

1995 ACF Regionals Questions by University of Chicago

1. According to its last line, it was written by one Tuoldus, who seems to have been an eleventh-century poet with a rather gory imagination: its title character dies when his head explodes, and by the story's end, nearly all of the other characters have been killed in some nasty way, with the exceptions only of the princess Bramimonde and king Charlemagne. FTP, name this medieval French epic about the battle of Roncevalles.

Answer: The Song of Roland (acc: CHANSON DE ROLAND)

2. The first Russian composer to write a complete symphony, he completed Mussorgsky's "Boris Godunov" and Borodin's "Prince Igor," and in his later years, he taught composition to Glazunov and Stravinsky. For 10 points, name this member of the Five whose own works include "May Night," "The Maid of Pskov," "Mlada," and "Scheherezade."

Answer: Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

3. He is the author of the medical essay, "The Contagiousness of Puerperal Fever," which showed for the first time that mothers received infections from improperly sterilized midwives, but he is better remembered for his literary efforts, most of which first in the "Atlantic Monthly". FTP, name this doctor, poet, and essayist, the author of "The Chambered Nautilus," and "The Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table."

Answer: Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr.

4. The TV pilot "Fox Force Five." The song "Girl You'll be a Woman Soon." A UC-Santa Cruz Banana Slugs T-shirt. Maynard and Zed. The Kahula Burger and the Royale with Cheese. The Biblical book of Ezekiel. For 10 points, all of these things are featured prominently in what 1994 film, winner of the Cannes Palme D'Or and an Oscar nominee for Best Picture?

Answer: "Pulp Fiction"

5. Its chief editor was Tribonian, its main sources were the writings of Gaius, Papinian, and Ulpian, and it first went into effect in November of 529 A.D. For 10 points, name this collection of 4,652 precedents from Roman law, named for the Byzantine emperor under whom it was compiled.

Answer: The Code of Justinian (acc: Corpus Juris Civilis)

6. After the death of his father-in-law Everett Dirksen, it fell to this man to continue the tradition of proposing a law to make the marigold the national flower. Despite his failure on this count, he would later gain fame as a Senate Majority Leader and Reagan's chief of staff. FTP, name this Tennessee politician.

Answer: Howard Baker

7. One legend has it that this term was coined by Legendre, a manufacturer who was asked by Colbert what the state could do to help industry, and who bluntly replied, "Leave us alone." FTP, name this economic doctrine adopted by the physiocrats and later Adam Smith, which in French means, "Leave it alone."

Answer: laissez-faire

8. As a high school student, he did so badly at Latin and Greek that his teacher politely asked him to drop out; as a college student in Switzerland, he cut most of his classes and passed only after copying a friend's lecture notes. For 10 points, name this most famous employee of the Zurich patent office, who revolutionized modern physics shortly after earning his Ph.D. in 1905.

Answer: Albert Einstein

9. Arranged in descending order according to length, its 114 sections, or suras, include "The Night Journey", "The Spoils", "Hood", "The Woman Tested", "He Frowned", "The Stairways", and "The Jinn." For 10 points, name this religious text, compiled around 650 A.D.

Answer: Koran or Qu'ran

10. He won a Pulitzer Prize in 1941 for his autobiographical poem "The Dust Which is God," but for most of his life, he was overshadowed by his younger brother, Stephen, a two-time Pulitzer-prize winner. For 10 points, name this poet, critic, and founder of the "Saturday Review," who is best known to all ACF question-writers for compiling the definitive "Reader's Encyclopedia."

Answer: William Rose Benet

11. This pyridyl methyl pyrrolidine is extremely toxic in large quantities, and is a major ingredient of some insecticides. In small quantities, it acts as a central nervous stimulant for humans, reduces the oxygen capacity of blood, and inhibits hunger. For 10 points, name this highly addictive chemical, which is found in tobacco leaves.

Answer: nicotine

12. Born in 1839, this Yale professor published most of his work in the "Transactions of the Connecticut Academy of Sciences," a journal so obscure that his major discoveries were not noticed until some twenty years later, by which time most of them had been made independently by Van't Hoff and others. FTP, name this founder of modern thermodynamics, who lent his name to a phase rule and a type of free energy.

