

Varsity Practice 6

AMERICAN LITERATURE: American literature is divided into various stylistic periods, many of which were determined by historical events. Identify the following literary periods:

Team A: What period of American literature was waning near the middle of the nineteenth century and ended with the oncoming of the Civil War?

Ans: Romanticism OR (the) Romantic (period) (Allow to clarify on "transcendentalism" but do not accept as an answer.)

Team B: What period of American literature slowly emerged after the Civil War and generally ended with the beginning of World War I?

Ans: realism (Allow to clarify on, but do not accept, "naturalism.")

Toss Up: This period is more difficult to define. Found in the works of authors such as T. S. Eliot, Eugene O'Neill, and Ernest Hemingway, it emerged from World War I to view the world as disjointed. Works in this style often present fragments rather than clear plot structures. Identify this period, which peaked around 1922 and then ended before the Second World War.

Ans: modernism OR (the) modern (period)

MATH 30 SECONDS: Find the greatest common factor of the following polynomials.

Team B: $3x^3 + 12x^2 + 18x$ [Read: 3 x cubed plus 12 x squared plus 18 x]

Ans: $3x$

Team A: $4x^3 + 32x^2 + 22x$ [Read: 4 x cubed plus 32 x squared plus 22 x]

Ans: $2x$

Toss Up: $9x^4 - 36x^3 + 81x^2 - 12$ [Read: 9 x to the fourth minus 36 x cubed plus 81 x squared minus 12]

Ans: 3

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WORLD HISTORY

Team A: What language developed in the Indus River valley and by 1200 B.C.E. had developed into a written form?

Ans: Sanskrit

Team B: From 1200 B.C.E. to 500 B.C.E., epic poems written in Sanskrit were collected into what holy books?

Ans: Veda(s)

Toss Up: The same civilization that developed the Vedas also developed what social system based on the social class of one's birth?

Ans: caste (system)

FINE ARTS

Team B: Who painted the famous Renaissance work *The Birth of Venus*?

Ans: (Sandro) Botticelli

Team A: Painted at the same time as *The Birth of Venus* is what other Botticelli work, a companion piece called "an allegory on spring.", that shows Venus surrounded by the Three Graces; Cloris, the goddess of flowers; and Cupid?

Ans: (La) Primavera

Toss Up: Both *The Birth of Venus* and *La Primavera* were commissioned by what powerful ruler of Florence as a gift for his cousin?

Ans: Lorenzo (de) Medici (Prompt on partial answer; do not accept "Medici" alone.)

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LIFE SCIENCE: Identify the following types of natural selection.

Team A: This type eliminates extreme or unusual traits. Individuals with the most common traits adapt best. Thus, the population maintains the frequency of common traits. The fact that extremely large or extremely small human babies are less likely to survive is an example of what type of natural selection?

Ans: stabilizing (selection)

Team B: In this type of natural selection, traits at one end of the spectrum are selected for, while traits at the other end are selected against. What name is given to this type of selection in which, for example, long-necked giraffes may survive while shorter-necked giraffes eventually die out?

Ans: directional (selection)

Toss Up: In this type of natural selection, the environment favors extreme or unusual traits and selects them against the common traits. What name is given to this type of selection in which, for example, short weeds may survive better in a closely-mown lawn than the tall weeds that can better compete for sunlight in the wild?

Ans: disruptive (Selection)

NOTE TO READER: ASK FOR A SCORE CHECK

ENGLISH/WORLD LITERATURE: Identify the following characters from *The Canterbury Tales*.

Team B: Identify the woman who is a seamstress by trade. She has been married five times and has had multiple affairs. She has a gap in her front teeth—which was considered attractive in Chaucer's time. Who tells a bawdy tale of a knight who must solve the riddle of what women want most?

Ans: (The) Wife of Bath

Team A: This man is the ideal image of Christian chivalry. He has participated in several crusades. Brave and prudent, he tells the romantic tale of two cousins, Arcite and Palamon, both of whom love the Amazon Emelye. Name him.

Ans: (The) Knight

Toss Up: This man is a bit of a lout. He has a giant wart on his nose and a big mouth—literally and figuratively. Who tells the bawdy story of a man named Nicholas who dupes his landlord into spending the night in a bathtub suspended above the rafters in anticipation of a Second Deluge, while Nicholas spends the night with the landlord's wife?

Ans: (The) Miller

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AMERICAN GOVERNMENT: At the time of the U. S. Constitutional Convention, several issues resulted in various "Plans" named for the states whose delegates devised them. Identify the following:

Team A: Identify the plan, presented by Edmund Randolph but written primarily by James Madison, which called for a House to be elected based on population, a Senate to be elected by the House, a president to be selected by Congress, and a federal court system, also to be selected by Congress.

