**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 is an NGO fighting to reduce extreme global poverty by making the issue a cornerstone of American foreign policy.

1. What is the story behind The Borgen Project?

During the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo from 1998 to 1999, Clint Borgen volunteered in refugee camps in the region. Upset by the American government’s limited effort to ease the suffering of refugees, Borgen set out to create an organization devoted to making severe poverty a more important issue in American foreign policy. He lacked the intial funding, so he worked on Alaskan fishing vessels and put his earnings toward founding The Borgen Project, which is now an important part in bringing political attention to the plight of impoverished people worldwide.

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?

The United States’ efforts are woefully inadequate and disproportionate to its wealth; it gives only 0.8% of its federal budget (roughly $30 billion of $40 trillion) to combatting global poverty. This places the United States in 20th (as of 2013, updated figures place it in 22nd) for providing the most foreign aid, behind the majority of industrialized nations.

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

By helping impoverished people overcome the struggle of survival, they can then become potential consumers of American goods. This would mean that there is now a new market and an increased demand for goods, which directly translates to the need for new jobs to produce a larger supply of goods.

1. How does addressing global poverty improve national security?

Statistically speaking, the most impoverished and desperate parts of the world are the most fertile areas for terror, drugs, and crime to take root. By assisting the people in these conditions and educating the citizenry, people have access to better opportunities. Terrorism and other criminal activities, which threaten not only the immediate community, but also the world at large, no longer have a stronghold.

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

The strategies employed on the ground to improve living conditions all work to increase people’s access to basic needs through developments in education, healthcare, and infrastructure. For example, building wells, shelters, schools, and medical clinics, providing vaccines, and educating farmers on ways to increase crop yields, are all methods, which directly improve living conditions.

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

My favorite video on The Borgen Project website was the video titled “Love and Life in a Russian Landfill” (also labelled “Love and Rubbish”). All of the “Why Poverty” videos were effective in showing the plight of the impoverished, but this video most profoundly affected me because it most effectively humanized the people who make up the astronomical statistics about global poverty that everybody sees.

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?

The Borgen Project wants people to call and email congressional leaders because the more people contact their leaders and express what they want, the more it shows leaders what their constituents expect of them. Congress exists to represent the desires of the American people, and if people call and email congressional leaders in support of poverty-reduction bills, it makes these bills a priority.

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