THE LONG ISLAND QUIZ BOWL ALLIANCE

State Championship Set Sample

This is a sample, and you may use it freely and without restriction, though it cannot be used for any interscholastic competition, and cannot be used to train Artificial Intelligence models.
For more information or to contact us with questions of any kind, please email Alan@liqba.com or call (631)-360-3724, Extension 2.

It is our sincerest hope that you will enjoy what we have written.

Copyright 2026 Long Island Quiz Bowl Alliance

---

1. **Pencil and paper ready. Marcantonio wants to find the least common multiple of the sixth prime number and the fifth triangular number. He knows that triangular numbers start with 1, then 1 + 2, then 1 + 2 + 3, and so on. By either doing prime factorization on both numbers and multiplying their factors, or by knowing that an LCM involving a prime can be found simply by multiplying the numbers, he is able to find (*)** what LCM?
ANSWER: **195** <Computational Math>

1. Answer the following about Teddy Roosevelt:
1. Roosevelt received a Medal of Honor for leading this cavalry division that charged up San Juan Hill.
ANSWER: **Rough Rider**s [or the **1st United States Volunteer Cavalry**]
2. Roosevelt pioneered this type of diplomacy, named for a proverb which begins "speak softly." This type of diplomacy involves negotiation with the threat of military power.
ANSWER: "**big stick**" diplomacy
3. To carry out his "big stick" diplomacy, Roosevelt established a fleet with this nickname. This fleet circumnavigated the world to project American power.
ANSWER: **Great White** Fleet
<History>

2. **A character from this novel criticizes her sister's suitor for his "listless" reading of a poem, incredulously exclaiming "if he is not to be animated by Cowper!" John Willoughby obtains a lock of hair in this novel while helping a protagonist home after a (*)** rainstorm. The protagonists of this novel move to the cottage in Barton Park. Name this Jane Austen novel about Marianne and Elinor Dashwood, who represent the title characteristics.
ANSWER: ***Sense and Sensibility*** <Literature>

2. Answer the following about cryptids from around the world:
1. Chupacabras are Latin American cryptids known for sucking the blood of these animals. The Dahu is a French creature that resembles a mountainous one of these animals.
ANSWER: **goat**s
2. A cryptid in the U.S. is this red-eyed winged creature that was reportedly first cited in West Virginia in the 1960s.
ANSWER: **Mothman**
3. Jorogumo are Japanese yokai that can appear as beautiful women, but have features of these creatures.
ANSWER: **spider**s
<Mythology>

3. **This substance's low-density amorphous type predominates in space, while it crystallizes hexagonally on Earth. Ogives are alternating light and dark bands of this substance, which can be created by compaction of (*)** firn. Atmospheric gas concentrations and temperature changes are often studied using cores of this substance. Via a namesake "wedging," this substance can mechanically weather rock. What material has a lower density than its corresponding liquid form, water?
ANSWER: **ice** [accept **frost** wedging; accept low-density amorphous **ice**; accept **ice** cores; prompt on water or H2O; prompt on LDA] <Science>

3. Answer the following about recent developments in Iran:
1. In the days right before the start of military operations against Iran, many western governments urged expatriates to evacuate from this other Middle Eastern country, which is predominantly Jewish, for fears of retaliatory strikes.
ANSWER: **Israel** [accept Medīnat **Yisrā'el** or Dawlat **Isrā'īl**]
2. After talks broke down, the U.S. launched military strikes in February 2026 on Iran under this operation.
ANSWER: Operation **Epic Fury** [or Operation **Shield of Judah**]
3. This Iranian President, who is seen as a reformist by some observers, was purportedly a target of U.S. military strikes. However, initial reports from Tehran indicate that the decapitation operation targeting this leader has failed.
ANSWER: Masoud **Pezeshkian**
<Current Events>

4. **The 1972 Basic Treaty was signed in this city to help ease relations between two bordering states. John F. Kennedy said he was a person from this city in a speech against communism. Yevgeny Khaldei took a photograph of the (*)** Soviet flag being raised over a parliament building in this city: that building was the Reichstag. Name this city, whose eastern and western parts were reunified in 1990 after a namesake wall was toppled, the capital of Germany.
ANSWER: **Berlin** [accept East **Berlin** or West **Berlin**] <History>

