THE LONG ISLAND QUIZ BOWL ALLIANCE

IESA-Style Sample, Middle School Level

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1. With her son Pontus, this figure birthed Phorcys (“FOR-sis”) and Ceto, the parents of Medusa. This figure is the “mother” referenced in the command “throw the bones of your mother,” given to Deucalion ("doo-KAY-lee-on"). This figure, who birthed the Hecatoncheires (“he-kuh-TON-kuh-reez”), told Kronos to kill Uranus. Name this Greek personification of Mother Earth.
ANSWER: **Gaia** [or **Gaea**]

2. Pencil and paper ready. Douglas made a playlist that has 2 songs that are 4 minutes long, 8 songs that are 3 minutes long, and 1 song that is 10 minutes long. How long would it take to listen to his entire playlist?
ANSWER: **42** minutes

3. This position was turned down by N, the only known character to do so. A holder of this position has a Garchomp and is named Cynthia. What position leads the Elite Four in the *Pokemon* games?
ANSWER: **champion** [accept Pokemon League **Champion**; accept Unova League **Champion**; accept Sinnoh League **Champion**]

4. A work by this composer includes the French national anthem “La Marseillaise” (“mar-say-EZ”) and cannon fire to depict Napoleon’s failed invasion of Russia. Name this composer of *1812 Overture* and the ballet *The Nutcracker*.
ANSWER: Piotr Ilyich **Tchaikovsky**

5. This president appointed the first female Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright. Scandals faced by this president concerned the Whitewater Development Corporation and his intern Monica Lewinsky. Name this president whose wife Hilary ran for president in 2016.
ANSWER: Bill **Clinton** [or William Jefferson **Clinton**]

6. Cephalosporins (“cephalo-SPORE-ins”) are a type of these drugs that contain a beta-lactam ring. The first of these drugs was discovered by Alexander Fleming. What type of drug, exemplified by penicillin, kills bacteria?
ANSWER: **antibiotic**s [accept **beta-lactam**s before mention]

7. In a novel partly titled for this number, “everyone gets a share” through M&M Enterprises, which is run by Milo Minderbinder. In a song from the album *Red*, Taylor Swift claims “I don’t know about you / but I’m feeling [this number].” A Joseph Heller novel is titled “Catch-[what two-digit number]?”
ANSWER: **22** [accept ***Catch-22***]

8. In stats, types of these things called “latent” must be indirectly inferred from “observable” ones. These things are found with coefficients and operations in polynomials. What word is used for unspecific letters in math equations?
ANSWER: **variable**s [accept latent **variable**s or observable **variable**s]

9. The first of these conflicts began following the Council of Clermont, which was called by Pope Urban II. Name these religious conflicts between Christians and Muslims that were fought over the Holy Land.
ANSWER: **crusade**s [accept First **Crusade**]

10. A dinosaur discovered in this desert during an expedition led by Roy Chapman Andrews was incorrectly labeled as an "egg thief." *Protoceratops* and *Oviraptor* were discovered in what Mongolian desert?
ANSWER: **Gobi** Desert

11. Pencil and paper ready. Denise wants the missing member of a set of six numbers, knowing that the other numbers are 51, 96, 84, 72, and 51 and that the median is 68. By sorting the numbers, noting the middle number and knowing how to find the median of an even set of numbers, she finds what missing number?
ANSWER: **64**

12. One of these animals, the yellow-eyed *hoiho*, only lives on the southern coast of New Zealand. Yellow crests decorate this animal's "snares" and "macaroni" types. Polished stones are exchanged with potential mates by this animal's "gentoo" type, as seen in the movie *Happy Feet*. What birds' black-and-white "emperor" type live in Antarctica?
ANSWER: **penguin**s [accept yellow-eyed **penguin**s, snares **penguin**s, macaroni **penguin**s, gentoo **penguin**s, and emperor **penguin**s]