Answer: Josiah Willard Gibbs

13. In 1765 he began showing the symptoms of porphyria, and by 1788 his mental condition had deteriorated so much that he had to be placed in restraints. In 1811 he was finally declared incompetent, and lived the last ten years of his life in seclusion while his son George IV ruled as regent. For 10 points, name this British monarch, whose tax policies sparked the American revolution.

Answer: George III

14. Loosely translated, this word means "pounded" in Italian, and it refers to the traditional method of pounding and grinding ingredients using a mortar and a pestle. Today, it refers to an entire class of sauces, the best-known of which, Genovese, is made with garlic, Parmesan, olive oil, pine nuts, and basil. For 10 points, name this pasta sauce, which shares its name with a character from "Animaniacs."

Answer: pesto

15. This arthropod had a flat, oval body covered by a horny shell, and its body was divided lengthwise by three furrows, from which it got its name. Although it numbers peaked in the Ordovician period, it managed to survive for another 200 million years and did become extinct until the end of the Permian Period. For 10 points, name this commonly-fossilized animal, the dominant form of life during the Cambrian period.

Answer: trilobite

16. It appeared that this building would lose the race to become the world's tallest when planned work on it stopped at 925 feet. But architect William von Alen had secretly designed and assembled a 121-foot steel tower, which was then hoisted onto the top. For 10 points, name this art deco landmark, which soon lost its distinction as the world's tallest structure to the nearby Empire State Building.

Answer: The Chrysler Building

17. Written in 1814 and considered the first important historical novel of English literature, it is set during the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745 and tells of an English soldier who falls in love with a Scottish girl, switches sides, is captured, and barely escapes execution. For 10 points, name this novel by Sir Walter Scott, which spawned thirty-one sequels.

Answer: Waverley

18. Most of its eastern boundary is formed by Lake Peipus, while most of its western boundary is formed by the Gulf of Riga. Its entire north coast lies on the Gulf of Finland, and its entire southern boundary is shared with Latvia. For 10 points, name this former Soviet Republic, whose capital is Tallinn.

Answer: Estonia

19. Also known as Jormungand, this offspring of Loki was thrown into the ocean by Odin, whereupon it grew, encircled the earth, and spent the next few eons chewing on its own tail. It emerged to fight the battle of Ragnarok, where it was mortally wounded but killed Thor with a flood of its own venom. For 10 points, name this very big snake of Norse mythology.

Answer: The Midgard Serpent

20. The title character is Mellors, a simple but honest gardener, who is seduced by Connie, the bored, sexually-frustrated wife of a crippled, impotent war veteran. Written in 1928, shortly before the author's death, its realistic language and graphic portrayal of sex caused it to be banned in the U.S.A. and Britain until 1960. For 10 points, name this last great work by D.H. Lawrence.

Answer: "Lady Chatterley's Lover"

21. His father was a leader of the Cadet party who was assassinated in exile by radical monarchists. He himself fled to Germany after the revolution, and in 1926 he published his first novel, "Mashenka." For 10 points, name this author of "Laughter in the Dark" and "The Gift," who later emigrated to the U.S. and wrote "Lolita."

Answer: Vladimir Nabokov

22. It can exist in four stable crystalline phases: ferrite, austenite, cementite, and pearlite, each of which are defined by the temperature and the amount of carbon present. Now manufactured by the L-D process, its large-scale production first became economically feasible in the nineteenth century with the invention of the Bessemer Process. For 10 points, name this common alloy of carbon and iron.

Answer: Steel

23. Some critics call his plays misogynist; a charge that has been renewed by some with his latest work. He has adapted Carson McCullers' "Ballad of the Sad Cafe" for the stage and some of his other works include "The Death of Bessie Smith", "The Sandbox", and "Three Tall Women"- which won him the 1994 Pulitzer Prize. For 10 points, identify this playwright who also wrote "The Zoo Story".

Answer: Edward Albee

24. Hervey Allen's "Anthony Adverse" broke records for fiction sales, Max Baer becomes heavyweight champion by knocking out Schmeling, Sally Rand is the hit of the Chicago's World Fair, and Prohibition is repealed in, for ten points, what year, which also saw Adolf Hitler come to power in Germany?