4. Answer the following about the roots of a polynomial:
1. A "b squared minus 4 a c" term indicates the number of real roots in a formula designed to solve polynomials of this type. These polynomials have the form "a x squared plus b x plus c."
ANSWER: **quadratic** [accept **quadratic** formula; accept answers indicating a polynomial of degree or order two]
2. This theorem states that for a polynomial of degree n, there are exactly n complex roots if counting with multiplicity. This theorem is sometimes named for d'Alembert ("DAL-uhm-bair") and Gauss.
ANSWER: **fundamental** theorem of **algebra**
3. These roots are solutions to the equation x to the power of n equals one. These roots lie on a circle on the complex plane, and the fourth set of these roots includes 1, -1, i, and -i.
ANSWER: roots **of unity**
<Science>

5. **Two elements in this group possess the strongest M+2 peaks in mass spectroscopy. An element in this group was created by bombarding berkelium-249 with calcium atoms and is named after the home of Oak Ridge National Laboratory. These elements are bonded to magnesium in Grignard ("green-YAR") reagents. An element in this group (*)** strengthens hydroxyapatite in enamel, explaining its addition to the water supply. Fluorine is the lightest member of what group of elements located left of the noble gases?
ANSWER: **halogen**s [or **group 17** elements] <Science>

5. Answer the following about collections by Rainer Maria Rilke:
1. A collection of poems in this genre were named for and inspired by Rilke's time at Duino castle. These poetic laments for the dead include one by Thomas Gray "Written in a Country Churchyard."
ANSWER: **elegies** [or **elegy**]
2. A collection of 55 sonnets by Rilke was named for and inspired by this mythical figure. A Jean-Paul Sartre preface to a poetry collection by Leopold Senghor is titled for the "Black" version of this figure.
ANSWER: **Orpheus**
3. Franz Xaver Kappus was the addressee of this set of missives by Rilke, in which he gave advice on how to approach writing poetry. In this collection, Rilke told Kappus that "Nobody can advise you and help you, nobody."
ANSWER: ***Letters to a Young Poet***
<Literature>

6. **This is the name of the virgin-saint executed with her 11,000 companions by the Huns while avoiding marriage to the pagan founder of Brittany. This is the first name of *Forbes'* most powerful woman for the past four years, the current president of the European Commission. A deceased (*)** sci-fi author with this first name wrote "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" ("OH-meh-lahss"), and had the last name Le Guin ("lay GWIN"). What name of the evil witch who steals Ariel's voice in *The Little Mermaid* means "little bear" in Latin?
ANSWER: **Ursula** [accept Saint **Ursula**, **Ursula** von der Leyen, or **Ursula** K. Le Guin] <General Knowledge>

6. Answer the following about rolling a single 20-sided die that has a blank face instead of the number 9:
1. What is the probability that you will roll a 26?
ANSWER: **0** [or **0**%]
2. Given that you roll an odd number, what is the probability that you roll a 1 or a 3?
ANSWER: **2/9**
3. If you roll the die twice, what is the probability that both of your rolls will be cleanly divisible by 3?
ANSWER: **1/16**
<Computational Math>

7. **This novelist wrote *Scribbler Moon* as the first entry in the Future Library project. Two characters reach Campobello Island in this author's Booker Prize-winning novel *The Testaments*. That novel by this author is a sequel to one in which a character plays (*)** Scrabble with the Commander. The patriarchal Republic of Gilead tasks the title characters with childbirth in what Canadian author's novel *The Handmaid's Tale*?
ANSWER: Margaret **Atwood** [or Margaret Eleanor **Atwood**] <Literature>

7. Answer some questions about the Earth's mantle:
1. This thin, outermost solid shell sits above the mantle and comes in continental and oceanic varieties.
ANSWER: **crust**
2. This ductile, partially molten upper-mantle layer beneath the lithosphere is a seismic low-velocity zone that enables plates to decouple and flow.
ANSWER: **asthenosphere**
3. This cycle is the opening and closing of ocean basins through rifting, seafloor spreading, subduction, and continental collision.
ANSWER: **Wilson** cycle
<Science>

