THE LONG ISLAND QUIZ BOWL ALLIANCE
VHSL Regular Season Sample

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Period 1

1. In this opera, a character vows to love Micaëla (“mee-kah-EH-lah”) after she delivers a letter from his mother. The title character of this opera entertains officers at Lillas Pastia's Inn, where another character introduces himself in the “Toreador Song.” Name this Georges Bizet (“bee-ZAY”) opera whose title character declares that “love is a rebellious bird” in her “Habanera” (“ah-bah-NAIR-ah”).
ANSWER: ***Carmen*** <Fine Arts>

2. This character’s niece Cilghal (“SIL-gal”) once pulled poisonous nanomachines one-at-a-time from Mon Mothma’s bloodstream. This character’s ship, *Home One*, is ambushed by a fleet of Star Destroyers over Endor. This Mon Calamari admiral is the fish-like commander of the Rebel Fleet. What *Star Wars* character once exclaimed “It’s a trap!”
ANSWER: Admiral Gial **Ackbar** <Pop Culture>

3. This compound is produced with sodium chloride in a reaction between hydrochloric acid and sodium hydroxide. Deuterium is used to form a neutron modulator known as the “heavy” form of this compound. Specific gravity is usually defined as a ratio of density to that of this compound, which is known as the “universal solvent.” What molecule has the formula H_2O (“H two O”)?
ANSWER: **water** [accept **H_2O** before read] <Science>

4. In this work, two playing cards with black crosses represent Dr. Rank’s syphilis diagnosis. A character in this play is blackmailed by the “morally sick” character Krogstad, who learns that the protagonist forged a signature to finance a trip. Torvald is left by his wife Nora Helmer at the end of what work by Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen?
ANSWER: *A* ***Doll’s House*** [or **Et dukkehjem**] <Literature>

5. The official residence of this city's mayor is the Manoogian Mansion. This city’s first Black mayor, Coleman Young, oversaw construction of Joe Louis Arena. George Romney sent the National Guard to put down protestors during this city’s Twelfth Street Riot. Henry Ford began his automobile company in what most populous Michigan city?
ANSWER: **Detroit** <History>

6. This structure's basement membrane is embedded with Müller glial cells. This structure's inner limiting membrane separates it from the vitreous humor. This structure's greatest acuity is found at the fovea centralis, which is located within the macula. What structure in the back of the eye contains rod and cone cells?
ANSWER: **retina** [prompt on eyes] <Science>

7. This person argued against one of his accusers by claiming that only horse-trainers improve horses. This person argued to a jury that he deserved to be clothed and fed at the city's expense due to his public service. This person stated that "the unexamined life is not worth living" after being found guilty. What philosopher was executed for corrupting the youth of Athens?
ANSWER: **Socrates** <Philosophy>

8. Along with squaring the circle and trisecting the angle, doubling one of these objects is a classic unconstructible problem. Multiplying the side length of one of these shapes by the square root of three gives the length of their space diagonal. Name this platonic solid that has six equal-sized square faces.
ANSWER: **cube** [or **hexahedron**] <Science>

9. This alum of Whittier College called Helen Gahagan Douglas "pink right down to her underwear." A 1952 speech given by this man is named for the cocker spaniel puppy Checkers. Leonid Brezhnev and this president signed the SALT I Treaty. Gerald Ford succeeded what president, who resigned amid the Watergate Scandal?
ANSWER: Richard **Nixon** <History>

10. In a story by this author, Dexter Green notes the faded beauty of Judy Jones, whom he fell in love with as a child after meeting her at a golf club. In another story by this author, Percy Washington's father attempts to bribe God with the title jewel. What author of "Winter Dreams" and "The Diamond as Big as the Ritz" wrote about Nick Carraway in *The Great Gatsby*?
ANSWER: F. Scott **Fitzgerald** <Literature>

11. A team then-located in this city gave up a 35-3 lead to Frank Reich and the Bills in the 1993 playoffs. A team based in this city gave up 76 sacks in their inaugural season in 2002 while the rookie David Carr was the starting quarterback. The Oilers moved to Tennessee from what city in Texas, where the AFC South's Texans are based?
ANSWER: **Houston** [reject "Nashville"] <Pop Culture>

12. During this country's Academic Crisis, many student organizations were attacked by the PIDE ("PEE-dih") secret police. The Carnation Revolution overthrew a dictatorship in this country called the Estado Novo that was led by António Salazar. An earthquake in 1755 destroyed the capital of what Iberian country led from Lisbon?
ANSWER: **Portugal** <History>

