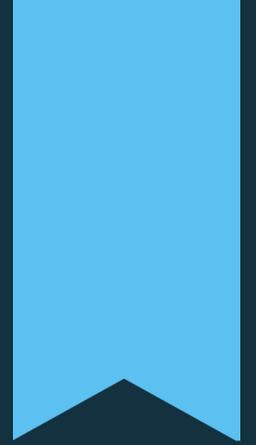




mettletest

distinction beyond grades



SubscriberExample

19 FEB 2019

What is Mettletest

Mettletest is an on-line service for graduate-level career-seekers to distinguish themselves outside the academic field and to provide employers with a qualitative assessment method to improve selection decisions.

Mettletest requires commitment in time and money from its subscribers, creating a self-selecting pool of candidates prepared to put in the extra effort required.

There is a normally a year-long programme to complete, though not onerous, demonstrating some stamina and dedication. Subscribers are expected to present opinions on the outcome of current events over a range of topics, responding to a question every fortnight. This builds into the portfolio you see here. Subscribers should tackle every type of question, allowing evaluation of their approach to subjects outside their usual comfort zone.

Mission statement

We aim to grant all those seeking a career at graduate level a fair chance to prove their mettle, regardless of connections, academic institution or background. We believe that those with the proper talent and commitment should have the right to be taken into consideration.

We have the complementary goal of enabling employers to achieve greater levels of success in graduate recruitment with the confidence of strong qualitative assessment to back quantitative selection criteria. This should create more jobs from a broader talent pool.

Guidance on using this portfolio

This report contains a brief profile, the 200 word responses to all the questions answered and a collection of scores. It may be used initially as part of a short-listing process and then as a fund of rewarding interview topics.

We recommend that recruiters should use two or three of the written responses (including a recent one) to form a preliminary view of the candidate. If favourable, it should be worth looking at a few more to decide if the candidate will be chosen for interview. Interviewers have the entire lexicon of answers from which to choose those topics they think will be most revealing for their assessment.

Scores are of secondary value, as the ability to predict outcomes accurately must be partly through luck. However, they do provide grist to a recruiter by recording confidence levels (risk appetite), participation rates and relative performance.

SubscriberExample



Mettletest username: [SubscriberExample](#)

Subjects studied at university

Mechanical engineering

Languages spoken:

French *excellent*

Spanish *good*

Other professional qualifications

Other academic qualifications

Mettletest Score Participation: 27 out of 30 questions answered, 90%



Position sought:

Availability:

Online full version of this portfolio:

A full version of this portfolio - containing the questions, subscriber answer justifications, scores, confidence levels, ranking, expert answers, outcomes and final expert commentary - may be found on-line by clicking [HERE](#).

China USA relations

Date: 05 Sep 2017

Setter name: [Mettletest Mettletest](#)

Will the USA impose any new sanctions or tariffs on China before the end of October 2017?

Response

Answer: YES

Confidence level: 0%

Mean confidence level
(all respondents): 62.29%

Outcome: YES

Score:0

Mean score
(all respondents): 62.29

Justification:

The subscriber's answer appears here. This should be up to 200 words of rationale for the YES / NO answer and will form part of a portfolio of answers to be assessed by a prospective employer.

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[» Read more detail on online version](#)

China USA relations

Expert Answer: NO

**Selected expert answer from
Mettletest Panellist**

Outcome: YES

**Comment on the outcome from
Mettletest Panellist**

Our experts were right and we have as yet seen no new action from Trump on tariffs for China. There remains the possibility for the future. The Trump initiated investigation of Chinese efforts to steal intellectual property of U.S. firms, proceeds. Various groups, including solar manufacturers and producers of hardwood, are lobbying to get the president to match his pre-election rhetoric with action to curtail Chinese imports. Nevertheless, ahead of Trump's Asian visit this November, a trade war has been avoided.

[For more expert answers please follow the links to the full portfolio.](#)

UK diesel car sales

Date: 19 May 2017

Setter name: [Mettletest Mettletest](#)

Will the UK market share of diesel cars fall below 40% of new registrations for May 2017 (as calculated by the SMMT)?

Response

Answer: YES

Confidence level: 0%

Mean confidence level
(all respondents): 62.29%

Outcome: YES

Score:0

Mean score
(all respondents): 62.29

Justification:

The subscriber's answer appears here. This should be up to 200 words of rationale for the YES / NO answer and will form part of a portfolio of answers to be assessed by a prospective employer.

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[» Read more detail on online version](#)

UK diesel car sales

Expert Answer: NO

Selected expert answer from
Mettletest Panellist

Outcome: YES

Comment on the outcome from
Mettletest Panellist

New diesel car registrations continued to lose market share but only down to 43.7% in May 2017. Dealers still have stocks to shift based on historic demand and the promise of lower emissions as cars have to comply with standards in real driving conditions. Yet, research has shown diesel cars are producing 50% more toxic emissions than they should be if they were complying with pollution laws. I would predict that we are going to see a huge reduction in diesel market share over the next decade. The recent cheating scandals and public health concerns have highlighted the damage and driving diesel will become as socially unacceptable as smoking round a baby's cot. As alternative fuel vehicles become more affordable with better range, new owners will increasingly move over.

[For more expert answers please follow the links to the full portfolio.](#)

2017 French Elections

Date: 22 Apr 2017

Setter name: [Mettletest Mettletest](#)

Will Marine Le Pen win the 2017 French Presidential Election?

Response

Answer: YES

Confidence level: 0%

Mean confidence level
(all respondents): 62.29%

Outcome: YES

Score:0

Mean score
(all respondents): 62.29

Justification:

The subscriber's answer appears here. This should be up to 200 words of rationale for the YES / NO answer and will form part of a portfolio of answers to be assessed by a prospective employer.

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[» Read more detail on online version](#)

2017 French Elections

Expert Answer: YES

Selected expert answer from Sir Jeremy Greenstock

Sir Jeremy is away but here is message from his strategic advisory company, Gatehouse Advisory Partners:

The Gatehouse view is that Marine Le Pen will find it tough to successfully negotiate the 2-stage Presidential election process - despite the absence of a stand-out mainstream candidate. Her chances of success in a second round are low - but dependent on who she runs against. So we would suggest , No, Marine Le Pen will not win the 2017 French Presidential election.

[For more expert answers please follow the links to the full portfolio.](#)

Outcome: YES

Comment on the outcome from Mettletest Panellist

Le Pen was heavily defeated by Emmanuel Macron, who won 66% of the vote vs. Le Pen's 34%. Macron had been narrowly ahead after the first round of voting and picked up votes from the left wing candidates and from Fillon's center right party. Macron did well across the country and best in areas with higher educated or higher income electorates. Even in areas of unemployment or predominantly blue collar jobs, Macron outdid Le Pen. Macron is a supporter of the EU, and his victory has been applauded by other leaders. Macron now faces the challenge of achieving a majority in the National Assembly for his new party, En Marche, in June.

IMF Greek Bailout

Date: 17 Feb 2017

Setter name: [Mettletest Mettletest](#)

Will the IMF commit new funds to the Greek bailout before the end of March 2017?

