THE LONG ISLAND QUIZ BOWL ALLIANCE

Middle School Tossup Set Sample

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1. This man wrote for the socialist magazine *Avanti!* and was the leader of the Republic of Salò puppet state before being executed by partisans in 1945. The March on Rome led to the rise of what Italian Fascist ruler?
ANSWER: Benito **Mussolini** [or Benito Amilcare Andrea **Mussolini**] <History>

2. The protagonist of this series is nicknamed "The Girl on Fire" because of a costume designed by Cinna ("sinna"). Panem is the setting of what series whose protagonist is Katniss Everdeen?
ANSWER: *The* ***Hunger Games*** <Literature>

3. Pencil and paper ready. What is the hypotenuse of a right triangle with legs of length 8 and 15? It may help to use the Pythagorean theorem.
ANSWER: **17** <Computational Math>

4. This game's Hall of Legends, established in 2024, features five-time world champion Faker. In what Riot game do players compete to destroy the enemies' Nexus by controlling champions such as Yasuo and Jinx?
ANSWER: ***League of Legends*** <Pop Culture>

5. This Greek god, the son of Maia, served as Orpheus's guide in the underworld. The lyre was originally given to Apollo by which Greek messenger god?
ANSWER: **Hermes** <Mythology>

6. Temperature in this layer is regulated by the Hadley cell and Ferrel cell. Most of the Earth's water is in this layer, and the majority of weather occurs in this layer. The stratosphere lies above what first layer of Earth's atmosphere?
ANSWER: **troposphere** <Science>

7. This composer wrote an 1847 piece that was inspired by a little dog chasing its own tail. This man also composed etudes nicknamed "Farewell" and "Winter Wind." Name this Polish piano virtuoso and composer of *Fantaisie-Impromptu* and *Minute Waltz*.
ANSWER: Frédéric **Chopin** <Fine Arts>

8. This scientist names a paradox that asks how coral reefs flourish in nutrient-poor waters. This scientist catalogued adaptive radiation by studying the beaks of finches in the Galapagos. Name this scientist who wrote about evolutionary biology in the work *On the Origin of Species*.
ANSWER: Charles **Darwin** <Science>

9. Pencil and paper ready. Amber needs to find the perimeter of a rectangle that has an area of 72 square feet and one side which is 8 feet. By dividing the area by the known side length, she finds the other side, which she multiplies by two and adds to two times the first side length to find what perimeter of the rectangle?
ANSWER: **34** feet <Computational Math>

10. This punctuation mark, also called the "solidus," can be used to write a horizontal fraction bar on one line of text. What non-dash marks can be used to separate months and days in dates, such as in 9/11?
ANSWER: (forward) **slash** [reject "backslash"] <Grammar>

11. This man led the Pottawatomie ("POT-ah-WAH-tah-mee") Massacre during Bleeding Kansas. This man was hanged after surrendering to Robert E. Lee after leading a raid on a West Virginia armory. What bloody abolitionist led a failed raid on Harpers Ferry and shares his last name with a color?
ANSWER: John **Brown** <History>

12. Shaggy light brown hair often covers the eyes of these animals' Highland breed. Other breeds of these animals include the Swiss Simmental, the British Hereford, and the Holstein Frisian. What animals don't actually have to be brown to make chocolate milk?
ANSWER: **cow**s [or **cattle**; accept **bull**s or **steer**; prompt on bovines] <Science>

13. One of these events began with a discovery by "Skookum" Jim in the Klondike region. Another of these events that was centered on Sutter's Mill led Levi Strauss to make a fortune selling durable jeans. "Forty-niners" traveled to an event of what type in California in search of a precious metal?
ANSWER: **gold rush**es [or **gold fever**s; accept California **gold rush** or 1848 **gold rush** or 1849 **gold rush**; accept Klondike **gold rush** or Yukon **gold rush** or Alaska **gold rush**] <History>

14. The Hayden Survey of 1871 described this park's Grand Prismatic Spring. In 1995, gray wolves were re-introduced into this national park, which sits on a large supervolcano. What oldest national park is home to a geyser named Old Faithful?
ANSWER: **Yellowstone** National Park <Geography>

15. This goddess slept with four dwarves to obtain the necklace Brísingamen. Half of all slain warriors go to this goddess's hall, Fólkvangr ("FOLK-vang-gur"). Two cats pull the chariot of what Norse goddess of fertility, love, and beauty, who is the sister of Frey?
ANSWER: **Freyja** ("FRAY-yuh") [or **Freya**; reject "Frey" or "Frigga"] <Mythology>

16. This word titles a 2020 time travel movie starring John David Washington. That movie with this title was directed by Christopher Nolan. What palindromic five-letter word refers to a specific dogma or opinion held by members of a religion?
ANSWER: **tenet** [accept ***Tenet***] <General Knowledge>

17. In 2022, a college football team in this state replaced its Louisiana-bound coach, Brian Kelly, with Marcus Freeman. The universities Purdue and Notre Dame are located in what Midwestern state that is home to many "Hoosiers"?
ANSWER: **Indiana** <Pop Culture>