8. **An 1868 treaty allowed this tribe's members to return to a territory housing Fort Wingate. During an 1864 event, James Carleton and Kit Carson relocated much of this tribe and its leader Chief Manuelito to the Bosque Redondo Reservation. In 1942, civil engineer Philip Johnston proposed an idea of using this tribe's (*)** language as a code in World War II. What American tribe owns a namesake "Nation" in the American Southwest?
ANSWER: **Navajo** [or **Diné**] <History>

8. Answer the following about the artist Rembrandt van Rijn:
1. Rembrandt is best known for this painting, which depicts the title civil guard of Captain Frans Banning Cocq.
ANSWER: *The **Night Watch*** [or ***De Nachtwacht*** or ***Militia Company*** *of District II under the Command of Captain Frans Banninck Cocq* or *The **Shooting Company** of Captain Frans Banning Cocq and Willem van Ruytenburch*]
2. In this Rembrandt painting, a group of doctors peer at the exposed musculature of a deceased criminal during a surgeon's dissection.
ANSWER: *The **Anatomy Lesson** of Dr. Nicolaes Tulp*
3. Rembrandt's only seascape, *The Storm on the Sea of Galilee*, was stolen from this Boston museum during a 1990 art heist.
ANSWER: Isabella Stewart **Gardner** Museum [accept **ISG** Museum]
<Fine Arts>

9. **A song partially titled for this color claims "this the life of a vandal, masked up, and I'm still in CELINE" and also describes a substance of this color before stating "straight to ya dome like woah, woah, woah." An artist partially named for this color released (*)** "Boy's a Liar." Another song partially titled for this color describes "having wicked dreams of leaving Tennessee" and how "I'm just having fun/on the stage in my heels." What color partially names a Kpop girl group along with the color black as well as a "pony club" in a Chappell Roan song?
ANSWER: **pink** [accept "Pink Venom"; accept **Pink**Pantheress; accept "**Pink** Pony Club"; accept BLACK**PINK**]
<Pop Culture>

9. Answer the following about the first colonial empire:
1. Explorers from this country rounded the Cape of Good Hope, discovered Brazil, and occupied islands including the Azores ("AY-zors"), Cape Verde, and São Tomé ("SOW toh-MAY").
ANSWER: **Portugal** [or Kingdom of **Portugal**; or Reino de **Portugal**]
2. Portugal maintained control of this Indian city and its surrounding territory until 1961, when the government of Jawaharlal Nehru ("juh-WAH-her-lal NAY-roo") invaded and annexed it.
ANSWER: **Goa** [or Velha **Goa**; or Old **Goa**; or Nova **Goa**; or New **Goa**; or **Panjim**; or **Panaji**]
3. Portuguese power over trade from Asia waned after their war with the Dutch, who captured this settlement. The Dutch navigated a body of water with this name to get to their colony of Batavia.
ANSWER: **Malacca** [or **Melaka**; or **Malacca** City or Bandaraya **Melaka** or Kota **Melaka**; accept Straits of **Malacca**; accept **Malacca** Sultanate or Kesultanan **Melaka**; reject "Molucca" or "Maluku"]
<History>

10. **A fugue by this composer has a subject beginning (read slowly) "A, G, (pause), B, G, E" and is part of a suite that also contains a forlane dedicated to the memory of Gabriel DeLuc. A whip opens this composer's *Piano Concerto in G*, and Paul Wittgenstein commissioned his *Piano Concerto for the* (*)** *Left Hand*. *Daphnis et Chloé* is by what French composer who also wrote "one very long, gradual crescendo" featuring a snare drum ostinato in *Bolero*?
ANSWER: Maurice **Ravel** <Fine Arts>

10. Answer the following about the works of Thornton Wilder:
1. This three-act play by Wilder follows Emily Webb's life in Grover's Corners.
ANSWER: ***Our Town***
2. This character narrates *Our Town* and answers questions from the audience.
ANSWER: The **Stage Manager**
3. This novel by Wilder follows a friar who investigates several people's lives after an accident at the title location.
ANSWER: *The* ***Bridge of San Luis Rey*** [reject "The Bridge over San Luis Rey"]
<Literature>