Response

Answer: YES

Confidence level: 0%

Mean confidence level
(all respondents): 62.29%

Outcome: YES

Score:0

Mean score
(all respondents): 62.29

Justification:

The subscriber's answer appears here. This should be up to 200 words of rationale for the YES / NO answer and will form part of a portfolio of answers to be assessed by a prospective employer.

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[» Read more detail on online version](#)

IMF Greek Bailout

Expert Answer: NO

Selected expert answer from
John Karlake

Outcome: YES

Comment on the outcome from
Mettletest Panellist

No decision was taken by the end of March. While the most likely outcome is still that a compromise will be reached before July, there is as little certainty as ever. The latest target date for an agreement is Friday 7th April, when the euro zone ministers meet in Malta but gaps remain between Greece and its creditors. In particular, Greece appears to have rowed back on timings for pension cuts, so the IMF is now seeking further labour reform negotiations before sealing a deal. There is no conclusion yet.

[For more expert answers please follow the links to the full portfolio.](#)

Hinkley Point C

Date: 07 Sep 2016

Setter name: [Mettletest Mettletest](#)

Will the UK Government give approval for the full Hinkley Point C nuclear power project, with 2 EPR nuclear reactor units, by 15th October 2016?

Response

Question not answered

Hinkley Point C

Expert Answer: NO

Selected expert answer from

Outcome: YES

Comment on the outcome from
Mettletest Panellist

It appears that security and diplomacy were the overriding concerns for Theresa May. Once she had attached conditions that limited any change of ownership, particularly safeguards against China taking over the nuclear reactor, she allowed the project to go ahead.

The government has decided that HPC is needed despite ongoing concerns about the cost of its electricity output, nuclear waste disposal and the viability of the technology. It will create some 25,000 jobs and fuel demand for steel. Rolls Royce will be providing back-up generators too.

[For more expert answers please follow the links to the full portfolio.](#)

Philippines v. China Sea claim

Date: 11 Jul 2016

Setter name: [Mettletest Mettletest](#)

Will the International Tribunal of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague rule in the Philippines' favour on any of its current (2013) submissions "with respect to the dispute with China over the maritime jurisdiction of the Philippines in the West Philippine Sea. / the South China Sea ". The Tribunal will issue its Award on Tuesday, 12 July 2016.

Response

Answer: YES

Confidence level: 0%

Mean confidence level
(all respondents): 62.29%

Outcome: YES

Score:0

Mean score
(all respondents): 62.29

Justification:

The subscriber's answer appears here. This should be up to 200 words of rationale for the YES / NO answer and will form part of a portfolio of answers to be assessed by a prospective employer.

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[» Read more detail on online version](#)

Philippines v. China Sea claim

Expert Answer: YES

Selected expert answer from Mettletest Panellist

The tribunal was awarded jurisdiction over seven of 14 submissions made by the Philippines. These include seemingly arcane questions as to whether shoals are rocks and which features are mere "low tide elevations". The answers are, of course, important because of the different maritime entitlements and economic zones which accompany the designations. China has been posturing heavily ahead of the result and carrying out naval exercises in the region. Their concern is that a pro-Philippine ruling will encourage other countries like Vietnam with their claims and increase tensions with the US, all of whom object to China's "nine dash line" sovereignty claim over 90% of the South China Sea. Two main factors point to Philippines' success with the tribunal: The PCA's decision that tribunal can rule on the case and the Chinese insistence that the ruling is "no more than a piece of paper". If China thought they were going to win they would be happy to endorse the ruling as evidence of their respect for international law and their membership of UNCLOS. As Sir Jeremy Greenstock's Gatehouse team puts it: "China is already gearing for a negative ruling, and they tend to be very accurate in their read. Expect a flaky ruling against China but with little on next steps for Philippines!"

[For more expert answers please follow the links to the full portfolio.](#)

Outcome: YES

Comment on the outcome from Mettletest Panellist

The Hague tribunal overwhelmingly backed the Philippines over the disputed waters of the South China Sea, ruling that rocky outcrops claimed by China - some of which are only low tide elevations - cannot be used for territorial claims. The tribunal even said some of the waters were "within the exclusive economic zone of the Philippines, because those areas are not overlapped by any possible entitlement of China". The tribunal also found China had violated the Philippines' rights by interfering with its fishing and petroleum exploration and by constructing artificial islands. Damage to coral reefs by Chinese construction was condemned. The Chinese Government have reacted angrily, refusing to accept the decision and declaring their right to set up an air defence zone. An official stated "We hope that other countries will not take this opportunity to threaten China and work with China to protect the peace and stability of the South China Sea, and not let it become the origin of a war." There could be tense moments to come, even if the rhetoric is mainly for domestic consumption.

Tata Steel UK sale

Date: 30 Apr 2016

Setter name: [Mettletest Mettletest](#)

Will Tata Group achieve the sale of Tata Steel UK by June 15th 2016?

Response

Answer: YES

Confidence level: 0%

Mean confidence level
(all respondents): 62.29%

Outcome: YES

Score:0

Mean score
(all respondents): 62.29

Justification:

The subscriber's answer appears here. This should be up to 200 words of rationale for the YES / NO answer and will form part of a portfolio of answers to be assessed by a prospective employer.

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[» Read more detail on online version](#)

Tata Steel UK sale

Expert Answer: NO

Selected expert answer from
John Karlake

Outcome: YES

Comment on the outcome from
Mettletest Panellist

Tata has delayed any decision on the sale until after the referendum on 23rd June. In March the company seemed desperate to divest itself of the UK steel operations as fast as it could, setting an end of May deadline. Now, with positive noises from the UK government and reduced pension liabilities, it is not even certain that Tata will sell. They may keep Port Talbot and look for buyers of the speciality steels divisions. Resolution is likely in the next quarter.

[For more expert answers please follow the links to the full portfolio.](#)

Russia and The Rio Olympics

Date: 29 Feb 2016

Setter name: [Mettletest Mettletest](#)

Will Russia have a track and field athletics team at the Rio 2016 Olympics?

Response

Question not answered

Russia and The Rio Olympics

Expert Answer: NO

Selected expert answer from

Outcome: YES

Comment on the outcome from
Mettletest Panellist

Remarkably, the IAAF appears to have stuck to its guns and all 68 Russian athletics athletes remain banned. Only long jumper Darya Klishina, based in the US, has been cleared to compete, reportedly under a neutral flag. Even the whistleblower, Yuliya Stepanova, will not join her in the games. Stepananova, who revealed the extent of Russian doping, fell foul of an IOC ban on Russians with previous drugs form. CAS declared this "unenforceable" but she has apparently ruled herself out at this late stage. Many other disciplines have accepted Russia, after the IOC left it up to individual sports federations to decide on admittance. Some 271 Russian athletes will perform in teams from aquatics to volleyball. Athletics and weightlifting are facing total bans for Russia.

[For more expert answers please follow the links to the full portfolio.](#)

Turkish Elections Nov. 2015

Date: 20 Oct 2015

Setter name: [Mettletest Mettletest](#)

Will Erdogan's AK Party win an overall majority in the Turkish elections on November 1st 2015?