13. This scientist's name is attached to the "problem" of describing the motion of two bodies interacting gravitationally under an inverse-square law. This scientist formulated the law that states a line from a planet to the Sun sweeps out equal areas in equal times. Name this German astronomer who established three laws of planetary motion.
ANSWER: Johannes **Kepler** <Science>

14. This instrument-related word can refer to a type of guardrail placed on a table. This word appears in phrases meaning "a person in a less important role" and "in very good health." This word can refer to handling something anxiously, or to mess with something. What six-letter word is another name for a violin, especially when used to play folk music?
ANSWER: **fiddle** [accept second **fiddle** or fit as a **fiddle**] <Vocabulary>

15. This quantity increased during the Messinian Event, which ended with the Zanclean flood. Endorheic lakes often have a high value for this quantity, which, with temperature, drives a "global ocean conveyor belt." Brackish water has lower values for this quantity than brine. What quantity differentiates freshwater from seawater?
ANSWER: **salinity** [accept answers indicating the **salt** **concentration**] <Science>

Period 2 (Directed Questions)

1A. Subjects purposefully gave incorrect answers regarding the length of a line in an experiment on this behavior. The Asch experiment studied what behavior in which people alter their beliefs to go along with the majority?
ANSWER: **conformity** [accept word forms such as **conform**ing] <Social Science>

1B. On this body of water, a tree log called "Old Man of the Lake" has been floating since 1896. The eruption of nearby Mount Mazama formed what serene Oregon body of water, the deepest lake in the United States?
ANSWER: **Crater** Lake <Geography>

2A. In this city, Peter Paul Rubens painted ceilings for a banqueting hall designed by Inigo ("IN-uh-go") Jones. The architect Christopher Wren designed 52 churches, including St. Paul's Cathedral, in what city after a 1666 Great Fire?
ANSWER: **London** <Fine Arts>

2B. These time periods are represented by works from *The Contest Between Harmony and Invention* that depict a barking dog and brawling tavern goers. Antonio Vivaldi wrote a set of violin concerti depicting what four time periods?
ANSWER: the **season**s [or *The Four **Season**s*; accept answers indicating all of **summer**, **spring**, **winter**, and **autumn** or **fall**] <Fine Arts>

3A. Pencil and paper ready. This is a 20-second calculation question. What is the area of a right triangle with one leg of length 7 and a hypotenuse of length 25?
ANSWER: **84** <Computational Math>

3B. Pencil and paper ready. This is a 20-second calculation question. What is the positive value of x that satisfies the equation $x^2 + x = 30$ ("x squared plus x equals thirty")?
ANSWER: **5** <Computational Math>

4A. Either St. Boniface or this emperor destroyed the sacred Irminsul tree prior to the Massacre of Verden. What emperor, who forcibly converted the Saxons to Christianity, was crowned Holy Roman Emperor in 800 AD?
ANSWER: **Charlemagne** [or **Carolus Magnus** or **Charles I** or **Charles the Great**; prompt on Charles] <History>

4B. To mine silver and this resource, Alexander Spotswood founded the settlement of Germanna. The plating for the CSS *Virginia* was made from what resource, which was formerly produced in Richmond at the Tredegar facility?
ANSWER: **iron** [accept specific types, such as wrought **iron** or cast **iron** or pig **iron**; reject "steel"] <History>

5A. A conflict between these two countries included clashes in the Emerald Triangle and near the Prasat Ta Muen Thom temple. A 2025 border crisis occurred between what two Southeast Asian countries, which are led from Phnom Penh ("puh-NAHM PEN") and Bangkok?
ANSWER: **Cambodia** and **Thailand** [both required; accept in either order] <Current Events>

5B. On *Celebrity Substitute*, this woman sang "you're hurting my brain, I just want to scribble" as a parody of "Leave Me Alone." The albums *Bite Me* and *Snow Angel* are by what singer of "Not My Fault" who starred in the 2024 movie *Mean Girls*?
ANSWER: Reneé **Rapp** <Pop Culture>

6A. This novel's title character is brought to England on the dirt-transporting ship *Demeter*. In this novel, Lucy Westenra is put to rest by Abraham van Helsing after he stuffs her mouth with garlic in what Bram Stoker novel?
ANSWER: ***Dracula*** <Literature>

6B. In this novel, Edgar Derby gets executed for stealing a teapot, to which the narrator responds "so it goes." Billy Pilgrim relives the firebombing of Dresden in what novel by Kurt Vonnegut?
ANSWER: ***Slaughterhouse-Five****, or The Children's Crusade: A Duty Dance with Death* <Literature>

7A. Pencil and paper ready. This is a 30-second calculation question. What is the probability of rolling a product greater than 10 when multiplying the numbers produced from rolling two standard six-sided dice?
ANSWER: **17/36** <Computational Math>

