

French Toast

Questions by Michael Witry, Lindsay Jones, Tim Lake (Iowa)

This roughly balanced packet is about France, things that are in French, and things that are, more or less tenuously, French.

TOSSUPS

1. Despite a lifelong military career, he never served outside of France, possibly because of his belief in the superiority of defensive warfare. After German armies captured Fort Douanmont on February 25, 1916, he and his Second Army were entrusted with the defense of the area. His strategy restored the morale of his troops, and he was appointed Comander-in-Chief in May 1917. Yet his own countrymen later sentenced him to death. FTP, name this officer, pardoned by Charles de Gaulle for leading the Vichy government.
Ans: Henri Philippe _Petain_

2. After the death of his mother, he fled into the forest, eventually arriving at a city, where he was adopted by a kind old lady. He spent two years in the city before returning to the jungle with his cousins Arthur and Celeste. Upon his return, he found that the king had died from eating poisonous mushrooms, and Cornelius nominated him to be the new king. FTP, name this character created by Jean de Brunhoff, the king of the elephants. (_Babar_)

3. The first sign of quality is a hard crust of a rich, dark caramel color. The inside should be a creamy color with large, irregular air holes. The texture should be moist and slightly chewy, with a full, almost nutty flavor. Though average daily consumption per capita has dropped from 2 pounds in 1900 to 5 1/2 ounces today, many Frenchmen throughout the countryside still carve the sign of the cross in the bottom before eating. FTP, name this quintessentially French two-foot-long loaf of bread. (_Baguette_)

4. His Hymnarius Paraclitensis features six laments set in the mouth of Biblical figures. Of his philosophical works, "Sic et Non" is the most notable. Originally from Nantes and later a student at the Priory of Saint-Marcel, he is best known from the events in his autobiographical Historia Calamitum. Hired to tutor a young woman, he had a scandalous affair with her; she later had a child named Astrolabe. FTP, name this medieval scholar who was separated from his lover Heloise and castrated by her relatives.
Ans: Peter _Abelard_

5. To be of the best quality, this drink must undergo a distilling process after maceration which results in an alcohol of between 50 and 70 degrees (50-75% alcohol). However, unscrupulous producers, spurred on by the growing commercial success of the beverage, were marketing a product made without distillation. Consumers of this substandard drink reportedly suffered all kinds of strange reactions, including vertigo, hallucination, and attacks of epilepsy, causing it to be banned in France in 1915. FTP, name this drink with a characteristic green color, made with wormwood.
Ans: _absinthe_

6. Modeled on Ovid's Ars Amatoris, it consists of over 21,000 lines of octosyllabic couplets. It was only 4,058 lines around 1280, when a new author turned the plot into a convenient way to expound on contemporary topics such as the hoarding of money and theories of astronomy, almost completely abandoning the original story of a maiden who lives in a garden. FTP, name this romantic poem by Guillaume de Lorris and Jean de Meun, translated into English by Geoffrey Chaucer.
Roman de la Rose (acc: _Romance of the Rose_)

7. He was born at Vesoul in 1791, spent a period teaching physics in Paris, and received a doctorate in 1811. He was one of the professors of physics at the Ecole Polytechnique. He did some research with his brother-in-law D. F. J. Arago on the variation of refractive index with temperature. However, he is known solely for his work with another colleague in which they established the law that the specific heat of a solid multiplied by the atomic weight is (approximately) a constant for different solids. FTP, name this man, who shares an eponymous law with Pierre Dulong.
Ans: Alexis Thérèse _Petit_

8. Voltaire once wrote to him, "I have received your new book against the human race, and thank you for it. Never was such cleverness used in the design of making us all stupid. One longs, in reading your book, to walk on all fours." As he grew older, however, he turned away from advocating anarchy toward finding a justification for government. FTP, name this philosopher, famous for his early praise of the "noble savage."

