

1. Its incredible cost led President Jefferson to call the project "A little short of Madness," but New York Governor Dewitt Clinton approved 7 million dollars for its construction in 1817. When completed in 1825 it stretched 363 miles and featured over 50 locks. What is this waterway that connected Albany and Buffalo?

Answer: Erie Canal

2. When he was 16, he contributed articles to his brother's newspaper, the *Hannibal Journal*. He and his brother Orion traveled west during the Civil War, and those experiences became the basis for his book *Roughing It* and his short story "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County." Who is this author of *The Prince and the Pauper* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*?

Answer: Mark Twain (Accept Samuel Langhorne Clemens)

3. **Math Calculation:** Ivan just finished his meal at the restaurant and his bill including tax is fifty-five dollars. He wants to tip at 15% of his fifty-five dollar bill. He knows he can do this by calculating ten percent of 55 and adding it to half of itself. If ten percent of 55 dollars is 5.50, what is the amount of tip he needs to pay?

Answer: \$8.25 (accept a total bill of 63.25)

4. Wherever this creature stepped a spring was said to bubble up from the earth. His name likely comes from his ability to control the weather, and he carried the thunderbolts for Zeus. He was drinking at a spring when Bellerophon used a golden-bridle to capture him. Who is this winged horse from Geek Mythology?

Answer: Pegasus

5. It is usually the third brightest object in the night's sky after the moon and Venus. It rotates on its axis about every ten hours, making it the fastest in the solar system. A second great storm formed on its surface in 2000, began turning red in 2005, and has been nicknamed Red Spot Junior. What is this planet more famous for its larger Great Red Spot, the largest planet in our solar system?

Answer: Jupiter

6. He was the youngest player in NBA history to lead the league in rebounds and was also the youngest to average a double-double. The five-foot-nine New York Knick Nate Robinson literally leaped over him to win the 2009 Slam Dunk contest, and he wore a Superman cape when he won the 2008 dunk contest. Earning a record number of votes for the 2009 All-Star game, who is this 6-foot-11 center for the Orlando Magic?

Answer: Dwight Howard

7. Their empire was essentially a federalist system in which the Sapa or the "unique" one ruled over four provinces. Administrators kept track of their provinces by using quipu or a series of knotted strings most likely used for accounting. The four provinces met at the capital city of Cuzco. What is this empire that ruled the Andes Mountains until defeated by the Spanish in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century?

Answer: Incas or Incan empire

8. One of the four great inventions of China, the process for making this material was made by Cai Lun during the Han Dynasty. It was used as cheap alternative to silk and spread from the Muslim world to Europe. Charles Fenerty made it from wood pulp creating the first newsprint centuries after Johannes Gutenberg invented movable type for printing on it. What is this material made from pressed tree fiber, often paired with a pencil for taking notes?

Answer: Paper

9. From roughly 1901 to 1904 he painted somber works, often of blindmen and beggars, but from 1904-1906 his paintings often featured cheery circus performers. Those two periods, known as his Blue and Rose periods, were followed by his experiments in African forms and in Cubism. Who is this prolific Spanish-born painter, perhaps most famous for his painting of the bombing of the Spanish town of Guernica?

Answer: Pablo Picasso

10. An essential element for life, it is found in two amino acids, cysteine and methionine. Some bacteria use a molecule containing it as an electron acceptor instead of oxygen. Found with mercury in cinnabar and with iron in pyrite, it lies between phosphorus and chlorine on the periodic table. What is this bright yellow element with a distinctive smell when burned?

Answer: Sulfur \_\_\_\_\_ HALFTIME (2 Minutes)

11. Mrs. Sowerbury feeds the title character of this novel scraps that the dog refused to eat, and Mr. Bumble, the corrupt beadle, does nothing to improve conditions at the workhouse. After running away to London, he meets Jack Dawkins or the Artful Dodger who enlists him in Fagin's band of child thieves. What is this novel about the sordid life of an orphan child, written by Charles Dickens?

Answer: Oliver Twist

12. Michael Moore's first movie *Roger and Me* criticized this company as did the 2006 documentary *Who Killed the Electric Car* for this company's recall and destruction of its EV1 electric cars in 2003. This automaker's parts are sold as ACDelco and Goodwrench brands, and Opel, Saab, Saturn and Hummer are a few of its worldwide brands. What is this financially troubled automaker better known for making Pontiacs, Buicks, Cadillacs, and Chevrolets?