13. This poet wrote of his love for Beatrice in *La Vita Nuova*. In an epic poem, this poet sees a leopard, a lion, and a she-wolf while being led by Virgil through the nine levels of the underworld. Name this poet of the *Divine Comedy*.
ANSWER: **Dante** **Alighieri** [accept either]

14. This god is presented with *modak* dumplings on his namesake "Chaturthi" ("CHUH-tur-tee"). This god, who rides a mouse, broke off one of his body parts to write down the *Mahābhārata* ("muh-huh-BAH-ruh-tuh"). After blocking a path to his bathing mother, this deity was decapitated by his father, Shiva. What "remover of obstacles" is an elephant-headed Hindu god?
ANSWER: **Gaṇesh**an [or **Vināyak**a; accept **Gaṇesh**a Chaturthī]

15. This lake, which houses Petoskey stones, is home to North and South Manitou Islands. Fireworks on this lake can be viewed from Navy Pier. This lake is connected to Lake Huron by the Straits of Mackinac ("MACK-i-naw"). The cities of Milwaukee and Chicago lie on what Great Lake that shares its name with the state whose cities include Detroit?
ANSWER: Lake **Michigan**

16. While hiding in a church, this novel's protagonist reads "Nothing Gold Can Stay" to Johnny. What S. E. Hinton novel about the rivalry between the Greasers and Socs ("soe-shes") is narrated by Ponyboy?
ANSWER: *The* ***Outsiders***

17. This politician's successor denounced him in the "Secret Speech." Policies from this leader's first Five-Year Plan caused the Holodomor ("hah-luh-doh-MOR") famine in Ukraine. This leader was succeeded by Nikita Khrushchev ("KROOSH-chev"). Name this dictator who led the Soviet Union through World War II.
ANSWER: Joseph **Stalin** [or Josif Vissarionovich **Dzhugashvili**]

18. Pencil and paper ready. A tub fills at a rate of 6 gallons every hour. If the tub started with 12 gallons and when Richard stopped it, it held 114 gallons, how many hours had passed?
ANSWER: **17** hours

19. This is the only letter in Spanish to have a diaresis, which can occur when it appears between the letters G and I or G and E. This letter is present in the British spelling of the word colour ("color"), unlike the American version. What letter was originally identical to V?
ANSWER: **U**

20. In 2025, this NBA team fired head coach Willie Green after starting 2-10 ("two and ten"). A forward who has injured his hamstring four seasons in a row, Zion Williamson, is employed by what NBA team in Louisiana?
ANSWER: **New Orleans Pelicans** [accept either underlined portion]

21. This country administers Gilgit-Baltistan and includes the rugged province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa ("KAI-burr pahk-TUN-kwa"). This country has the second-most Muslims after Indonesia. Lahore and Karachi are in what country that has a southeastern border with India?
ANSWER: **Pakistan** [or Islamic Republic of **Pakistan**; or Islāmī Jumhūriyah **Pākistān**]

22. A shade of this color was the first modern pigment to be synthesized, and was named for its use in the coats of Prussian soldiers. Johannes Vermeer used an expensive pigment of this color to paint the headband of the title figure in the painting *Girl With a Pearl Earring*. Lapis lazuli and ultramarine are shades of what color that is often used to depict the sky and sea?
ANSWER: **blue**

23. Water from this river is diverted by the All-American Canal. This river's tributaries include the Green and Gila ("HEE-la") Rivers. On its way to the Gulf of California, this river feeds into Lake Mead. This river flows through the Hoover Dam, and historically carved the Grand Canyon. What river is named for a state whose capital is Denver?
ANSWER: **Colorado** River

24. This rock's creation from the pressurization of compressed plant matter partially names the Carboniferous Period. This rock can be classified as lignite, bituminous ("bit-TOOM-in-us"), or anthracite. Name this energy-rich black rock whose large-scale use as a fossil fuel began during the Industrial Revolution.
ANSWER: **coal** [prompt on lignite or bituminous or anthracite before mentioned]

