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## **Nuclear race possible in Middle East**

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**26<sup>th</sup> May, 2007**

## THE ARTICLE

### **Nuclear race possible in Middle East**

The United States is putting pressure on China and Russia to do more against Iran's nuclear ambitions. President Bush said they "have got to understand" the world will suffer if Iran decides to build nuclear weapons. The US and European Union have continually warned the world of the threat of Iran building its own nuclear arsenal. They have urged the United Nations to impose tough penalties on Iran if it continues with its nuclear programme. Bush attacked Iran for its refusal to suspend uranium enrichment. He said: "The world has spoken...and yet they're constantly ignoring the demands. My view is that we need to strengthen our sanctions." He plans to try and convince Chinese and Russian leaders that "an Iran with a nuclear weapon would be incredibly destabilizing for the world."

Iran's nuclear plans are also unsettling its neighbours, who are now pushing ahead with their own nuclear ambitions. Almost a dozen Middle East countries are already in talks with UN experts, who will provide guidance to Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. These countries control nearly half of the world's oil reserves and they need alternative energies for when their oil runs out. There are fears that this will lead to a scramble for nuclear weapons in the region. The Arab world may feel such a need to counter a nuclear-armed Iran. Mostafa Alani, a security expert in the Gulf, said: "We tell the Iranians, 'We have no problem with you developing civilian nuclear energy, but if you're going to turn your nuclear program into a weapons program, we'll do the same.'"

## WARM-UPS

**1. NUCLEAR WEAPONS:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about nuclear weapons. Change partners often. After you finish, sit with your original partner(s) and share what you found out.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*pressure / ambitions / world suffering / tough penalties / uranium / sanctions / neighbours / the Middle East / oil reserves / alternative energies / security*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. NUCLEAR CLUB:** With your partner(s), talk about these nuclear (or soon-to-be) powers. How dangerous is each one. Agree on a rank for them: 10 = very dangerous; 1 = very safe. Change partners and tell each other your rankings.

- USA
- Russia
- China
- India
- Iran
- Great Britain
- Israel
- France
- North Korea
- India

**4. ALTERNATIVE ENERGY:** What will your country do for energy in the future? What of these alternative energies do you think your country will use?

- nuclear energy
- thermal energy
- solar power
- wind power
- wave / tidal power
- biofuels
- hydrogen fuel
- other not-yet-invented fuel

**5. HEADLINES?** With your partner(s), decide if these headlines could come true. Develop their stories. Change partners and share your stories.

- US invades Iran
- USA and UK to destroy all their nuclear weapons
- Country number 162 no with nuclear arms
- China, Russia and US jointly develop new nuclear super weapon
- Swaziland becomes the world's weapons superpower
- Iran invades USA

**6. QUICK DEBATE:** Have this quick debate with your partner(s). Students A think Iran should develop nuclear weapons; students B think a nuclear-armed Iran would make the world a much more dangerous place. Change partners and topics every two minutes.

## BEFORE READING / LISTENING

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- a. The USA wants Chinese and Russian help to limit an arms race. T / F
- b. The European Union has no problem with Iran having nuclear arms. T / F
- c. President Bush wants Iran to enrich much more uranium. T / F
- d. Bush thinks Iranian nuclear weapons would stabilize the world. T / F
- e. Iran's neighbours are not happy with Iran's nuclear plans. T / F
- f. The Arabian Gulf countries control over 80% of the world's oil. T / F
- g. The Arab world is encouraging Iran's nuclear weapons plans. T / F
- h. A Gulf security expert said the Gulf countries will never go nuclear. T / F

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article:

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| a. putting    | respond to   |
| b. suffer     | nonmilitary  |
| c. arsenal    | advice       |
| d. penalties  | troubling    |
| e. incredibly | rush         |
| f. unsettling | sanctions    |
| g. guidance   | applying     |
| h. scramble   | unbelievably |
| i. counter    | be damaged   |
| j. civilian   | arms         |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| a. putting pressure on China               | arsenal                          |
| b. the world will suffer if Iran           | nuclear-armed Iran               |
| c. building its own nuclear                | the world                        |
| d. impose tough                            | of the world's oil reserves      |
| e. incredibly destabilizing for            | and Russia to do more            |
| f. Iran's nuclear plans are also           | talks with UN experts            |
| g. Middle East countries are already in    | for nuclear weapons              |
| h. These countries control nearly half     | decides to build nuclear weapons |
| i. fears that this will lead to a scramble | penalties on Iran                |
| j. feel such a need to counter a           | unsettling its neighbours        |

