1. In October 2014, Marvel announced nine films that will make up the third “phase” of the Marvel Cinematic Universe. For 10 points each:

a. The first film in the third phase, subtitled Civil War, will be centered on this Marvel character played by Chris Evans.  
Answer: **Captain America**  
b. In 2017, Marvel will release a third Thor film, whose subtitle is this word that also names a major event in Norse mythology.  
Answer: Thor: **Ragnarok**  
c. Phase three will end with the second of a two-part Avengers film in 2019. Those films will be titled for this storyline, in which Thanos attempts to assemble a namesake gauntlet.  
Answer: Avengers: **Infinity War** (accept **Infinity War Part II**)

2. Name these musicians who have birthdays today, February 28th, for 10 points each.

a. Brian Jones, an early member of this British rock group was born on this day in 1942. Though he died in 1969, surviving members of this group include Keith Richards and Mick Jagger.

Answer: The **Rolling Stones** (prompt on ‘Stones’)

b. This country singer hit #1 with his 2014 album Old Boots, New Dirt. A remix of his song “Dirt Road Anthem” featured rapper Ludacris.  
Answer: Jason **Aldean** (accept Jason Aldine **Williams**)

c. This British musician’s “Lightning Bolt” was used during promotions for the 2012 Olympics. He also released the songs “What Doesn’t Kill You” and “Messed Up Kids” in 2014.

Answer: Jake **Bugg** (accept Jake **Kennedy**)

3. Last year’s ACRONYM had a bonus about the stupid things Justin Bieber had done in hopes that it would change him for the better. It didn’t work. For 10 points each:

a. Bieber was accused of abandoning a puppy in December 2014, which would not have been his first time doing so to an animal. Bieber abandoned Mally, one of these animals, in Germany in 2013 after he could not prove to customs agents that he obtained it legally.

Answer: Capuchin **monkey**

b. In September 2014, Bieber was booed after stripping down to his underwear at one of these events, which also saw appearances by Tommy Hilfiger and John Varvatos (var-VAY-tos).

Answer: **fashion show** (accept **Fashion Rocks**)

c. A crowded Ibiza restaurant applauded when this star of Troy and Pirates of the Caribbean threw a punch at Bieber after Bieber shouted taunts regarding supermodel this actor’s estranged wife, Miranda Kerr.  
Answer: Orlando **Bloom**

4. For 10 points each, name these track and field events.  
a. This common race places ten obstacles around a track that runners must pass over. Edwin Moses notably went undefeated for almost 10 years in the 400-meter type of this event.  
Answer: **hurdles** (accept forms such as **hurdling**; accept **400-meter hurdles**)  
b. Outside of the marathon, the longest race length during the Summer Olympics is this many meters. Britain’s Mo Farah won the gold medal in this event at the 2012 London games.  
Answer: **10,000** meters (Note: Mo Farah also won the 5,000 meters gold medal, but do not accept that as an answer)

c. Britain’s Jessica Ennis won gold in this event at the 2012 Olympics. This women-only multi-discipline event is analogous to the men’s decathlon.  
Answer: women’s **heptathlon**

5. Its fifth season opened with most of its protagonists trapped in a train car within Terminus. For 10 points each:  
a. Name this AMC series set in post-apocalyptic Georgia.

Answer: The **Walking Dead**

b. The Walking Dead stars Andrew Lincoln as this former sheriff and father to Carl and Judith. His wife Lori was killed during the show’s third season.

Answer: **Rick** **Grimes** (accept either)  
c. Among the new characters introduced in The Walking Dead’s fifth season is this priest, who allows Rick’s group to take shelter in his church.

Answer: Father **Gabriel** **Stokes** (accept either)

6. For 10 points each, name these films that won the Academy Award for Best Picture during the first decade of the 2000’s.  
a. This 2009 winner was adapted from the 2005 novel Q&A by Vikas Swarup (VEE-koss swar-OOP). It stars Dev Patel as a game show contestant who recalls numerous key moments in his life.

Answer: **Slumdog Millionaire**

b. This 2008 winner was based on a Cormac McCarthy novel of the same. In this film, a Josh Brolin-played man is pursued by multiple men after he discovers a large stash of drug money.  
Answer: **No Country for Old Men**

c. This 2005 film explored social and racial issues in Los Angeles and featured an ensemble cast including Sandra Bullock and Don Cheadle. It upset the heavily favored Brokeback Mountain.

