THE LONG ISLAND QUIZ BOWL ALLIANCE

Middle School 20/20 Sample

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1. **This tennis player, who grew up playing in empty pools during a 1999 NATO bombing campaign, completed the Career Golden Slam at the 2024 Summer Olympics. This man has won the Australian Open (*)** ten times and holds the record for most Grand Slam titles with 24. The "Big Three" in tennis refers to Rafael Nadal, Roger Federer, and what Serbian?
ANSWER: Novak **Djokovic** <Pop Culture>

1. Answer the following about historical leaders of the Catholic Church:
1. Leaders of the Catholic Church hold this title. Cardinal electors choose who should hold this title in a conclave.
ANSWER: **pope**
2. Pope Urban II supported a Byzantine request at the Council of Clermont, sparking this conflict.
ANSWER: **First Crusade** [prompt on crusades]
3. The second pope of this name was known as the "Warrior Pope" for his expansionist policies. A pope of this name was the patron of Michelangelo and Raphael, and also started the War of the League of Cambrai.
ANSWER: **Julius**
<History>

2. **Book Four of a poem by this author describes bees as a model for human society before embarking on an epyllion ("eh-PEEL-lee-on") about Aristaeus ("ah-riss-TAY-us"). A series of pastoral poems by this author is called the (*)** *Georgics*. A hero created by this author sees people building Carthage like bees before meeting Dido. Who wrote the *Aeneid* ("ih-NEE-id")?
ANSWER: **Virgil** [or Publius **Vergil**ius Maro] <Literature>

2. Answer the following about recent developments in Texas:
1. Texan lawmakers are targeting Democratic-held congressional seats by taking this action, prompting Californian lawmakers to introduce Proposition 50. In this action, districts are redrawn to favor one party over another.
ANSWER: **gerrymander**ing [prompt on redistricting]
2. This current Governor of Texas has controversially designated the Council on American-Islamic Relations as a Foreign Terrorist Organization.
ANSWER: Greg **Abbott** [accept Gregory Wayne **Abbott**]
3. To prevent a vote on the plan from being taken, Democratic state lawmakers walked out, with many flying to this city. In the 2026 House election, Kat Abughazaleh is running to represent parts of this city's metro area.
ANSWER: **Chicago**, Illinois
<Current Events>

3. **Euler proved that the product over all of these numbers of "1 over 1 minus [these numbers] to the s" equals the Riemann zeta function of s. These numbers, which are "sexy" if they're six apart, have a (*)** Mersenne type of the form "2 to the n minus 1." Every positive integer greater than 1 can be factored into what type of numbers, which are divisible by only 1 and itself?
ANSWER: **prime** numbers [accept sexy **prime**s or Mersenne **prime**s] <Science>

3. Name these countries that border France:
1. The cities of Bordeaux and Toulouse in southwest France are closest to this other country. The Pyrenees Mountains border France and this country, whose capital is Madrid.
ANSWER: **Spain** [or Kingdom of **Spain** or **España** or Reino de **España**]
2. The city of Paris in northern France is closest to this other country, which contains many Walloon and Flemish people. This country, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands comprise the Low Countries.
ANSWER: **Belgium** [or Kingdom of **Belgium** or Koninkrijk **België** or Royaume de **Belgique**]
3. The city of Nice is closest to this other country, which is a small principality along the French Riviera.
ANSWER: **Monaco**
<Geography>

4. **During this battle, cannons were fired at the ice-covered Satschan ponds. Marshal Soult took the Pratzen Heights in this battle that forced the Treaty of Pressburg, which punished (*)** Austria and ended the War of the Third Coalition. Napoleon defeated Austria and Russia at what 1805 battle?
ANSWER: Battle of **Austerlitz** <History>

4. Answer the following about oranges:
1. Oranges are part of this genus of fruit that includes lemons and limes.
ANSWER: ***Citrus***
2. Oranges can be described as hesperidia, which are also called this term. This type of fruit is defined by being derived from a single ovary and having seeds but no stone or pit, exemplified by grapes.
ANSWER: **berry**
3. Oranges descend from a cross between this fruit and mandarins. This ancestral citrus fruit is the largest fruit in the genus *Citrus*.
ANSWER: **pomelo** [accept **pummelo**, ***Citrus maxima***, or **shaddock**]
<Science>

5. In this technique, $MgCl_2$ ("M-G C-L-2") and dNTP are combined into a master mix. This technique uses a thermal cycler to repeatedly run denaturing, (*) annealing, and extension steps. Name this molecular biology technique invented by Kary Mullis that is used to copy DNA?
ANSWER: **PCR** [or **polymerase chain reaction**] <Science>