Extra

These things name Buddy Holly's band. An activity of this name is done in the Big Bash League and in a biennial series between England and Australia called The Ashes. The Italian author Carlo Collodi created one of these things later renamed "Jiminy." What word names a sport with wickets and bowlers?
ANSWER: **cricket** [accept Buddy Holly and The **Cricket**s; accept Jiminy **Cricket**]

1. Answer the following about moons in our solar system:
1. Ocean tides on this planet are largely driven by its only moon, which was visited by men from this planet during the *Apollo 11* mission.
ANSWER: **Earth**
2. This smallest planet, whose orbit is entirely contained within that of Venus, possesses no moons of its own.
ANSWER: **Mercury**
3. Asaph Hall discovered these two potato-shaped moons named for personifications of fear and dread. These are the two moons that orbit Mars.
ANSWER: **Phobos** and **Deimos** [in either order; prompt on partial answers]

2. Answer the following about explorers of the world:
1. This Italian merchant from Venice visited Kublai Khan in 1275 with his uncle Niccolò.
ANSWER: Marco **Polo**
2. This first European to reach India by sea traveled through the Cape of Good Hope.
ANSWER: Vasco **da Gama**
3. This Norwegian explorer was the first to reach the South Pole, doing so in 1911.
ANSWER: Roald **Amundsen**

3. Answer the following about the works of a French author:
1. In this novel, Otto Lidenbrock attempts the title trek by entering a volcano in Iceland and discovers prehistoric creatures living underground.
ANSWER: *A* ***Journey to the Center of the Earth*** [or ***Voyage au centre de la Terre***]
2. *Journey to the Center of the Earth* was written by this early French pioneer of science fiction, who also wrote *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*.
ANSWER: Jules **Verne**
3. Verne also wrote this novel about Phileas Fogg, who wins a bet for 20,000 pounds by completing the title journey.
ANSWER: ***Around the World in Eighty Days*** [or *Le* ***Tour du monde en quatre-vingts jours***]

4. Answer the following about the 2025 NBA All-Star Game:
1. This NBA team led by Steph Curry hosted the game in San Francisco's Chase Center.
ANSWER: **Golden State Warriors** [accept either underlined portion]
2. This forward was selected for the game shortly before being traded to the Mavericks from the Lakers.
ANSWER: Anthony **Davis** [or **AD**]
3. This Turkish center for the Rockets was selected for the game for the first time.
ANSWER: Alperen **Sengün** ("SHEN-goon")

5. Answer the following about a type of waterfowl:
1. These birds, which include "mandarin" and "mallard" types, express a wide variety of sounds other than traditional "quacks."
ANSWER: **duck**s
2. These duck-billed, semi-aquatic animals are with the echidna in the small group of mammals that reproduce by laying eggs. Baby examples of these animals are called puggles.
ANSWER: **platypus**es [or **platypi** or **platypodes**]
3. Unlike most mammals, in which sex is determined by whether these things are "XX" or "XY," baby puggles have five pairs of them.
ANSWER: sex **chromosome**s

6. Answer the following about state capitals and capitol buildings:
1. Though this state is only the second largest in the union, it has the largest state capitol building. San Antonio used to be the capital of this state when it was an independent republic.
ANSWER: **Texas**
2. Thomas Jefferson designed the capitol for this city, where he previously sat as governor. This city is also home to a museum that is in a building that served as the White House of the Confederacy.
ANSWER: **Richmond**, Virginia
3. The only round state capitol is in this capital city, which was founded by the Spanish in 1610, making it the oldest city to be a state capital.
ANSWER: **Santa Fe**, New Mexico

7. Answer the following about star crossed lovers:
1. The term "star-cross'd lovers" comes from this Shakespeare tragedy, in which the feud between the Capulets and Montagues ultimately kills the title characters.
ANSWER: ***Romeo and Juliet***
2. This novel sees two cancer patients visit the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, but unfortunately one of them, Augustus Waters, dies of cancer following a profession of love to the other.
ANSWER: *The* ***Fault in Our Stars***
3. In a work by Ovid, Pyramus and this figure plan to meet under a mulberry tree.
ANSWER: **Thisbe**

