The Borgen Project recommends numerous strategies on the ground to improve the living conditions for people living in extreme poverty. Such strategies include: installing wells, teaching farmers to increase their crop yield, building schools, providing vaccines, and others. Such projects are the best and most cost effective ways to improve living conditions for those in extreme poverty. When people no longer need to worry about basic living conditions, they can focus on investing in the future.

1. What is your favorite video on The Borgen Project website and why?

“Why Should we Address Global Poverty when we Have it Here?” from the Misconception Monday’s Series. Although it is brief, it is an important question to know how to address. The arguments from this video are key for convincing Congressional leaders or donors to give their support to international poverty reduction causes such as The Borgen Project. While people want to see a reduction in global poverty, many seek to spend their money at home, where they feel they can see the results of their funds. But as the video points out, reducing global poverty has direct influence on our home and people need to be more aware.

1. The Borgen Project… (Highlight which is most accurate)
   1. Sends teams of volunteers to build water wells in Africa.
   2. Focuses on advocacy and influencing members of Congress to better fund poverty-reduction programs
   3. All of the above.
   4. None of the above.
2. Why does The Borgen Project want people calling and emailing their congressional leaders in support of poverty-reduction bills?

One reason is because Congressional leaders listen to their constituents and will support poverty-reduction bills if their voters make it a priority. Additionally, US Congress has the funding and logistic abilities to be the most cost effective way to reduce poverty. A statistic from the project’s website which summarizes this is the breakdown of funds needed to provide emergency aid versus the money needed to meet with Congressional offices who can then support bills to give people access to drinking water before an emergency situation occurs. Appealing to Congressional leaders is more cost effective and an easier way for more Americans to help poverty-reduction. This is why I am excited for the opportunity to work for The Borgen Project.

Now show your support for these poverty-reduction bills by emailing your Congressional leaders through our [Action Centre](https://borgenproject.org/action-center/)