5. Answer the following about a type of movie:
1. What technique is often used to make children-oriented films like Disney's *Snow White*? In early versions of this technique, almost every frame was hand-drawn.
ANSWER: **animation**
2. This Japanese animation studio made *My Neighbor Totoro*, as well as the 2024 film *The Boy and the Heron*.
ANSWER: Studio **Ghibli**
3. This Latvian film won the 97th Academy Award for Best Animated Feature. In this film, a cat tries to survive in a flooded world.
ANSWER: ***Flow***
<Fine Arts>

6. **This author described "an imperial affliction / Sent us of the Air" in a poem about a "certain Slant of light." The "Stillness in the Room / Was like the Stillness in the Air" in this author's poem about the (*)** "Blue - uncertain - stumbling Buzz" of a fly. What "Belle of Amherst" wrote "I heard a Fly buzz - when I died?"
ANSWER: Emily **Dickinson** <Literature>

6. Answer these questions about Zoroastrianism:
1. Zoroastrians use sandalwood to construct and jump over atar, which are sacred forms of these natural phenomena. Water, air, earth, and this phenomenon are the four classical elements.
ANSWER: **fire**s [accept reasonable equivalents like **bonfires**]
2. Zoroastrians traditionally expose their dead in these structures so that bodies may be consumed by vultures, avoiding pollution of earth or fire.
ANSWER: **Towers of Silence** [accept **dakhmas**]
3. Zoroaster wrote the original 17 Gathas in this liturgical language, which is an archaic form of Old Iranian.
ANSWER: **Avestean**
<Religion>

7. **This composer included the movements "La Paix" ("pay") and "La Rejouissance" ("rage-wee-SAWNS") in a suite that celebrated the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle ("ECKS la shah-PELL"). This composer wrote a piece to be played during a procession on the River Thames titled (*)** *Water Music*. George II started the tradition of standing during what composer's "Hallelujah" chorus, which is part of his oratorio *Messiah*?
ANSWER: George Frideric **Handel** <Fine Arts>

7. Answer the following about rivers:
1. These disasters, which name a "plain" surrounding rivers, may come in 100-year or 1,000-year intensities.
ANSWER: **flood**s [accept **flood**plains; accept 100-year **flood**s; accept 1,000-year **flood**s]
2. These features are named for how their triangular shape resembles a greek letter form at the end of rivers, often when they meet the ocean.
ANSWER: **delta**s
3.When river meanders pinch out they may form this type of lake.
ANSWER: **oxbow** lakes
<Science>

8. **As a firm's Lerner index approaches one, this market structure's likelihood increases. High fixed costs and barriers to entry can induce a "natural" type of this market structure, which are legislated against by (*)** antitrust laws. What market structure consists of only one selling firm?
ANSWER: **monopoly** <Social Science>

8. Answer the following about Martin Luther King Jr:
1. Martin Luther King wished for a time where children will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character in this 1963 speech.
ANSWER: "**I Have a Dream**"
2. MLK delivered his "How long? Not long?" speech during marches from Selma to this city. Rosa Parks sparked a bus boycott in this Alabama city.
ANSWER: **Montgomery**
3. Martin Luther King was assassinated by this man while in Memphis at the Lorraine Motel.
ANSWER: James Earl **Ray**
<History>

9. **Years after seeing his friend Hans Hermann von Katte executed, this ruler organized the Fürstenbund. This monarch conquered Saxony, leading to the Third Silesian War. This man invaded (*)** Maria Theresa's lands during the War of the Austrian Succession. What "Enlightened Despot" ruled Prussia in the 18th century?
ANSWER: **Frederick the Great** [or **Frederick II**; prompt on Frederick] <History>

9. Answer the following about the play *"Master Harold"...and the Boys*:
1. *"Master Harold"...and the Boys* is set at the St. George's Park Tea Room in this country's city of Port Elizabeth. The play represents the internal conflicts stemming from this country's system of apartheid.
ANSWER: Republic of **South Africa**
2. This South African playwright of *Boesman and Lena* and *Blood Knot* wrote about Hally and his servants Sam and Willie in *"Master Harold"...and the Boys*.
ANSWER: Harold Athol Lanigan **Fugard**
3. In a climactic scene, Hally tells Sam "You can't [perform an action involving these objects] on rainy days." In a novel, Amir retrieves one of these objects while telling Sohrab "For you, a thousand times over."
ANSWER: **kite**s [accept *The **Kite** Runner*]
<Literature>