11. This quantity plus the squared bias of the estimator equals the mean squared error. For a binomial distribution, this quantity equals n times p times quantity one minus p close quantity. This quantity is the (*) second moment of a probability distribution. For a random variable X, this quantity is the expected value of X squared minus the square of the expected value of X. What measure of spread equals the square of the standard deviation?
ANSWER: **variance** <Science>

11. Answer the following about wars the British empire fought:
1. While fighting this conflict against the Orange Free State and the Transvaal Republic, the British used concentration camps to stamp out resistance from guerillas.
ANSWER: Second **Boer** War [or Second Anglo-**Boer** War; or **South African** War]
2. This battle outside of Quebec City proved decisive in the North American theater of the Seven Years' War and earned posthumous fame for General James Wolfe.
ANSWER: Battle of the **Plains of Abraham**
3. When asked where the rest of the British forces that retreated from this Asian city in 1842 were, William Brydon replied "I am the army."
ANSWER: **Kabul**
<History>

12. **The poet Virgil wrote that this emperor should be granted "rule of the whole world" because of this emperor's visions of Apollo. This emperor defeated Licinius ("lih-KIN-ee-us") at the Battle of Chrysopolis. It is said that this ruler looked up at the (*)** sky and ordered his soldiers to paint the Chi Rho ("kai ro") symbol on their shields, allowing him to defeat Maxentius at the Battle of Milvian Bridge. Name this first Christian Roman emperor and the namesake of Constantinople.
ANSWER: **Constantine the Great** [or **Constantine I**; prompt on Constantine] <History>

12. Answer the following about osmosis:
1. Osmosis is a special case of this general process in which particles move from regions of high concentration to low concentration.
ANSWER: **diffusion**
2. Osmotic pressure depends only on solute concentration and not identity, making it one of these properties. These properties also include freezing-point depression.
ANSWER: **colligative** properties
3. The rate of effusion of gases through a hole is inversely proportional to the square root of their molar masses according to this law.
ANSWER: **Graham**'s law
<Science>

13. **This country's namesake river meets the Falémé River at its town of Bakel. North Korea built the African Renaissance Monument in this country's capital. Many people who live in this country's Casamance region speak Jola, although the most commonly spoken language is (*)** Wolof. This country's capital lies on the Cap-Vert Peninsula. What African country almost completely surrounds the Gambia and has its capital at Dakar?
ANSWER: **Senegal** [or Republic of **Senegal**; or République du **Sénégal** or Réewum **Senegaal**] <Geography>

13. Identify the following characters from their Marvel Rivals abilities:
1. This assassin, real name Natasha Romanoff, swaps between a sniper rifle and close-range shock batons. She is played by Scarlett Johansson in the MCU.
ANSWER: Black **Widow**
2. This Duelist uses jet-boots to fly around and wields two element guns. His Blaster Barrage ability attacks all nearby enemies.
ANSWER: **Star-Lord** [or **Peter Quill**; accept either underlined portion.]
3. This pop-idol Strategist skates with a speed passive, fires shards that heal allies and damage foes, and uses Absolute Zero to freeze enemies.
ANSWER: **Luna Snow** [accept either underlined portion; accept **Seol** Hee or Seol **Hee**]
<Pop Culture>

14. A prize named for this man will be awarded in June 2026 to the host of *Real Time*. The title character of a novel by this author is saved after he predicts an eclipse. (*) Dan'l Webster is the name of a frog in a story by this author. The Gangerfords and Shepherdsons feature in a novel by this author. Hank Morgan feuds with Merlin in this author's novel *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*. What American author described a raft on the Mississippi in *Huckleberry Finn*?
ANSWER: Mark **Twain** [or Samuel Langhorne **Clemens**] <Literature>

14. Answer the following about the Ohio River:
1. The Ohio river flows through this largest city in Kentucky. This city is home to UPS's hub, and is the hometown of boxer Muhammad Ali.
ANSWER: **Louisville**
2. At Pittsburgh, the Ohio River meets these other two rivers. One of the rivers is named after a national forest in northern Pennsylvania. Name either of them.
ANSWER: **Allegheny** River or **Monongahela** River
3. This tributary of the Ohio River forms the south half of the border between Illinois and Indiana.
ANSWER: **Wabash** River
<Geography>