7B. Pencil and paper ready. This is a 30-second calculation question. The numbers a, b, c, d are drawn with replacement from the set {0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9}. What is the probability that ab minus cd is even?
ANSWER: **5/8** <Computational Math>

8A. This figure plowed a field with fire-breathing bulls with the help of his wife. This figure was crushed by the rotting pieces of his ship after abandoning his wife Medea. What leader of the Argonauts searched for the Golden Fleece?
ANSWER: **Jason** [accept **Iason**] <Mythology>

8B. In this language, the sound of rain is called zā-zā, and the sound a dog makes is called wan-wan. What language that is written using kanji, hiragana, or katakana, is widely-spoken in Kobe and Osaka?
ANSWER: **Japanese** [or **Nihongo**] <Foreign Language>

9A. This element names a type of Archean formation that alternates chert with "bands" of this element. Pyrite, or "fool's gold," is this element's sulfide. Hematite ("HEE-muh-tite") is an ore of what metal that has atomic number 26 and the symbol Fe?
ANSWER: **iron** [accept **Fe** before mentioned; accept banded **iron** formations] <Science>

9B. A drug used to treat this disease was discovered by the Chinese chemist Tu Youyou ("too yoh-yoh"). The drugs artemisinin ("ar-tuh-MISS-uh-nin") and quinine can be used to treat what tropical disease that is transmitted by mosquitoes?
ANSWER: **malaria** <Science>

10A. This principle developed by Niels Bohr is applied using the Madelung ("MAD-uh-lung") rule and is violated by chromium and copper. The 1s ("one-S") subshell is filled before the 2s ("two-S") subshell according to what principle, whose name is German for "building up"?
ANSWER: **Aufbau** ("OWF-bao") principle [or **Aufbauprinzip**; accept **building up** principle before mentioned] <Science>

10B. These symbols and commas are commonly used in caesuras, which can mark line breaks when quoting poetry. What symbols, which are used to separate alternatives, are different from a similar "back" version?
ANSWER: forward **slash**es [or **stroke**; reject "backslashes"] <Grammar>

Period 3

1. This actress voiced Goldilocks in *Puss in Boots: The Last Wish* and played Amy March in the 2019 movie *Little Women*. One of this actress's characters calls her sister a "total poser" and helps her destroy the Red Room. What actress played Jean Tatlock in *Oppenheimer* and Yelena Belova in several MCU movies, including *Thunderbolts**?
ANSWER: Florence **Pugh** ("pew") <Pop Culture>

2. A set of these things that span the entire space is called a basis. These objects can be represented using column or row matrices ("MAY-truh-seez"). Multiplying the lengths of two of these objects along with the cosine of the angle between them is equivalent to taking the dot product of two of them. What objects with both magnitude and direction are often contrasted with scalars?
ANSWER: **vector**s <Science>

3. In this country, the commission that produced the Rettig Report was appointed by Patricio Aylwin ("AIL-win"). In this South American country, a Reconquista started when Mariano Osorio won the Battle of Rancagua over Bernardo O'Higgins. A dictator of this country was advised by the Chicago Boys. Augusto Pinochet led what country from Santiago?
ANSWER: **Chile** <History>

4. Works by this artist that were commissioned by Paul Durand-Ruel include *Dance at Bougival* ("boo-zhee-VAL"). Couples are depicted under white lamps in this artist's 1876 painting *Dance at Le Moulin de la Galette*. Gustave Caillebotte ("KAI-bot") appears wearing a straw hat under a red and white-striped awning in what French artist's painting *Luncheon of the Boating Party*?
ANSWER: Pierre-Auguste **Renoir** <Fine Arts>

5. The first excimer laser used an element from this group. Elements from this group are often placed in square brackets when writing electron configurations. This group contains the element in a given period with the highest first ionization energy and lowest atomic radius. What group, whose members have full valence shells and are unreactive, includes krypton, xenon, and helium?
ANSWER: **noble gas**es [or **Group 8A** or **Group 18**] <Science>

6. A speech by this author opens with an anecdote in which a fish asks another fish "how's the water?". This author wrote about a Caribbean cruise in the essay "A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again." In a 1996 novel by this author, a film is so entertaining that people watch it until they die. What postmodernist wrote *Infinite Jest*?
ANSWER: David Foster **Wallace** <Literature>

7. This structure formerly housed 360 idols, one for each day of the year. This structure's Kiswah is changed once every year on the Day of Arafat. This structure must be circled seven times to complete the Hajj. What black and gold stone building in a Mecca mosque serves as the direction of prayer for Muslims?
ANSWER: **Kaaba** [prompt on Masjid al-Haram or Great Mosque of Mecca] <Religion>

