Rational for Aid
1. What are the 3 priorities that the Marshall Plan was crafted to address?

2. What are the 3 timely reminders of the Marshal Plan's most enduring principles that come from Marshal’s 1978 Harvard commencement address and have a legacy for us today?

Francis, “For Rich, Foreign Aid is a Tool of Persuasion”
1. According to a study by Alesina & Dollar, what dictates the direction of foreign aid and what do the authors cite as 1 major example of this?

2. Dollar hopes that the world has changes since the end of the cold war. What suggest (2 examples) that politics are still going to play a role in who gets aid?

Eizenstat & Porter, “Weak States are a US Security Threat”
1. What is a “failed state” and what are 3 problems/threats do the broad band of weak/failed states pose to the U.S.?

Saches, “Foreign Aid in Everyone's Interest”
1. According to Sachs, what are the 3 steps out of poverty (for poor countries)?

2. According to Sachs, what are 2 standards of success for aid?

Recent Aid Initiatives
Balfauf, “In Africa Bush Touts Aid Efforts, Basks in Popularity”
1. President Bush is very popular in Africa, partly because his administration has increased foreign aid to several countries. What types of projects/policy initiatives (3 examples) is the US funding in Africa?
2. According to Baldaur (article’s author), what—to a certain extent—makes America more popular in Africa than other Western powers?

Grier, “G-20 Roundup—US and Europe Agree to Disagree”
1. What was the biggest surprise of the recent (April, 2009) G-20 meeting and where will the cash go?

2. Why was the London conference of 1933 judged a disaster and what did rich countries learn from that experienced and pledged would not reoccur?

LaFranchi, “G-8 Leaders Pressured to Honor AID Pledges”
1. What did the G-8 leaders pledge to do at the 2005 summit in Gleneagles Scotland?

2. What is the complaint—from developing country leaders, international institution, and aid advocates—regarding wealthy countries meeting their aid commitment and according to Ms. Mbaya, in the poorest countries, what will this translate into?

3. What are suggestions regarding how G-8 countries could do better on meeting their aid commitments?

Chauvin, “With Money Sent From the US, Peruvians Buy Houses”
1. What are remittances and what are countries that were the principle recipients of remittances from the US in 2004?

2. According to the IADB, how much money did people from Latin Americas remit (home) in 2004?

Lampman, “A Priority for US Churches: Africa's Poor”
1. What has made feasible the convergence of support (for increasing aid to Africa) by church and faith-based groups and what group's participation has added significant political clout?

Tumbull, “A New Era of Supercharged Philanthropy”
1. What is most remarkable (3 characteristics) about how the world's two richest men are giving to charity, which could push worldwide philanthropy in new directions?

2. What is different about “venture philanthropy” (what does it involve) and what is an example of this approach?
Lampman, “Private Philanthropy’s Global Reach”
1. What is transforming philanthropy—what are factors that have contributed to the increase in private philanthropy?

2. Funds that US citizens, church groups, foundations, and the government send to developing countries are provided via philanthropy, foreign investment, government aid, and remittances. In 2006, how much ($) was provided via each category? Which category accounted for the most aid? Compared to 2005, which types of aid increased/decreased?

McLaughlin, “What Debt Relief Means for Africa”
1. Which nations received $40 billion in debt relief and why weren’t Nigeria, Sudan, the Congo, and Angola included in the initial round of debt relief?

2. What is a worry and a key concern of Africans, regarding the G-8’s debt relief for Africa?

McLaughlin, “Africa Adopts New Self-Help Plan”
1. What are new initiatives (institutions) that suggest that there is growing political willingness among Africa leaders to address the continent’s many troubles?

2. What is the growing understanding that is driving these changes, which are less ideological/more pragmatic than previous efforts to integrate Africa?

3. How has Africa’s self-help strategy already benefitted (i.e., ironic effect) and is expected to benefit Africa in the future?

Itano, “Challenge for Nations Seeking Aid”
1. The Millennium Challenge Account emerges from a shift in thinking among donor nations. What is this shift?

2. Seventy-four LDCs with per capita incomes of less than $1,435 are eligible for MCA money. What criteria must a country meet to qualify to receive MCA money?