18. This term can refer to both the measure of complexity in a fractal, as well as the size of a matrix. What term, when referring to the number of coordinates needed to define a point, is two for a circle and three for a sphere?
ANSWER: **dimension**s [or fractal **dimension**] <Science>

19. Pencil and paper ready. In terms of pi, what is the volume of a cylinder with a radius of 5 inches and a height of 4 inches? It may help to remember the equation volume equals pi times radius-squared times height.
ANSWER: **100 pi** cubic inches <Computational Math>

20. Due to phonetic similarity to the word for "getting rich," *fā*, this number is thought to be lucky in China. The Buddhist journey from rebirth to nirvana is summarized as a "path" with this many steps. Name this number that looks like a rotated infinity symbol.
ANSWER: **8** [accept **Eight** Immortals] <Religion>

21. In a 2024 final in this country, County Armagh ("ar-MAH") defeated Galway ("GAWL-way") in its namesake variant of soccer, which was last won by Cork in 2010. What European country is separated from Britain by a namesake sea and has a "Northern" neighbor?
ANSWER: Republic of **Ireland** [or **Éire**; reject "Northern Ireland"] <Geography>

(Note to reader: make a tongue click sound where it says click)
22. The language !Kung ("click kung") includes this punctuation mark in its name as a click symbol. F. Scott Fitzgerald, among others, cautioned against excessive use of what punctuation mark that is used as an interjection or to show emphasis?
ANSWER: **exclamation** mark [or **exclamation** point] <Grammar>

23. Pencil and paper ready. If Jeremy has 3 quarters, 20 pennies, 3 dimes, and 5 nickels, how much money does he have?
ANSWER: $**1.50** <Computational Math>

24. After presenting a signet ring to a kidnapped woman, one of these animals reveals a tattoo of Lord Rama on his heart and burns the kingdom of Lanka. The figures Hanuman ("hah-noo-mahn") and Sun Wukong and are examples of what primates?
ANSWER: **monkey**s [accept the **Monkey** King] <Mythology>

25. This artist, who directed the documentary *Exit Through the Gift Shop*, had a painting of a girl reaching for a red balloon shred itself during an auction at Sotheby's in 2018. The work *Love Is in the Bin* was the idea of what British graffiti artist whose identity is unknown?
ANSWER: **Banksy** <Fine Arts>

26. This color is repeated twice in the title of a Robert Burns poem that compares love to a plant. Chromium impurities in corundum cause this color in a gemstone that is mined in Myanmar, and is July's birthstone. Name this color of many rubies and roses.
ANSWER: **red** <General Knowledge>

27. These people lost the Battle of Nedao under their king Ellac. Flavius Aetius ("ee-TEE-us") and Theodoric allied to oppose these people at the Battle of Chalons ("sha-LON"). Pope Leo I convinced these people to not sack Rome in 452 CE. What nomadic people were led by the "Scourge of God," Attila?
ANSWER: **Hun**s [or **Hunni** or **Chuni**] <History>

28. This monarch was excommunicated after appointing Stephen Langton as Archbishop of Canterbury. This brother of Richard I signed a document at Runnymede in 1215. What English king who was nicknamed for his lack of land signed the Magna Carta?
ANSWER: **John** I [or **John** Lackland] <History>

29. When this singer headlined the 2015 Super Bowl halftime show, a background dancer known as "Left Shark" gained fame for being out of sync. In 2025, this singer was photographed going on dates with Justin Trudeau. Name this pop singer of "California Gurls" and "Teenage Dream."
ANSWER: Katy **Perry** [accept Katheryn Elizabeth **Hudson**] <Pop Culture>

30. Pencil and paper ready. Betty must find the shared root between the equations $x^2 + 15x = -56$ and $x^2 + 4x = 21$. By rearranging the equations to get zero on one side, factoring each equation into two parts, and finding the resultant roots, she finds what shared root?
ANSWER: **-7** <Computational Math>

31. In this novella, the title character talks about the "Great DiMaggio" to Manolin and laments an 84-day streak of failures. A fisherman struggles to bring a huge marlin to shore in what novella by Ernest Hemingway?
ANSWER: *The* ***Old Man and the Sea*** <Literature>

32. A type of these animals endemic to Hawaii is the *nene* ("nay-nay"). A head-knob and good posture characterize the "Chinese" type of these birds, whose males are called "ganders." Which honking waterfowl are larger than ducks but smaller than swans?
ANSWER: **goose** [or **geese**; accept Hawaiian **goose**, greylag **goose**, and Chinese **goose**] <Science>

33. This element was first isolated using electrolysis by Henri Moissan ("on-REE mwah-SAHN"). This most electronegative element on the periodic table is an extremely reactive yellow gas. What element that has one less proton than neon has the symbol F?
ANSWER: **fluorine** [accept **F** before mentioned] <Science>

34. This figure's response of "man" was the correct answer to the Sphinx's riddle. King Laius ("LYE-us") was killed by this King of Thebes, who went on to wed Jocasta. Name this figure who killed his father and married his mother.
ANSWER: **Oedipus** ("ED-uh-puss") <Mythology>

