

# GJOpen Review: 2020

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## Overview

This report covers questions scored from 2021-01-01 to 2020-01-19. There were a total of 114 questions scored.

## 2020 Performance

- Mean Brier Score: +0.32 an increase from 2019's 0.23
- Mean of the Median: +0.35 an increase from 2019's 0.29
- Mean Accuracy: -0.03 a decrease from 2019's -0.05.

## Lessons Learned

1. Moderate your forecast, particularly in uncertain environments.
2. Base rates are better than special circumstances, 75%/25%.
3. In politics, base rates are often a better guide than polls.
4. Do your own research.
5. If the question resolves around people, don't assume the logical answer is the right one.
6. If there are institutional processes, politics, and other important factors in play that you don't understand, be conservative.
7. R Script for generating probabilities from historical prices is better than almost everyone's stock price forecasts.
8. Know the players and how their involvement changes the base rate.
9. Don't make extreme predictions against an incumbent/experienced politician.
10. Famine questions are always about the number of famine questions and are low probability, go  $\leq 10\%$ .
11. Look for the thing you haven't accounted for, e.g., stock split.
12. Do the work. For example, people don't take the time to assess the odds for awards shows, e.g., SAG Awards, Grammys, Oscars, Golden Globe, etc. There are many types of questions where this is true. If you do the work, you'll come out ahead.
13. Some questions are going to increase your Brier score, even if you do comparatively well on them, i.e., questions with a lot of options.
14. Base rate, when off base rate look for reverting to the mean.
15. Sometimes a partial counts, e.g., symbolic Hajj.
16. Deflation/high inflation are low probability, like famine.
17. Bet the favorite.
18. Get ahead of where the news is pointing.
19. If a question has an exponential curve, put an exponent on your estimates because you are likely projecting a line.

## Criteria for Evaluating Performance

Selecting questions for closer evaluation, I picked questions that met the following criteria:

1. Brier Score  $> .75$ , or
2. Accuracy was .15 higher or lower than the median (0.05 higher than 2019)

Scores are sorted from worst accuracy to best.

Table 1: Outlier Brier Scores: 2020

Date	Question	Time	Brier	Median	Accuracy
2020-11-03	Which presidential candidate will win Fl	96	1.327	0.636	0.663
2020-11-26	Between 25 July 2020 and 25 November 202	100	0.758	0.130	0.628
2020-06-19	What will be the closing value of the S&	97	1.305	0.663	0.621
2020-09-22	What will be the closing price of Tesla	100	0.869	0.251	0.619
2021-01-01	Will there be 12 or more Chapter 9 munic	91	1.369	0.697	0.609
2020-03-01	Who will win the 2020 South Carolina Dem	100	0.937	0.371	0.566
2020-12-31	What will Uber's end-of-day market capit	100	1.629	1.113	0.516
2020-12-01	Between 15 May 2020 and 30 November 2020	100	1.341	0.839	0.502
2020-02-29	Before 13 July 2020, will the United Sta	61	1.878	1.270	0.368
2020-02-04	Who will win the 2020 Iowa Democratic ca	93	1.301	0.912	0.363
2020-08-05	Will President Trump's approval rating b	36	2.000	1.027	0.348
2020-07-28	Before 28 July 2020, will Saudi Arabia a	100	0.831	0.515	0.316
2020-11-03	Who will win the U.S. Senate election fo	26	2.000	0.897	0.289
2020-11-16	How many total major hurricanes (Categor	97	1.032	0.761	0.263
2020-01-26	Who will win the 2020 Grammy for Album o	100	0.468	0.282	0.186
2020-07-01	For the month of June 2020, what will be	94	0.439	0.268	0.161
2021-01-01	Will the UN declare that a famine exists	69	0.804	0.595	0.145
2020-02-11	When will Lebanon's parliament give a vo	42	1.249	0.950	0.126
2020-03-01	Which horse will win the Saudi Cup?	85	0.806	0.785	0.018
2020-10-26	Before 1 January 2021, will a United Sta	100	1.036	1.107	-0.071
2020-07-01	Before 1 July 2020, will Nepal release i	93	0.801	0.911	-0.102
2020-01-26	Who will win the 2020 Grammy for Best Ne	100	0.215	0.374	-0.159
2020-03-04	Will Bernie Sanders win a majority of De	88	0.005	0.204	-0.174
2020-12-04	What will be Airbnb's end-of-day market	99	0.643	0.827	-0.181
2020-02-10	Who will win the 2020 Oscar® for Best Su	96	0.150	0.344	-0.186
2020-02-10	Which film will win the 2020 Oscar® for	96	1.039	1.239	-0.192
2020-10-07	For any seven consecutive day period bet	69	0.000	0.289	-0.201
2020-02-23	Who will win the 2020 Nevada Democratic	96	0.272	0.493	-0.213
2020-07-06	Who will win the 2020 Dominican Republic	100	0.066	0.289	-0.223
2020-01-19	Who will win the 2020 Screen Actors Guil	100	0.815	1.039	-0.224
2020-02-10	Who will win the 2020 Oscar® for Best Su	96	0.063	0.322	-0.249
2020-02-12	Who will win the 2020 New Hampshire Demo	95	0.297	0.561	-0.251
2021-01-01	Will Benjamin Netanyahu cease to be the	100	0.334	0.599	-0.265
2021-01-01	Before 1 January 2021, will the Council	100	0.000	0.267	-0.267
2020-11-03	Who will win the 2020 United States pres	100	0.063	0.363	-0.300
2020-05-30	Before 1 July 2020, will SpaceX launch i	47	0.034	0.725	-0.323
2020-02-10	Which film will win the 2020 Oscar® for	96	0.732	1.103	-0.356
2020-04-02	Will the United States experience at lea	100	0.707	1.104	-0.397
2020-09-29	How many states will have reported more	75	0.120	0.743	-0.467
2020-04-02	Will the monthly U.S. civilian unemploym	74	0.171	0.814	-0.475
2020-11-27	How many countries other than the U.S. a	78	0.038	0.793	-0.586
2020-11-03	Before 3 November 2020, will federal leg	82	0.057	0.925	-0.712
2021-01-01	Will the UAE's Customer Happiness Index	91	0.000	1.202	-1.090