8. Name the state served by these U.S. Senators:
1. John Cornyn and Ted Cruz
ANSWER: **Texas**
2. Peter Welch and Bernie Sanders, the latter of whom previously served as mayor of Burlington
ANSWER: **Vermont**
3. Rand Paul and Mitch McConnell
ANSWER: **Kentucky**

9. Answer the following about an Asian religion:
1. This religion was founded by Siddhartha Gautama and teaches adherents how to achieve nirvana and end the cycle of rebirth.
ANSWER: **Buddhism**
2. The Buddha achieved enlightenment in this modern-day country.
ANSWER: **India** [or Republic of **India**]
3. These structures host Buddhist relics and are visited by pilgrims. These buildings are usually circular with a point on top.
ANSWER: **stupa**s [accept **chorten**; accept **tope**]

10. Answer the following about the best restaurant in the world:
1. The restaurant Noma, often named the world's best, is located in this Scandinavian country's capital city of Copenhagen.
ANSWER: **Denmark**
2. Noma earned three stars from this prestigious restaurant rating system, first published in France. It is named for a company known for making tires and whose mascot is a namesake "Man" who consists of many white tires.
ANSWER: **Michelin** Guide [accept **Michelin** Man]
3. This world capital has the most three-star Michelin restaurants in the world, with twelve, including Sazenka.
ANSWER: **Tokyo**

11. Name these people and bands that performed at the concert celebrating *Saturday Night Live's* 50th season:
1. This daughter of Billy Ray sang her 2023 hit "Flowers."
ANSWER: Miley **Cyrus** [or Destiny Hope **Cyrus**]
2. This grunge band played "Smells Like Teen Spirit" with Post Malone in place of Kurt Cobain.
ANSWER: **Nirvana**
3. This singer and actress performed the song "Shallow" from the movie *A Star Is Born*.
ANSWER: **Lady Gaga** [or Stefani Joanne Angelina **Germanotta**]

12. Name these Civil War battles:
1. Abraham Lincoln gave a namesake address after this 1863 battle in Pennsylvania that was the turning point of the Civil War.
ANSWER: Battle of **Gettysburg** [accept **Gettysburg** address]
2. This 1862 victory for George McClellan in Maryland was the site of the bloodiest single day in American history.
ANSWER: Battle of **Antietam** [or Battle of **Sharpsburg**]
3. A retreat known as the "Great Skedaddle" ended this battle. General Barnard Bee coined the nickname "Stonewall" for Thomas Jackosn at this 1861 battle.
ANSWER: **First** Battle of **Bull Run** [or **First** Battle of **Manassas**; prompt on "Manassas" or "Bull Run" alone]

13. Name these authors or books that received Caldecott medals or honors:
1. While this author never won a Caldecott outright, he received honors for books such as *McElligot's Pool* and *If I Ran the Zoo*. He also wrote *The Cat in the Hat*.
ANSWER: Dr. **Seuss** [or Theodor Seuss **Geisel**]
2. Maurice Sendak won five honors before winning the Caldecott for this picture book, which ends with Max receiving a hot supper after encountering some monsters.
ANSWER: ***Where the Wild Things Are***
3. This author's *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, for which he made 284 sketches, was the first novel to win the Caldecott. He later wrote *Wonderstruck*, in which sketches and words form distinct narrative arcs merge at the end.
ANSWER: Brian **Selznick**

14. Answer the following about ions:
1. Chlorine forms one of these ions, which have a negative charge, unlike cations ("cat-ions").
ANSWER: **anion**s
2. This is the name for electrons found in the outer shell of an atom. They play a major role in determining how reactive a given element is.
ANSWER: **valence** electrons
3. This word refers to ions that help conduct electricity in an aqueous ("AY-kwee-uhs") solution. These species, which can be "strong" or "weak" depending on their degree of dissociation, can be replenished with Gatorade.
ANSWER: **electrolyte**s

