

Caltech Technophobia II

Caltech Barada Tossups

Written by 'a guy without a conscience! a dame without a heart!'

1. It is a tropical American tree up to 12 meters tall with a canopy of leathery oblong leaves up to 30 cm long, and small, foul-smelling, pinkish flowers. It bears ovoid fruit that ranges in color from yellow-brown to purple and was used by the Mayans and Aztecs both as a medium of exchange and to make a beverage. For ten points, name this tree, the seeds of which, after fermentation and roasting, are used to make cocoa and chocolate.

Answer: \_cacao\_

2. She was Dutch, but her first husband was Scottish, so she was known as Lady MacLeod [mak-LOUD] when she first began to dance professionally. Since she performed East Indian dances, she later adopted a stage name based on a Malay expression literally translated as "eye of the day." For ten points, identify this femme fatale who was shot by the French as a double agent in 1917.

Answer: \_Mata Hari\_

3. Ambrose Bierce's 1893 story "Moxon's Master" features one which is a poor loser. Edgar Allen Poe wrote an 1836 essay about a real one which turned out to be a hoax. The one in Fritz Leiber's story, "The 64-Square Madhouse" is defeated by a typographical error. For ten points, a non-fictional example of what sort of thing defeated Garry Kasparov in May 1997?

Answer: \_chess-playing machines\_ (accept equivalents)

4. Halley's comet could not really have been the Star of Bethlehem, since it flew by Earth in 11 BC and 66 AD. However, its reappearance in 1301 AD apparently inspired this Florentine painter to paint it over the heads of the three wise men in his 1304 Scrovegni Chapel fresco, "Adoration of the Magi". For ten points, what pupil of Cimabue thus became the namesake of the 1986 European Space Agency probe which visited Halley's comet?

Answer: \_Giotto\_ Di Bondone

5. Burlap chafes me so. Why would Sophia Loren do a musical? Isn't Regis Philbin already married? What if the chicken won't wear the nylons? If we didn't have ears we'd look like weasels, and where are we going to find rubber pants our size? These are things you might well ponder if you were, for ten points, which genetically-engineered rodent?

Answer: \_Pinky\_ (accept "Pinky and the Brain" on an interrupt) (prompt on an interrupt "are you pondering what I'm pondering?")

6. Evaporation rates in the region are so high that the Diamantina and other rivers in the drainage basin normally dry up before reaching this lake. Every few decades heavy rains may fill the lake, in which case it takes two years to dry out again. While dry, the extremely level surface of the salt crust has been used to set land speed records, notably by Donald Campbell in 1964 in Bluebird II. For ten points, name this large salt lake, the lowest point in Australia.

Answer: \_Lake Eyre\_

7. If he had been Californian, his nickname might have been, "Like,

y'know." If he had been Canadian, his nickname might have been, "Eh?" But in fact he was Argentinian. For ten points, identify this author of "Guerrilla Warfare" and "Man and Socialism in Cuba," who helped Castro overthrow Batista and whose nickname comes from a regional verbal mannerism.

Answer: "Che" \_Guevara\_ (or Ernesto \_Guevara\_ de la Serna)

8. "Midway upon the journey of our life, I found myself within a forest dark, for the straightforward pathway had been lost." This is the first line of the 1861 translation by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow of, for ten points, what early fourteenth-century work, historically important partly because it was written not in Latin but in vernacular Italian?

Answer: \_La Divina Commedia\_ or The \_Divine Comedy\_ (prompt on "Dante" or "Inferno")

9. The last name's the same: One was an American economist who, for his analysis of household savings and the dynamics of financial markets, won the 1985 Nobel Prize in Economics. The other was an early twentieth century Italian painter and sculptor whose works often contain figures with elongated heads. For ten points, give the common surname of Franco and Amedeo.

Answer: \_Modigliani\_

10. Steven Spielberg is said to have expressed his admiration for this man by sending him an Armani suit. The man wrote in reply, "Thanks. My next project is 'Men in Private Jets.'" For a quick ten points, identify this director of 'The Addams Family,' 'Addams Family Values,' 'Get Shorty,' and the super-hit 'Men in Black.'

Answer: Barry \_Sonnenfeld\_

11. Suppose I take a rocket engine on the ground, turn it upside down so the exhaust gases shoot straight upwards, and measure the time required for a molecule of exhaust to be slowed to a stop by gravity. If there were no air resistance, this time would equal, for ten points, what slightly odd measure of rocket performance, which equals the thrust divided by the weight of fuel consumed per second?

Answer: \_specific impulse\_

12. This term seems to have been introduced by Pope Leo X in the early fifteenth century, but the office of "promoter of the faith" to which it refers was formally established by Pope Sixtus V in 1587. When a potential candidate for sainthood is being investigated, the "postulator of the cause" collects supporting evidence for sainthood, but the "promoter of the faith" makes sure that all the facts, including unfavorable ones, are considered. For ten points, what is the popular term for the latter job?