Response

Answer: YES

Confidence level: 0%

Mean confidence level
(all respondents): 62.29%

Outcome: YES

Score:0

Mean score
(all respondents): 62.29

Justification:

The subscriber's answer appears here. This should be up to 200 words of rationale for the YES / NO answer and will form part of a portfolio of answers to be assessed by a prospective employer.

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[» Read more detail on online version](#)

Turkish Elections Nov. 2015

Expert Answer: YES

Selected expert answer from John Karlake

Opinion polls show that it is unlikely that the AKP will win the 276 seats required to form a government alone. The polls reflect a near repeat of the June elections, which would have required a coalition and prompted Erdogan to call for new elections so the people could get it right next time! In the meanwhile, Turkey has become more polarised., Attacks on and from the Kurdish PKK have undermined security. There has been a devastating bomb explosion at a peace rally incorporating pro-Kurdish sympathisers, with accusations that the authorities (deliberately) failed to provide protection. Ostensibly, this has harmed the AKP. So too has Erdogan's increasingly authoritarian approach, with curbs on the press and freedom of speech. Yet it may win the AKP the grudging support of those with nationalist leanings and lure them away from the runners-up, centre-left CHP party. Turkey's strengths in early years of AKP rule have been tested by the consolidation of power and intervention in Syria, partly used as cover for renewing the fight against the Kurds' PKK. Can the AKP maintain support, relying on the conservative rural community? And will the new big factor, Merkel's supplication over the refugees, with offers to re-track EU membership lend Erdogan more kudos? Not quite enough.

[For more expert answers please follow the links to the full portfolio.](#)

Outcome: YES

Comment on the outcome from Mettletest Panel

The extent of Erdogan's victory surprised everybody, including his AK Party supporters. The AKP won 316 seats, a good majority but short of the 330 seats needed to call a referendum on increasing Erdogan's presidential powers from merely constitutional to executive.. Nevertheless, he holds the real sway - the prime minister does what he's told. Note that Merkel went to the president when offering money and concessions for refugee control. The election was tainted by intimidation and suppression of opposition media. The Kurdish supporting HDP which won 13% of the vote in June, saw their share reduced, having ceased public campaigning after the Ankara bomb attacks. Observers expressed their concerns but there is little doubt that the AKP's promise of stability won over many of the electorate. Fears of polarisation in the country will not have been lessened by further crackdowns since Erdogan's victory. There have been a spate of arrests already and new attacks on the Kurdish PKK fighters. It does not bode well. The Turks may wish for a return to the policies of earlier in the decade which brought growth and stability. Neither seem so evident now.

China GDP

Date: 14 Sep 2015

Setter name: [John John](#)

Will China announce a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Annual Growth Rate of 6.9% or above for its third quarter 2015?

Response

Answer: YES

Confidence level: 0%

Mean confidence level
(all respondents): 62.29%

Outcome: YES

Score:0

Mean score
(all respondents): 62.29

Justification:

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Expert answers are shown below so you can see how they approach Mettletest.

[» Read more detail on online version](#)

China GDP

Expert Answer: NO

Selected expert answer from
John Karlake

Outcome: YES

Comment on the outcome from
Mettletest Panellist

Expectations have been confounded - China's 3rd quarter GDP DID come in at 6.9%. A recent Bloomberg poll had the consensus at only 6.7%. It appears that the Chinese services sector compensated for the weakness in manufacturing and property. The slowdown in the latter two was correctly identified by clever analysis of electricity use and building but few economists realised how strong the emerging services sector has become.

Overall, there is still concern at how growth can be sustained in the future. These GDP figures show the weakest growth since 2009. Further slowdown is predicted in the coming years, even if this is the worst in the short-term. Many commentators think the official statistics are overstated and that real growth is weaker.

[For more expert answers please follow the links to the full portfolio.](#)

IAAF - Doping in Athletics

Date: 17 Aug 2015

Setter name: [Mettletest Mettletest](#)

By the end of September 2015, will the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) have publicly declared a change in its methods or strategy to prevent drugs cheating?

Response

Answer: YES

Confidence level: 0%

Mean confidence level
(all respondents): 62.29%

Outcome: YES

Score:0

Mean score
(all respondents): 62.29

Justification:

The subscriber's answer appears here. This should be up to 200 words of rationale for the YES / NO answer and will form part of a portfolio of answers to be assessed by a prospective employer.

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IAAF - Doping in Athletics

Expert Answer: NO

Selected expert answer from
John Karlake

Outcome: YES

Comment on the outcome from
Mettletest Panellist

As expected no great new regulations our resources have yet been initiated. Nevertheless, there has been a major effort to be seen to be enforcing the current rules with the revisiting of old cases and due sanctions imposed..Better monitoring is also claimed. It has not been enough to satisfy the doubters or stem the rumors and innuendo.

[For more expert answers please follow the links to the full portfolio.](#)

Greek exit from Euro?

Date: 18 May 2015

Setter name: [Adrian Adrian](#)

By the end of July 2015, will the Greek government have announced plans to issue a national currency again?

Response

Answer: YES

Confidence level: 0%

Mean confidence level
(all respondents): 62.29%

Outcome: YES

Score:0

Mean score
(all respondents): 62.29

Justification:

The subscriber's answer appears here. This should be up to 200 words of rationale for the YES / NO answer and will form part of a portfolio of answers to be assessed by a prospective employer.

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[» Read more detail on online version](#)

Greek exit from Euro?

Expert Answer: NO

Selected expert answer from
John Karlake

Outcome: YES

Comment on the outcome from
Mettletest Panellist

It was a very close run thing. At various moments over the last few months it appeared that Greece would have to leave the Euro. We hear that plans were drawn up to issue a currency if the breach were made. The Greek people chose in a referendum to reject the austerity measures required as a condition for receiving the funds vital to stay in the Euro. This decision was unexpectedly ignored. Our star questioner, Adrian Stones had got the measure of the situation right: "Prime Minister Tsipras is currently buying time while he persuades the electorate of the need for substantial changes to pensions and state salaries.....The deciding factor will be the overt desire of the economically active population in Greece to remain in the euro."

[For more expert answers please follow the links to the full portfolio.](#)

FTSE All-Share Post Election

Date: 16 Apr 2015

Setter name: [John John](#)

What are the implications of the UK general election for stock market levels - will the FTSE all-share index be higher at close on Thursday 14 May than on Thursday 7 May?

Response

Answer: YES

Confidence level: 0%

Mean confidence level
(all respondents): 62.29%

Outcome: YES

Score:0

Mean score
(all respondents): 62.29

Justification:

The subscriber's answer appears here. This should be up to 200 words of rationale for the YES / NO answer and will form part of a portfolio of answers to be assessed by a prospective employer.

