

foreign service officer test practice

Foreign Service Officer Test Practice: Your Guide to Success

foreign service officer test practice is an essential step for anyone aspiring to become a diplomat or work within the U.S. Department of State. Preparing for this challenging exam is not just about memorizing facts but understanding the format, mastering key skills, and gaining confidence through consistent practice. Whether you're a recent graduate, a career changer, or someone passionate about international relations, knowing how to approach your study routine can dramatically improve your chances of success.

Understanding the Foreign Service Officer Test

Before diving into foreign service officer test practice techniques, it's crucial to grasp what the exam entails. The Foreign Service Officer Test (FSOT) is the first stage in the selection process for candidates aiming to join the U.S. Foreign Service. This exam evaluates a candidate's knowledge, situational judgment, and communication skills related to diplomacy, international affairs, and U.S. government operations.

What Does the FSOT Cover?

The FSOT consists of multiple components designed to test a broad range of abilities:

- **Job Knowledge:** Questions about U.S. government policies, history, economics, geography, and current events.
- **Situational Judgment:** Problem-solving scenarios that assess decision-making and interpersonal skills in diplomatic contexts.
- **English Expression:** Grammar, vocabulary, and writing ability through multiple choice and essay questions.

Recognizing these parts helps tailor your study plan effectively, focusing on your weaker areas while reinforcing your strengths.

Effective Strategies for Foreign Service Officer Test Practice

Preparing for the FSOT requires more than casual reading—it demands a strategic and disciplined approach. Here are some tips to maximize the effectiveness of your practice

sessions:

Create a Structured Study Schedule

Consistency is key when preparing for such a comprehensive exam. Allocate daily or weekly blocks dedicated solely to foreign service officer test practice. Break your study time into manageable chunks focusing on different sections of the test. For example, spend mornings on job knowledge topics like U.S. history and afternoons on practicing situational judgment questions or essay writing.

Leverage Official and Third-Party Study Materials

The Department of State provides some resources, but many candidates benefit from third-party study guides, practice tests, and online forums. Using a variety of materials exposes you to different question styles and helps you gauge your preparedness. Practice tests are particularly valuable—they simulate the real exam environment, reducing test-day anxiety and improving time management.

Emphasize Current Events and Global Affairs

Since the FSOT tests knowledge about worldwide issues and U.S. foreign policy, staying updated with current events is vital. Make it a habit to read reputable news sources daily. Summarize key developments, understand their implications, and consider how they relate to U.S. diplomatic priorities. This practice sharpens your analytical skills and keeps your knowledge relevant.

Improving Specific Skills Through Foreign Service Officer Test Practice

Enhancing Situational Judgment Abilities

Situational judgment questions assess your ability to navigate complex interpersonal and ethical dilemmas—skills critical for a successful Foreign Service Officer. To improve, practice by reviewing sample scenarios and reflecting on the rationale behind the best responses. Consider the diplomatic perspective, cultural sensitivity, and long-term consequences when evaluating choices.

Refining Written Communication

The essay portion of the FSOT measures your writing clarity, organization, and argument development. Regularly practice writing essays on topics related to international relations, U.S. policy, or ethical challenges. After drafting, review your work for coherence, grammar, and strength of arguments. Seeking feedback from mentors or peers can provide valuable insights and help polish your writing skills.

Boosting Job Knowledge Through Diverse Learning

Job knowledge covers a broad spectrum, so diversifying your study methods is beneficial. Incorporate reading textbooks, watching documentaries, listening to podcasts, and attending lectures or webinars on relevant subjects. This variety not only enhances retention but also keeps studying engaging.

Utilizing Online Communities and Resources

Engaging with others preparing for the FSOT can be highly motivating and informative. Online forums, social media groups, and study networks provide opportunities to exchange practice questions, share study tips, and discuss challenging topics. These platforms often feature mock tests and detailed explanations that deepen understanding.

Recommended Online Tools

- **FSOT Practice Tests:** Websites offering timed practice exams that mimic the actual FSOT format.
- **Flashcards:** Digital flashcards focusing on vocabulary, government terms, and international affairs.
- **Writing Workshops:** Virtual sessions aimed at improving essay writing and editing skills.

By blending self-study with community support, you can maintain motivation and gain diverse perspectives.