15. Give the following words that contain the letters c-a-t:
1. This word means "to receive a ball," and is the opposite of "to throw."
ANSWER: **catch**
2. This word refers to an unexpected disaster or major accident, and is common in literary tragedies.
ANSWER: **catastrophe**
3. This word, which means "to fail in fulfilling a responsibility or duty," can also mean "to renounce a throne."
ANSWER: **abdicate**

16. Answer the following about a trade route:
1. This valuable fabric gave its name to the ancient network of routes connecting China with central Asia and Europe.
ANSWER: **silk** [accept **Silk** Road or **Silk** Routes]
2. This structure, which was built to protect the Silk Road, now spans more than 13,000 miles.
ANSWER: **Great Wall** of China [or **Wànlǐ Chángchéng**]
3. Cities such as Balkh, Herat, and Kandahar in this modern-day country were major stops along the Silk Road.
ANSWER: **Afghanistan**

17. Answer the following about the large scale motion of air:
1. This term refers to large rotating storm systems that form over warm water off the southeastern United States. Their wind speeds are divided into five "categories."
ANSWER: **hurricane**s [prompt on tropical cyclones]
2. These locations where two large air masses border each other can come in "warm," "cold," and "occluded" types.
ANSWER: **front**s [accept warm **front**s; accept cold **front**s; accept occluded **front**s]
3. This two-word term refers to when the presence of a mountain range causes air to lose moisture while traveling up the mountains, leaving the leeward side of the mountain dry.
ANSWER: **rain shadow**s

18. Answer the following about pieces written for piano:
1. A piano sonata by this Austrian child prodigy imitates Janissary bands and is called "Rondo alla Turca." This composer also wrote "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik."
ANSWER: Wolfgang Amadeus **Mozart**
2. This Hungarian composer wrote his *Transcendental Études* to be played on the piano.
ANSWER: Franz **Liszt**
3. "The Entertainer" was a work for piano by Scott Joplin in this style of music. Joplin also wrote a piece possibly named for the Maple Leaf Club in this style.
ANSWER: **rag**time

19. Answer the following about a rectangular prism whose side lengths are 5, 5, and 10:
1. What shape are the smallest two faces on the prism, considering that the two smallest of the prism's side lengths are equal to each other?
ANSWER: **square**s
2. What is the total surface area of the prism?
ANSWER: **250** square units
3. What is the maximum length that can be enclosed by the prism?
ANSWER: **$5\sqrt{6}$** ("five root six" or "five times the square root of six")

20. Answer the following about politics in Japan:
1. A prime minister from the LDP has led Japan for most of the years since being founded in 1955. What does the "L" stand for in LDP? This "L" word can be used to describe many democrats in the United States.
ANSWER: **Liberal** [accept **Liberal Democratic Party** or **Liberal Democrat**s]
2. This Japanese word makes up the second half of the name of Japan's current Emperor, along with "Naru." This four-letter word meaning "benevolent" followed "Hiro" in the name of Japan's emperor during WWII.
ANSWER: **hito** [accept **Naruhito** or **Akihito** or **Hirohito**]
3. This conservative was recently elected the first female prime minister of Japan.
ANSWER: Sanae **Takaichi** [or Takaichi **Sanae**]

Extra

Answer the following about comets:
1. Comets often possess very long examples of these structures made of gas and dust, which beautifully streak behind the main body when close to the sun.
ANSWER: comet **tail**s [accept gas **tail** or dust **tail**]
2. This Englishman names the only comet to regularly be visible from Earth, making appearances approximately every 76 years. It will next be visible in 2061.
ANSWER: Edmund **Halley** [accept **Halley**'s Comet]
3. The solid center of a comet, which is called the nucleus, is surrounded by this gaseous envelope of sublimated dust and ice that appears cloudy through telescopes.
ANSWER: **coma**