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[» Read more detail on online version](#)

FTSE All-Share Post Election

Expert Answer: NO

Selected expert answer from
John Karlake

Outcome: YES

Comment on the outcome from
Mettletest Panellist

At the close of business on 14th May, the FTSE all share index stood at 3,782.49, having fallen to 3726.25 on the day of the election. It rose above 3800 the day after the election when the country and the market reacted to the surprise outcome of a clear Conservative victory and majority. The move was then tempered by a pull-back. Investors like the pro-business stance of Cameron's government but dislike the uncertainty of the EU referendum, slower growth forecasts and possible disruption as Greek default and Euro exit risks loom. As predicted, worries immediately before the election knocked the market back and once the result was known a rally ensued. Would this have happened with a different electoral outcome?

[For more expert answers please follow the links to the full portfolio.](#)

FIFA

Date: 31 Mar 2015

Setter name: [Mettletest Mettletest](#)

Will Sepp Blatter win re-election to the FIFA presidency in the first ballot on 29th May 2015?

Response

Answer: YES

Confidence level: 0%

Mean confidence level
(all respondents): 62.29%

Outcome: YES

Score:0

Mean score
(all respondents): 62.29

Justification:

The subscriber's answer appears here. This should be up to 200 words of rationale for the YES / NO answer and will form part of a portfolio of answers to be assessed by a prospective employer.

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Expert answers are shown below so you can see how they approach Mettletest.

[» Read more detail on online version](#)

Expert Answer: YES

Selected expert answer from Peter Bennett-Jones

There are four candidates standing to be elected FIFA President on 29 May. Incumbent Sepp Blatter is 16:1 on with the bookies to retain the post. To do so at the secret First Ballot he requires 2/3 of the votes from eligible FIFA member nations.

The bookies rarely get it wrong and it is inconceivable that Blatter will not prevail and very probably that he will do so on the First Ballot. The most viable rival candidate does not even have the support of his own Asian base.

Blatter is a consummate political operator, running the Beautiful Game with a rod of iron, using lightly audited development monies to attract the support of Federations in Africa, Asia, Oceania and Latin America over the last 16 years. His conduct of the World Cup bids for 2018 and 2022, which were in all likelihood corrupt, illustrates the grip he has over FIFA. The UK's opposition to his method of operation was derided and the deep reservations about the ethical conduct and bribery are not shared by the majority of members. They argue that Blatter has helped spread the game and its development globally, successfully delivering tournaments in Asia, Europe, South Africa and Brazil and has not yet fulfilled his mission.

Sadly for the UK, President Blatter, as he insists on being addressed, will prevail again.

[For more expert answers please follow the links to the full portfolio.](#)

Outcome: YES

Comment on the outcome from Derek Wyatt

Sepp Blatter's votes came from countries who are the highest on Transparency International's Corruption Index - the African, Mid East & Far East - so we should not have been surprised they courted him. These countries receive outrageous sums of FIFA's money but where are their playing fields and coaches?

The real loser in this is Zurich and its canton. Zurich has to be the most corrupt city in the world. It banked Abacha and Marcos's \$trillions, kept hidden Nazi Gold and delights in offering sporting organisations freedom of their city so they are above the law. The Swiss should hang their collective heads in shame.

Arms for Ukraine?

Date: 25 Feb 2015

Setter name: [Mettletest Mettletest](#)

Will the USA start providing arms to Ukraine before the end of April 2015?

Response

Answer: YES

Confidence level: 0%

Mean confidence level
(all respondents): 62.29%

Outcome: YES

Score:0

Mean score
(all respondents): 62.29

Justification:

The subscriber's answer appears here. This should be up to 200 words of rationale for the YES / NO answer and will form part of a portfolio of answers to be assessed by a prospective employer.

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Expert answers are shown below so you can see how they approach Mettletest.

[» Read more detail on online version](#)

Arms for Ukraine?

Expert Answer: NO

Selected expert answer from
Mettletest Panel

Outcome: YES

Comment on the outcome from
Mettletest Panellist

The US has resisted sending arms to Ukraine, despite calls from Republicans in Congress. Instead the US has provided military trainers and some "defensive, non-lethal" equipment, like Humvees. The fighting and deaths have not ceased since a February ceasefire was declared but the violence is more sporadic. Under these conditions it is unlikely that US policy will change for the time being.

[For more expert answers please follow the links to the full portfolio.](#)

ECB Quantitative Easing

Date: 15 Jan 2015

Setter name: [John John](#)

Will the ECB announce that it is going beyond its existing stimulus measures and will start buying sovereign bonds in a programme of quantitative easing, at its meeting on 22nd January 2015?

Response

Question not answered

ECB Quantitative Easing

Expert Answer: NO

Selected expert answer from

[For more expert answers please follow the links to the full portfolio.](#)

Outcome: YES

Comment on the outcome from
Mettletest Panellist

The ECB announced a programme of quantitative easing larger than most in the market had expected, at €1.1trn. Beginning in March, the central bank will purchase assets worth €60bn per month and continue till September 2016 or until there is a "sustained adjustment" in inflation (closer to 2%). Investment grade sovereign debt, asset-backed securities and covered bonds, but not corporate bonds, will be included in the purchases. There will be risk sharing on only 20% of the assets, the rest being borne by national central banks. The ECB will not buy more than a third of any country's debt issuance.

Initial reactions from investors were favourable with bond and equity markets rising on the news. Supporters of the scheme feel that its size lends it credibility. There are many sceptics, who do not believe that this QE will result in growth. There is anger from the Germans who dislike adopting the risk for weaker nations and fear that these countries will now be less pressured to see through structural economic reforms.

The situation for Greece, with elections imminent, will now be back in the spotlight. The QE rules, prohibiting holdings over a third of any country's debt, exclude Greece until July, when a repayment deadline falls. Greece must also complete the stalled review of its current bailout with the "Troika" of the European Commission, IMF and ECB, as purchases from programme countries will be suspended during such assessments. If Syriza win the election, on a pledge to renegotiate Greek debts, how will that all play out?

Cyberspace Treaty

Date: 16 Dec 2014

Setter name: [Michael Michael](#)

“Will a new cyberspace international treaty be under active discussion by the end of March 2015?”

Response

Answer: YES

Confidence level: 0%

Mean confidence level
(all respondents): 62.29%

Outcome: YES

Score:0

Mean score
(all respondents): 62.29

Justification:

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Cyberspace Treaty

Expert Answer: YES

Selected expert answer from Mettletest Panel

Presuming the question implies "between major sovereign states" then it is unlikely that talks will be underway that quickly. The idea is being actively debated in media now and the arguments stack up like this -

For: All countries now understand that their infrastructure, security and wealth (including banks and major companies) is at risk from cyber warfare and criminal attack. A treaty to agree the acceptable norms is vital to prevent catastrophe. Any doubts that a threat exists have been dispelled by viruses like stuxnet and regin. The intentions of commercial internet companies to offer better privacy through encryption, will create a "dark net" and the treaty needs to be in place soon, to cope with the opportunities thus offered to the nefarious.

Against: It's pointless. No one trusts all the other countries, or even the major powers, to pay more than lip service to such a treaty. It is too difficult to distinguish between criminals, hackers and governments. Suspicion has grown that the latter, to west and east, are proactive in spying and sabotage, not just defence. Friends and foes are under surveillance. Then, cyber warfare is preferable to real battle, if it can achieve the same ends without bloodshed. Governments love its cheapness and will be reluctant to sign up.