10. **This American city's "Shanghai tunnels" led it to be called the Forbidden City of the West. The company Nike is based in this city's suburb of Beaverton. This city's name was chosen by (*)** Maine native Francis Pettygrove after a coin toss. What city, nicknamed "Rose City" and "PDX", is the most populous in Oregon?
ANSWER: **Portland** <Geography>

10. Answer the following about Orson Welles shenanigans:
1. Welles' last film role was voicing a planet in a 1986 animated film in this franchise. Megatron fights Optimus Prime in this franchise.
ANSWER: ***Transformers***
2. Some listeners to Welles' radio adaptation of this H.G. Wells novel thought a Martian invasion was happening.
ANSWER: *The **War of the Worlds***
3. While living in that art colony, Welles befriended the children of Aga Khan III, a "Founding Father of Pakistan" who studied at this school. This school is dubbed a "distant prospect" in a Thomas Gray ode.
ANSWER: **Eton** College [accept "Ode on a Distant Prospect of **Eton** College"]
<General Knowledge>

11. **Plumes of this compound were detected by the Hubble Telescope on Europa, which has a crust made of this compound. In August 2024, the InSight lander determined that this compound may be found between (*)** 10 to 20 kilometers under Mars's surface. What compound, crucial to life on Earth, has formula H2O?
ANSWER: **water** [or **ice**; or **H2O** before mention] <Science>

11. Answer the following about stretchy characters:
1. Elastigirl has stretchy powers in this Pixar movie franchise which features her family as the title superhero group. That family from this franchise includes Bob Parr, who has super strength, Dash, Violet, and Jack-Jack.
ANSWER: ***The Incredibles***
2. Luffy is a character in this anime with stretchy powers who travels with his pirate crew to find the title object.
ANSWER: ***One Piece***
3. Jake the Dog has stretchy powers on this TV show which features his adventures with his adopted brother Finn the Human.
ANSWER: ***Adventure Time***
<Pop Culture>

12. **A song titled for these things by GIRLSET claims "some money on me, I'm like [these things]." Attempting to join two independent clauses with these things results in a (*)** "splice" of them. This punctuation mark joins a dependent and independent clause. A semicolon is made out of a period and what punctuation mark?
ANSWER: **comma**s [accept **comma** splice] <General Knowledge>

12. Answer the following about the Zulu people:
1. This leader of the Zulu, and brother of Dingane ("DIN-gun"), founded the Zulu kingdom.
ANSWER: **Shaka** Zulu
2. Shaka introduced the iklwa ("ick-wa"), a type of this weapon meant for stabbing in melee combat. A longer type of this weapon, the assegai, was also used by Zulu troops.
ANSWER: **spear**s [prompt on polearms; reject "javelins"]
3. The flanks of Shaka's armies would encircle their enemies by moving in a crescent shape, a formation likened to these body parts.
ANSWER: **horn**s [or buffalo **horn** formation]
<History>

13. **A lover of this deity is assisted in sorting grains by a colony of ants, and later opens a box containing Persephone's beauty, causing her to enter a deep sleep. While sleeping, this deity's lover, who is unable to (*)** see him, accidentally scalds him with hot wax. Psyche is the lover of what bow-and-arrow-wielding god of love?
ANSWER: **Cupid** [or **Eros**; or **Amor**] <Mythology>

13. Answer the following about the immigrant Jurgis Rudkis:
1. Jurgis Rudkis chants "[This city] will be ours" during a socialist rally at the end of a 1905 novel. This largest city in Illinois also titles a poem by Carl Sandburg.
ANSWER: **Chicago**
2. Jurgis is among the characters who chant "Chicago will be ours" to end this Upton Sinclair novel.
ANSWER: *The **Jungle***
3. After immigrating from Lithuania, Jurgis works in this industry. Following the publication of *The Jungle*, public outcry against this industry led to the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act.
ANSWER: **meatpack**ing industry
<Literature>

14. **In this country, a female prime minister who led the Awami League resigned in 2024 due to protests on quota reform. This country's current Chief Adviser is a Nobel Peace Prize winner who founded Grameen Bank. (*)** Sheikh Hasina resigned as PM of what South Asian country, which is currently led by Muhammad Yunus from Dhaka?
ANSWER: People's Republic of **Bangladesh** <Current Events>