## Question Review

### 1. Which presidential candidate will win Florida?

Two forecasts of 80% and 90% for Democratic candidate based on polls. I forecasted without doing much research, a mistake.

### 2. Between 25 July 2020 and 25 November 2020, will a lethal confrontation in Libya result in five or more fatalities for Egyptian armed forces?

I got wrapped up in the news cycle and deviated from base rate on this question and paid for it.

### 3. What will be the closing value of the S&P 500 Index on 19 June 2020 relative to its closing value on 19 March 2020?

In the middle of a pandemic, a logical forecast is that the stock market would tank.

### 4. What will be the closing price of Tesla stock on 22 September 2020?

Burned by a price question that featured a stock split I hadn't accounted for.

### 5. Will there be 12 or more Chapter 9 municipal bankruptcy filings in 2020?

Forecast: "Revenue shortfalls + pandemic expense = Chapter 9 for > 12 municipalities in time frame." Perfectly logical, and wrong. I think this really points to that if you don't understand the processes, as I don't with filing Chapter 9 municipal bankruptcy, it's better to be conservative.

### 6. Who will win the 2020 South Carolina Democratic primary?

Underestimated Biden after losses in the first few primaries. I don't think I'd play this one differently in a similar situation.

### 7. What will Uber's end-of-day market capitalization be on 31 December 2020?

Uber's valuation is crazy. I still think so. But, Mr. Market is going crazy on this one, which suggests I shouldn't try to forecast stock market prices outside of mechanical historical probabilities.

### 8. Between 15 May 2020 and 30 November 2020, will any Group III U.S. air carrier file for bankruptcy?

The obvious answer was the wrong one. I should have looked closer at their financials and the CARES Act.

### 9. The 2020 Golden Globes

I averaged -0.11 on the six Golden Globe questions using Gold Derby. Half of them were blown 0.395, 0.208, 0.046 and the other half were -0.247, -0.383, -0.695. These questions will increase your Brier score and are extremely difficult to forecast. Yet, it ended up as a win. Forecast these in the future, or no?

### 10. Before 13 July 2020, will the United States and Afghan Taliban sign a peace agreement?

I went with the base rate rather than factor in the Trump administration would announce a PR peace deal, which was a mistake. But, for future questions, going with the base rate, as I did here, is still a good idea.

### 11. Who will win the 2020 Iowa Democratic caucuses?

Pete Buttigieg? I guess the lesson here is that Iowa caucuses are difficult to predict, either avoid them or go conservative.

### 12. Will President Trump's approval rating be lower on 5 August 2020 than it was on 1 July 2020, according to FiveThirtyEight?

In retrospect, this was a really dumb forecast on my part. The July 1st approval numbers were at a all-time high. Why did I think they would go higher? I don't think I did the research on this one.

**13. Before 28 July 2020, will Saudi Arabia announce the cancellation or suspension of the Hajj pilgrimage, scheduled for 28 July 2020 to 2 August 2020?**

Got burned by the symbolic hajj.

**14. Who will win the U.S. Senate election for Maine in 2020?**

Thought Collins was toast. Don't make extreme predictions against an incumbent.

**15. How many total major hurricanes (Category 3 or higher) will occur in the Atlantic Ocean in the 2020 hurricane season, according to the National Hurricane Center?**

I went against the increased forecasts expected and went with the base rate. If I did that for 10 years, I expect it would work out. But, it isn't always going to work out, as it didn't here.

**16. Grammy Questions**

There were four Grammy questions: 0.186, -0.057, -0.061, -0.159. So a net of -0.091. But, because there are so many options, it's going to increase your Brier score no matter what you do. I think Grammy's are worth doing in conjunction with a handicapping site.