3. What is the problem with using statistics/indicators as criteria for deciding which LDCs should receive aid?
Yunus, “How Social Business Can Create a World Without Poverty”
1. While noting that capitalism has long been a source of prosperity, Yunus argues that traditional capitalism has limits. What is Yunus’ criticism of traditional capitalism and free markets? What does Yunus propose as an alternative to traditional capitalism—how is his alternative different from traditional capitalism?

2. What is the bottom line for Yunus’ alternative to traditional capitalism?

Hunter, “Helping Hands Around the World”
1. What is Kiva—who provides the money that it lends to local businesspeople in developing countries and who develops the loan requests from local entrepreneurs and helps to make sure that the loans get repaid?

McDonald, “Financial Products that Aid the Poor”
1. What does Mr. Frisbie like about the community investment notes, which he bought through MicroPlace?

Barnes, “New Donors Emerge in Developing Countries”
1. According to Barnes (article’s author), as major developing countries leap forward, how will this change the face and targets of international giving?

2. What are 2 factors that explain why India’s philanthropy greatly lags the US?

Baldauf, “Islamic Nations Pledge $850 million to Develop Darfur”
1. What countries attended the donors’ conference in Cairo and for what did they pledge $850 million?

Criticisms of Aid
Francis, “Can World Bank Fight Poverty on Pocket Change?”
1. What are the 5 sources of money flowing to developing countries and how much does each contribute in 2003 to the total?

2. What makes the World Bank so special, despite its modest resources (i.e., to whom does the World Bank loan money?)

Francis, “US Foreign Aid: Do Americans Give Enough?”
1. How much traditional foreign aid did the U.S. give to developing countries in 2003 and why do critics say that this is not enough?
2. What does the Commitment to Development Index try to capture and why does the U.S. come in much better (7th among 21 rich countries) in this index?

Kerezey, “Top 10 Military Spending Nations: Oil Companies Post Biggest Jump in Decades”
1. According to SIPRI’s annual report, how much was total worldwide spending in 2009 and how much did the top two spenders (US & China) on its military?
2. According to Mr. Perlo-Freeman, what has often increases military spending?

1. While acknowledging that they are well intended, what is Iwealia's criticism of Western campaigns to “save Africa”?
2. According to Iweala, who are the people saving Africa? Before the next G8 summit, what does Iweala hope people realize/acknowledge?

Baldauf, “Aid Group’s Next Task: Keep World Engaged”
1. According to relief organizations, what may be the stiffest challenge to any major relief effort?
2. Why doesn't the international community respond to slow onset disasters (e.g., famine, drought) as well as something extraordinary like a tsunami?

Crilly, “UN Aid Debate—Give Cash or Food?”
1. What is the shift in the approach for providing food aid, which the World Food Program is expected to announce and why does it plan to make this change (i.e., what’s the new face of hunger)?
2. What is the alternative for delivering food aid that the Irish aid agency—Concern—is piloting in Kenya?

Future of Aid
Fitzgerald, “Business Has Responsibility and Opportunity in Africa”
1. What evidence (3 examples) suggests that there are exciting business opportunities in Africa?
2. What are 3 wholly selfish and self centered reasons why we should care (about African development)?
Hughes, “Meeting Africa's Genuine Needs”
1. While Africa has received far less interest from most US leaders than the rest of the world, this could be about to change. Why?

Lange, Practical Steps to End Poverty”
1. The article suggests many practical steps that are needed to end poverty throughout the world. From among the author’s suggestions, what are 5 changes that you think are most important to implement?

Editorial, G8 Needs to See Africa as an Investment”
1. According to a new study by the McKinsey Global institute, what economic data/information (3 examples) paints a dramatically improving picture (for Africa).

2. According to the McKinsey Report, what has been more important than a resource boom—what are 4 examples of what African governments have done that bode well for sustainable development?

3. In order for Africa’s economies to keep growing, what 2 sectors need support and what would greatly help?

Fulgham, “Are Investors Missing out on Sub-Saharan Africa?”
1. In Africa, what is happening at a faster pace this decade than any time since most African nations achieved independence and what do they reflect?

2. According to USAID Director Fulgham, what are the striking changes in Africa/sweeping reforms (4 examples) that have been launched in 40 African countries since the 1990s?