

## Foreign and Domestic Policy Packet- **Sample Answers**

### Definitions:

Term	My Definition	Class Definition
National Interest	Answers vary	a nation's economic, military, political, and/or cultural goals and ambitions
Foreign	Answers vary	taking place outside one's own country or in another country
Domestic	Answers vary	originating within a country, especially one's own country

### Examples:

What is an example of *domestic policy*?

**Answers could include:** tax laws, national parks, testing in public education, wetlands cleanup, prosecuting domestic criminals

What is an example of *foreign policy*?

**Answers could include:** aid to another country after a natural disaster, treaty with another nation, alliances, providing soldiers to help keep peace between nations at war, declaring war

Name of the Department	What are the main issues it is concerned with?	Is the department concerned with foreign or domestic policy, or both? What evidence in the text supports your answer?
<b>Department of Agriculture</b>	The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) develops and implements policies on farming, agriculture, and food. This includes meeting the needs of farmers and ranchers, promoting agricultural trade and production, managing food safety, protecting natural resources, assisting rural communities, and working to end hunger in America and abroad.	Primarily domestic, but both. Domestic – The majority of the department's budget goes towards required programs that provide services required by law, such as nutrition assistance programs, promoting agricultural exports, and conserving our environment. Foreign - The USDA also plays an important role in overseas aid programs by providing extra foods to developing countries.
<b>Department of Commerce</b>	The Department of Commerce is the government agency in charge of improving living standards for all Americans. They focus on promoting economic development and technological innovation.	Domestic - The Department supports U.S. business and industry through a number of services, including gathering economic data and improving understanding of the environment and oceanic life, and ensuring the effective use of scientific and technical resources.
<b>Department of Defense</b>	The DOD protects national interests through war and combat support, humanitarian aid, peacekeeping, and disaster relief services.	Foreign - The mission of the Department of Defense (DOD) is to provide the military forces needed to prevent war and to protect the security of our country.
<b>Department of Education</b>	The mission of the Department of Education is to promote student achievement in a global economy. They foster educational excellence and ensure equal access to of educational opportunities for all Americans.	Domestic - The Department administers federal financial aid for education, collects data on America's schools to guide improvements in education quality, and works to complement the efforts of state and local governments, parents, and students.
<b>Department of Energy</b>	The mission of the Department of Energy (DOE) is to advance the national, economic, and energy security of the United States.	Domestic - The DOE promotes America's energy security by encouraging the development of reliable, clean, and affordable energy. It manages federal funding for scientific research to further the goal of discovery and innovation - ensuring American economic competitiveness and improving the quality of life for Americans. The DOE is

		also tasked with ensuring America's nuclear security, and with protecting the environment by providing a responsible resolution to the legacy of nuclear weapons production.
<b>Department of Health and Human Services</b>	The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the government's main agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves.	Domestic - In addition to administering Medicare and Medicaid, which provide health insurance to 25% of Americans, HHS also oversees the National Institutes of Health, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Centers for Disease Control.
<b>Department of Homeland Security</b>	The missions of the Department of Homeland Security are to prevent and disrupt terrorist attacks; protect the American people and key resources; and respond to and recover from incidents that do occur.	Foreign and Domestic - DHS patrols borders, protects travelers and our transportation systems, enforces immigration laws, and responds to disasters and emergencies. The agency also promotes preparedness and emergency prevention among citizens.
<b>Department of Housing and Urban Development</b>	The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is the agency responsible for national policies and programs that address America's housing needs, improve and develop the nation's communities, and enforce fair housing laws. The Department plays a major role in supporting homeownership for lower and moderate income families through its mortgage insurance and rent subsidy programs.	Domestic - The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is the agency responsible for national policies and programs that address America's housing needs...
<b>Department of the Interior</b>	The Department of the Interior (DOI) is the nation's main conservation agency. Its mission is to protect America's natural resources, offer recreation opportunities, conduct scientific research, conserve and protect fish and wildlife, and honor our trust responsibilities to American Indians, Alaskan Natives, and our responsibilities to island communities.	Domestic - DOI manages one-fifth of the land in the United States, and manages hundreds of dams and reservoirs.
<b>Department of Justice</b>	The mission of the Department of Justice (DOJ) is to enforce the law and defend the interests of the United States according to the law; to ensure public safety against threats foreign and domestic; to provide federal leadership in preventing and controlling crime; to seek just punishment for	Domestic - The mission of the Department of Justice (DOJ) is to enforce the law and defend the interests of the United States according to the law... Foreign – ensure public safety against threats foreign..

	those guilty of unlawful behavior; and to ensure fair and impartial administration of justice for all Americans.	
<b>Department of Labor</b>	The Department of Labor oversees federal programs for ensuring a strong American workforce. These programs address job training, safe working conditions, minimum hourly wage and overtime pay, employment discrimination, and unemployment insurance.	Domestic - The Department of Labor's mission is to foster and promote the welfare of the job seekers, wage earners, and retirees of the United States by improving their working conditions,...
<b>Department of State</b>	Major responsibilities include United States representation abroad, foreign assistance, foreign military training programs, countering international crime, and a wide assortment of services to U.S. citizens and foreign nationals seeking entrance to the U.S.	Foreign - The Department of State plays the lead role in developing and implementing the President's foreign policy.
<b>Department of Transportation</b>	The mission of the Department of Transportation (DOT) is to ensure a fast, safe, efficient, accessible and convenient transportation system that meets our vital national interests and enhances the quality of life of the American people.	Domestic - The mission of the Department of Transportation (DOT) is to ensure a fast, safe, efficient, accessible and convenient transportation system that meets our vital national interests...
<b>Department of the Treasury</b>	The Department of the Treasury is responsible for promoting economic success and making sure the U.S. and international financial systems are safe and secure.	Domestic - The Department operates and maintains the production of coin and currency, the collection of taxes, and the borrowing of funds necessary to run the federal government. The Department works with other federal agencies, foreign governments, and international financial institutions to encourage global economic growth, raise standards of living, and, to the extent possible, predict and prevent economic and financial crises.
<b>Department of Veterans Affairs</b>	The Department of Veterans Affairs is responsible for administering benefit programs for veterans, their families, and their survivors.	Domestic - ...administering benefit programs for veterans, their families, and their survivors...

## PURSuing NATIONAL INTEREST

What are three means available to the national government to pursue the United States' national interest? List and briefly explain each:

1. **Foreign Aid:** help or assistance that we give to other countries. Foreign aid can include money, soldiers to help in peacekeeping or rebuilding, first aid, food, and water, or even advisors to help build democracy.
2. **Treaties and Executive Agreements:** formal agreements between countries that must be followed like laws. Either can, for example, bring an end to war, provide foreign aid, or help set new global policies for cooperation and/or trade between nations.
3. **Military Action:** using any of the seven branches of the Department of Defense to protect the United States homeland as well as our vital interests abroad.