14. Answer the following about thermodynamic quantities:
1. This quantity, symbolized S, is the measure of disorder in a system.
ANSWER: **entropy**
2. Internal energy plus pressure times volume gives this quantity. This measure of the total energy in a system is symbolized H.
ANSWER: **enthalpy**
3. This quality is possessed by reactions that have a negative value for their Gibbs free energy, indicating that formation of their products is energetically favorable.
ANSWER: **spontaneous** [or **spontaneity**]
<Science>

15. This play opens with the watchman Barnardo asking "Who's there?" at a castle before a ghost appears. Characters in this play include the courtiers Rosencrantz and (*) Guildenstern, and a man who asks "to be or not to be." What William Shakespeare play is titled for a prince of Denmark?
ANSWER: ***Hamlet*** <Literature>

15. Answer the following about the *New World Symphony*:
1. This wind instrument plays melodies from spirituals in the first movement of the *New World Symphony*. This reedless woodwind is a larger relative of the piccolo.
ANSWER: **flute**
2. This composer used American folk melodies, like "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" and "Goin' Home" in his *New World Symphony.*
ANSWER: Antonín **Dvořák**
3. The "Largo" second movement of the *New World Symphony* contains a solo for this instrument, which is larger and pitched a perfect fifth lower than its relative, the oboe.
ANSWER: **english horn** [or **cor anglais**]
<Fine Arts>

16. **One group in this country was financed by the CIA-backed Operation Cyclone. Mohammad Daoud Khan's government in this country was toppled during the Saur Revolution, leading to the rise of the (*)** *mujahideen* resistance. What country in the Middle East invaded by the Soviet Union in 1979 and is governed from Kabul?
ANSWER: **Afghanistan** <History>

16. Answer the following about the Normans:
1. The Normans were led by a "Conquerer" with this name, who was victorious at the Battle of Hastings.
ANSWER: **William**
2. William the Conquerer commissioned one of these artworks named for Bayeux, which depicted a Norman invasion.
ANSWER: **tapestry**
3. The *Catalogus Baronum*, which depicted the Norman invasion of southern Italy, was based on this book with an ominous name, otherwise known as the Book of Winchester. This book summarized the findings of the Great Survey.
ANSWER: ***Domesday*** *Book* [or ***Doomsday*** *Book*]
<History>

17. **Pencil and paper ready. Du Feld wants to multiply together the median and interquartile range of the data set {3, 10, 14, 7, 4, 10, 21, 20}. By sorting the set in ascending order, finding the averages of the middle three pairs, subtracting the first average from the last, and multiplying it by the middle, he finds (*)** what product?
ANSWER: **115** <Computational Math>

17. Answer the following about the equation $y + 10 = -x^2 - 6x$:
1. What is the y-intercept?
ANSWER: **-10** [or **(0,-10)**]
2. What is the axis of symmetry of this parabola? It may help to put the equation in standard form.
ANSWER: **x = -3** [reject "y = -3" or "-3"]
3. Given that the equation can be written as $y = -(x + 3)^2 - 1$ ("negative quantity x plus three close quantity squared minus one"), what is the equation for the directrix of the parabola?
ANSWER: **y = -3/4**
<Computational Math>

18. **In a painting titled for this period of time, a yellow awning dominates the left side of a café terrace. This period of time was depicted "over the Rhone" in an 1888 painting. A church spire and cypress tree were depicted during this title period of time by an artist in an (*)** asylum near Saint-Rémy. What period of time partly titles a Van Gogh painting that depicts stars and the moon?
ANSWER: **night** [accept *Starry **Night*** or *Café Terrace at **Night*** or *Starry **Night** over the Rhone*] <Fine Arts>

18. Answer the following questions about regular octahedra:
1. Their faces are what planar shape that contains only 60-degree angles?
ANSWER: **equilateral triangle** [or **equiangular triangle**; prompt on triangle]
2. How many faces do they have?
ANSWER: **8**
3. Along with the icosahedron, tetrahedron, dodecahedron, and cube, it is one of only five regular polyhedra collectively given what name?
ANSWER: **Platonic solid**s
<Science>

19. **In this city, Fred Shuttlesworth created the Alabama Christian Movement to challenge Jim Crow laws. Addie Rae Collins was among those who died in the 16th Street (*)** Baptist Church bombing in this city, home to commissioner Bull O'Connor. What city's jail did Martin Luther King write a 1963 letter from?
ANSWER: **Birmingham** <History>

