

John's Complete Questions Packet #8 (Medium)

Toss-Ups

1. Deciphered 155 years after its last entry, the bulk of this six- volume manuscript was written in shorthand using Shelton's system of tachygraphy, although the parts involving the author's sex life were written in an even more-complicated code invented by the author himself. FTP, identify this work begun on New Year's Day 1660 and abandoned on account of the author's failing eyesight in 1669.

Answer: The Samuel Pepys Diary

2. Its first nominee was James Black, who won about 10,000 votes in 1872, and it has run a candidate in every presidential election since, making it by far the most durable third party in American history. However, its popularity has been steadily declining since 1892, when it peaked at about 300,000 votes, and it has been virtually irrelevant since 1919, the year of its greatest political triumph. FTP, name this single-issue party, the driving force behind the Eighteenth Amendment.

Answer: The _Prohibition_ Party

3. The first machine to make use of these was the Jacquard loom, an automatic weaving machine invented in 1801, but it was not until the 1890 U.S. census that they were first used to process data. FTP, what are these 7 3/4" by 3 1/4" stiff paper objects, which were used to program the earliest computers?

Answer: _Punch cards_

4. His real name was Erasmus, and there are two versions of how he came by his claim to fame: the first simply says that he liked to preach outdoors in violent thunderstorms, while the second claims that the Romans dipped him in pitch, rolled him in canvas, and lit him up as a human torch. FTP, name this saint whose "fire" is the electrical phenomenon sometimes seen around the masts of ships during storms.

Answer: St. _Elmo_

5. In Italian, it literally means "little worms," a fact that you might not want to think too much about the next time you sit down before a hearty bowl of Rice-a-Roni. FTP, what is this pasta noodle, which is thinner than spaghetti but not quite as thin as capellini?

Answer: _Vermicelli_

6. Discovered in the nineteenth century by amateur naturalist William Legrand, this insect of order Scarabaeus is about the size of a hickory-nut, is characterized by a glossy yellow color and three black spots which give it the appearance of a death's head, and is perhaps most remarkable for its role in helping its discoverer find the hidden treasure hoard of Captain Kidd. FTP, name this beetle native to Sullivan's Island, South Carolina, the title character of an Edgar Allan Poe short story.

Answer: The Gold Bug

7. During the 1914 season, the Cleveland's American League franchise briefly changed their nickname from "Indians" to this, and had it stuck, they would have been the only franchise in American sports to be named for a terrorist movement. FTP, name this violent group of Pennsylvania coal miners, an organization that had been crushed by Pinkerton agents in the late 1870s.

Answer: The _Molly Maguires_

8. Invented by Alec Jeffreys of the University of Leicester, it was first used in 1988 to solve an English rape-murder. It remains controversial, however, owing to alleged flaws such as band shifting and the possibility of VNTR polymorphism. FTP, name this evidentiary tool prominent in the O.J. Simpson criminal trial.

Answer: _DNA fingerprinting_

9. His musical career spanned an unparalleled ten decades, beginning in 1839, when he composed his first piano etudes, and ending in 1921, when he conducted his last concert. FTP, name this very long-lived French composer, whose works in between include the opera "Samson and Delilah," the tone poem "Danse Macabre," and "Carnival of the Animals."

Answer: Camille _Saint-Saens_

10. His first film was "Party at Kitty and Stud's," a 1972 soft-core adult movie, and he made his mainstream debut the next year with an uncredited role as a mugger in Woody Allen's "Bananas." FTP, name this actor, whose pornographic debut was later re-released under the title "The Italian Stallion."

Answer: Sylvester _Stallone_

11. This writer lived in the late fourteenth century, probably in the west Midlands, and may or may not have written "The Legend of St. Erkenwald." Other than this, the only thing we know about him (or her) is that he wrote four other works that are preserved in a single manuscript, three of which are "Patience," "Purity," and "Sir Gawain and the Green Knight." FTP, name this anonymous poet, known only by the title of his first work.

Answer: The Pearl Poet (acc: The Gawain Poet, if answered early)

12. In Spain, they were called Flamencos, because they were thought to have come from Flanders. For similar reasons, they were called Bohemians in France, and in England, they were called Egyptians, from which one of their modern names derives. FTP, name this ethnic, actually from India, which has faced constant discrimination ever since it first wandered into Europe in the early sixteenth century.