[For more expert answers please follow the links to the full portfolio.](#)

Outcome: YES

Comment on the outcome from Mettletest Panellist

Since this question was published there have been many episodes, not least the hacking of Sony by North Korea, that show the desirability of a treaty. They also demonstrate why it will be so difficult to achieve. The conversations remain disparate and no world authority seems to exercise the necessary power. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)—China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan—has sent a (revised) draft International Code of Conduct for Information Security to the U.N. As this proposes increased government controls, it is unlikely to find any favour with the U.S., which rejects the limitations on freedom of expression. So, no meaningful discussions yet.

Ukraine & Sanctions on Russia

Date: 26 Nov 2014

Setter name: [Adrian Adrian](#)

Will the USA declare any significant lifting of the sanctions against Russia by the end of January 2015?

Response

Answer: YES

Confidence level: 100%

Mean confidence level
(all respondents): 62.29%

Outcome: YES

Score:100

Mean score
(all respondents): 62.29

Justification:

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[» Read more detail on online version](#)

Ukraine & Sanctions on Russia

Expert Answer: YES

Selected expert answer from John Karlake

It is more likely that sanctions will be extended, given the belligerent rhetoric and continued fighting in Eastern Ukraine. The USA will feel it needs to keep the pressure on Putin. Sanctions are unlikely to work though, without some diplomatic concessions that allow Russia to withdraw without losing face. Russia denies having troops in Ukraine, so pulling out can be done without fuss. The USA and Nato needs to agree to leaving Ukraine in Russia's sphere, out of Nato and as a strong trading partner. The West must also provide Ukraine with the finances to mitigate the blow. In return, Russia should desist from any new territorial ambitions in Ukraine and guarantee to respect the Baltic states. There' is little sign that we are any where near fulfilling any of these conditions yet or that the dialogue is open. A resolution may be achieved over the course of the next year, with business pressure on Putin to re-establish profitable links with the West. Putin is not easily swayed by such considerations but a weaker oil price could force his hand. That is a longer timescale. I cannot see the USA lifting any sanctions by the end of January.

[For more expert answers please follow the links to the full portfolio.](#)

Outcome: YES

Comment on the outcome from Mettletest Panellist

As Adrian Stones predicted, the American Administration is taking a tougher line over Ukraine and now debating whether to arm the government forces in response to perceived Russian escalation. With fierce battles, rising civilian casualties and the Ukrainian government forces buckling, France and Germany are now on a desperate mission to avoid all-out war. The prospect of sanctions being lifted seem as far away as ever. Sanctions are hurting the Russian economy and oil price falls even more so but they appear to be having no effect on changing Putin's stance on the Ukraine, their main goal. Nor, with his well managed control of the media, does he seem to be losing public support. Reuters states "Russian opinion polls show 70 percent think the government should continue its policies regardless of sanctions even though at least that many say they've been hurt by them."

OPEC Oil production

Date: 11 Nov 2014

Setter name: [Mettletest Mettletest](#)

Will OPEC agree to lower its production target of 30 million barrels a day when it meets in Vienna on 27th November 2014?

Response

Answer: YES

Confidence level: 0%

Mean confidence level
(all respondents): 62.29%

Outcome: YES

Score:0

Mean score
(all respondents): 62.29

Justification:

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OPEC Oil production

Expert Answer: YES

Selected expert answer from Mettletest Panel

There is a strong view that only the gulf state members of OPEC are amenable to seeing production levels stay at 30m + bpd, whatever the price effect and prices have fallen fast already. Saudi Arabia, as the cartel leader, is not prepared to take the burden of cuts on itself. It has \$ reserves of 745bn and can weather what it considers to be a temporary price fall. It may even have a strategy to pressure high cost producers out of the business and certainly wants to maintain market share. Other OPEC members (especially Latin American) are squealing, as they have been relying on higher oil incomes to bail out their faltering economies. They want Saudi to be the swing state, essentially allowing them to maintain their own output. . OPEC has recently released its oil report showing medium to longer term price rises and recovering demand. Short-term this complacency may change the dynamics, though. The market senses adequate or surplus supplies as the global economy stutters and shale yields increase. Prices may fall further over the next weeks and below \$75 pb,, so even Saudi may start to panic. Oil around \$70 before the meeting will force OPEC into production cuts to halt the bearish market psychology taking hold.

[For more expert answers please follow the links to the full portfolio.](#)

Outcome: YES

Comment on the outcome from Mettletest Panellist

OPEC maintained its collective target production ceiling of 30 million barrels a day. Brent Crude futures fell \$4.81 to \$72.94, the biggest one day fall since May 2011. The view of the cartel appeared to be that production cuts would not guarantee a rise in prices. Saudi Arabia was not keen to be the swing producer and there was little appetite in the other OPEC members to pare their own production. Vulnerable Venezuela's calls to cut were resisted and the weaker prices will hit many producers hard. Some analysts speculate that OPEC is hoping to squeeze out high cost producers, particularly US shale oil wells, and that the group will be able to regain its control in the medium to long term. Certainly its current retreat from a dominant position is extremely significant, breaking a pattern that's lasted 40 years.

Ebola

Date: 27 Oct 2014

Setter name: [John John](#)

Will the number of Ebola cases outside Africa exceed 150 by the end of November 2014?

Response

Answer: YES

Confidence level: 0%

Mean confidence level
(all respondents): 62.29%

Outcome: YES

Score:0

Mean score
(all respondents): 62.29

Justification:

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[» Read more detail on online version](#)

Ebola

Expert Answer: YES

Selected expert answer from Mettletest Panellist

The number of confirmed cases in West Africa has passed the 10,000 mark and the real number may be much more than that. Nevertheless, the numbers outside Africa have been very small, to date. There will, no doubt, be more. I would expect these to remain low though. Controls at the borders of the worst affected countries will prevent travel for some at risk individuals. The training and protection of incoming health workers has improved, so they are less likely to be infected. This will help suppress the numbers of imported cases outside Africa. When infected patients do move afield, procedures to prevent further spread have been well rehearsed in many countries. Greater numbers of non-African health workers will mean more medical evacuations but this will not be enough to push numbers above 150 by the end of November. A larger figure will eventually be reached, before the outbreak is fully dealt with, but that may well be into 2015.

[For more expert answers please follow the links to the full portfolio.](#)

Outcome: YES

Comment on the outcome from Mettletest Panellist

It is remarkable that the number of cases outside Africa have been restricted to the low twenties. There has been a large (if inadequate) response from outside the region but few medical evacuations of the aid staff. (Mercifully, most of the evacuees recovered.) The low figures for the geographical spread are despite the cumulative number of infected people in West Africa rising to 16,000 with c.7000 deaths by the end of November 2014. The UN has warned that there is still a huge risk of the disease spreading to other parts of the world.

ISIS in Iraq

Date: 07 Jul 2014

Setter name: [John John](#)

Will Tikrit be in the hands of The Islamic State [of Iraq and al-Sham / The Levant] (Isis) at the end of July 2014?