Ans: Jean-Jacques _Rousseau_

9. Today it is the capital of the Vaucluse department in southern France, and has a population of 86,939. Joined to France by a plebiscite in 1791, it is home to a major wine industry. It may be home to women from a Picasso painting, and from 1378 and 1408, it was home to several antipopes as well. FTP, name this home of the papacy during the Babylonian Captivity.

Ans: _Avignon_

10. A lawyer and aristocrat who won popularity through his oratory, he was a member of the Legislative Assembly, the Commune of Paris, and the Cordeliers (COR-del-ee-ay), and participated in the overthrow of the monarchy. He originally hoped for wars to spread the French Revolution, but as the wars began to turn against France, he advocated peace, earning the enmity of the rest of the Committee of Public Safety. FTP, name this revolutionary leader, executed by Robespierre in 1794 and played in an eponymous movie by Gerard Depardieu.

Ans: Georges Jacques _Danton_

11. He is noted for his contempt for every single composer in history except himself. In his music, he seeks a sound expressing "a collective and spells, violently of the resent time." He developed equipment for the electronic manipulation of musical sound at the Institute for Research and Coordinated Acoustics and Music at the Beaubourg in Paris, and is a former music director of the New York Philharmonic. FTP, name this avant-garde composer of *Pli Selon Pli*, *Structures*, *Répons*, and *Memoriales*.

Ans: Pierre _Boulez_

12. The poem contains three major themes: the war between Christians and Saracens near Paris, the love story of Ruggiero and Bralamante, and the hero's unrequited love for Angelica. Begun in 1505, the author spent most of his life working on it. The first two editions had 40 cantos, the third edition had 46, and an appendix of five cantos was published posthumously in 1545. Written by Ludovico Ceruto, this is, FTP,

what epic of the madness of one of Charlemagne's greatest knights?

Ans: _Orlando Furioso_

13. In order for nuclear fusion to occur in stars protons of Hydrogen atoms must collide. But their positive electromagnetic charges repel each other. So fusion is impossible, and the stars don't shine. But the stars do shine. Don't they? FTP this conundrum describes what scientific barrier which wasn't understood until quantum tunneling was discovered in 1929.

Coulomb Barrier

14. This group released their first full-length album, *Desire*, in June 2001. Actually, 'group' is a bit of a misnomer, since the only people involved in the creation of the album are the producers, the Dreyer brothers, and the exotic bilingual singer, Barbara Alcindor. FTP, name the creators of the songs "Do What You Like," "Je Ne Sais Pas Pourquoi," and the catchy dance single "My Heart Goes Boom."

French Affair

15. He grew up in the village of Val d'Isere, took to the slopes at the age of three. His career was hampered by illness he developed as a result of compulsory military service in Algeria, leading him to finish only one race at the Innsbruck Olympics, but he rebounded and won 3 gold medals at Grenoble in 1968. FTP, name this man, who was the first gold medalist to run the Olympics when he did so in Albertville in 1992.

Jean-Claude _Killy_

16. Since it is X-linked recessive, only females are carriers of this genetic disorder, which afflicts individuals in early childhood, causing generalized weakness, enlarged calves, and muscle wasting. It progresses slowly, but can affect all voluntary muscles, and survival is rare beyond one's late twenties. FTP, name this disorder, whose annual telethon is hosted by that darling of the French, Jerry Lewis.

Ans: _muscular dystrophy_

17. Geneviève lives with her widow mother, who owns a shop. She and Guy, an auto mechanic, are in love and want to marry, but her mother wants her to marry a wealthier man. When Guy is called to the army, Geneviève marries Roland Cassard, a rich gem dealer, in order to provide a father for the son she has borne to Guy. FTP, name this movie starring Catherine Deneuve and Nino Castelnuovo, in which the dialogue is entirely sung.