Ans: (The) Virginia (Plan)

Team B: Identify the plan that was drafted by William Paterson [pronounced PAT ter son] and named for the small state he represented which called for a unicameral congress where each state would have the same number of representatives.

Ans: (The) New Jersey (Plan)

Toss Up: This the plan has come to be known as the "Great Compromise." Written by Roger Sherman, it called for a House elected by population and a Senate with every state's having an equal number of seats. Name this plan.

Ans: (The) Connecticut (Plan)

PHYSICAL SCIENCE:

Team B: The theoretical speed of light is accurate only in a vacuum. What three-word term refers to the speed of light in a vacuum divided by the speed of light in a particular substance and is always a constant for that substance?

Ans: Index of refraction (Must be complete without prompting)

Team A: Knowing the index of refraction is essential in calculating whose law, which states that the ratio of the sines of the angles of incidence and of refraction is a constant that depends on the medium?

Ans: Snell('s law of refraction) ALSO ACCEPT Descartes-Snell. Allow to clarify if they answer "law of refraction" alone.

Toss Up: Because the index of refraction of a medium is dependent on the density of that medium, it also varies with temperature, which affects density. Most media have a higher index of refraction when they freeze, but what common compound actually has a lower index of refraction when frozen?

Ans: water

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WORLD GEOGRAPHY: Identify the following islands that contain all or parts of at least two different countries.

Team A: This island is divided between Indonesia and Papua. What is this island, which is located in the Pacific and is the second largest in the world?

Ans: New Guinea

Team B: Located north of Australia, this island is divided between Brunei, Malaysia, and Indonesia. What is this island, the world's third largest?

Ans: Borneo

Toss Up: This island is also located north of Australia. At one time the entire island was part of Indonesia, but violent guerilla fighting led to the 2002 establishment of an independent state on what island that was once a Portuguese territory?

Ans: Timor (Do NOT accept East Timor or West Timor)

AMERICAN HISTORY:

Team B: Several new weapons emerged during the American Civil War. One of the most common and most important guns was what rifle which was named for the Massachusetts city where it was developed?

Ans: Springfield (Rifle)

Team A: The ammunition for the Springfield Rifle was a metal ball developed by a Frenchman. What .58-calibre bullet sounds as if it should be smaller?

Ans: Minie (Ball) [pronounced mini]

Toss Up: He was born in North Carolina, but while living in Connecticut, what doctor invented the forerunner of the modern machine gun and made it available to the Union Army because he believed it would end the war by making its consequences too horrible to be tolerated?

Ans: (Richard) Gatling

ASK FOR A SCORE CHECK AND SUBSTITUTIONS

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ALPHABET ROUND "B"

1. TWO-WORD ANSWER: Adam Sandler 1995 movie about a man who must repeat grades 1-12 in order to receive his inheritance
2. Located on the Arctic Circle, northernmost point in North America
3. Famous American acting family that has included John, Lionel, Ethel, and Drew
4. American musician nicknamed "Bix," who considerably influenced jazz, even though he died at age 28
5. Country in western Africa, bordered by Nigeria and Togo
6. Famous Hawthorne short story about a scientist named Aylmer who unintentionally kills his beautiful wife Georgiana by trying to make her perfect
7. Along with Picasso, co-founded of cubist movement in art
8. Union general who is famous for his hesitancy in attacking the Stone Bridge at Antietam, his bungling of the battle of Fredericksburg, and his distinctive whiskers
9. Eating disorder characterized by frequent vomiting
10. Legendary college football coach who won 328 games and had only one losing season in 38 years
11. Famous tower destroyed in Genesis; led to the confusion of tongues
12. Ukrainian-born Soviet leader who controlled power from 1964 to 1982; led the opposition that deposed Khrushchev; responsible for harsh military doctrine that bears his name
13. Legendary Irish saint known as "the voyager," who may have sailed to the New World in the sixth century
14. Jewish justice of the Supreme Court from 1919-1939; essentially liberal, he opposed the Espionage Act and supported most the New Deal of FDR
15. MULTI-WORD ANSWER: Aldous Huxley dystopic novel that takes its title from *The Tempest*
16. German term for a coming of age literary work
17. A general term for dark-colored, igneous rocks composed of minerals that are relatively rich in iron and magnesium.
18. Polynomial with two terms which are not like terms.
19. Norse god of light, joy, purity, and beauty
20. Sometimes controversial first lady of France

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ANSWERS TO ALPHABET ROUND "B"