## WHILE READING / LISTENING

**GAP FILL:** Put the words into the gaps in the text.

### Nuclear race possible in Middle East

The United States is putting \_\_\_\_\_ on China and Russia to do more against Iran's nuclear \_\_\_\_\_. President Bush said they "have got to understand" the world will suffer if Iran \_\_\_\_\_ to build nuclear weapons. The US and European Union have \_\_\_\_\_ warned the world of the threat of Iran building its own nuclear arsenal. They have urged the United Nations to \_\_\_\_\_ tough penalties on Iran if it continues with its nuclear programme. Bush attacked Iran for its \_\_\_\_\_ to suspend uranium enrichment. He said: "The world has spoken...and yet they're \_\_\_\_\_ ignoring the demands. My view is that we need to \_\_\_\_\_ our sanctions." He plans to try and convince Chinese and Russian leaders that "an Iran with a nuclear weapon would be incredibly destabilizing for the world."

*constantly*

*impose*

*ambitions*

*continually*

*refusal*

*pressure*

*strengthen*

*decides*

Iran's nuclear plans are also \_\_\_\_\_ its neighbours, who are now pushing ahead with their own nuclear ambitions. Almost a \_\_\_\_\_ Middle East countries are already in talks with UN experts, who will provide \_\_\_\_\_ to Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. These countries control nearly half of the world's oil reserves and they need \_\_\_\_\_ energies for when their oil \_\_\_\_\_ out. There are fears that this will lead to a scramble for nuclear weapons in the region. The Arab world may feel such a need to \_\_\_\_\_ a nuclear-armed Iran. Mostafa Alani, a security expert in the Gulf, said: "We tell the Iranians, 'We have no problem with you developing \_\_\_\_\_ nuclear energy, but if you're going to turn your nuclear program into a weapons program, we'll do the \_\_\_\_\_.'"

*counter*

*guidance*

*unsettling*

*same*

*alternative*

*civilian*

*dozen*

*runs*

## LISTENING

Listen and fill in the spaces.

### Nuclear race possible in Middle East

The United States \_\_\_\_\_ China and Russia to do more against Iran's nuclear ambitions. President Bush said they "have got to understand" the world will suffer \_\_\_\_\_ nuclear weapons. The US and European Union have continually warned the world \_\_\_\_\_ building its own nuclear arsenal. They have urged the United Nations to impose tough penalties on Iran if it continues with its nuclear programme. Bush attacked \_\_\_\_\_ suspend uranium enrichment. He said: "The world has spoken...and yet they're constantly ignoring the demands. My \_\_\_\_\_ strengthen our sanctions." He plans to try and convince Chinese and Russian leaders that "an Iran with a nuclear \_\_\_\_\_ destabilizing for the world."

Iran's nuclear plans \_\_\_\_\_ neighbours, who are now pushing ahead with their own nuclear ambitions. Almost a dozen Middle East countries \_\_\_\_\_ UN experts, who will provide guidance to Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. These \_\_\_\_\_ the world's oil reserves and they need alternative energies \_\_\_\_\_. There are fears that this will lead to a scramble for nuclear weapons in the region. The Arab world \_\_\_\_\_ counter a nuclear-armed Iran. Mostafa Alani, a security expert in the Gulf, said: "We tell the Iranians, 'We have no problem with you developing civilian nuclear energy, but if you're going \_\_\_\_\_ into a weapons program, we'll do the same.'"

## AFTER READING / LISTENING

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'nuclear' and 'weapon'.