15. **Ian Hacking calls an assumption this philosopher made in one work, that a certain probability is 1/2, "monstrous." Nick Bostrom posed an experiment about a criminal who forgot his weapon and who tries to mug this philosopher. An argument posed by this thinker, which is opposed by the argument from inconsistent revelations, can be summarized by a (*)** two-by-two decision table, one of whose entries is infinite gain. Name this French philosopher whose *Pensees* contains his namesake "wager" about the existence of god.
ANSWER: Blaise **Pascal** [accept **Pascal**'s wager or **Pascal**'s mugging] <Philosophy>

15. Answer the following about Shakespeare plays set in the Roman empire:
1. This Roman dictator asks "Et tu, Brute?" after being stabbed by Brutus in the Shakespeare play named after him. In that play, this dictator is told to "beware the Ides of March."
ANSWER: **Julius Caesar** [accept either underlined; accept *The Tragedy of **Julius Caesar***]
2. In *Coriolanus*, the title Roman general is encouraged to run for consul by a character with this relationship to him. In *Hamlet*, the title character stabs Claudius after a person with this relationship to him reveals they drank poison.
ANSWER: **mother** [prompt on parent]
3. The title Roman general of this Shakespeare play presents Tamora, the queen of the Goths, as a slave to the Roman emperor. In this play, Demetrius and Chiron ("KY-ron") are baked into a pie that Tamora later eats.
ANSWER: ***Titus Andronicus*** [or *The Lamentable Tragedy of **Titus Andronicus***]
<Literature>

16. **Four-year-old Reese Donatelli was sent death threats by people engaged in this activity accusing her of leading them astray. 90 percent of the activity on the app** (*) Kalshi is related to this activity, which is the subject of several lawsuits accusing it of violating federal laws on this activity. Guardians pitcher Emmanuel Clase ("klahs-AY") was arrested on charges that he threw balls to assist collaborators engaged in this activity. What activity has seen arrests against people fixing games that may involve use of apps like FanDuel?
ANSWER: **sports bet**ting [accept **gambling** or **wager**ing in place of betting; prompt on betting, wagering, gambling] <Current Events>

16. Answer the following about campaigns led by Mao Zedong:
1. Mao Zedong led this Marxist-Leninist ruling party, commonly known by a three-letter acronym.
ANSWER: **Chinese Communist** Party [or **CCP**; or **Zhōngguó Gòngchǎndǎng**; accept **Communist Party** of **China** or **CPC**]
2. This industrialization campaign led to forced collective farming and the creation of People's Communes, and may have led to the Great Chinese Famine.
ANSWER: **Great Leap Forward**
3. This action of humiliation and torture in public of so called "class enemies" was prevalent during Mao's rule, especially during the Cultural Revolution.
ANSWER: **struggle sessions** [or **struggle meetings**; accept **denunciation rallies**]
<History>

17. **Adherents of this religion are guided by right perception, right knowledge, and right faith, the "three jewels" of this religion, and celebrate a different virtue each day during Paryushana ("PAR-yu-SHA-na"). This religion is divided into the Digambaras and (*)** Svetambaras, also known as "white-clad" and "sky-clad" sects, respectively. This religion believes in twenty-four *tirthankaras* ("TERT-unk-ah-ruhs"), and its adherents practice a form of non-violence called *ahimsa* ("ah-HIM-suh"). Name this religion founded by Mahavira.
ANSWER: **Jain**ism <Religion>

17. Answer the following about facts that may not be remembered correctly:
1. Disorders of memory are generally categorized under this condition, which is characterized by loss of ability to recall or encode new memories.
ANSWER: **amnesia** [accept retrograde **amnesia** or anterograde **amnesia**]
2. This seahorse-shaped brain structure plays a central role in consolidating working memory into long-term memory. Patient H.M. had no episodic memory after William Scoville removed this part of the brain.
ANSWER: **hippocampus**
3. This psychologist found that false memories can be created in her "lost in the mall" experiment. She also studied how using descriptors like "hit" versus "smashed" affected participants' recollections of a car accident.
ANSWER: Elizabeth **Loftus** [or Elizabeth Fishman **Loftus**]