Answer: **Crash**

7. He is first seen as an antagonist, though he is merely being tricked by Doctor Eggman into opposing his eventual friends. For 10 points each:

a. Name this red echidna (ee-KID-na). In most of his video game appearances, this character can use his spiked gloves to climb and break through walls.  
Answer: **Knuckles** the Echidna  
b. Knuckles is the former nemesis and current ally of this other anthropomorphic character. Since his debut in 1991, he has been Sega’s mascot and flagship character.  
Answer: **Sonic** the Hedgehog  
c. Both Sonic and Knuckles appear in this 2014 game, based on a Cartoon Network show of the same name. In it, the group must team up to find the Chaos Crystals and defeat an ancient snake-like being.  
Answer: **Sonic Boom**: Rise of Lyric (accept Sonic Boom: **Shattered Crystal**)

8. A film subtitled “The Pearl Princess” featuring this character was released in 2014, and she has an on/off relationship with Ken Carson. For 10 points each:

a. Name this popular doll released by Mattel.

Answer: **Barbie** (accept Barbara Millicent **Roberts**)

b. In 2014, Mattel recalled a book about Barbie attempting to work in this field. The book was criticized for depicting Barbie as unable to work in this field without “Steven’s and Brian’s help”.  
Answer: **computer engineering** (accept **computer science** or similar; accept **game design**, which is what she specifically does in the book; prompt on partial answer)

c. An early controversial Barbie Doll came with a miniature book titled “How To Lose Weight”, whose back cover made this extremely dubious two-word suggestion.  
Answer: “**Don’t Eat!**”

9. Identify the following rock musicians with something in common, for 10 points each.

a. This singer, along with the Revolution, released the hit album Purple Rain in 1984.  
Answer: **Prince** Rogers **Nelson** (accept either)

b. “Purple Haze” was one of many hits for his legendary guitarist and leader of a namesake ‘Experience’.   
Answer: James Marshall ‘Jimi’ **Hendrix** (accept Johnny Allen **Hendrix**)c. Hard rock group Deep Purple is known for a number of hit songs, including this song with an iconic guitar riff and a chorus that pairs the title phrase with “fire in the sky”.  
Answer: “**Smoke on the Water**”

10. She adopts the name “Wasp” when working as a computer hacker. For 10 points each:  
a. Name this character, whose investigation of Mikael Blomkvist leads to her being hired by Blomkvist to investigate a decades-old missing persons case.  
Answer: **Lisbeth** **Salander** (accept either, prompt on ‘The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo’, but do NOT otherwise acknowledge that it is promptable)  
b. Lisbeth Salander is the protagonist of The Millenium Series, which may be better known by this name, which is also the title of the first book of the trilogy.  
Answer: The **Girl with the Dragon Tattoo**  
c. The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo and the other books in the series were written by this Swedish author, who passed away before the series achieved international success.  
Answer: Stieg **Larsson**

11. For 10 points each, answer these questions about Heisman Trophy winners.

a. After being named on over 95% of all ballots, the most of all time, this Oregon quarterback won the Heisman Trophy for the 2014 season.

Answer: Marcus **Mariota** (marr-ee-OH-tah)b. Officially, there is no Heisman winner for 2005, as it was vacated after this former USC running back was revealed to have received improper benefits during the season.

Answer: Reggie **Bush**

c. A quarterback who won the 2011 award and a running back who is the only player to win the award twice share this surname.

Answer: **Griffin** (accept Robert **Griffin** III or Archie **Griffin**; prompt on ‘RG3’)

12. A ‘portmanteau’ (port-man-TOE) is the combination of multiple words into one word. For 10 points each, identify these portmanteaus that have appeared in the news in recent years.

a. This term for a person who promotes political agendas by use of technology is often used to describe members of Anonymous. Some critics associate these people with cyberterrorism.

Answer: **hacktivist** (accept alternate forms such as **hactivism**)

b. In 2013, 16-year-old Ethan Couch received probation after killing four people while driving drunk. The light sentence was attributed to this affliction, a word meaning he was so wealthy that he could not understand the consequences of his actions.

Answer: **affluenza**

c. 2013 also saw a US holiday and the start of a religious holiday occurring on the same day. The coincidence led to the coining of this term, a portmanteau of the two holidays’ names.

Answer: **Thanksgivukkah**

13. This show was forced to create a “clip show” style episode after Nickelodeon cut the budget for its fourth and final season. For 10 points each:

a. Name this series, whose title female character has the power to manipulate earth, air, fire and water and uses those abilities to maintain order throughout the world.

Answer: The **Legend of Korra**

b. Korra’s ability to control all four elements makes her an incarnation of this being. Another incarnation of this being starred in a namesake Nickelodeon series from 2005 to 2008.