Answer: General Motors (Accept GM)

13. In 1869 Congress approved 50,000 dollars to deepen the approach to this body of water, and in the 1870s government officials were negotiating with King Lunalilo to use it as a duty-free port. Ford Island in the middle of it was used by both the army and navy to develop military aviation in the Pacific. On December 7, 1941, the Japanese attacked the US naval base on what body of water on the island of Oahu in Hawaii?

Answer: Pearl Harbor

14. A recurring theme in the early part of this orchestral piece is the initial notes of the French national anthem *La Marseillaise* followed by a Russian folk dance theme. Written to commemorate Russia's defense of Moscow against Napoleon, it has nothing to do with American history despite being played at 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations. What is this classical opus by Peter Tchaikovsky featuring cannon blasts and named for the year it commemorates?

Answer: 1812 Overture

15. Robert Hooke was the first to coin this term, when he discovered these structures while examining a sample of cork. He thought that they looked like little prisons, hence leading to the name by which they are known. Two types of these exist, prokaryotic and eukaryotic. What are these structures, the basic building blocks of life, containing a nucleus and various organelles?

Answer: Cells

16. To the south it is bordered by the Sahel, a belt of semi-arid tropical savannah. To the north it is bounded by the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlas Mountains. Extending from the Atlantic Ocean to the west and the Red Sea and Egypt to the east, it is expanding by as much as 30 miles a year. What is this largest hot desert in the world?

Answer: Sahara desert

17. **Math Calculation** The Aztec Theatre in Springfield has a membership plan in which for 30 dollars a year movie-goers pay only 4 dollars for each movie that they see at the theatre. If the regular cost of a student ticket is 6 dollars, what is the minimum number of movies that a student has to attend so that becoming a member will cost less than paying the nonmember rate?

Answer: 16 movies

18. He and his brothers Diego and Bartolomeo were put in chains after reports of his atrocities as governor of Hispaniola spread. Although released from prison and allowed to make a fourth voyage to America in 1502 his reputation in Spain had been tarnished. Born in Genoa but sailing for Ferdinand and Isabella, who was this explorer who reached the New World in 1492?

Answer: Christopher Columbus

19. Her second autobiography *Gather Together in My Name* traces her life from ages 17 to 19 as she fell into poverty as a single mother. In 1993, she read her poem "On the Pulse of Morning" at Bill Clinton's inauguration. Who is this author whose first book chronicled the first 16 years of her life and is titled *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*?

Answer: Maya Angelou

20. In addition to Earth, Mars and Venus exhibit this phenomenon. On the moon Titan, this phenomenon is reversed since the atmosphere absorbs solar radiation but emits infrared radiation from its surface. It is caused by certain gases like carbon dioxide that absorb infrared rays and trap heat close to the earth's surface. What is this effect named for a glass building in which plants are grown?

Answer: Greenhouse Effect

1. Answer the following about materials and how electrons flow through them.
  - A. Electrons flow easily through this type of material. Copper and silver are among the best.  
Answer: conductors
  - B. In this type of material, electrons have little freedom to move around which slows the flow of energy. Examples include glass and wood.  
Answer: insulators
  - C. When cooled at extremely low temperatures, certain conductors are given this name when they achieve perfect conductivity.  
Answer: Superconductors
  
2. It was written in only twenty-four days in 1741, and its libretto was taken from fragments of verses from the King James Bible...
  - A. What is this famous oratorio often played and sung in churches and concert halls during the Christmas season.  
Answer: The Messiah
  - B. This German-born composer wrote *The Messiah* as well as *Water Music* and *Music for the Royal Fireworks*.  
Answer: George Frideric Handel
  - C. This "chorus" is the most famous movement of *The Messiah*. Traditionally the audience stands during this movement and sings along.  
Answer: "Hallelujah Chorus"
  
3. The highlight of every season of American Idol, for the winner at least, is the overly schmaltzy and quasi-inspirational finale song the winner sings after he or she is announced. Given the finale song, name the idol who sang it.
  - A. The first winner, she sang "A Moment Like This"  
Answer: Kelly Clarkson
  - B. The winner of season six, she sang "This is My Now"  
Answer: Jordin Sparks
  - C. Season five's winner, he sang "Do I Make You Proud?"  
Answer: Taylor Hicks
  