Managing Test Anxiety and Building Confidence

Test anxiety can undermine even the best-prepared candidates. Incorporating strategies to

manage stress is an important part of foreign service officer test practice. Techniques such as mindfulness meditation, regular exercise, and adequate sleep enhance focus and reduce nervousness. Simulating exam conditions during practice tests also helps acclimate you to the pressure of timed testing.

Remember, confidence stems from preparation. The more familiar you are with the test's structure and content, the more comfortable you will feel on exam day.

Embarking on foreign service officer test practice is a journey that demands dedication, curiosity, and strategic effort. By understanding the exam's components, adopting effective study habits, and actively engaging with current affairs and writing practice, you position yourself strongly for success. Whether through solo study or community collaboration, every step taken brings you closer to a rewarding career representing your country on the global stage.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Foreign Service Officer Test (FSOT)?

The Foreign Service Officer Test (FSOT) is a standardized exam used to assess candidates seeking to join the U.S. Foreign Service as officers. It evaluates knowledge, skills, and abilities related to diplomacy, U.S. government, world affairs, and communication.

What topics are covered in the FSOT practice tests?

FSOT practice tests typically cover four main areas: Job Knowledge (U.S. government, history, economics, geography, and culture), English Expression, Situational Judgment, and an Essay section.

How can I effectively prepare for the FSOT?

Effective preparation includes studying U.S. and world history, government, economics, practicing English grammar and essay writing, taking timed practice tests, and reviewing situational judgment scenarios to improve decision-making skills.

Are there any recommended resources for FSOT practice?

Recommended resources include the official FSOT study guide from the U.S. Department of State, online practice tests, FSOT preparation books, flashcards on relevant topics, and forums where candidates share tips and study strategies.

How important is the essay section in the FSOT?

The essay section is crucial as it assesses your ability to communicate clearly, organize

thoughts, and present arguments effectively. Strong writing skills can significantly impact your overall FSOT score.

How long is the FSOT and how is it structured?

The FSOT is approximately 3 hours long and consists of multiple-choice questions covering job knowledge, English usage, situational judgment, and a written essay portion.

Can practicing situational judgment tests improve my FSOT score?

Yes, practicing situational judgment tests helps you develop better decision-making skills and understand the values and competencies expected of a Foreign Service Officer, which can improve your performance on the FSOT.

How often is the FSOT offered and how can I register?

The FSOT is offered multiple times a year at designated testing centers and sometimes online. Candidates can register through the U.S. Department of State's official career website during open registration periods.

What passing score is needed on the FSOT to advance in the Foreign Service selection process?

The passing score varies each year based on test difficulty and candidate performance, but typically a score around the 50th percentile or higher is required to move forward to the next stage of the Foreign Service selection process.

Additional Resources

****Mastering the Foreign Service Officer Test Practice: A Professional's Guide****

foreign service officer test practice is an essential step for candidates aspiring to join the U.S. Department of State as Foreign Service Officers (FSOs). This exam, commonly known as the Foreign Service Officer Test (FSOT), serves as a rigorous filter to evaluate the knowledge, skills, and aptitude required for a successful diplomatic career. Understanding the nuances of effective foreign service officer test practice can significantly enhance a candidate's chances of advancing through the multi-stage selection process.

Understanding the Foreign Service Officer Test

The FSOT is a comprehensive assessment designed to measure a broad range of competencies. It covers areas such as U.S. government and history, world affairs, economics, management, and communication skills. Candidates are also evaluated on their

situational judgment and writing ability, which are critical for diplomatic work.

The test is administered annually and serves as the initial hurdle for thousands of applicants. Due to its competitive nature, many candidates invest considerable time in structured foreign service officer test practice, ranging from self-study to professional coaching.

Components of the FSOT

The FSOT comprises three main sections:

- **Job Knowledge:** Multiple-choice questions assessing knowledge of U.S. government, history, economics, and international relations.
- **Situational Judgment:** Scenarios evaluating decision-making and problem-solving skills in diplomatic contexts.
- **Written Essay:** Candidates respond to a prompt, demonstrating their ability to communicate effectively and persuasively in writing.

Each component requires tailored preparation strategies, making foreign service officer test practice a multifaceted endeavor.