<b>nuclear</b>	<b>weapon</b>
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- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• pressure</li><li>• suffer</li><li>• urged</li><li>• refusal</li><li>• constantly</li><li>• incredibly</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• unsettling</li><li>• dozen</li><li>• half</li><li>• scramble</li><li>• expert</li><li>• turn</li></ul>
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## STUDENT SURVEY

Write five GOOD questions about NUCLEAR WEAPONS in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1	STUDENT 2	STUDENT 3
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.



## DISCUSSION

### STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) Do you think a Middle East arms race will happen?
- c) Will the world suffer if Iran has nuclear arms?
- d) Do you think George W. Bush interferes too much around the world?
- e) Why do you think China and Russia aren't putting so much pressure on Iran?
- f) How do you think Iranians view George W. Bush?
- g) Do you think it's OK for Iran to have nuclear weapons?
- h) Who enjoys great popularity in your country or in the world?
- i) What kind of sanctions do you think would work against Iran?
- j) How does your country view Iran's nuclear ambitions?



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### STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Do you have any nuclear neighbours? Do they scare you?
- c) Do you think all nuclear armed countries should disarm?
- d) What differences could countries make in the world if they spent arms budgets on helping people?
- e) What will your country do when the oil runs out?
- f) Do you think it's OK for the six Gulf countries to have nuclear power and nuclear weapons?
- g) Do countries with nuclear arms have the right to tell other countries not to build them?
- h) Do you think most countries will be nuclear armed one day?
- i) Do you think it'll be easy for terrorists to get nuclear arms?
- j) Did you like this discussion?

**AFTER DISCUSSION:** Join another partner / group and tell them what you talked about.

- a) What was the most interesting thing you heard?
- b) Was there a question you didn't like?
- c) Was there something you totally disagreed with?
- d) What did you like talking about?
- e) Which was the most difficult question?

## **SPEAKING**

### **UN SPEECH:**

You have to make a speech at the United Nations about Iran and its nuclear programme. With your partner(s), plan your speech. Use the table to help you with your points and notes.

Points	Notes
Your general ideas about nuclear energy	
Your general ideas about nuclear weapons	
Your general ideas about Iran	
Reasons why Iran should have nuclear power stations	
Reasons why Iran should not have nuclear power stations	
Your conclusion	

- Change partners and share your ideas. Give each other feedback on how to make your speeches better.
- Give your speeches. Answer questions. Vote on the best speech.

## LANGUAGE

**CORRECT WORD:** Put the correct words from a–d below in the article.

### Nuclear race possible in Middle East

The United States is (1) \_\_\_\_\_ pressure on China and Russia to do more against Iran's nuclear ambitions. President Bush said they "have got to understand" the world will (2) \_\_\_\_\_ if Iran decides to build nuclear weapons. The US and European Union have (3) \_\_\_\_\_ warned the world of the threat of Iran building its own nuclear arsenal. They have (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the United Nations to impose tough penalties on Iran if it continues with its nuclear programme. Bush attacked Iran for its refusal to suspend uranium enrichment. He said: "The world has spoken...and yet they're (5) \_\_\_\_\_ ignoring the demands. My view is that we need to strengthen our sanctions." He plans to try and convince Chinese and Russian leaders that "an Iran with a nuclear weapon would be incredibly destabilizing (6) \_\_\_\_\_ the world."

Iran's nuclear plans are also unsettling its neighbours, who are now pushing ahead (7) \_\_\_\_\_ their own nuclear ambitions. Almost a dozen Middle East countries are already (8) \_\_\_\_\_ talks with UN experts, who will provide guidance to Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. These countries control nearly half of the world's oil reserves and they need alternative energies for when their oil runs (9) \_\_\_\_\_. There are fears that this will lead to a (10) \_\_\_\_\_ for nuclear weapons in the region. The Arab world may feel (11) \_\_\_\_\_ a need to counter a nuclear-armed Iran. Mostafa Alani, a security expert in the Gulf, said: "We tell the Iranians, 'We have no problem with you developing civilian nuclear energy, but if you're going to (12) \_\_\_\_\_ your nuclear program into a weapons program, we'll do the same.'"