4. Name the following Mediterranean islands.
  - A. Located off the coast of Italy and with its capital at Palermo, this is the largest island in the Mediterranean.  
Answer: Sicily
  - B. This fifth largest Mediterranean island's current capital is Heraklion, but it is better known for the ancient Minoan city of Knossos.  
Answer: Crete
  - C. This island is the largest of the seven islands that make up its namesake nation, and the nation's capital city Valetta is located on this island's eastern coast.  
Answer: Malta
  
5. Answer the following about the ancient city-state of Babylon for ten points each.
  - A. This "wonder" of the ancient world may have been a series of rooftop gardens or perhaps a figment of poetic imagination.  
Answer: Hanging Gardens of Babylon
  - B. The Hanging Gardens are thought to have been built by this Babylonian ruler who is mentioned in the Bible. Saddam Hussein often claimed to be a reincarnation of him.  
Answer: Nebuchadnezzar II or the Great (Accept reasonable pronunciations)
  - C. Also constructed by order of Nebuchadnezzar, this fabulous blue gate named for a Babylonian goddess has been reconstructed in a Berlin museum.  
Answer: Ishtar Gate

6. Answer the following about cubes. You have 15 seconds for each part.
- A. How many faces does a cube have?  
Answer: 6
- B. If one of the sides of the cube measures 2 meters, what is the surface area of the cube?  
Answer: 24 square meters
- C. What is the volume of a cube with a single face area of 36 square meters?  
Answer: 216 cubic meters
7. Answer the following questions about our captain's favorite thing, rocks, for ten points each.
- A. Obsidian and pumice are this kind of rock.  
Answer: Igneous
- B. Igneous rocks form when this substance cools and hardens.  
Answer: Lava (prompt on magma)
- C. Ancient Egyptians used this other fine-grained igneous rock for such things as sarcophagi. Today it is most commonly used in highway construction and asphalt.  
Answer: Basalt
8. Identify the following terms associated with good writing for 10 points each.
- A. Any persuasive paper should have one of these statements of that clearly and succinctly presents the paper's argument.  
Answer: Thesis Statement (Prompt on "Main idea")
- B. Each paragraph in a persuasive paper should contain one of these sentences that organizes a paragraph and makes a claim related to the thesis.  
Answer: Topic Sentence
- C. Longer papers need to have plenty of these words or phrases that serve as bridges to connect all parts of the paper together, to move the paper forward, and to link the topic sentences to each other and to the thesis.  
Answer: Transitions
9. Sometimes regarded as the first novel in English, it is based on the story of Scottish sailor Alexander Selkirk.
- A. Published in 1719, this novel is a fictional autobiography of a castaway stuck on an island for 28 years.  
Answer: Robinson Crusoe
- B. Name the author of *Robinson Crusoe* who also wrote *Moll Flanders* and *A Journal of the Plague Year*?  
Answer: Daniel Defoe
- C. In the novel, Robinson Crusoe helps free this native, teaches him English, and gives him a name based on the day of the week in which was freed.  
Answer: Friday or Man Friday
10. After the discovery of gold, merchant Samuel Brannan set up a store for prospectors and proclaimed, "Gold from the American River!" Answer the following..
- A. The discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill changed the landscape of this western territory and later US state.  
Answer: California
- B. Although the discovery happened the previous year, the nearly 90,000 people from around the world who flocked to California hoping to strike it rich were given this nickname.  
Answer: 49ers
- C. After coming to California during the Gold Rush, Edward Hargraves noticed similarities in California's geography and that of his home country. Name that country where Hargraves started another gold rush in 1851.  
Answer: Australia