Answer: _Romany_ or _Gypsies_

13. According to Dave Barry, the fastest animal on earth is a cow that has been dropped out of a helicopter. Ignoring wind resistance, if it takes ten seconds for the cow to hit the ground, what, FTP, will be the cow's final velocity be upon impact?

Answer: 98.1 m/s (accept 98) or 320 feet/sec.

14. After raising an army of monkeys, he conquered Sri Lanka in order to rescue his kidnapped bride Sita from the evil king Ravana, then threw Sita on a bonfire to test her chastity. She survived, though, and everybody except Ravana lived happily ever after. FTP, name this king of Ayodhya and title character of a Hindu epic.

Answer: Rama

15. Known technically as an operant conditioning chamber, it is a sealed capsule consisting of an electrified floor, which can deliver shocks to the subject, and a lever, with which can dispense food pellets. FTP, name this device for observing the learning process of small animals, invented by and popularly named for the father of behaviorism.

Answer: The _Skinner Box_

16. Parodizing the genre of the didactic elegy, it contains poems on such topics as how to sexually gratify yourself in a crowded stadium and how to keep your mistress' husband from finding out about you, as well as an extended discussion on why heterosexuality is better than homosexuality. FTP, name this sexually graphic how-to book which helped get Ovid banished from Rome for obscenity.

Answer: The Art of Love (Ars Amatoria)

17. In 1978, representatives of an Arabian corporation known as Abdul Enterprises swept Washington, offering to buy political favors for cash. Six members of Congress took the bait, including Senator Harrison Williams of New Jersey, only to be thrown into prison when Abdul turned out to be an FBI sting operation. FTP, name this political scandal of the late seventies, whose name is a contraction of "Abdul scam."

Answer: Abscam

18. Its chemical properties lie between manganese and rhenium, and the first samples of it were produced in 1937 by Perrier and Segre, who bombarded molybdenum with deuterons. FTP, name this radioactive transition element, whose name is Greek for "artificial," and which was the first synthetic element to be discovered.

Answer: _Technetium_

19. Had he died of the mysterious illness that nearly killed him at the age of fifty, it is likely that he would be remembered (if at all) only for the tapestry cartoons he painted for Spain's royal palaces. It was only after his recovery from this illness, which left him deaf and possibly insane, that he produced most of his great masterworks, which include many innovative portraits and a gory series of engravings about Napoleon's invasion of Spain. FTP, name this artist of _Caprichios_, _The Black Paintings_, and _The Third of May, 1808_.

Answer: Francisco de _Goya_

20. The show never really recovered from the infamous "Moldavian massacre" season finale of 1985, in which its lead characters were apparently all killed by terrorists, only to emerge unharmed the next fall. FTP, name this TV ratings champ of the early eighties, which featured Heather Locklear, John Forsythe, Linda Evans, and Joan Collins.

Answer: _"Dynasty"_

John's Complete Questions Packet #6 (Medium)

Bonuses

30 POINT BONUS

1. Identify the authors. Fifteen points if you can get them from the name of a work, ten if you need a second clue about them.

1. (15 point clue) A House for Mr. Biswas (10 point clue) Born in Trinidad of Indo-Asian descent, he is a perennial front-runner for the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Answer: V.S. Naipual

2. (15 point clue) The Great Weaver from Kashmir (10 point clue) As of early 1997, this Icelandic novelist is the oldest living winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Answer: Halldor Laxness

30 POINT BONUS

2. For fifteen points each, identify these battles lost by the Teutonic knights.

1. Fought near the city of Pskov on April 5, 1240, this battle halted the knights' invasion of Russia and is the subject of the film "Alexander Nevsky."

Answer: Lake Peipus or Chudskoye Ozero

2. The battle which effectively finished off the knights as a political force, this crushing 1410 loss to Poland shares its name with another famous battle fought 504 years later.

Answer: Tannenberg

30 POINT BONUS

3. For the stated number of points, identify these pioneers of the science of anatomy.

1. 5 pts: His "De Humani Corporis Fabrica" of 1543 was the first textbook on medicine since Galen.