Response

Answer: YES

Confidence level: 0%

Mean confidence level
(all respondents): 62.29%

Outcome: YES

Score:0

Mean score
(all respondents): 62.29

Justification:

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ISIS in Iraq

Expert Answer: NO

Selected expert answer from
Mettletest Panellist

Outcome: YES

Comment on the outcome from
Mettletest Panellist

The battle is raging for Tikrit but so far the Islamic State does not seem to have been dislodged. The Iraqi army, supported by Shia militias and Iran have claimed some successful attacks but ISIS continues to destroy their supply lines and access. There are signs, mainly from Mosul and Fallujah, that some of the Sunni tribes may be turning against the self-proclaimed caliphate. These tribes facilitated ISIS' quick rampage through northern Iraq and now fear their own loss of power. In the long run their attitude will probably bear more influence on the fate of ISIS than the efforts of the Iraqi army and its allies.

[For more expert answers please follow the links to the full portfolio.](#)

VIX - Market Sentiment

Date: 18 Jun 2014

Setter name: [Mettletest Mettletest](#)

Are stock market investors too complacent - Will The CBOE Volatility Index (VIX) close above 14 during July 2014?

Response

Answer: YES

Confidence level: 0%

Mean confidence level
(all respondents): 62.29%

Outcome: YES

Score:0

Mean score
(all respondents): 62.29

Justification:

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[» Read more detail on online version](#)

VIX - Market Sentiment

Expert Answer: YES

Selected expert answer from John Karlake

We are primarily considering attitudes to the US S&P 500 market, on which the VIX is based. VIX closed at 12.06 on 17th compared with an average of 19.9 since 2004. This seems low but is much higher than the actual volatility of the S&P recently. The VIX normally rises in reaction to (large) market falls. It is a measure of “insurance” premiums as implied volatility. For now, fears of market shocks are well balanced by anxiety at missing out on further market rises. Geopolitical upheavals in the Middle East would have been deleterious in the past, with the threat to oil prices, but the US feels better immunised now, with its domestic shale gas production. The market’s greatest concern has been the ending of easy money and return to rising interest rates. Downgrades in current year GDP forecasts from the IMF and Fed should postpone that day and keep investors sanguine, despite the implications of lower company profits. The probability therefore is that the market will remain stable through July with VIX below 14. The caveat is that unexpected (unexplained) falls can change things fast. VIX went from 11.15 to 18.31 on 27 Feb 07, when the S&P fell 3.5%, variously ascribed to Chinese markets, interest rate fears, Iran, Afghanistan.

[For more expert answers please follow the links to the full portfolio.](#)

Outcome: YES

Comment on the outcome from Mettletest Panellist

After a period of calm the market volatility increased rapidly at the end of the month. The VIX closed at 16.95 on July 31st, having spiked above 14 on one previous day in July. Strength in the US economy spooked markets, raising the specter of rising interest rates a little sooner than had been anticipated. Some poor earnings figures combined with fresh worries about European banks and Argentinian debt provided ample reasons for a sell off. The S&P 500 fell 2% on the last day of July.

BBC Trust Chair

Date: 18 May 2014

Setter name: [John John](#)

Will a woman be selected as the next chair of the BBC Trust, following the resignation of Lord Patten?

Response

Answer: YES

Confidence level: 0%

Mean confidence level
(all respondents): 62.29%

Outcome: YES

Score:0

Mean score
(all respondents): 62.29

Justification:

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[» Read more detail on online version](#)

BBC Trust Chair

Expert Answer: YES

Selected expert answer from Mettletest Panellist

Despite its high profile, the role of BBC Trust Chair may prove difficult for the culture secretary to fill satisfactorily. There are calls for the Trust to be abolished and for the dual responsibilities of regulator and head of the BBC to be split. A new incumbent could find their era shortened. Meanwhile some will feel it a thankless task. It is claimed that Cameron wants a woman in the seat and Javid may feel pressure to find one with the right skills. The Conservative leader is keen to appeal to the female constituency following criticism of the dearth of women in cabinet and the parliamentary party. Chair of the Trust is someone who's appointment he can claim credit for while hoping that he can maintain a safe distance subsequently, if it all goes wrong. There is no shortage of strong women contenders either: Marjorie Scardino's media experience and reputation make her a front runner and Alison Hastings is a BBC trustee, while, of course Diana Coyle, the acting chair might wish to continue the role properly. Helen Alexander is supposed to have ruled herself out but Colette Bowe, recently retired as chair of Ofcom, might fit if the regulation side of the job is considered paramount. With this talent and more to be considered, Cameron should get his wish on gender and merit.

[For more expert answers please follow the links to the full portfolio.](#)

Outcome: YES

Comment on the outcome from Mettletest Panellist

"Rona Fairhead, former head of the Financial Times Group, has been officially confirmed as the chairwoman of the BBC Trust." - BBC news 9th Oct. 2014. The new chair remains a non-executive director of both HSBC and PepsiCo. As the first woman to be appointed, Rona Fairhead had to answer MP's questions about her ability to look after her children if she took on the extra workload and about her husband's political affiliations. She also refuted the implication that she had been favoured for the role because she is a woman - Is gender important to the trust role? "No, it should be the person who has skills for role." If it is true that PM Cameron preferred a woman for the role he did indeed get his wish on gender and merit. Fairhead is widely accepted as a worthy choice and a strong leader.

Thai elections 2014

Date: 17 Jan 2014

Setter name: [John John](#)

Will a general election in Thailand, on 2nd February 2014, return Yingluck Shinawatra as prime minister, with 95% of seats in the House of Representatives filled?

Response

Answer: YES

Confidence level: 0%

Mean confidence level
(all respondents): 62.29%

Outcome: YES

Score:0

Mean score
(all respondents): 62.29

Justification:

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[» Read more detail on online version](#)

Thai elections 2014

Expert Answer: YES

Selected expert answer from John Karlake

Amid calls for her immediate resignation, Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra has called an election for 2nd Feb and the Thai election commission say there is no legal way for them to delay the vote. Protesters led by Suthep Thaugsuban's People's Democratic Reform Committee (PDRC) are largely Southern (Bangkok) based middle class and Royalists demanding an end to corruption and the influence of Yingluck's brother, Thaksin, from exile. Anti-government Democrats have very little chance of winning an election, outnumbered by Yingluck's (northern) rural poor. The PDRC therefore wants to oust the government in favour of an unelected "people's council". There are many possibilities suggesting that a successful election, with the requirement for 95% of seats filled, is unlikely:

1. Violence escalates preventing polling or registrations for enough seats
2. Yingluck resigns as protesters manage to shut down government or even kidnap her and other ministers
3. There is an army coup like the one that ousted Thaksin

Any of these scenarios are highly possible and enough to derail the process. Possible but less plausible is that Yingluck is able to make concessions which convince the PDRC to retreat, even if the business community tire of the cost of disruption and cease agitating.