8. This process is modelled as moving through molten globule states down an energy funnel. The timescale of this process is much faster than random search, which solves Levinthal's paradox. Chaperonins assist with this process, in which secondary structures such as alpha helices and beta sheets are formed. Name this process in which a polypeptide takes on its three-dimensional conformation.
ANSWER: protein **fold**ing <Science>

9. The contributions to one of these texts by “The Surgeon of Crowthorne,” William Chester Minor, was documented by Samuel Winchester in the book *The Professor and the Madman*. Ambrose Bierce wrote one of these works titled for the devil. Samuel Johnson wrote an early work of what type for the English language that lists words and their definitions?
ANSWER: **dictionary** [or **dictionaries**; accept *Oxford English **Dictionary*** or *The Devil's **Dictionary*** or *A **Dictionary** of the English Language*] <Literature>

10. Applying this function between a set and the empty set returns the empty set, and if this operation on *a* and *b* returns the empty set, then *a* and *b* are disjoint. This operation is represented by an upside-down U. Name this function from set theory that returns the overlapping members of two sets.
ANSWER: **intersect**ion <Science>

11. This president signed into law the Newlands Resolution. This president’s manager Mark Hanna organized a “front-porch” campaign. This president, who annexed the Hawaiian Islands, led the U.S. into a war after the explosion of the USS *Maine*. What president was assassinated by Leon Czolgosz ("CHOL-gus”) in 1901?
ANSWER: William **McKinley** <History>

12. The Volta architecture of these components first introduced tensor cores. CUDA (“KOO-duh”) is a general-purpose API for these components, which give direct access to compute shaders. DirectX is an interface for these devices, which usually have thousands of cores. What components produced by Nvidia were originally used alongside CPUs to render graphics?
ANSWER: **GPU** [or **graphics processing unit**s] <Science>

13. In 2024, a party in this country that promoted the Global War Party conspiracy theory claimed victory, prompting the U.S. to pass the MEGOBARI (“meh-go-BAH-ree”) Act. A charter was created by this country's first female president to unite the opposition against the pro-Russian "Dream" party. What country is currently led by Irakli Kobakhidze (“ee-RAHK-lee koh-buh-KHEE-daze”) from Tbilisi (“tuh-BLEE-see”)?
ANSWER: **Georgia** <Current Events>

14. This quantity is the curl of vector potential. One of Maxwell’s equations states that this quantity’s divergence is zero, due to the non-existence of monopoles. This quantity creates a force on a moving charge perpendicular to velocity. What field measured in teslas is often contrasted with the electric field?
ANSWER: **magnetic field** [accept **magnetic** field after “field”; accept **B**-field or **H**-field] <Science>

15. According to an A.E. Housman poem, malt “does more than [this poet can] / to justify God’s ways to man.” This poet of “Lycidas” (“lee-SEE-dus”) depicted the construction of Pandemonium by a villain who declares “better to reign in hell than serve in heaven.” What blind English poet depicted Satan as an anti-hero in the 1667 epic poem *Paradise Lost*?
ANSWER: John **Milton** <Literature>

Additional Questions

Tossups

1. MPTP destroys neurons that produce this compound. This neurotransmitter is produced by a region of the brain that also strongly expresses neuro•melanin, the substantia nigra. Lack of this neurotransmitter causes shuffling gait and cogwheel rigidity in people with Parkinson's disease. Name this neurotransmitter key to the body's reward system.
ANSWER: **dopamine** [reject "(L-)dopa"] <Science>

2. This prefix can be added to "adaptive" to describe a type of growth-obstructing schema. When this prefix is added to "practice," it describes misconduct by doctors. This prefix can be added to "nourished" to describe a person without enough food, or to "function" to describe a machine breakdown. What three-letter prefix means "bad?"
ANSWER: **mal** <Vocabulary>

3. A song titled for one of these events claims that the singer could "splash around and get you blessed like holy water," and is by Charli XCX. Another song titled for one of these events begins "I hopped off the plane at LAX." A song by Miley Cyrus is titled for what type of festive event "in the U.S.A?"
ANSWER: **party** [or **parties**; accept "**Party 4 U**" or "**Party in the U.S.A.**"] <Pop Culture>

Directed Questions

4. What is the smallest number that has a remainder of 1 when divided by 3, a remainder of 3 when divided by 5, and a remainder of 5 when divided by 7?
ANSWER: **103** <Computational Math>

5. A television ad that premiered in this decade showed a three-year-old girl counting to ten before an explosion and was targeted at Barry Goldwater. In what decade did Lyndon B. Johnson succeed John F. Kennedy?
ANSWER: 19**60s** [or The **Sixties**] <History>