Answer: Andreas Vesalius

2. 10 pts: He did important work on cranial nerves and inner ear, but is better known because of the uterine tubes which bear his name.

Answer: Gabriello Fallopio

3. 15 pts: The discoverer of the valves in veins, this protege of Fallopio made the first detailed studies of fetal development.

Answer: Hieronymus Fabricius

30 POINT BONUS

4. Identify the object, 30-20-10.

1. It is mentioned in the Natural History of Pliny the Elder, who reports that it was created by the team of Athenodorus, Polydorus, and Agesander.
2. Lost for over a millenium, it was rediscovered in 1506 by workers excavating the ruins of Nero's Esquiline Palace.
3. Considered the masterpiece of ancient Roman art, this naturalistic marble sculpture shows a large snake strangling a Trojan priest and his two sons.

Answer: Laocoon

25 POINT BONUS

5. The academy award for best picture has not always gone to what was actually that year's best picture. Given a great film that did not win the award for best picture, name the less-deserving film that did that year. Five points each.

1. "Citizen Kane"

Answer: "How Green Was My Valley"

2. "It's a Wonderful Life"

Answer: "The Best Years of Our Lives"

3. "Dr. Strangelove"

Answer: "My Fair Lady"

4. "2001: A Space Odyssey" "Oliver!"

5. "Plan 9 from Outer Space"

Answer: "Ben-Hur"

30 POINT BONUS

6. Gabriel Garcia Marquez has written many of literature's best- ever opening lines. Edward Bulwer-Lytton wrote many of the worst. For ten points each, given an opening line that is by either Garcia Marquez or Bulwer-Lytton, identify the novel. (NOT the author, which should be patently obvious in every case).

1. "It was inevitable: the scent of bitter almonds always reminded him of the fate of unrequited love."

Answer: Love in the Time of Cholera

2. "'Ho, Diomed, well met! Do you sup with Glaucus to-night?' said a young man of small stature, who wore his tunic in those loose and effeminate folds which proved him to be a gentleman and a coxcomb."

Answer: The Last Days of Pompeii

3. "Many years later, as he faced the firing squad, Colonel Aurelio Buendia was to remember that distant afternoon when his father took him to discover ice."

Answer: One Hundred Years of Solitude

30 POINT BONUS

7. For the stated number of points, answer these questions about the end of the Manchu dynasty in China.

1. First, for five: name China's last emperor.

Answer: Henry Pu Yi or Hsuan Tung

2. Second, for ten: name the year in which the infant Pu Yi was deposed, or name it within two years for five points.

Answer: 1912

3. For five: name the founder of the revolutionary Kuomintang party, who served as the country's provisional leader for one month in 1912.

Answer: Sun Yat-Sen

4. For ten: name the first president of the Chinese republic, whose attempted coup and sudden death in 1916 accelerated the disintegration of the country.

Answer: Yuan Shih-K'ai

30 POINT BONUS

8. Not counting the prototype Enterprise, there have been five American Space Shuttles. For five points each, name them, with an additional five-point bonus for putting them in chronological order according to when they were first launched into space.

Answer: (from earliest to latest) Columbia, Challenger, Discovery, Atlantis, Endeavor

30 POINT BONUS

9. For the stated number of points, identify these ancient cities which were located in what is now Turkey. (You must give the ancient names, since the author of these questions is too lazy to look up their Turkish equivalents).

1. 5 pts: Located near the extreme southern end of Anatolia's Aegean coast, this home city of Herodotus was the site of a famous Mausoleum.

Answer: Halicarnassus

2. 10 pts: the largest city on the Aegean during Roman days, it faces the island of Patmos and is the traditional burial place of St. John.

Answer: _Ephesus_

3. 15 pts: Name any one of the two cities built on either side of the entrance to the Hellespont, between which the mythological lover Leander would swim every night.

Answer: _Sestos_ or _Abydos_

30 POINT BONUS

10. Identify the actor, 30-20-10.

1. Born in 1936, his big break came with a role in Broadway's "The Owl and the Pussycat," and his first starring movie role was 1969's "Jenny," in which he played the draft-dodging, wife-beating husband of Marlo Thomas.