[For more expert answers please follow the links to the full portfolio.](#)

Outcome: YES

Comment on the outcome from Mettletest Panellist

The election process failed to be completed on the 2nd Feb. In over 10% of the electoral districts the opposition managed to disrupt voting with violence or the threat of violence. The required 95% of seats could not be filled and parliament cannot be convened. Yingluck Shinawatra remains merely caretaker prime minister. New polls are slated for 23rd of Feb. but the Electoral Commission is casting doubt on these being able to go ahead, unless the threats of further violence are removed and challenges to the legality of the elections are overcome. Thailand stays in a dangerous limbo. Yingluck Shinawatra commands a majority in the country but the opposition holds sway in the South and in Bangkok. Thailand has to hope that some truce can be negotiated between the government and the opposition, probably including guarantees that Thaksin Shinawatra will not be able to return without facing trial and that rice subsidies will be phased out. That might be enough for middle class self-interest to allow calm to be restored.

US debt ceiling - default?

Date: 08 Oct 2013

Setter name: [Mettletest Mettletest](#)

Will the US Congress agree to raise the US Government's borrowing limits, the "debt ceiling", by the Treasury's deadline of October 17th, avoiding a debt default?

Response

Answer: YES

Confidence level: 0%

Mean confidence level
(all respondents): 62.29%

Outcome: YES

Score:0

Mean score
(all respondents): 62.29

Justification:

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US debt ceiling - default?

Expert Answer: YES

Selected expert answer from Mettletest Panel

There is no doubt that a default could be catastrophic for the US and destabilise the whole world economy. The consequences for the dollar, as the reserve currency, and the massive holdings of US government debt are unpredictable but they are not going to be good. The question is just how great an economic slowdown would be caused and whether it will lead to a real ongoing decline in US power and fortunes. The problem is that many Republicans are briefing that the danger is not as imminent as the Treasury claims - it's a government bluff. If they can keep speaker Boehner, who fears for his job if he concedes, holding firm they may push beyond the October 17th deadline. Some strong convincing needs to be done that the deadline is real, probably supported by stock-market falls and worsening opinion polls. It is increasingly likely that the Republicans will not be swayed in time and that Obama will not make them the concessions they want on healthcare, so the deadline will be breached.

[For more expert answers please follow the links to the full portfolio.](#)

Outcome: YES

Comment on the outcome from Mettletest Panellist

The USA stepped back from the brink in the final hours before the deadline. The debt ceiling was lifted, on a temporary basis until February 2014, and immediate default was averted. The markets had anticipated this would be the case and begun to rally in the preceding days with a continuing relief rally once the deal was struck in Congress. One of the reasons for the market's apparent sanguineness, even in US Treasury Bills vulnerable to default, was that there is no obvious alternative in which to invest those huge sums of money. One long-term consequence of the trauma may be that global investors seek harder to find those realistic alternatives. Now there is some post deal optimism. The Republican party has been blamed by the American people for inflicting damage on the US economy and it's felt that they will not risk another fight that paralyses government again. Republicans have declared a switch in tactics to thwart "Obamacare", the key reason for the blockage. They will now go for aggressive oversight to force changes. Outside this, they will want to avoid more cuts in the defence budget, so there will be a need to keep the funds flowing and some common ground on that with the Democrats. There is little time to construct deals, the debt problem is far from solved and new deadlines will be looming in the New Year. For now, however, a default crisis has been averted.

2020 Olympics

Date: 06 Sep 2013

Setter name: [John John](#)

There are three candidate cities for the 2020 summer Olympics - Istanbul, Madrid and Tokyo. The International Olympic Committee will elect the host city on 7 September 2013. Will Tokyo be the winner?

Response

Answer: YES

Confidence level: 0%

Mean confidence level
(all respondents): 62.29%

Outcome: YES

Score:0

Mean score
(all respondents): 62.29

Justification:

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2020 Olympics

Expert Answer: YES

Selected expert answer from Mettletest Panel

With two days to go before the IOC announces the winner, OddsChecker had around 44% of bets laid on Tokyo, 32% on Madrid and 21% on Istanbul. This accurately reflects the slickness of the Japanese campaign and the comparative power they have in finance and perceived capability to deliver. Known for completing big infrastructure projects, they must be seen as the safest option for the Olympic committee. Their geographical position amongst powerful economies should help too. Despite assertions that the IOC would like to see spending on the games moderated, the relative economic weakness of Spain and Turkey will count against them. They have both tried to gain favour on the cheapness of their proposed budgets. Both have already spent billions preparing, so attest that much of what's needed is in place. Political unrest threatens both Spain and Turkey. The dire state of Spain's finances and the high levels of unemployment could produce instability. Turkey has seen clashes over the increasingly Islamist dictates of its government and huge demonstrations are fresh in the minds of all. Istanbul's chances have probably been ruled out by this. Provided Tokyo is not derailed by awkward questions over the handling of radiation leaks from Fukushima, it will be announced as the winner on the 7th.

[For more expert answers please follow the links to the full portfolio.](#)

Outcome: YES

Comment on the outcome from Mettletest Panellist

Tokyo won by a comfortable margin. The Japanese capital won by 60 votes to Istanbul's 36 in the final ballot, Madrid having gone out in the first round of voting. Tokyo was the most praised city after the technical report by the IOC evaluation commission. It was consistently regarded as the frontrunner until concerns over the handling of radiation leaks from the Fukushima nuclear plant shook faith in their efficiency claims. A direct presentation by PM Abe overcame the doubts. Money, stability and geography all contributed to the win. Tokyo's commercial strength and reliability, with the Far East regarded as an area of growing importance, defeated the challengers. Madrid's economic woes and cheap bid failed to impress, despite IOC claims they want to curb the escalating cost. Istanbul might have fared better but for the recent protests against Erdogan's government. Tokyo will host the 2020 summer Olympics.

Egypt 2013

Date: 29 Jul 2013

Setter name: [Peter Peter](#)

Will Hazem el Beblawi be Prime Minister of Egypt on 30 September 2013?

Response

Answer: YES

Confidence level: 100%

Mean confidence level
(all respondents): 62.29%

Outcome: YES

Score:100

Mean score
(all respondents): 62.29

Justification:

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[» Read more detail on online version](#)

Egypt 2013

Expert Answer: YES

Selected expert answer from Mettletest Panellist

Hazem el Beblawi is a man with some principles. He tendered his resignation as finance minister of the military led government in Oct 2011. This was in reaction to the army killings of Coptic Christians. He is unlikely to stay put if there is evidence of army violence over the next two months to 30th September. Unfortunately the chances of violent suppression and fatalities, when confronting pro-Morsi rallies, are high. We have seen it happen already. The army's chief, Sisi's, calls for counter-protests against "violence and potential terrorism" also risk bloody confrontations. El-Beblawi may appeal for national reconciliation and say that "Egypt is a civilian state, not a religious or military state," but his moderation will be drowned out. The army declaring a "state of alert" and continuing to detain deposed president Morsi for "spying for Hamas" are clear indications that immediate, peaceful resolution is unlikely. It does not matter that many Egyptians are fed up with the Muslim Brotherhood. The group still has the organisational ability to mobilise masses. The army seems unable to resist heavy-handed responses. If deaths continue to mount, will the 76 year old PM just remain flapping his hands for calm? No, he will feel obliged to resign.