Les _Parapluies de Cherbourg_ (acc: The _Umbrellas of Cherbourg_)

18. He studied under Cardinal Newman as a child, and his first published work was 1896's *The Bad Child's Book of Beasts*, a set of cautionary tales. He is perhaps best known for his friendship and collaboration with G. K. Chesterton. FTP, name this Catholic author of *The Postmaster General*, biographies of Danton and Robespierre, and *The Path to Rome*.

Ans: Hilaire _Belloc_

19. He saw human history as a series of three stages: the theological, the metaphysical, and the scientific. The revolutions in France, both in 1789 and 1848, suffered from an excess of metaphysical abstractions. Those who worked for society's improvement, he believed, must adopt a strictly scientific outlook, and he proposed an elaborate classification of the sciences to help them do so. At the top was the science of society, which he named "sociology." FTP name this French thinker, whose book *Positive Philosophy* marked the beginning of modern sociology.

Ans: Auguste _Comte_

20) In 1662, at the age of 40, he married an actress named Armande Béjart. He'd had an affair with her mother 20 years earlier, leading his enemies to accuse him of incest. The only surviving material relic of his life is the chair he sat in during the final scene of *Le Malade Imaginaire*, during which he had a seizure which led to his death. FTP, name this actor and playwright, born Jean-Baptiste Poquelin, whose other plays include *The Miser*, *The Misanthrope*, and *Tartuffe*:

Ans: _Molière_

21. When the Cimbri and Teutons threatened Rome, the Roman general Marius defeated them in battle at this mountain, east of Aix; the site is probably better known for its relationship with the painter Cezanne, who painted several versions of it. FTP, name it.

Ans: _Mont St Victoire_

22. Marguerite died in 1998, after an umbilical cord injury and resultant infection, leaving her 'brother' Narcisse. Researchers at the INRA, the French agricultural research agency, were concerned that her death may have resulted from a depression of her immune system brought on by the unusual method of her birth, but results of the autopsy are still being analyzed. FTP, Marguerite is a cow who originated through what process?

Ans: _cloning_

BONUSES

1. Asterix may have been heroic, but he was no match for the Roman armies who conquered Gaul in the 1st century BC. FTPE:

- A. "All Gaul was divided into three parts." One part was inhabited by the Gauls, but that's too obvious to ask about. The inhabitants of this other part, located at the mouth of the Rhine, gave their name to a modern country. (_Belgae_)
- B. The third part of Gaul, in the southwest near the Pyrenees, was inhabited by these people, who gave their name to a wealthy—and frequently English-occupied—province of France. (_Aquitani_)
- C. Probably the oldest city in Gaul, this city on the south coast was founded by Greek colonists around 600 BC. The city is still inhabited. (_Massila_ or _Marseilles_)

2. Answer these questions about Lyon F10PE.

10) A museum on a western hill preserves artifacts recovered from adjacent Roman ruins, including an amphitheater in which concerts are held. FTP, name the hill, which is topped by a cathedral bearing its name.

Fourvière

5 each) Lyon lies at the convergence of these two rivers.

Rhône and _Saône_

10) The Krystal Tower and the Lumière Tower, large skyscrapers, are currently being built in Lyon. When completed in 2004, they will join this large skyscraper which towers over the eastern skyline.

Ans: Tour _Crédit Lyonnais_ (acc: _Crédit Lyonnais_ tower or 'le _Crayon_')

3. Are you drowning in an ocean of debt? Call the world's number-one debt relief program - the French Foreign Legion! It's not a loan- it's a way to completely abandon your past. Answer these questions about the Legion FTSNOP.

A. For 5: 10,000 Legionnaires were wiped out in 1954 attempting to defend this fort in Vietnam. (_Dien Bien Phu_)

B. For 10: In 1978, Legionnaires were deployed to this perpetually rebellious province of Zaire to rescue civilian mine workers from rebels. (_Katanga_)

C. For 15: The most prized possession of the Legion is the hand of Jean Danjou, who died along with 59 other men in combat with 2,000 Mexicans at this village. Its name is now displayed on the Legion flag. (_Camerone_)

4. It took the French five tries to make a republic work—have they got it this time? FFPE, with a bonus 5 for naming them all, name the five presidents of the Fifth Republic.

