1. Why has the US Government ordered a shutdown of non-essential government services across the country?
   a. the two main political parties can not agree on the government budget - More than 700,000 federal employees face unpaid leave while the situation continues. It is the first shutdown in 17 years.

2. Where does the World Solar Challenge begin?
   a. Darwin - The World Solar Challenge is a solar powered car race that covers 3,021 km (1,877 mi) through the outback from Darwin to Adelaide. The race attracts teams from around the world and began in 1987. This years race had 22 teams competing.

3. In which country has an Australian Greenpeace protestor been arrested and charged with piracy?
   c. Russia - Foreign Minister Julie Bishop has officially registered concerns with the Russian government over the treatment of an Australian Greenpeace protestor. He is one of 25 Greenpeace activists charged with piracy after the group protested against an oil drilling rig in Russia's icy Pechora Sea.

4. In what sport did the Roosters beat the Sea Eagles in the Grand Final?
   a. Rugby League - The Sydney Roosters won their first NRL premiership since 2002 with a 26-18 win over Manly at the Olympic stadium.

5. Which country were hundreds of migrants trying to reach when their boat tragically capsized in the Mediterranean Sea?
   a. Italy b. Spain c. Bulgaria
   a. Italy - The boat was carrying over 450 migrants mainly from Africa. 155 people were pulled alive from the seas 1km (half a mile) from the island of Lampedusa.

6. Why did Tony Abbott receive a lot of criticism last week?
   b. he has been accused of inappropriately claiming travel costs - Mr Abbott charged taxpayers for his travel expenses to lead the Pollie Pedal charity bike ride, and to participate in an ironman event in Port Macquarie. In 2012 he went to the Lorne Pier to Pub race in Victoria and claimed $1,444, Coffs Harbour’s cycle challenge and claimed $1,002 and Wagga Wagga for its Lake to Lagoon fun run and claimed $515.

7. What has Cadbury, the chocolate company, just lost a legal battle to protect?
   a. the exclusive use of purple packaging - Last year Cadbury won a legal case to stop other chocolate firms using the purple colour - known as Pantone 2865c. But Swiss firm Nestle, the world’s biggest food company, has now won an appeal against that earlier ruling.

8. People throughout Australia gathered on Sunday to mark the anniversary of the Bali bombings. What year did they occur?

9. Why has Socceroos coach Holger Osieck been in the news recently?
   b. he was sacked - Since Australia qualified for the World Cup, the Socceroos have scored just five goals and conceded 19 in five matches. These include losses to Japan, China, Brazil and France.

10. What language is spoken in the city of Seoul?
    Korean

11. True or false, there has been a 50% increase in the number of drownings of children under the age of five compared with last years numbers?
    True - A report released by the Royal Life Saving Society says 31 children under the age of five died in waterways, pools and bathtubs in the 12 months to July this year. Of the 238 people who drowned this year 82 per cent were male.

12. Who is Sachin Tendulkar?
    a. a famous cricket player - India batting great Sachin Tendulkar has announced he will retire after playing his 200th Test match next month. Tendulkar made his Test debut in 1989 as a 16-year-old.

13. Which country made headlines recently when it again stated that it has no interest in making nuclear bombs, but is seeking to develop nuclear power for its people?
    a. Iran - Iran's new President Hassan Rouhani has said that his country will never build nuclear weapons. He had an historic telephone discussion with Barack Obama about the issue. It was the first time in 30 years leaders from the two countries had spoken with each other.

14. True or false, the Climate Commission which was axed by the Government will continue to operate as an independent organisation after fund raising over $1 million?
    True - The newly formed Climate Council's appeal for public support has seen it raise its minimum annual operating budget - reaching a target of $1 million in less than two months.

15. What event attracted over 20,000 people on Labour Day weekend to the town of Deniliquin, NSW?
    c. a ute muster - The event started in 1999, with a gathering of utes to set a Guinness Book of Records world mark. The Deniliquin Ute Muster won gold at the 2012 NSW Tourism Awards in the Festival & Events category largely due to the ongoing economic and tourism benefits the event brings to the local area.

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VISUAL ANSWERS
1. Prince Harry - celebrating 100th anniversary of Navy entering Sydney Harbour
2. Bathurst (Mt Panorama) - motor race
3. Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant in Japan
4. Pakistan
5. Governor General of Australia - Quentin Bryce

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