[For more expert answers please follow the links to the full portfolio.](#)

Outcome: YES

Comment on the outcome from Mettletest Panellist

El Beblawi has remained in place. He retained support from the military. Rather than resigning over the high bloodshed inflicted on the Muslim Brotherhood supporters of ex-president Morsi, he claimed it was necessary to preserve the road map to democracy. "The government could not have proceeded with amending the constitution and holding polls without dispersing Rabaa and Al-Nahda, especially as they were not peaceful," said El-Beblawi, quoted in Egypt's Daily News. (The vice president and democracy advocate Mohammed ElBaradei did not share that view and left the government. He has since been vilified and accused of secret negotiations with the Muslim Brotherhood, although he decried their rule). El Beblawi will now face more severe tests. As Sir Jeremy predicted, he is subject to rising criticism over the economy and his offers of wage increases are being dismissed as too little and too late by workers' unions. The unions threaten a third revolution unless their demands are met and are wary of fire power being turned on them once the Muslim Brotherhood has been dealt with. The passage to spring elections will be hard for the PM to navigate.

Gold Price

Date: 02 Jul 2013

Setter name: [Mettletest Mettletest](#)

Stock & bond prices have been in turmoil in recent days but Gold has been falling for months, with big sell-offs in April and June. Will the Gold price still be below \$1300 per oz at the end of July 2013? (London pm Gold fixing for 31st July).

Response

Answer: YES

Confidence level: 0%

Mean confidence level
(all respondents): 62.29%

Outcome: YES

Score:0

Mean score
(all respondents): 62.29

Justification:

Justification:

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Gold Price

Expert Answer: YES

Selected expert answer from Mettletest Panellist

We have seen a huge sell off, a bigger percentage fall in the gold price than anything since 1920. This will have shaken out the vast majority of jittery holders; a "capitulation" as the market calls it. Fund sales won't be repeated to the same extent. Many participants and would-be participants will see gold as being cheap at levels around 30% below the highs and 20% down in June alone. Many of the influences that propelled gold's rise have not disappeared. Inflation risks remain high from government and central bank decisions to provide easy money. Many countries, outside the Eurozone, view currency devaluation as a way of restoring growth and competitive devaluing makes gold an inviting refuge to those not wanting to see the worth of their currency holdings dwindling. Eurozone problems are merely on hold and the break up of that currency will become a fear again. Meanwhile, political unrest, not only in the Middle-East but in growing economies like Brazil and Turkey, will persuade investors to return to gold. We will need a week or two of steadier prices to restore nerves. The importance of physical supply/demand considerations will grow. Production will fall, jewellery demand rise. By the end of July prices will be on the up again and almost certainly above \$1300.

[For more expert answers please follow the links to the full portfolio.](#)

Outcome: YES

Comment on the outcome from Mettletest Panellist

The fixing was \$1314.50. Short-term prices have remained quite volatile and gold staged a good recovery in July as markets generally regained their poise. Hints of stimulus from the Japanese Central Bank, calming words in the US and a general sense that interest rates globally will not be outpacing inflation all fuelled the buyers. In Japan Abe's party won election victories in the upper house, strengthening his position. He advocates monetary easing, which in turn boosts the attractions of gold as an inflation hedge. Predictions, by the World Gold Council, of strong demand for physical gold in China painted a rosier picture of the supply and demand balance after concerns that selling has been accelerating as investors pull out of gold funds.

Clinical trials of medicines

Date: 13 Jun 2013

Setter name: [Tim Tim](#)

The European Medicines Agency has announced that it will publish clinical-trial data and enable access to full data sets by interested parties. A number of practical and policy issues need to be addressed before complex data sets can be made available, and the EMA has been consulting broadly. Do you think the EMA will come out in support of publishing on its web-site all clinical data submitted by trial sponsors when it publishes its opinion, expected by 1st July 2013?

Response

Answer: YES

Confidence level: 1%

Mean confidence level
(all respondents): 62.29%

Outcome: YES

Score:-1

Mean score
(all respondents): 62.29

Justification:

The subscriber's answer appears here. This should be up to 200 words of rationale for the YES / NO answer and will form part of a portfolio of answers to be assessed by a prospective employer.

Employers are unlikely to read an entire portfolio but will pick one or two question topics that may interest them or challenge the subscriber.

Mettletest provides links and resources to help subscribers to form opinions and answer questions without spending too much time.

Expert answers are shown below so you can see how they approach Mettletest.

[» Read more detail on online version](#)

Clinical trials of medicines

Expert Answer: YES

Selected expert answer from Tim Edwards

The EMA will not propose making all clinical data freely available. They support the idea of transparency in principle but recognize practical problems. They may segment data into past and future applications for marketing approval, and into successful or failed applications. They will not look backwards, instead publishing clinical and pre-clinical data (i) in an appropriate form (ii) to legitimate researchers, where that data is in support of successful marketing authorization applications made after 1 Jan 2014. Data on unapproved products will, in the short term, not be published. Data needs to be in an appropriate format. Patient confidentiality needs to be protected and all data anonymised. Relevant data is that gathered from both pre-clinical safety studies in animals, and human clinical trials, together showing that the drug is both safe and effective, and possibly how it compares to other treatments. A product's scale-up or manufacturing data will not be publicly available, for the time being. Clinical data should be in an agreed standard format (designed by the EMA). Only legitimate researchers, accredited by the EMA, should have access to such published data - practising doctors, investigative journalists, relevant academics and government officials, and some clinical research staff from registered pharmaceutical and biotech companies.

[For more expert answers please follow the links to the full portfolio.](#)

Outcome: YES

Comment on the outcome from Tim Edwards

The EMA published their Policy on 26 June 2013, 4 days ahead of the scheduled time. The Policy will come into effect on 1 January 2014. Data will be published for both positive and failed studies. However, study data will be categorised into three categories: Category 1 data contains commercially sensitive information and will not, in general, be made available. Category 2 data does not contain any matter requiring personal data protection and can be accessed reasonably freely under 'open access' rules. The data will be in prescribed PDF format for download at the time of the EMA's decision about the marketing authorization applications (MAA). Category 3 data do require personal data protection, and these are subject to 'controlled access' by identified 'requesters' of the information, operating under specified guidelines, who are themselves subject to the same transparency rules. They will not be able to identify patients. The data will be in 'de-identified' PDF format, also for download at the time of the EMA's decision about the MAA.

Scores Overview:



Mettletest Score

Scores:	Overall	Politics and Current Affairs	Economics and Finance	Science, Technology and Culture
Average of all questions answered	7.41	20.10	0.00	-0.13
<i>Mean for all subscribers</i>	20.96	22.29	22.35	17.79

Mettletest Score Participation:
27 out of 30 questions answered, 90%



Answers:	Right	Wrong
Total number of right & wrong answers:	20	7

Confidence level:	Overall	Politics and Current Affairs	Economics and Finance	Science, Technology and Culture
Average for all answers	7.48%	20.10%	0.00%	0.13%
<i>Mean for all subscribers</i>	50.57%	54.92%	47.87%	47.12%

Conclusion

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