Answer: \_Advocatus Diaboli\_ or \_Devil's Advocate\_

13. He won a 50,000-franc Rolex Award for a homemade, portable device for measuring atmospheric ozone. He has written a number of electronics guidebooks and booklets for Radio Shack. In 1990 he almost became the regular columnist for Scientific American's Amateur Scientist department, but, for ten points, who was rejected when the Scientific American editors discovered that he was a creationist?

Answer: Forrest M. \_Mims\_ III

14. One word is removed from this chorus:

"We don't want to fight, yet by [BLANK], if we do,  
We've got the ships, we've got the men,  
And got the money, too!"

The music hall song with this chorus expressed British willingness to go to war to prevent Russian expansion after the Russo-Turkish War of 1878. For ten points, the missing word, a euphemism for Jesus, gave rise to what name for the pro-war faction, a word which now can refer to any belligerent nationalist?

Answer: \_jingo\_ (accept \_jingoist\_, \_jingoism\_, etc.)

15. She was a prosperous clothmaker whose skills outshone those of the weavers of Ypres and Ghent. She was partially deaf, however, from the time her fifth husband punched her in the ear after she tore some pages out of his book. For ten points, identify this woman, who told a version of the story of the Loathly Lady while making her pilgrimage to the shrine of Thomas a Becket.

Answer: The Good \_Wife of Bath\_

16. Georgia Southern University, The Global Basketball League, the United States Basketball League, Spain, Italy, Germany, Belgium, France, the Capitol Region Pontiacs of the CBA, Philadelphia, Washington, and Detroit. For ten points, what well-traveled 6-5 power forward for the Milwaukee Bucks wasn't drafted by any NBA team but has played for all of the above?

Answer: Michael \_Curry\_

17. After a mature ovarian follicle ruptures and releases the oocyte, the follicle collapses and becomes this glandular structure. Despite the name, it is not yellow but a creamy gray. For ten points, identify this gland that produces the hormone progesterone in order to prepare the uterus for implantation of the egg.

Answer: \_corpus luteum\_ (lit, "yellow body")

18. The 19th century's largest circulating magazine, it contained stories and poetry by premiere writers, as well as educational articles on the manufacture of gunpowder and the workings of steam engines. However, its foremost concern was with improving home economies, raising children and forging successful marriages. For ten points, name this popular publication, most famous for bringing ladies the latest recipes, dress patterns and fashion plates.

Answer: \_Godey's\_ Lady's Book

19. Its competitors call it "kurofune" [koo-roh-foo-neh], meaning "black ship," after the battleships of Commodore Matthew Perry which forcibly introduced Western commerce to Japan in 1853. Its popularity with young Japanese women who seek to project childlike cuteness has made it more successful than either of its two American counterparts. For ten points, identify the world's most-visited amusement park.

Answer: \_Tokyo Disneyland\_

20. No one could figure out how they mated until in 1997 scientists at the University of Melbourne found a hole under a tentacle of a female where sperm had been deposited. Although less than fifty have been spotted in the last hundred years, the scientists got a rare opportunity to study three specimens found in November 1997 off the coast of Tasmania. For ten points name these largest living invertebrates which zoologist Mark

Norman says have 'calamari rings the size of truck tires.'

Answer: \_giant squid\_

21. Last year, her novel 'Morpho Eugenia' was made into the film 'Angels and Insects.' This year, she's touring the U.S. to promote her new book, 'Babel Tower.' Other works include 'The Matisse Stories,' the essay collections 'Unruly Time' and 'Passions of the Mind' and 'Degrees of Freedom,' a biography of Iris Murdoch. For ten points name this English author who won the Booker Prize in 1990 for her novel about two Victorian poets and the modern couple who discover their relationship, entitled 'Possession.'

Answer: A(ntonio) S(usann) \_Byatt\_

22. In 1941 the surviving towers were demolished because they were thought to be a dangerous landmark for incoming German bombers. Most of the structure had already been destroyed by a fire in 1936. For ten points, identify this building, designed by Sir Joseph Paxton, which had stood on Sydenham Hill since 1852, after spending one year in Hyde Park housing the Great Exhibition.

Answer: \_Crystal Palace\_

23. Of this organist, Paul Festa says, 'It must have sucked to be a composer in Vienna at the same time as Brahms and sound like Wagner. You got all the abuse of the anti-Wagner mob and none of the fun of actually being Wagner.' For ten points name this 'eternal student' of Wagner who left his ninth symphony unfinished at his death, most famous for that symphony, three great festive masses, and an 1881 setting of the Te Deum.

Answer: Josef Anton \_Bruckner\_