- |     |                |                  |                 |               |
|-----|----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1.  | (a) put        | (b) putting      | (c) puts        | (d) putty     |
| 2.  | (a) suffer     | (b) suffers      | (c) suffering   | (d) sufferer  |
| 3.  | (a) continuity | (b) continuation | (c) continually | (d) continued |
| 4.  | (a) the urge   | (b) an urge      | (c) urge        | (d) urged     |
| 5.  | (a) constantly | (b) constant     | (c) consistent  | (d) continent |
| 6.  | (a) fork       | (b) for          | (c) form        | (d) fort      |
| 7.  | (a) which      | (b) whether      | (c) by          | (d) with      |
| 8.  | (a) over       | (b) on           | (c) in          | (d) under     |
| 9.  | (a) down       | (b) out          | (c) in          | (d) up        |
| 10. | (a) scramble   | (b) scrambler    | (c) scrambled   | (d) scam      |
| 11. | (a) couch      | (b) touch        | (c) much        | (d) such      |
| 12. | (a) turning    | (b) turn up      | (c) turn        | (d) turnout   |



## **HOMEWORK**

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find more information about Iran's nuclear programme. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. NUCLEAR POSTER:** Make a poster about the different countries around the world that have nuclear weapons. Show your poster to your class in the next lesson. Vote on the best one(s).

**4. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about the dangers we will face if half the countries in the world have nuclear weapons.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Which article was best and why?

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to Iran's leader. Ask him three questions about his nuclear ambitions. Give him three pieces of advice about being a responsible nuclear power. Tell him how to deal with George W. Bush. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

## ANSWERS

### TRUE / FALSE:

- a. T      b. F      c. F      d. F      e. T      f. T      g. F      h. F

### SYNONYM MATCH:

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| a. putting    | applying     |
| b. suffer     | be damaged   |
| c. arsenal    | arms         |
| d. penalties  | sanctions    |
| e. incredibly | unbelievably |
| f. unsettling | troubling    |
| g. guidance   | advice       |
| h. scramble   | rush         |
| i. counter    | respond to   |
| j. civilian   | nonmilitary  |

### PHRASE MATCH:

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| a. putting pressure on China               | and Russia to do more            |
| b. the world will suffer if Iran           | decides to build nuclear weapons |
| c. building its own nuclear                | arsenal                          |
| d. impose tough                            | penalties on Iran                |
| e. incredibly destabilizing for            | the world                        |
| f. Iran's nuclear plans are also           | unsettling its neighbours        |
| g. Middle East countries are already in    | talks with UN experts            |
| h. These countries control nearly half     | of the world's oil reserves      |
| i. fears that this will lead to a scramble | for nuclear weapons              |
| j. feel such a need to counter a           | nuclear-armed Iran               |

### GAP FILL:

#### Nuclear race possible in Middle East

The United States is putting **pressure** on China and Russia to do more against Iran's nuclear **ambitions**. President Bush said they "have got to understand" the world will suffer if Iran **decides** to build nuclear weapons. The US and European Union have **continually** warned the world of the threat of Iran building its own nuclear arsenal. They have urged the United Nations to **impose** tough penalties on Iran if it continues with its nuclear programme. Bush attacked Iran for its **refusal** to suspend uranium enrichment. He said: "The world has spoken...and yet they're **constantly** ignoring the demands. My view is that we need to **strengthen** our sanctions." He plans to try and convince Chinese and Russian leaders that "an Iran with a nuclear weapon would be incredibly destabilizing for the world."

Iran's nuclear plans are also **unsettling** its neighbours, who are now pushing ahead with their own nuclear ambitions. Almost a **dozen** Middle East countries are already in talks with UN experts, who will provide **guidance** to Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. These countries control nearly half of the world's oil reserves and they need **alternative** energies for when their oil **runs** out. There are fears that this will lead to a scramble for nuclear weapons in the region. The Arab world may feel such a need to **counter** a nuclear-armed Iran. Mostafa Alani, a security expert in the Gulf, said: "We tell the Iranians, 'We have no problem with you developing **civilian** nuclear energy, but if you're going to turn your nuclear program into a weapons program, we'll do the **same**.'"

### LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - b    2 - a    3 - c    4 - d    5 - a    6 - b    7 - d    8 - c    9 - c    10 - b    11 - a    12 - d