

Middle East Political Buzz: Viral Trends, Pop Culture & Current Events Quiz

Middle East Politics · Answer Key · 8 Questions

1. A controversial social media trend emerged in late 2023 where some Israeli users mocked the humanitarian situation in Gaza by incorporating a song from a 2005 comedy program. What specific element did these users often include in their posts to mock the population of Gaza?

A) Using traditional Palestinian clothing and face paint.

B) Sharing images of Israeli military advancements.

C) Reciting Quranic verses in a mocking tone.

D) Promoting a tourist campaign for Gaza.

2. In recent years, Saudi Arabia has been undergoing a cultural shift, moving from strict conservatism to embracing arts and entertainment. As part of its Vision 2030, the country aims to increase the contribution of cultural and creative industries to its GDP. By what year does Saudi Arabia aim to achieve this significant economic contribution from its cultural and creative industries?

A) 2025

B) 2030

C) 2035

D) 2040

3. The 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar was surrounded by numerous controversies. Beyond allegations of corruption and bribery, what was a significant human rights concern highlighted by various media outlets and human rights groups regarding the construction of World Cup infrastructure?

A) Exploitation of migrant workers.

B) Lack of access to modern technology for local staff.

C) Forced labor conscription of Qatari citizens.

D) Restricted media access for international journalists.

4. Social media platforms, particularly TikTok, have become a significant space for commentary on the Israel-Hamas war. A study by Northeastern University revealed a notable difference in the patterns of pro-Palestinian and pro-Israeli content. Which type of content showed a pattern consistent with a prolonged social movement, growing steadily over time?

A) Pro-Israeli posts

B) Pro-Palestinian posts

C) Neutral news posts

D) Posts from official government accounts

5. Iran's public diplomacy has evolved to include more modern communication strategies. In recent times, Iranian embassies and government-linked accounts on X (formerly Twitter) have adopted a new playbook. What type of content has become increasingly prevalent in their communication strategy to engage Western audiences?

- A) Formal academic lectures
- B) Traditional diplomatic communiques
- C) Memes, AI-generated videos, and pop culture references**
- D) Historical documentaries about Persian empires

6. Egypt's entertainment industry, often referred to as the 'Hollywood of the East,' has a long history intertwined with politics. Under President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi's regime, there have been concerns about increased censorship and control over the arts. Which of the following has been a significant concern regarding television production in Egypt in recent years?

- A) A shift towards independent, uncensored productions.
- B) A military-linked production company gaining a monopoly on soap operas.**
- C) Complete deregulation of all entertainment industries.
- D) A focus on solely historical dramas with no social commentary.

7. In Saudi Arabia, there's a noticeable shift in its entertainment programming, moving from featuring Western acts to emphasizing local culture. This is part of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's Vision 2030. What is a primary reason cited for this strategic shift in focus for entertainment programs like 'Riyadh Season'?

- A) A decline in international artist availability.
- B) To reshape Saudi Arabia's identity and diversify its economy beyond oil.**
- C) A mandate from international cultural organizations.
- D) To exclusively promote traditional religious performances.

8. Israel's far-right National Security Minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir, posted a controversial TikTok video in May 2026. What viral social media trend did he co-opt, and what controversial message did the AI-generated montage convey regarding Palestinian prisoners?

- A) A 'dance challenge' promoting peace
- B) A 'recipe swap' for traditional dishes
- C) An 'I know I should sleep, but the voices in my head go...' trend, glorifying nooses and the death penalty**
- D) A 'travel vlog' showcasing Israeli settlements