11. Answer the following about the French painter Claude Monet.
- A. Along with Manet, Renoir, and others, Monet was a founder of this movement in painting which valued a person's perceptions of nature rather than the thing itself.  
Answer: Impressionism
- B. Painted in a field near Monet's home in Giverny, this series of paintings of objects in a field after the harvest shows Monet's use of light across different times of day and seasons.  
Answer: Haystacks or Wheatstacks
- C. Monet is perhaps best known for this series of 250 flowery paintings which he created during the last 30 years of his life.  
Answer: Water Lilies
12. Answer the following related math problems. You have 15 seconds per part.
- A. The sum of three consecutive integers is 66. What are they?  
Answer: 21, 22, and 23
- B. The sum of two consecutive integers divided by 3 is 71. What are they?  
Answer: 106 and 107
- C. The product of two consecutive even integers is 50 more than three times the larger integer. What are the two integers?  
Answer: 8 and 10
13. Answer the following about the largest organ in the human body, skin.
- A. Skin is part of this organ system that also includes hair and nails.  
Answer: Integumentary System
- B. What name is given to the top or outer layer of skin? This layer contains many protein fibers that give the skin tough, protective qualities.  
Answer: Epidermis
- C. The epidermis contains this pigment which gives skin color, allows it to tan, and causes freckles.  
Answer: Melanin
14. Identify these works by English science fiction writer H.G. Wells for 10 points each.
- A. The protagonist of this short Wells novel is not named, but he creates a device that travels back and forth in the fourth dimension and meets the Eloi and the Morlocks in the process.  
Answer: The Time Machine
- B. In this Wells short story, a man named Nunez discovers a lost country and tries to become king, but the village elders suggest that Nunez's eyes be removed because they are affecting his brain.  
Answer: "The Country of the Blind"
- C. This other short Wells novel describes an invasion by Martians using tripod war machines. Orson Wells famously caused an uproar when he adapted it for radio in 1938.  
Answer: The War of the Worlds
15. Answer the following about the Constitutional Convention for ten points each.
- A. The Constitutional Convention was held in Independence Hall in this city which was also the first capital of the United States.  
Answer: Philadelphia
- B. This man is considered the "father of the Constitution" for his work both inside the convention as its principal author and for writing over a third of the influential *Federalist Papers*.  
Answer: James Madison
- C. Not everyone agreed on the need for a new constitution, however. This Virginian, more famous for saying "Give me liberty or give me death," was an anti-federalist who said he "smelled a rat."  
Answer: Patrick Henry

16. Answer the following about an important religious text.
- The central religious text of Islam, this book contains 114 surahs or chapters and is meant to be read and recited in Arabic.  
Answer: The Koran or Qur'an
  - Muslims believe that the Qur'an is God's revelation to this prophet and founder of Islam  
Answer: Muhammad
  - Islam holds that the Qur'an was revealed to Muhammad by this angel who also appears in the book of Daniel in the Bible and later foretells of the births of Jesus and John the Baptist.  
Answer: Gabriel or Jibril
17. Identify these leadership positions in the US Congress for ten points each.
- This position, currently held by Joe Biden, only casts a vote when there is a tie in the Senate.  
Answer: Vice President or President of the Senate
  - This position, currently held by Nancy Pelosi, is second in the line of presidential succession after the Vice President and works to set the legislative agenda of the majority party.  
Answer: Speaker of the House of Representatives
  - Third in the line of succession to the Presidency and current held by Robert Byrd of West Virginia this position is traditionally given to the oldest member of the majority party.  
Answer: President Pro Tempore of the Senate
18. Although the weather isn't always a great topic of conversation, you'll need to answer the following questions on meteorology if you want to get any points.
- This is defined as a boundary between two different air masses differing in densities.  
Answer: Front (do not accept warm/cold/occluded front or anything other than just "front")
  - In this kind front is often depicted as a blue line with blue triangles pointing in the direction of travel.  
Answer: Cold front
  - In this kind of front, two air masses are unable to move the other, and this can possibly develop into a shear line.  
Answer: Stationary front
19. Identify these types of poems.
- This kind of poem is typically 14 lines long and may be Shakespearean or Spenserian.  
Answer: Sonnet
  - This kind of poem was an ancient lyrical form that was adapted in poems such as Shelley's "to the West Wind" and Keat's one "To a Nightengale."  
Answer: Ode
  - This kind of poem laments a death. One of the most famous example's is Thomas Gray's one "written in a country churchyard."  
Answer: Elegy
20. Answer the following about the National Socialist German Worker's Party, for 10 points each.
- Growing out of smaller political groups following World War One, by what name is the National Socialist German Worker's party usually known?  
Answer: Nazi Party
  - The Nazi party united around this symbol, which had been previously seen as a symbol of luck, but for the Nazis represented the Aryan race.  
Answer: Swastika
  - Although they called themselves socialist, the Nazis are considered to have had this political ideology which placed the nation and race above the individual and is often associated with totalitarian dictators.  
Answer: Fascism or Fascist (Prompt on dictatorship)