Strategizing Effective Foreign Service Officer Test Practice

Success on the FSOT demands more than rote memorization. Candidates must develop analytical thinking, cultural awareness, and strong written communication skills. A well-rounded foreign service officer test practice plan integrates content mastery with skill development.

Content Review and Knowledge Building

A deep understanding of U.S. government operations and global affairs is crucial. Many test-takers use a combination of textbooks, government publications, and reputable news sources to stay current and informed. Resources such as the U.S. Constitution, Federalist Papers, and materials from the U.S. Department of State provide foundational knowledge.

Additionally, reviewing economic principles and international trade policies is important, as these topics frequently appear in the job knowledge section. Candidates often benefit from reading periodicals like *The Economist* or *Foreign Affairs* to gain context and insight into ongoing world events.

Practicing Situational Judgment Questions

Situational judgment tests (SJTs) are designed to measure how candidates approach complex, real-world problems. Foreign service officer test practice in this area involves working through hypothetical scenarios that require ethical reasoning, conflict resolution, and crisis management.

Several online platforms offer practice SJTs modeled after the FSOT. Engaging regularly with these exercises helps candidates internalize effective decision-making frameworks and understand the State Department's values and priorities.

Enhancing Written Communication

The essay portion is often considered the most challenging due to its subjective nature. Effective foreign service officer test practice for writing includes:

1. Developing clear and concise writing styles.
2. Practicing argumentative and analytical essays under timed conditions.
3. Seeking feedback from mentors or professional coaches.

Candidates are advised to focus on structure, clarity, and the ability to present balanced arguments, reflecting the diplomatic mindset necessary for the role.

Leveraging Technology and Resources in Preparation

The digital age has transformed how candidates prepare for the FSOT. Online study platforms, mobile apps, and practice tests simulate the exam environment, facilitating convenient and effective foreign service officer test practice.

Online Practice Tests and Simulators

Several websites offer full-length FSOT practice exams. These tools provide instant scoring and detailed feedback, enabling candidates to identify strengths and weaknesses. Regular practice under timed conditions builds test stamina and reduces anxiety.

Study Groups and Forums

Engaging with peers through forums such as Reddit's FSOT community or specialized Facebook groups allows candidates to exchange resources, discuss challenging questions, and share test-taking strategies. This collaborative approach adds a dimension of peer accountability and support to foreign service officer test practice.

Professional Coaching and Workshops

For those seeking personalized guidance, professional preparatory courses are available. These programs often include live instruction, mock interviews, and essay reviews, providing comprehensive support. While more costly, such services can be worthwhile investments for serious candidates.

Challenges and Considerations in Foreign Service Officer Test Practice

Despite the availability of numerous resources, candidates often face common challenges during preparation.

Balancing Breadth and Depth

The FSOT's wide-ranging content requires candidates to cover a vast array of subjects. Striking a balance between breadth and depth is critical; focusing too narrowly on specific topics may leave gaps, while shallow coverage risks insufficient mastery.

Time Management

Many applicants juggle full-time jobs or academic commitments alongside preparation. Establishing a realistic study schedule that incorporates regular foreign service officer test practice without causing burnout is essential.

Handling Test Anxiety

The pressure associated with the FSOT can affect performance. Practicing under simulated exam conditions and developing relaxation techniques can alleviate stress and enhance focus.

Comparative Insights: FSOT vs. Other Government Exams

The FSOT shares similarities with other federal service exams, such as the Civil Service Exam or the Foreign Affairs Specialist Test, but it is uniquely tailored to diplomatic careers.

- **Scope:** The FSOT emphasizes international relations and diplomatic scenarios more than general civil service exams.
- **Writing Component:** The essay section is more prominently weighted in the FSOT compared to many other government tests.
- **Situational Judgment:** The inclusion of SJTs reflects the FSOT's focus on practical decision-making in complex environments.

These distinctions make specialized foreign service officer test practice indispensable for prospective FSOs.

Continuous Learning Beyond the Test

Preparation for the FSOT should be viewed as the beginning of a lifelong learning journey. The diplomatic profession demands ongoing education and adaptability. Candidates who cultivate habits of continuous reading, cultural awareness, and policy analysis during their foreign service officer test practice are better equipped for the challenges of the Foreign Service.