1. *Billy Madison*
2. Barrow (Pt.)
3. Barrymore
4. Beiderbecke
5. Benin
6. "The Birthmark"
7. (Georges) Braque
8. (Ambrose) Burnside
9. bulimia
10. (Paul "Bear") Bryant
11. Babel
12. (Leonid) Brezhnev
13. (St.) Brendan
14. (Louis) Brandeis
15. *Brave New World*
16. bildungsroman
17. basalt
18. binomial
19. Balder
20. (Carla) Bruni

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LIGHTNING ROUND

1. The Kamakura and Muromachi periods were part of the medieval history of what country?

Ans: Japan

2. What is the measure of one exterior angle of a regular hexagon?

Ans: 60 (degrees)

3. Written in London in 1854, what Charles Dickens novel that tells of the unrequited love between Steven Blackpool and Rachel, two honest workers caught in a labor dispute, is a harsh condemnation of the industrial era?

Ans: *Hard Times*

4. Many of the works of what impressionist painter have been described as "second rate" because of their imitative quality, while others, like *Madame Charpentier and her Children*, have been rated as "divine"?

Ans: (Pierre-Auguste) Renoir

5. In March, 1855, Congress spent \$30,000 for what Egyptian animals in the hope that they could be used by the Army in the arid lands of west Texas?

Ans: camels

6. In agriculture, what term has been given to older varieties of crops such as tomatoes which are being grown by smaller farms in order to combat the diseases that strike monocultures preferred by larger, more industrial growers?

Ans: heirloom

7. Of the independent countries that were once part of the former Yugoslavia, which one was the first to join the European Union?

Ans: Slovenia

8. What chemical element has the symbol Ti?

Ans: titanium

9. When cold Arctic air blows across the warmer waters of the Great Lakes, it creates what weather pattern that dumps blizzard-like precipitation on cities like Cleveland, Ohio and Buffalo, New York?

Ans: Lake Effect (snow) Prompt on "Snow" alone

10. In science, this term refers to an immature insect, but in mythology, what word refers to lovely young women who were minor goddesses inhabiting forests, water, and even trees?

Ans: nymph(s)

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11. What narrow strait connects the English Channel with the North Sea?

Ans: (Strait of) Dover

12. What type of poetic verse has no regular meter and no regular rhyme pattern?

Ans: free (verse)

13. What English-born American cigar maker who was instrumental in forming the American Federation of Labor believed that labor unions should not form political alliances?

Ans: (Samuel) Gompers

14. What famous work by Racine tells the story of the wife of Theseus who is cursed by Aphrodite to fall in love with Hippolytus and hangs herself when Hippolytus, faithful to Theseus, spurns her love?

Ans: *Phaedra*

15. What popular Showtime Network television program has as its unlikely protagonist a sympathetic serial killer?

Ans: *Dexter*

16. What American composer who studied formally at Juilliard and informally with Ravi Shankar wrote *Einstein on the Beach*?

Ans: (Philip) Glass

17. Who wrote the novel *Catch 22*?

Ans: (Joseph) Heller

18. Michael Oher, whose story is told in the movie *The Blind Side*, now plays offensive left tackle for what professional football team?

Ans: (Baltimore) Ravens

19. What Ohio county with its seat at Springfield is named for the hero of Vincennes in the Revolutionary War?

Ans: Clark

20. According to Christian tradition, what angel was present at the Annunciation?

Ans: Gabriel

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21. Cat names like Tiger, Leopard, and Snow Leopard are all operating systems for what computer?

Ans: (Apple) Mac (intosh)

22. What film director who shares his name with a famous explorer directed *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*?

Ans: (Chris) Columbus

23. What Egyptian god is pictured as a falcon with the sun and moon as his eyes?

Ans: Horus

24. What French sociologist wrote the 1835 work *Democracy in America*?

Ans: (Alexis) de Tocqueville

25. Derived from the Greek for "first actor," what character is the chief actor in a play, novel, or story?

Ans: protagonist

26. In anatomy, proximal means closer to the body, but what term is used to designate something farther from the body?

Ans: distal

27. What culture, located on Crete, may have been destroyed by a tidal wave or by the Mycenaean people?

Ans: Minoa OR Minoan(s)

28. According to *Billboard*, the number one album of 2009 was *The Gift* by what unlikely British songstress?

Ans: (Susan) Boyle

29. What branch of economics is concerned with "big picture" issues such as inflation, unemployment, and economic growth?

Ans: macro(economics)

30. What Cincinnati first baseman was the National League MVP for 2010?

Ans: (Joey) Votto