

Middle East Political Crossroads: Key Events and Developments

Middle East Politics · Practice Test · 15 Questions

1. As of April 2026, which country's political system is described as highly centralized under President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, with curtailed political freedoms and a repressed opposition?

- A) Saudi Arabia
- B) Egypt
- C) Iran
- D) Turkey

2. In the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, under what recent agreement have Hamas and Israel begun to implement terms including hostage releases and prisoner exchanges, with the UN scaling up aid to Gaza?

- A) The Abraham Accords
- B) The GCC-Qatar resolution
- C) A U.S.-brokered peace deal
- D) The Astana Process

3. Which nation has recently been accused by Syrian authorities of plotting attacks and operating cells within Syria, marking a shift in the relationship with a group that previously supported the Assad regime?

- A) Iran
- B) Turkey
- C) Hezbollah
- D) Israel

4. What major economic crisis has Lebanon been facing since 2019, characterized by a banking collapse, currency devaluation, and a high poverty rate affecting approximately 80% of the population?

- A) Hyperinflation crisis
- B) Sovereign debt crisis
- C) Multi-dimensional economic crisis
- D) Liquidity crisis

5. In Yemen, what has been a significant development in response to the Israel-Hamas war, involving repeated attacks on ships transiting a key maritime route?

- A) Houthi attacks on Red Sea shipping
- B) Saudi coalition airstrikes on Houthi strongholds
- C) Southern Transitional Council (STC) offensives
- D) Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) resurgence

6. Which country's foreign policy has shifted towards a 'multi-alignment' strategy, balancing its U.S. security partnership while expanding ties with China, Russia, and the Global South, as part of its Vision 2030 reform program?

- A) United Arab Emirates
- B) Saudi Arabia
- C) Qatar
- D) Turkey

7. As of early 2026, what is the status of the Iran nuclear deal (JCPOA), which was originally signed in 2015?

- A) Fully revived with all parties complying
- B) In negotiations for a new, comprehensive agreement
- C) Deteriorated after the U.S. withdrawal in 2018, with Iran accelerating enrichment
- D) Completely abandoned with no prospects for revival

8. In Iraq, who is the current Prime Minister, appointed in October 2022, who is considered a close ally of former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki?

- A) Mustafa al-Kadhimi
- B) Mohammed Shia al-Sudani
- C) Muqtada al-Sadr
- D) Abdul Latif Rashid

9. What significant geopolitical event occurred in Syria in December 2024, leading to a change in leadership and a fragile transition period?

- A) The fall of the Assad regime
- B) A major ISIS resurgence
- C) The signing of a comprehensive peace treaty
- D) The intervention of a multinational peacekeeping force

10. Which nation's diplomatic crisis, involving severed relations with Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, and Egypt, was brought to an end in January 2021 following an agreement at the al-Ula GCC summit?

- A) Iran
- B) Turkey
- C) Qatar
- D) Oman

11. As of April 2026, what has been the impact of the ongoing conflict in Gaza on the Red Sea, according to recent reports?

- A) Houthi forces have repeatedly attacked ships transiting the Red Sea
- B) Shipping traffic has significantly increased due to increased security
- C) The Red Sea has been closed to all international shipping
- D) Maritime trade has returned to pre-conflict levels

12. Turkey's foreign policy in the Middle East has seen a shift towards improving relations with direct neighbors and playing a mediating role. Which of the following is a key aspect of this new approach?

- A) Focusing solely on military power projection
- B) Prioritizing diplomatic solutions and de-escalation
- C) Withdrawing from all regional engagements
- D) Exclusively aligning with one major regional power

13. Regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, what was a key development in late 2023 and early 2024 related to the ongoing war in Gaza?

- A) A lasting ceasefire agreement was reached and is being fully implemented.
- B) Hamas launched a surprise attack on Israel, leading to an Israeli offensive in Gaza.
- C) International pressure led to a permanent two-state solution.
- D) The conflict was resolved through a joint UN-Arab League initiative.

14. Which country, facing one of the worst economic collapses in modern history, has seen its national currency lose over 98% of its value between 2023 and early 2024?

- A) Syria
- B) Yemen
- C) Lebanon
- D) Iraq

15. As of early 2026, what is the general political situation in Iraq, according to recent analyses?

- A) Stable and prosperous with strong democratic institutions
- B) Fragile and uncertain, facing challenges like political instability and corruption
- C) Completely under foreign military occupation
- D) Peacefully unified under a single dominant political party