In summary, foreign service officer test practice is a multifaceted process that requires strategic preparation across knowledge areas, situational judgment, and writing skills. By leveraging diverse resources, embracing disciplined study habits, and engaging with the diplomatic community, candidates can position themselves for success in this highly competitive examination. The journey is as much about personal growth and professional readiness as it is about passing a test.

[Foreign Service Officer Test Practice](#)

foreign service officer test practice: *Fsot Practice Questions* Fsot Exam Secrets Test Prep Team, 2014-03-31 FSOT Practice Questions are the simplest way to prepare for the FSOT test. Practice is an essential part of preparing for a test and improving a test taker's chance of success.

The best way to practice taking a test is by going through lots of practice test questions. Taking lots of practice tests helps ensure that you are not surprised or disappointed on your test day. Our FSOT Practice Questions give you the opportunity to test your knowledge on a set of questions. You can know everything that is going to be covered on the test and it will not do you any good on test day if you have not had a chance to practice. Repetition is a key to success and using practice test questions allows you to reinforce your strengths and improve your weaknesses. Detailed answer explanations are also included for each question. It may sound obvious, but you have to know which questions you missed (and more importantly why you missed them) to be able to avoid making the same mistakes again when you take the real test. That's why our FSOT Practice Questions include answer keys with detailed answer explanations. These in-depth answer explanations will allow you to better understand any questions that were difficult for you or that you needed more help to understand.

foreign service officer test practice: FSOT Study Guide Nick L. Johnson, Are you ready to embark on the journey to become a U.S. Foreign Service Officer (FSO)? Preparing for the Foreign Service Officer Test (FSOT) can be an intimidating task, but with the right approach, resources, and strategies, you can confidently navigate the exam and move closer to your dream career in diplomacy. This comprehensive study guide provides everything you need to succeed in your FSOT preparation, offering valuable insights into every section of the test, from English expression and grammar to U.S. government, economics, and international affairs. The FSOT is a challenging exam designed to assess your knowledge of global issues, history, U.S. government processes, economics, and key diplomatic principles. With a focus on critical thinking, effective communication, and analytical skills, the FSOT is not just about memorizing facts—it's about demonstrating your ability to handle the responsibilities of an FSO. This study guide walks you through each subject area tested on the FSOT, providing in-depth explanations, practical examples, and targeted exercises to reinforce your learning. The guide covers essential topics such as U.S. history, political systems, and economic principles, as well as important global issues and key treaties. You'll also find extensive coverage of communication skills, leadership principles, and strategies for writing structured essays and responding to essay prompts effectively. With detailed explanations of the most common test formats, time-management tips, and question analysis methods, you'll be equipped with the tools needed to perform confidently under test conditions. What sets this study guide apart is its inclusion of practice questions and real-world examples designed to simulate the experience of the FSOT. These exercises will help you refine your test-taking strategies, boost your confidence, and improve your performance across all sections of the exam. Additionally, the guide emphasizes the importance of staying informed about current events, as global affairs and diplomatic issues are central to the FSOT's content. Whether you're just beginning your FSOT preparation or are in the final stages of review, this resource is your ultimate companion for success. With consistent practice, time management, and a clear focus, you can confidently approach the FSOT and take the first step toward a fulfilling career in U.S. diplomacy. Prepare smarter, test better, and unlock the path to your Foreign Service dream.

foreign service officer test practice: FSOT Study Guide Review FsoT Test Prep Team, 2017-11-27 FSOT Study Guide Review: Test Prep & Practice Test Questions for Written Exam & Oral Assessment on the Foreign Service Officer Test Developed for test takers trying to achieve a passing score on the FSOT Service Officer Exam, this comprehensive study guide includes: -Quick Overview -Test-Taking Strategies -Introduction to the FSOT -Correct Grammar, Organization, Writing Strategy, Sentence Structure, and Punctuation Required for Writing or Editing Reports -U.S. Government -U.S. History, Society, Customs, and Culture -World History -Geography -Economics -Mathematics and Statistics -Communications -Management Principles, Psychology, and Human Behavior -Computers and the Internet -FSOT Oral Assessment (FSOA) -Practice Questions -Detailed Answer Explanations Each section of the test has a comprehensive review that goes into detail to cover all of the content likely to appear on the Foreign Service Officer Exam. The practice test questions are each followed by detailed answer explanations. If you miss a question, it's important