<Social Science>

18. **A North Korean-trained "Fifth Brigade" committed a genocide in this country called the *Gukurahundi*. In this country, a "Bush War" ended the reign of a government led by Ian Smith. The Shona ethnic group is dominant in this country. A white supremacist state called (*)** Rhodesia existed in what is now this country. This country was led for three decades by Robert Mugabe. What country is governed from Harare?
ANSWER: **Zimbabwe** [or the Republic of **Zimbabwe**; accept **Rhodesia** before read] <History>

18. Answer the following about optics:
1. This dimensionless quantity of a medium is the ratio of the speed of light in a vacuum to the speed of light through the medium. The quantity affects how much light bends when it passes through a material.
ANSWER: **index of refraction** [accept **refraction index** or **refractive index**]
2. This law relates the angle of incidence and angle of refraction when light passes through multiple mediums. This law relates those angles with the mediums' refractive indices and is named for a Dutch astronomer.
ANSWER: **Snell's Law** [accept **Snell–Descartes law**]
3. This phenomenon occurs when light passes through two mediums and the angle of incidence exceeds the critical angle. This phenomenon results in no light refracting through the second medium.
ANSWER: **total internal reflection** [or **TIR**]
<Science>

19. **If this quantity only depends on starting and ending position when an object is only acted on by one force, that force is conservative. The magnetic force always has a corresponding value of 0 for this quantity due to acting (*)** perpendicular to the direction of movement. The change in kinetic energy equals this quantity by a namesake equivalence theorem. What quantity measured in Newton-meters equals force times parallel distance?
ANSWER: **work** [prompt on energy before mentioned] <Science>

19. Answer the following about the production of Wong Kar-wai's film *Chungking Express*:
1. *Chungking Express* gets its title from a building in this city, where it is set. This city where Bruce Lee did most of his non-Hollywood film work was the birthplace of Jackie Chan.
ANSWER: **Hong Kong** [or **Hong Kong** Special Administrative Region or **Heung Kong** Takpit Hangching Ku; accept **HK**SAR]
2. *Chungking Express* became popular in America after being distributed by this director's company Rolling Thunder. This director known for graphically violent films like the *Kill Bill* movies directed *Pulp Fiction*.
ANSWER: Quentin **Tarantino** [or Quentin Jerome **Tarantino**]
3. The central male characters in both storylines of *Chungking Express* have this occupation. Jackie Chan stars in a series of films titled for this occupation's "Story."
ANSWER: **police** officers [or **police**men or **cop**s or **law enforcement**; accept ***Police*** *Story*]
<Fine Arts>

20. **This artist, who was reportedly obsessed with windows, painted *Rod and Reel* and *Wind from the Sea* using his characteristic egg tempera paint. This artist painted a boy running down a hill in *Winter 1946* after the death of N.C., his father. *Braids* and *Lovers* are two of over 200 drawings he made of (*)** Helga Testorf. A woman crawling in the grass towards the Olson House is the subject of *Christina's World,* a painting by what American artist?
ANSWER: Andrew **Wyeth** [or Andrew Newell **Wyeth**] <Fine Arts>

20. Answer the following about getting a job:
1. Most job applications require either a CV or one of these documents that provides a 1-2 page summary of your education and work experience.
ANSWER: **resume** ("reh-ZEW-may")
2. The Fair Labor Standards Act set the federal minimum hourly wage for non-tipped employees to be this much.
ANSWER: $**7.25** [accept answers equivalent to 7.25]
3. After getting a job, employees will fill out this alphanumeric form so their employer knows how much federal and state income tax to withhold from their paycheck.
ANSWER: **W-4** [accept **Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate**]
<General Knowledge>

TB/Extra. These three letters begin the name of the amino acid with a guanidinium side chain, and give an acronym for complex, multi-level stories like *I Love Bees* and *Cipher Hunt*. These three letters "of z" give an angle phi on the complex plane, and also start the name of the (*) French-named "diagram" synonymous *with* the complex plane. These three letters begin the name of a Latin American country led by Javier Milei. In Greek myth, what three letters come before "o" to name Jason's ship?
ANSWER: **arg**- [accept **arg**inine, **a**lternate **r**eality **g**ame or **ARG**, **arg**ument of z or **arg**(z), **Arg**and diagram, **Arg**entina, or **Arg**o] <Vocabulary>