Answer: 1933

25. This apparently-misnamed piece of music was most likely written for Therese- either Therese Malfatti, a woman with whom the composer was in love, or Therese von Brunswick, one of his pupils. One of the composer's shortest and least complicated works, it is nevertheless one of his most familiar melodies. For 10 points, name this piece well-known to all beginning piano students.

Answer: "Fur Elise"

26. He was removed from his post at the Institute of Genetics in 1965, which was seen by some as an ironic commemoration of the centennial of Mendel's laws. Although his theories about acquired characteristics had little scientific merit, he enjoyed the vigorous support Stalin, who silenced all his Mendellian critics. For 10 points, name this scientific charlatan, credited with setting Soviet biology back a generation.

Answer: Trofim Lysenko

1995 ACF Regionals Questions by University of Chicago

1. Identify the people, 30-20-10.

30- In about 450 A.D. they conquered Spain, and in 711 their last king, Roderick, was killed by the invading Moors.

20- In 378, they crossed the Danube and annihilated the army of the Roman emperor Valens at the battle of Adrianople. They then spent the next 25 years ravaging the Balkans before moving west.

10- In 410, this barbarian tribe sacked Rome under the leadership of their greatest king, Alaric.

Answer: Visigoths or West Goths

2. For ten points each, given a few lines of poetry, supply the well-known line that would come next.

1. "What dire offence from am'rous causes springs..."

Answer: "What Mighty Contests rise from Trivial Things"

2. "Leave my loneliness unbroken! Quit the bust above my door! Take thy beak from out my heart, and take thy form from off my door!"

Answer: "Quoth The Raven, Nevermore"

3. "...And on the pedestal these words appear: My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:..."

Answer: "Look On My Works, Ye Mighty, And Despair"

3. Since 1960, Richard Sylvan Selzer (better known as Mr. Blackwell, has been striking terror through Hollywood with his annual list of the ten worst-dressed women. For five points each and a five-point bonus for all five, identify these members of Mr. Blackwell's all-time worst-dressed list, given a few of the choice comments he has made about them over the years.

1. "If she could turn back time, she'd be a bag of tattooed bones in a sequined slingshot." Rated by Mr. Blackwell as the number one worst-dressed woman of all time.

Answer: Cher

2. "A tree grew in Brooklyn- dressed in tablecloth and furs. ...Yentl goes Mental: Ringo Starr in Drag."

Answer: Barbra Streisand

3. "Everything that is out of fashion is in with her... Hail, Victoria! The Stonehenge of style strikes again!"

Answer: Queen Elizabeth II

4. "Looks like two small boys fighting under a mink blanket... She should give up looking for a designer and find an architect... makes one think of the rebirth of the zeppelin."

Answer: Elizabeth Taylor

5. "She dresses like a twelve-year-old and dates Frank Sinatra."

Answer: Mia Farrow

4. (reader, allow 15 seconds per part) We may have exhausted our ACF trash quota with the last bonus, but there is no reason why we can't write a simple permutations bonus about the TV show "Gilligan's Island." For ten points each, keeping in mind that the seven castaways included four men and three women, and assuming that the Howells had an open marriage,

1. First, assuming that all seven castaways were strictly heterosexual, how many two-person romantic combinations could have arisen? Answer: 12

2. Next, imagining that after a while, all seven castaways got bored and decided to experiment with bisexuality, how many combinations would then be possible?

Answer: 21

3. Finally, after a while of this, Gilligan and the Skipper become strictly homosexual and all of the other castaways revert to strict heterosexuality. Assuming that Gilligan and the Skipper are each capable of overpowering any other castaway, how many sexual combinations (consensual and otherwise) are now possible?

Answer: 12; 21; 11

5. Successful monarchs often end up with nicknames like "The Bold" or "The Great," but unsuccessful monarchs are usually less lucky. For ten points each, given such a monarch, supply his less-than-flattering royal sobriquet.