that you are able to understand the nature of your mistake and how to avoid making it again in the future. The answer explanations will help you to learn from your mistakes and overcome them. Understanding the latest test-taking strategies is essential to preparing you for what you will expect on the exam. A test taker has to not only understand the material that is being covered on the test, but also must be familiar with the strategies that are necessary to properly utilize the time provided and get through the test without making any avoidable errors. Anyone planning to take the Foreign Service Officer Exam should take advantage of the review material, practice test questions, and test-taking strategies contained in this study guide.

foreign service officer test practice: FSOT Study Guide Tpb Publishing, 2020-08-12 Test Prep Books' FSOT Study Guide: FSOT Test Prep and Practice Questions for the Foreign Service Officer Test [2nd Edition] Made by Test Prep Books experts for test takers trying to achieve a great score on the FSOT exam. This comprehensive study guide includes: Quick Overview Test-Taking Strategies Introduction Correct Grammar, Organization, Writing Strategy, Sentence Structure, and Punctuation Required for Writing or Editing Reports U.S. Government U.S. History, Society, Customs, and Culture World History Geography Economics Mathematics and Statistics Communications Management Principles, Psychology, and Human Behavior Computers and the Internet FSOT Oral Assessment (FSOA) Practice Questions Practice makes perfect! Detailed Answer Explanations Studying can be hard. We get it. That's why we created this guide with these great features and benefits: Comprehensive Review: Each section of the test has a comprehensive review created by Test Prep Books that goes into detail to cover all of the content likely to appear on the test. Practice Test Questions: We want to give you the best practice you can find. That's why the Test Prep Books practice questions are as close as you can get to the actual FSOT exam. Answer Explanations: Every single problem is followed by an answer explanation. We know it's frustrating to miss a question and not understand why. The answer explanations will help you learn from your mistakes. That way, you can avoid missing it again in the future. Test-Taking Strategies: A test taker has to understand the material that is being covered and be familiar with the latest test taking strategies. These strategies are necessary to properly use the time provided. They also help test takers complete the test without making any errors. Test Prep Books has provided the top test-taking tips. Customer Service: We love taking care of our test takers. We make sure that you interact with a real human being when you email your comments or concerns.

foreign service officer test practice: FSOT Study Guide - FSOT Prep Secrets, Full-Length Practice Exam, Step-by-Step Review Video Tutorials for the Foreign Service Officer Test: [4th Editio Mometrix, 2021-01-03 Mometrix Test Preparation's FSOT Study Guide - FSOT Prep Secrets is the ideal prep solution for anyone who wants to pass their Foreign Service Officer Test. The exam is extremely challenging, and thorough test preparation is essential for success. Our study guide includes: * Practice test questions with detailed answer explanations * Step-by-step video tutorials to help you master difficult concepts * Tips and strategies to help you get your best test performance * A complete review of all FSOT test sections Mometrix Test Preparation is not affiliated with or endorsed by any official testing organization. All organizational and test names are trademarks of their respective owners. The Mometrix guide is filled with the critical information you will need in order to do well on your FSOT exam: the concepts, procedures, principles, and vocabulary that the U.S. Department of State expects you to have mastered before sitting for your exam. Test sections include: * Communication * Correct Grammar, Organization, and Sentence Structure Required for Writing Reports * The Essay * Economics * Management * Mathematics and Statistics * United States Government * United States History * Geography * World History ...and much more! Our guide is full of specific and detailed information that will be key to passing your exam. Concepts and principles aren't simply named or described in passing, but are explained in detail. The Mometrix FSOT study guide is laid out in a logical and organized fashion so that one section naturally flows from the one preceding it. Because it's written with an eye for both technical accuracy and accessibility, you will not have to worry about getting lost in dense academic language. Any test prep guide is only as good as its practice questions and answer explanations, and

that's another area where our guide stands out. The Mometrix test prep team has provided plenty of FSOT practice test questions to prepare you for what to expect on the actual exam. Each answer is explained in depth, in order to make the principles and reasoning behind it crystal clear. Many concepts include links to online review videos where you can watch our instructors break down the topics so the material can be quickly grasped. Examples are worked step-by-step so you see exactly what to do. We've helped hundreds of thousands of people pass standardized tests and achieve their education and career goals. We've done this by setting high standards for Mometrix Test Preparation guides, and our FSOT Study Guide - FSOT Prep Secrets is no exception. It's an excellent investment in your future. Get the FSOT review you need to be successful on your exam.