Answer: **Avatar**

c. The final scene of The Legend of Korra depicted Korra holding hands with this female character. The show’s creators later confirmed that their relationship was romantic.

Answer: **Asami** **Sato** (accept either)

14. This song’s performer refers to encounters with a “boy toy named Troy” and a “dude named Michael” who “used to ride motorcycles”. For 10 points each:

a. Name this song that also describes “pulling up in the Jag”, as well as numerous references to its performer’s own rear end.  
Answer: “**Anaconda**”  
b. “Anaconda” was recorded by this rapper. The song appeared on her 2014 album The Pinkprint.  
Answer: Nicki **Minaj** (accept Onika Tanja **Maraj**)  
c. “Anaconda” heavily samples this 1992 hit single by Sir Mix-a-Lot. In 2014, the Seattle Symphony debuted an orchestral version of this song.  
Answer: “**Baby Got Back**”

15. For 10 points each, name these PC games that were, at one time, the best selling of all time.  
a. The current best-seller, by a wide margin, is this sandbox game created by Markus Persson. The developer behind this game was acquired by Microsoft in 2014.  
Answer: **Minecraft**b. This life simulator held the record for several years. This game spawned several sequels, and the fourth game in the series was released in 2014.  
Answer: The **Sims** (accept **The Sims 4**)  
c. Before the release of The Sims, this 1993 first-person adventure and puzzle game held the record easily. Its immersive world and challenging puzzles led to its surprising success.  
Answer: **Myst**

16. He was slated to be a member of the USA’s FIBA World Cup basketball team before being sidelined by a horrific injury. For 10 points each:  
a. Name this small forward, who broke his leg on a stanchion during a World Cup scrimmage.  
Answer: Paul **George**

b. Paul George plays for this NBA team, whose other players include Roy Hibbert and David West. Hall of famer Reggie Miller played his entire career with this franchise.

Answer: **Indiana** **Pacers** (accept either; do not accept or prompt on ‘Indianapolis’)  
c. After George’s injury and Kevin Durant’s withdrawal, this Sacramento Kings forward was added to the Team USA roster. The Kings acquired this player from the Raptors in 2013.  
Answer: Rudy **Gay**

17. He was the runt of his litter before growing unexpectedly to over 20 feet tall. For 10 points each:  
a. Name this dog, created by Norman Bridwell.   
Answer: **Clifford** the Big Red Dog  
b. This eight-year-old girl is Clifford’s owner. She is usually depicted wearing a pink sweater.

Answer: **Emily** Elizabeth **Howard** (accept either underlined part; she is usually called ‘Emily Elizabeth’)

c. Clifford the Big Red Dog was among the early successes for this publishing company, who adopted the character as its mascot.

Answer: **Scholastic** Books

18. Pixar is well known for their tendency to use recurring gags and self-referential easter eggs. For 10 points each:  
a. One character that appears in numerous Pixar films and shorts is Luxo Jr., who is one of these objects. He also appears in the company’s production logo.  
Answer: desk **lamp**  
b. This fictional pizza chain is seen in Toy Story and is referenced in most of Pixar’s subsequent films. A delivery truck for this chain is seen next to a motor home near the end of Monsters Inc.  
Answer: **Pizza Planet**  
c. This alphanumeric phrase appears in every Pixar film. It references the classroom at the California Institute of the Arts where Brad Bird, John Lasseter and others took their first animation classes.  
Answer: **A113**

19. It co-stars Beth Behrs as a formerly rich young woman who must start over after her father is convicted in a Ponzi scheme. For 10 points each:

a. Name this comedy in which Caroline, played by Behrs, becomes a waitress before starting a cupcake business with one of her co-workers. It began its fourth season on CBS in 2014.  
Answer: **Two Broke Girls**b. Two Broke Girls also stars this actress as Max, Caroline’s roommate and business partner. Answer: Kat **Dennings** (accept Katherine **Litwack**)

c. Another character on Two Broke Girls is this Ukrainian cook, who routinely harasses Max and Caroline. This character was briefly in a relationship with Sophie, one of the girls’ neighbors.  
Answer: **Vanko** “**Oleg**” **Golishevsky** (accept any underlined part)

20. For 10 points each, name these mints.

a. These alliteratively named mints are typically sold in small plastic boxes with flip-top lids. The orange variety of these mints were featured prominently in the film Juno.

Answer: **Tic Tacs**  
b. These mints were first created by a British company during the reign of George III. They are marketed as being “curiously strong”.

Answer: **Altoids**

c. This Hershey’s brand of mints comes in several varieties, including ‘Duo’, which combines fruit flavors with cooling mint crystals.

Answer: **Ice Breakers**