1. Charles II of the Franks

Answer: the Bald

2. Louis V of France

Answer: the Sluggard

3. Selim II of the Ottoman Empire

Answer: the Sot

6. For ten points each, given a famous work of art, identify the museum in which it permanently kept.

1. Grant Wood's "American Gothic"

Answer: Art Institute of Chicago

2. Goya's "The Third of May, 1808"

Answer: the Prado

3. Constable's "The Haywain"

Answer: National Gallery in London

7. For fifteen points each, identify the following parts of the human brain.

1. This large tract of axons connects the two hemispheres of the brain. If it is severed, a person's right hand will literally not know what the left hand is doing.

Answer: corpus callosum

2. Positioned near the center of the brain, these five large nuclei carry signals from the cortex to the thalamus and are responsible for motor functions. Deficiencies of them often lead to Parkinson's and Huntington's diseases.

Answer: basal ganglia

8. For 10 points each, identify the following member of the circle of the Roman Emperor Augustus.

1. This general and admiral won the battle of Actium for the young Octavian in 31 BC.

Answer: M. Vipsanius Agrippa

2. This man served as a minister of arts and culture and sponsored Vergil and Horace. He retired in semi-disgrace.

Answer: Gaius Maecenas

3. This nephew of Augustus was groomed to succeed him, but in 23 BC, he died mysteriously at an early age; some say from poison.

Answer: M. Claudius Marcellus

9. Contrary to popular belief, our neighbor to the north does produce some culture, much of it in the form of literature. For fifteen points each, identify the following contemporary Canadian writers:

1. This poet and novelist is best known for such feminist-themed works as "Edible Woman," "The Journals of Susanna Moodie," and "The Handmaid's Tale."

Answer: Margaret Atwood

2. This author of "The Apprenticeship of Dudley Kravitz" and "Joshua Then and Now" is best known for his semi-autobiographical accounts of life in the Jewish slums of Montreal.

Answer: Mordecai Richler

10. For 10 points each, given an event from the Old Testament, identify the book of the Bible in which it is recounted.

1. Joseph is sold into Egyptian slavery after his Coat of Many Colors alienates his brothers.

Answer: Genesis

2. The harlot Rahab saves the lives of two Israelite spies, and in return is spared from the destruction of Jericho.

Answer: Joshua

3. The story of Samson.

Answer: Judges

11. Given an African country, name its official language, for five points each with a five-point bonus for all five.

1. Zimbabwe

Answer: English

2. Madagascar

Answer: Malagasy

3. Ethiopia

Answer: Amharic

4. Central African Rep.

Answer: French

5. Djibouti

Answer: Arabic

6. Mozambique

Answer: Portuguese

12. Many authors are noted for the exceptionally strange names they give to their characters. For ten points each, given a few such character names, identify the authors in whose works they appear.

1. Humphry Clinker, Peregrine Pickle, Ferdinand Count Fathom

Answer: Tobias Smollett

2. Pecksniff, Silas Wegg, Sampson Brass, Wackford Squeers

Answer: Charles Dickens

3. Genghis Cohen, Fergus Mixolydian, Tyrone Slothrop

Answer: Thomas Pynchon

13. Bill Clinton made it all the way through the first half of his term without issuing a single veto. For 10 points each, identify these other presidents who are conspicuous for their use (or lack of use) of this power.

1. What President issued by far the most total vetoes, with 635?

Answer: Franklin Roosevelt or FDR

2. What other democrat, who issued 584 vetos in just eight years, was the veto champion before Roosevelt?

Answer: Grover Cleveland

3. Since the civil war, there has been only one other president besides Clinton never to issue a veto.

Answer: James Garfield

14. For the stated number of points, identify the following proteins.

1. (5) Found in red blood cells, this globular protein is used by vertebrates to carry oxygen through the blood stream.

Answer: hemoglobin

2. (10) This fibrous protein is used by various animals to form hair, feathers, hooves, and horns.

Answer: keratin

3. (15) This globular protein is soluble in water at normal temperatures, but forms an insoluble coagulate when heated. It is a principal component of egg white.

Answer: albumin

15. Identify the following English composers from works, on a 10-5 basis.

1. 10 pts: "Ode on St. Cecilia's Day," "Oedipus," "Don Quixote" 5 pts: "Dido and Aeneas."