35. The period of these devices is proportional to the square root of length over little g under the small angle approximation. Grandfather clocks exemplify what devices that consist of a mass on a string that swings back and forth?
ANSWER: **pendulum**s [or **pendula**; accept double **pendulum**s or double **pendula**; accept Blackburn **pendulum**s; prompt on simple harmonic oscillators or SHOs] <Science>

36. During an exile from the Massachusetts Bay, this colony was founded by Roger Williams. What colony, whose capital was Providence, lends its name to the smallest U.S. state?
ANSWER: Colony of **Rhode Island** and Providence Plantations [accept **Providence Plantations** before "Providence" is read] <History>

37. This city is home to the wooden mock-up Space Shuttle *Pathfinder*. The Juno 1 was based on a rocket developed in this city by expatriate Wernher von Braun. The Redstone Arsenal is in what Alabama city?
ANSWER: **Huntsville** <Science>

38. A disastrous film adaptation of this show starred Dev Patel as a prince seeking to regain his honor while mispronouncing the protagonist's name as "Ong." Sokka ("SOCK-ah") and Katara take Aang ("ayng") to the Water Tribe in what Nickelodeon animated show?
ANSWER: ***Avatar****: The* ***Last Airbender*** [accept either underlined portion] <Pop Culture>

39. Pencil and paper ready. What is the area of a square with a perimeter of 32 inches? It may help to first find the side length of the square.
ANSWER: **64** square inches <Computational Math>

40. In this state, a flood caused by Tropical Storm Barry resulted in rising water levels of the Guadalupe River. Name this state led by Greg Abbott from Austin.
ANSWER: **Texas** <Current Events>

41. 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**] <Mythology>

42. 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 <Computational Math>

43. 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**] <Pop Culture>

44. 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** <Fine Arts>

45. 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**] <History>

46. 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] <Science>

47. 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***] <General Knowledge>

48. 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] <Science>

49. 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**] <History>

50. 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 <Science>

51. 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** <Computational Math>

52. Yellow crests decorate this animal's "snares" and "macaroni" types. Polished stones are exchanged with potential mates by this animal's "gentoo" ("jen-too") 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 or snares **penguin**s or macaroni **penguin**s or gentoo **penguin**s or emperor **penguin**s] <Science>

53. This poet wrote of his love for Beatrice ("bay-ah-TREE-cheh") 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] <Literature>

54. 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] <Mythology>

55. This lake, which houses Petoskey stones, is home to North and South Manitou Islands. 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** <Geography>

56. 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*** <Literature>

57. 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**] <History>

58. 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 <Computational Math>

59. 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** <Grammar>

60. 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] <Pop Culture>

61. In an opera titled for this figure that contains the "Can-Can," he descends into the underworld after his wife dies. Jacques Offenbach depicted what mythological musician "in the Underworld" trying to convince Hades to free his wife, Eurydice ("yoo-RID-ih-see")?
ANSWER: **Orpheus** <Fine Arts>

62. The Dodd-Frank Act increased insurance coverage limits for these institutions to 250 thousand dollars. That act was meant to help prevent "runs" on what financial institutions, at which consumers can open checking and savings accounts?
ANSWER: **bank**s [accept **bank** runs] <General Knowledge>

63. These things group up near the start of a "cascade" that includes Christmas Factor and von Willebrand Factor. These fragments of cytoplasm form a "plug" as part of hemostasis, which occurs at the site of a cut or wound. What things in blood clump to form a clot?
ANSWER: **platelet**s [or **thrombocyte**s] <Science>

64. In 2025, this brand released the "Better in Denim" campaign, which used the song "Milkshake" and featured the girl group Katseye. What clothing company owns Banana Republic, Old Navy, and its namesake store with a blue block logo?
ANSWER: The **Gap** Inc.<Pop Culture>

65. 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**] <Geography>

66. 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** <General Knowledge>

67. This singer claims "in a room full of people, I look for you" in the song "12 to 12," which appears on his 2025 album *I Barely Know Her*. What artist of "Undressed" asked "How can you look at me and pretend / I'm someone you've never met?" in the song "Back to Friends"?
ANSWER: **Sombr** ("somber") [accept Shane Michael **Boose**] <Pop Culture>

68. Thomas Gray recorded this man's "Confessions," including how a solar eclipse was seen as a sign from God to launch a revolt. Dozens of Black people were killed and hanged in Southampton County, Virginia after what enslaved man led a slave rebellion in 1831?
ANSWER: Nat **Turner** [accept Nat **Turner**'s Rebellion] <History>

69. Wavy lines on Feynman ("FINE-man") diagrams represent these particles that mediate the electromagnetic force. Young's double slit experiment showed the wave-like properties of these particles, which cause the emission of an electron in the photoelectric effect. Name these massless particles, the quanta of light.
ANSWER: **photon**s <Science>

70. A trash-raiding Australian type of these animals are nicknamed "bin chickens." While wading, these birds eat small crustaceans with their thin, downward-curving bills. Which "sacred" wading birds are associated with the Egyptian god Thoth?
ANSWER: **ibis**es [accept scarlet **ibis**es or Australian white **ibis**es or African sacred **ibis**es; prompt on birds] <Science>