Prodigy Quiz Prelims

Confluence 2022

Q.1) In Ohio 1958, Robert G Heft was a 17-year-old working on a school project. His teacher, not particularly impressed, gave him a B-, asking, "Why you got so many stars?" Heft made a deal with his teacher- If his design was made official, his teacher would have to improve his grade. Heft wrote to the White House 21 times until eventually he got a call back to notify him that his design would be made official. As a result, his teacher changed his grade to an A.

What was this project, whose result is a 'design' familiar to all of us? (10 pts)

Q.2) X, an electrifying character from the show Y, was selected as the “second best person of the year” by Time Magazine in 1999. The rare “Illustrator” card featuring X sold for $20,000. Only six copies of the card exist. The inspiration for Y comes from the popular Japanese pastime of collecting insects. ID X & Y. (5+5 pts)

Q.3) In the UK and Ireland, an old saying goes “Football is a gentleman’s game played by thugs, and \_\_\_\_ is a thug’s game played by gentlemen”. FITB. (10 pts)

Q.4) The original definition of the term was "to steal an idea from your friends and make it your own, to either commercial success or fame or both", and was created in Urban Dictionary in 2007 at the apex point of a legal controversy regarding Facebook that is now well known. Over time, the term has become greatly shortened, and now refers to something different entirely.

Give the original OR the current variant. (10 pts for either)

Q.5) Like many of his countrymen, he aspired to be a fast bowler. But in his own words, "Some of my friends used to make fun that my run-up to the crease was faster than my deliveries." He took their advice and took to something else. Who? (10 pts)

Q.6) The word X was coined by the British Doctor Edward Jenner in 1790’s after he discovered that people affected by cowpox were immune to smallpox and hence named it after the Latin word for cow. What is X? (10 pts)

Q.7) Javed Akhtar, in love with actress Honey Irani, requested his partner Salim Khan to meet her mother Perin Irani on his behalf. The conversation that took place between Salim and Perin was incorporated into which film's script? (10 pts)

Q.8) When X was first created, he was grey, but the publishers had trouble getting that grey colour to print, so Y simply decided to make him a more print-friendly colour: green. ID X & Y. (5+5 pts)

Q.9) X (other considered names - ‘The Gordian Knot” or “The Incan Gold”) was invented in 1974 and Hungarian Patent HU170062 was obtained for it in 1975. Few test batches of X were produced to be released to Budapest toy shops. X was also displayed on international toy fairs for gaining popularity where it made its international debut. What is X being talked about here? (10 pts)

Q.10) In 1971 or 1972, Stanford students using Arpanet accounts at Stanford University's Artificial Intelligence Laboratory engaged in a commercial transaction with their counterparts at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Before Amazon or eBay, the seminal act of e-commerce was a Y. The students used the network to quietly arrange the sale of an undetermined amount of X. ID X & Y. (5+5 pts)

Q. 11) X (meaning “The Chooser of the Slain”) guides the deceased souls of Nordic soldiers to go to either Valhalla (hall of the slain ruled over by Odin) or the fields of Fólkvangr (ruled over by Freyja). One of a host of female figures in Norse mythology, X gained popularity in recent years due to works of art, video games, comic books etc. What is X? (10 pts)

Q. 12) Asahi Linux is a project and community with the goal of porting Linux to Apple Silicon Macs, starting with the 2020 M1 Mac Mini, MacBook Air, and MacBook Pro. Asahi means “Rising Sun” in Japanese, and it is also the name of an apple cultivar “Asahi Ringo” is what we know as the X Apple, the apple variety that gave the Mac its name. Id X. (10 pts)

Q. 13) X sought Y’s permission to republish his letter ‘A Letter to a Hindu’, in his South African publication called ‘The Indian Opinion’. ‘A Letter to a Hindu’ was inspired by the notion of using love as a weapon of passive resistance and practicing non-violence. This exchange between X & Y led to a year-long correspondence that lasted until Y’s death. ID X & Y. (5+5 pts)

Q. 14) The capital of a country was shifted from X to Y in 1868, X having been the capital for over 1000 years. X translates to ‘Capital City’ & was briefly known as ‘Western Capital’ while Y translates to ‘Eastern Capital’. An interesting thing to note is that X & Y are anagrams of each other.

Give X, Y and the country being discussed here. (5+5 pts)

Q. 15) Due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, McDonald’s decided to pull out of Russia. Despite its exit, it’s now fighting a trademark battle, because those outlets now have a new name but use a modified form of the McDonald’s Golden Arches logo. What is the new name and from where it is inspired? (10+10 pts)