Answer: Henry Purcell

2. 10 pts: "Rig Veda," "At The Boar's Head."

5 pts: "The Planets."

Answer: Gustav Holst

3. 10 pts: "The Wasps," "The Lark Ascending."
Thomas Tallis."

5 pts: "Sea Symphony," "Variations on a Theme by

Answer: Ralph Vaughan Williams

16. While much attention is paid to Shakespeare's comedies and tragedies, there has been less consideration of his late romances. Name the late romance for 10 points given some minor characters. You will get 5 points if you need a plot summary.

1.10: Autolycus, Emilia, Archidamus 5: An enraged king orders his daughter, who he thinks is not his, to be abandoned and left for dead. Oh, and it also has Shakespeare's weirdest stage direction.

Answer: The Winter's Tale

2. 10: Cornelius, Philario, Helen 5: It contains a Snow White-like plot with a jealous stepmother-queen and a king's daughter, as well as lost sons recognized by similar birthmarks.

Answer: Cymbeline

3. 10: Dionyza, Leonine, Philemon 5: The action of this play features the title character fleeing from the wrath of the King of Antioch.

Answer: Pericles

17. For fifteen points each, give the sums of the following infinite series:

1. $1 + 1/1! + 1/2! + 1/3! + \dots$ [read: one over one factorial]

Answer: e or euler's number

2. $1 - 1/3 + 1/5 - 1/7 + 1/9 - \dots$

Answer: pi over 4

18. You may know that the Mercury mission first sent Americans into space and that Apollo mission put men on the Moon, but how familiar are you with the names of Soviet space programs? For the stated number of points, given an accomplishment, give the name of the Soviet program. Mission numbers are not necessary.

1. Laika the Space Dog is launched into orbit.

Answer: Sputnik

2. Yuri Gagarin becomes the first man in space.

Answer: Vostok

3. Aleksei Leonov performs the first spacewalk.

Answer: Voshkod

19. Although Sophocles is best known for writing the three plays of the "Oedipus" cycle, he also wrote two memorable plays about the Trojan war. For fifteen points each, identify these two, given plot descriptions.
1. Odysseus and Neoptolemos go to the island of Lemnos in search of a hero who had been abandoned there years before because of a stinking foot wound.

Answer: Philoctetes

2. After being denied the armor of Achilles, a Greek hero goes insane, kills a flock of sheep, recovers his sanity, and kills himself.

Answer: Ajax or Aias

20. For the stated number of points, given a famous literary character, identify the story or novel in which they first appeared.

1. Sherlock Holmes

Answer: A Study in Scarlet

2. Natty Bumppo

Answer: The Pioneers

3. Svengali

Answer: Trilby

21. Time now for a Linnean version of that old Sesame Street game, "Which of these things is not like the others?" Given some lists of four animals, identify which one is most unlike the others, according to Linnean classification. Ten points each.

a- Tapeworm, earthworm, leech, ragworm

Answer: tapeworm

b- Weasel, raccoon, otter, skunk

Answer: raccoon

c- Mud puppy, newt, salamander, tree frog

Answer: tree frog

22. Identify the island, 30-20-10.

30- Two of the cities on its southern coast, Akrotiri and Dhekelia, are sovereign overseas bases owned by Britain. Other main cities include Limassol, Larnaca, and Famagusta.

20- Since 1974, this island and its capital have been divided in two by the "Attila" Line.

10- The third-largest island of the Mediterranean, its capital is Nicosia.

Answer: Cyprus

23. Many of the most celebrated adventures in Greek mythology were carried out not by individual heroes, but by teams. Given a list of heroes, identify the mythological expedition they all took part in together. Ten points each.

1. Tiphys, Aethalides, Castor, Pollux, Heracles, Hylas.

Answer: Argonauts or the Expedition of the Golden Fleece

2. Adrastus, Tydeus, Capanaeus, Polyneices.

Answer: Seven Against Thebes

3. Meleager, Castor, Pollux, Theseus, Atalanta.

Answer: Calydonian Boar Hunt