(Charles _De Gaulle_, Georges _Pompidou_, Valéry Giscard _d'Estaing_, François _Mitterand_, Jacques _Chirac_)

5. The French have lots of words for describing success, which one of the authors of this packet thinks is ironic. Describe these types of 'succès' (suk-SAY) from their definition FTPE.

a) Considered successful because of good reviews or because of respect for the author or performer, not because of popular enthusiasm.

Ans: _succès d'estime_ (des-TEEM)

b) The audience flocks to the material because it's any good, but because it's racy or salacious.

Ans: _succès de scandale_ (de scan-DAL)

c) A success beyond anyone's dreams; a smash hit.

Ans: _succès fou_

6. As French armies marched across Europe at the turn of the 19th century, they left a whole bunch of puppet states in their wake. Given the republic created by French armies, identify the modern nation in which you'd find them FTSNOP.

5: the Helvetic Republic

Ans: Switzerland

10: The Batavian Republic

Ans: the Netherlands

15: the Parthegegenian Republic

Ans: Italy

7. Did you take French in high school? Sure, we all did. Answer these questions about words you might have heard FTPE.

a) This is an open-faced ham and cheese sandwich with no fried egg on top.

croque-monsieur (DNA: croque-madame) (pron: krohk-monsieur)

b) If you pronounce this word with an umlaut instead of a back rounded vowel, you may just be telling your teacher, "Nice ass."

beaucoup (nice ass = beau cul)

c) In a Dexter's Laboratory episode, this is the only thing that Dexter is able to say after his subliminal learning tape gets stuck on repeat. Hope he likes eggs.

omlette du fromage

8. Epithet is a funny word, and some French kings have earned funny epithets for their appearance or behavior. FTPE, give the epithet for:

a. Louis VI, who didn't let his apparent lack of energy keep him from fighting England's Henry I in Normandy.

Ans: the Fat

b. Charles VI, who was also called the Well-beloved, but probably not by the Genoese archers in his employ that he sent his own knights to slaughter.

Ans: the Mad

c. John I, born after the death of his father, who lived only five days.

Ans: the Posthumous

9. Answer these questions about French soccer FTSNOP.

5: The French have recorded only one World Cup win. In what year?

Ans: 1998

5: Name the song which was played upon the victory of the French team in 1998, which was not—not even vaguely—the Marseillaise.

Ans: the theme from Star Wars

10: This team has won the most Division 1 titles, but has since been demoted and is now in Division 2.

Saint-Etienne

10: As of yesterday, this team was in first place in Division 1.

Lyon

10. Let's take a tour of Provence. FTPE, answer these questions about things to see and places to go.

a) Watch your wallet: this village in the Camargue, named for a legend about three Biblical women traveling there by boat, is well-known for its annual gatherings of Gypsies.

Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer (Moderator note: Saint-Maries of the Sea)

b) Contrary to commercials you may have seen, they don't let you walk on the top of this ruined Roman aqueduct near Nimes.

Pont du Gard

c) This city's festivals feature bullfights and operas in its Roman performance spaces; van Gogh lived and painted here in the years before his death, completing a picture of a café which later painted its walls yellow to look more like the painting.

Arles

11. Answer these questions about things that have happened in France in the last year F10PE.

a) A chemical plant explosion in this southern city on September 21 killed 29 people and damaged scores of surrounding buildings.

Ans: Toulouse

b) This author of *The Elementary Particles* and *Whatever* has come under fire for writing a novel, *Plateforme*, which condones prostitution—including child prostitution—in Thailand.

Ans: Michel Houellebecq

c) In April, Louvre staff announced that this diminutive painting would receive its own room in 2003.