foreign service officer test practice: F sot Secrets: F sot Exam Review for the Foreign Service Officer Test Mometrix Media LLC, 2015-02 ***Includes FSOT Practice Test Questions***
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foreign service officer test practice: CliffsTestPrep Foreign Service Officer Exam American BookWorks Corporation, 2011-11-18 Your guide to passing the Foreign Service Officer Exam Why CliffsTestPrep Guides? Go with the name you know and trust Get the information you need--fast! Written by test prep specialists Introduction * Review of how the exam is organized, along with answers to frequently asked questions Part I: Written Exam: The Job Knowledge Test * Descriptions of the five general career track knowledge areas--management, consular, economic, political, and public diplomacy * Question-and-answer subject review chapters for the eight job topic areas, along with mini-tests after each subject review * A sample Job Knowledge test with complete answers and explanations Part II: Written Exam: The English Expression Test * Grammar and usage review * Two sample English Expression tests with complete answers and explanations Part III: Written Exam: The Biographic Information Questionnaire * General information on this section of the exam, plus helpful sample questions Part IV: Written Exam: Written Essay * Overview of the Written Essay portion of the exam, plus sample essay topics for practice * Direction on how to effectively prewrite, outline, organize, edit, and revise your essay Part V: Oral Assessment * Overview of the Oral Assessment portion of the exam and the categories in which you'll be assessed Test Prep Essentials from the Experts at CliffsNotes? An American BookWorks Corporation Project

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foreign service officer test practice: The Complete FSOT Study Guide Robert Clark, 2016-01-30 Written by someone in the field who has in-depth knowledge of the process inside and out, you will be able to increase your efficiency and effectiveness and improve your score through this FSOT Study Guide and thus improve your chances to pass the FSOT as well as the rest of the Foreign Service Officer Selection Process. How This FSOT Study Guide Will Increase Your Score? No book can teach you everything you need to know about the Foreign Service Selection process. But it can teach you about: The in's and out's of the FSOT test process Give you examples and experience before taking the test Find out what not to study and what to focus on Give insight to what the testers are thinking and what separates the diplomats from those that fail. ONLY 33% pass the FSOT and out of that, only 20% make it to become a Foreign Service Officer. With this FSOT Study Guide, you'll have access to information not found online with real insight from someone who has been in the field as well as from others who live that life every day. What Does This FSOT Study Guide Come With? Other than a vast amount of knowledge that only those who have taken it before can express, the FSOT Study Guide provides you with the following: Breakdown of the FSOT Test Pretest to help you find areas to improve upon What recommended books are worth your time and which are not Tips and strategies that only a FSO would know Same level of information for the QEP, and FSOA 2 unheard of issues that are causing most candidates to fail, but after reading this, you won't! A professional practice test that will help you to decide if you are ready. This test even includes: Job Knowledge section, English Expression Usage and Biographical Information section. Find out how you can be in that 20% from someone who knows. The FSOT Prep.com, gives this FSOT Study Guide their #1 recommendation and name it the Best ROI for those who need to pass now. Get Your Copy of the Complete FSOT Study Guide Now Before We Raise the Price!

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ensure that you master the material. Best of all, we show you how this information will be applied on the real exam; FSOT practice questions are included so that you can know, without a doubt, that you are prepared. Our study guide is streamlined and concept-driven - not filled with excess junk, silly attempts at humor, or confusing filler - so you get better results through more effective study time. Why spend days or even weeks reading through meaningless junk, trying to sort out the helpful information from the fluff? We give you everything you need to know in a concise, comprehensive, and effective package.

foreign service officer test practice: FSOT Study Guide 2024-2025 J M Lefort, 2023-12-20
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foreign service officer test practice: FSOT UNOFFICIAL PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR THE FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER TEST. MIKE. YU, 2023

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