2. In recent years, he has made frequent appearances in Woody Allen movies, including "Crimes and Misdemeanors," "Everyone Says I Love You," and "Manhattan Murder Mystery." Other films since 1983 include "Betsy's Wedding" and "Sweet Liberty."

3. He is best known for the eleven years he spent as Hawkeye Pierce on TV's "M*A*S*H."

Answer: Alan _Alda_

30 POINT BONUS

11. This bonus will be about particularly nasty ways to die. For ten points each, name the characters of legend who die in the ways described.

1. At the battle of Roncevalles, he blows his trumpet so hard that his head explodes.

Answer: Roland

2. After rejecting the advances of a lusty Roman, this virgin and martyr is given an on-the-spot double mastectomy, before being burned, flogged, beheaded, etc. In medieval art, she is often depicted carrying her severed breasts on a silver platter.

Answer: St. Agatha

3. Her great-great grandson rips her lower jaw off, then kills her by shooting an arrow down her exposed throat. After her death, her body is ripped in two and used to build earth and sky.

Answer: Tiamat

30 POINT BONUS

12. For ten points each, name these shrinking legislative bodies of seventeenth-century England.

1. Summoned in 1640, it remained in power (at least in theory) throughout the civil war and commonwealth periods, and was not replaced until 1660.

Answer: The Long Parliament

2. In 1648, Pride's Purge removed the Presbetyrian faction from the Long Parliament, leaving this smaller assembly in power.

Answer: The Rump

3. By 1653, even the Rump was showing some signs of independence, and so its members were purged yet again, leaving only this small, mindlessly pro-Cromwell faction.

Answer: The Barebones Parliament

30 POINT BONUS

13. Integrate the following functions, ignoring any constants added to them. Ten points each.

1. $\tan x \, dx$ (tangent of $x \, dx$)

Answer: $\ln(|\sec x|)$ (natural log of the absolute value of the secant of x)

2. $\cos^2 x \, dx$ (cosine squared of $x \, dx$)

Answer: $\frac{1}{2} x + (\sin 2x)/4$

3. $x \sin x \, dx$ (x times sine of $x \, dx$)

Answer: $\sin x - x \cos x$

30 POINT BONUS

14. For ten points each, name these characters from the Book of Genesis.

1. The son of Jared, he was the first man after Abel to die.

Answer: Enoch

2. He was the father of Abraham.

Answer: Terah

3. This son of Judah was struck dead by God for "wasting his seed on the ground."

Answer: Onan

30 POINT BONUS

15. Time for another exciting round of "geography from hell." For ten points each, identify the following places.

1. It is the smallest but most famous of the Iles du Salut, lying about 27 miles northwest of Cayenne.

Answer: Devil's Island

2. The first National Monument in the U.S., this 600-foot-tall natural obelisk lies near the Belle Fourche river in northeastern Wyoming.

Answer: Devil's Tower

3. Roughly speaking, it is bounded by the Wallowa Mountains, the Blue Mountains, and the Salmon River Mountains. Also the name of a National Recreation Area, it forms the part of the Idaho-Oregon border.

Answer: Hell's Canyon

30 POINT BONUS

16. For ten points each: given the second, third, and fourth lines of an Emily Dickinson poem, supply the more well-known first line.

1. ... From tankards scooped in pearl/ Not all the vats upon the Rhine/ Yield such an alcohol.

Answer: I taste a liquor never brewed

2. ... Are you Nobody, too?/ Then there's a pair of us-- don't tell!/ They'll banish us, you know.

Answer: I'm Nobody! Who are you?

3. ... He kindly stopped for me./ The carriage held but just ourselves/ And Immortality

Answer: Because I could not stop for Death

30 POINT BONUS

17. For five points each, given a modern city, identify the European power that possessed it (or its future site) in the year 1648, after the signing of the Peace of Westphalia.

1. Antwerp

Answer: Spain

2. Budapest

Answer: Ottoman Empire or Turkey

3. Dubrovnik, Croatia

Answer: Venice

4. Philadelphia, PA

Answer: Sweden

5. Riga, Latvia

Answer: Sweden