Ans: Mona Lisa or La Joconde

12. Answer these questions about software companies based in France F10PE.

a) Version 8.1 of this version of Linux, a competitor of Red Hat and Caldera, was delayed recently by shipment problems and importation tariff issues.

Mandrake

b) This game, released in 1998, was developed by Quantic Dream and features a soundtrack by David Bowie.

Omikron: The Nomad Soul

c) This company produces such PC titles as *Warrior Kings*, *Fargate*, *Empire of the Ants*, and *Druuna*, in addition to making the *New Addams Family* for Gameboy and *Casper* for Gameboy Advance.

Ans: Metroïds

13. Answer these questions about Paris museums FTPE.

a) One of the most child-friendly is this one, which explores technology and the natural world in a variety of hands-on exhibits; it is part of the Parc de la Villette complex and is home to the Géode, a theater with a giant demi-spherical screen.

Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie

b) This museum boasts a large collection about interior design, furniture, objets d'arts, wallpaper, tapestries, ceramics, glassware, and toys from the Middle Ages to the present day. It is located near the Louvre on the Rue de Rivoli.

Musée des Arts Decoratifs (acc: Museum of Decorative Arts)

c) Housed in the Mazarin palace, this institution is France's equivalent to the Library of Congress; it exhibits manuscripts, etchings, and maps.

Ans: Bibliothèque Nationale de France (acc: National Library of France)

14. a) Mimes often can be found on the plaza outside this edifice, which houses the Musée nationale d'Art moderne.

le Beauborg (acc: Centre Pompidou)

b) Marcel Marceau grew up being inspired by silent film actors; his greatest inspiration was this Charlie Chaplin character.

Ans: Little Tramp

c) Name Marceau's alter ego, immediately recognizable in his striped pullover and battered, deflowered opera hat.

Ans: Bip

15. 30-20-10, name the writer from works.

30: Moderato Cantabile, Agatha

20: India Song, The Lover

10: the screenplay for Hiroshima Mon Amour

Ans: Marguerite Duras

16. Most supermarkets in France have a sizeable cheese section. Identify these inhabitants FTSNOP.

15) First, F15P, this nutty-tasting cheese spread features an eponymous bovine on its box and comes packaged in individual wedges.

Vache qui rit or _Laughing cow_

5) Per capita, this is the most popular cheese in France.

Camembert

10) The French version of Edam, these miniature cheeses come packaged in a net sack; each one is a little wheel wrapped individually in wax.

Babybel

17. Given a French phrase relating to computers or the Internet, give the English equivalent FTSNOP.

5) "cliquez ici!"

click here

10) page d'accueil (paa-j daah-QUEEL)

ans: _homepage_

15) clubs des tchatcheurs

ans: _chat rooms_

18. Identify the musician from works, 30-20-10.

30: The Martyr of St. Sébastien, Three Poems by Mallarmé

20: In Black and White, Images

10: Nocturnes, La Mer, Pelléas and Mélisande

Claude _Debussy_

19. The 2001 Tour de France ended on July 29. Answer these questions about it 5-10-15.

5: What American won two stages, two mountain climbs, and ultimately the race, allowing him to enter the record books as the sixth person to win the Tour three times?

Lance _Armstrong_

10: This German placed second to Armstrong after leading many of the early stages.

Jan _Ullrich_

15: This man, from the all-Spain team ONCE, placed third.

Joseba Beloki

20. F15PE, name these popular musicians.

This man is the father figure of French popular music; even after a career spanning over forty years, he still fills stadiums.. Albums include Ce Que Je Sais (suuh kuuh je say), Hamlet, La Terre Promise, and Halleluyah.

Ans: Johnny _Hallyday_

This group, the brainchild of Michael Cretu, is known for its characteristic style of combining Gregorian chant-style lyrics, many in French, with dance beats, as it does on its album MCMXC A.D.

Ans: _Enigma_

French classical music
Colonial lit
Colonial geography