



Castle Classic Extemp Topic Areas 2025

Reminder: This year, *Extemporaneous Speaking* will be combined into one big, glorious category! Students may choose to draw from either the National or the Foreign topic in each round. You can switch between the two from round to round depending on what inspires you, or you can stick with one focus the entire tournament—it's completely your choice. *Judges, please note: both National and Foreign extempers will compete in the same sections, as we are treating this as a single unified event.*

National Extemp Topic Areas by Round



1. U.S. Politics and Government

- Actions and priorities of Congress, the President, and the Supreme Court
 - Federalism and state government issues
 - Election trends, party dynamics, and public opinion
 - Civil rights, social policy, and constitutional questions
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2. U.S. Economy and Business

- Inflation, employment, and Federal Reserve policy
 - Trade, taxation, and economic growth
 - Technology and industry regulation
 - Labor, wages, and consumer trends
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3. Domestic Policy and Society

- Education, healthcare, and social welfare policy
 - Immigration and criminal justice reform
 - Gun policy, environmental legislation, and infrastructure
 - Public health, housing, and cultural change
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4. Science, Technology, and Environment

- Artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and tech regulation
- Climate and energy policy within the U.S.
- Space exploration and innovation policy
- Ethics and implications of emerging technologies



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Foreign Extemp Topic Areas by Round



1. Global Politics and Governance

- Leadership changes, political transitions, and elections worldwide
 - Democracy, authoritarianism, and governance challenges
 - International organizations (UN, NATO, EU, AU, ASEAN)
 - Diplomacy, treaties, and global power dynamics
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2. International Security and Conflict

- Wars, insurgencies, and peace negotiations
 - Terrorism, counterterrorism, and cybersecurity threats
 - Nuclear proliferation and arms control
 - Regional rivalries and strategic alliances
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3. Global Economy and Development

- International trade, debt, and sanctions
 - Economic growth, poverty reduction, and sustainable development
 - Energy security and resource competition
 - Global markets and development aid
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4. Global Society, Culture, and Human Rights

- Human rights and social justice movements
- Migration, refugees, and humanitarian crises
- Cultural diplomacy and international education
- Gender, ethnic, and religious equality issues