19. Answer the following about the answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe, and Everything:
1. The answer is pondered by a computer installed on this planet in the novel *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. A "Journey to the Center of" this planet titles a novel by Jules Verne.
ANSWER: **Earth**
2. The Ultimate Question appears in this author's novel *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, the first of his "trilogy in five parts."
ANSWER: Douglas **Adams**
3. The answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe, and Everything is revealed to be this number. It's not mathematically correct, but Arthur Dent thinks this number is the answer to "What do you get if you multiply six by nine?"
ANSWER: **42**
<Literature>

20. **This quantity equals the square root of the bulk modulus over density, according to the Newton–Laplace equation. Wave drag becomes significant when approaching this quantity, and exceeding it causes (*)** shock waves and a sonic boom. Name this quantity that is equal to Mach 1, which is about 343 meters per second in air.
ANSWER: **speed of sound** [accept **Mach 1** until "Mach"] <Science>

20. Answer the following about the philosopher Immanuel Kant:
1. Kant made important contributions to this subfield of philosophy, which examines morality and goodness.
ANSWER: **ethic**s
2. In one of his books, Kant outlines an idealism described by this word. This word also names an early American literary movement led by Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau.
ANSWER: **transcendental** [accept **transcendental** idealism; accept **transcendental**ism]
3. Kant described this principle, which suggests that one should only act by rules we would apply to everyone, in his *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*. This principle is different from a weaker "hypothetical" version.
ANSWER: **categorical imperative** [reject “hypothetical imperative”]
<Philosophy>

Extras

This ruler was the first to exile Athanasius of Alexandria to Trier. While fighting Maxentius, this man observed a chi-rho and the phrase “in hoc signo vinces” during the Battle of (*) Milvian Bridge, and he executed his wife Fausta. What Roman emperor issued the Edict of Milan and was the first to convert to Christianity?
ANSWER: **Constantine the Great** [accept **Constantine I**; prompt on Constantine] <History>

By finding Cepheid variables in a photo of this system, Edwin Hubble settled the Great Debate between Shapley and Curtis. This is the largest galaxy by volume in the Local Group, and is the nearest to the (*) Milky Way. Name this galaxy, which will collide with the Milky Way in 4.5 billion years.
ANSWER: **Andromeda** Galaxy <Science>

Otto Frisch coined this word's use in physics. This seven-letter noun can refer to the process of rocks splitting on flat planes of weakness. The term "binary [this word]" describes bacterial (*) asexual reproduction. A nucleus splits into two or more smaller nuclei in what source of energy that is often contrasted with fusion?
ANSWER: **fission** <Vocabulary>

Answer the following about John Keats:
1. Keats wrote poems in this genre "to a Nightingale" and "on a Grecian Urn." Pindar wrote poems in this genre to celebrate athletes' victories.
ANSWER: **ode**s
2. Like Lord Byron and William Wordsworth, Keats was part of this British literary movement, which exalted nature and strong emotion.
ANSWER: **Romantic** movement [or **Romantic**s; or **Romantic**ism]
3. A Keats ode describes one of these time periods of "mists and mellow fruitfulness." Haiku poetry uses kigo ("key-go") words to indicate these time periods.
ANSWER: **season**s [or **spring**; or **summer**; or **autumn**; or **winter**; or "To **Autumn**"; or **kisetsu**]
<Literature>

Answer the following about art made in response to World War I:
1. While on the front in Belgium, Paul Nash created *The Ypres* ("eep-ruh") *Salient at Night*, a painting that depicts these places. On the battlefield, "no man's land" was found between these long pits in the ground that troops hid in.
ANSWER: **trench**es [prompt on holes]
2. In a 1917 poster by James Montgomery Flagg, this man, a symbolic character of the U.S. who was popularized in WWI, points at the viewer above block letters that read "I WANT YOU FOR U.S. ARMY."
ANSWER: **Uncle Sam**
3. Ten blinded soldiers walk in a line between groups of war dead in this artist's painting *Gassed.* This American artist caused a scandal in 1880s Paris with his *Portrait of Madame X*.
ANSWER: John Singer **Sargent**
<Fine Arts>

Answer the following about languages spoken in India:
1. Three northeastern states, including Nagaland and Meghalaya ("mayg-HAHL-ee-yuh"), are unique in only having this language designated as official. It was introduced to India by British colonizers.
ANSWER: **English**
2. This language prominent in a namesake "belt" in the country's north is the most-spoken in India.
ANSWER: **Hindi** [accept **Hindi** Belt]
3. Nihali, the only language of India believed to be an isolate, is named for its word for this animal. Two species of this apex predator are named for Bengal and Sumatra.
ANSWER: **tiger**s [or ***Panthera tigris****;* accept Bengal **Tiger** or Sumatran **Tiger**]
<Geography>