**17. For the month of June 2020, what will be the annual rate of inflation for the eurozone?**

I thought the pandemic would cause deflation. Maybe it is a good idea to assume that something that rarely happens won't?

**18. Will the UN declare that a famine exists in any part of Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania, or Uganda in 2020?**

The easy answer to famine questions is to always give it low probability. The math for a break-even forecast is easy. Brier score for forecasting 2%:  $0.0008 / 1.9208$ . So, the average of 20 questions is 0.0968. Official famines rarely get called. For 10%:  $0.005 / 1.805$ , it still takes 20 questions to bring the average down to  $<0.10$ . These are questions that are more about the number of questions and the likelihood and one will be yes, and that likelihood is always low.

**19. When will Lebanon's parliament give a vote of confidence to a new government?**

Another installment of don't make extreme predictions on the politics of countries you don't live in and don't understand.

**20. Which horse will win the Saudi Cup?**

In horse racing, it's probably best to go with the favorite.

**21. Before 1 January 2021, will a United States Supreme Court seat be vacated?**

Played this with the actuarial tables. I wouldn't do anything differently.

**22. Before 1 July 2020, will Nepal release its 2020 census results for Indian rhinoceros?**

Some contingent of the crowd failed to update their forecasts in light of the information that Nepal cancelled this due to COVID-19.

**23. Will Bernie Sanders win a majority of Democratic pledged delegates on Super Tuesday?**

In retrospect, it is obvious that this had zero chance.

**24. What will be Airbnb's end-of-day market capitalization on its first day of public trading?**

I was ahead on the news that Airbnb would be late.

**25. 2020 Oscars**

For the six Oscars questions, I got 0.069, -0.06, -0.186, -0.192, -0.249, -0.356. Again, I played the odds using Gold Derby. I think most of the crowd were going with what they liked.

**26. For any seven consecutive day period between 1 October and 31 December 2020, will there be 200,000 or more combined total confirmed new cases of COVID-19 in the United States?**

I learned respiratory epidemics tend to come in waves, six months apart, second usually worse than the first. So, I forecast this at 100%.

**27. Who will win the 2020 Nevada Democratic caucuses?**

Called Bernie early, thinking he'd have momentum.

**28. Who will win the 2020 Dominican Republic presidential election?**

Simply followed early polls.

**29. Screen Actors Guild**

There were six questions, -0.018, -0.02, -0.064, -0.097, -0.139, -0.224. Apparently, SAG Awards are much more predictable than Grammys.

**30. Who will win the 2020 New Hampshire Democratic primary?**

It seemed patently obvious that Bernie Sanders was going to win New Hampshire.

**31. Before 1 January 2021, will the Council of the European Union request the consent of the European Parliament to conclude a European Union-United Kingdom trade agreement?**

It seemed obvious that a trade deal was going to take longer to negotiate during a pandemic. But, perhaps I got lucky.

**32. Who will win the 2020 United States presidential election?**

I took a big risk with this one, largely because reelecting Trump seemed like a bad idea.

**33. Before 1 July 2020, will SpaceX launch its first crewed mission into orbit?**

They seemed like they were on track, and the crowd has an irrational dislike of Elon Musk.

**34. Will the United States experience at least one quarter of negative real GDP growth in 2020?**

I was in this one early on the logic that an extended expansion was historically an anomaly and was expecting a return to mean.

**35. Will the monthly U.S. civilian unemployment rate (U3) reach or exceed 4.0% for any month before 1 November 2020?**

Same as previous.

**36. How many countries other than the U.S. and Brazil will have more than one million total confirmed cases of COVID-19 as of 31 December 2020?**

Very few people really understand exponential growth. This question illustrates this point.

**37. Before 3 November 2020, will federal legislation to provide at least \$100 billion in direct financial assistance to state and/or local governments become law?**

I had read somewhere that the reason Mitch McConnell wasn't involved in the negotiations over COVID-19 relief was because he didn't have the votes. Something like 20 Republican Senators were against any kind of additional aid. So, I went low when everyone else went high, thinking COVID-19 relief had to happen.

**38. Will Benjamin Netanyahu cease to be the prime minister of Israel before 1 January 2021?**

I could have done better. I bet against Bibi even though I knew it was dumb to bet against Bibi.

## All Brier Scores: January 19, 2020 - January 19, 2020

Table 2: All Brier Scores: 2020

Date	Question	Time	Brier	Median	Accuracy
2021-01-01	Will the UAE's Customer Happiness Index	91	0.000	1.202	-1.090
2021-01-01	In its January 2021 World Economic Outlo	94	0.000	0.002	-0.002
2021-01-01	Will there be 12 or more Chapter 9 munic	91	1.369	0.697	0.609
2021-01-01	Will President Trump and North Korea's K	43	0.000	0.020	-0.009
2021-01-01	Will Nicolas Maduro cease to be presiden	72	0.000	0.005	-0.003
2021-01-01	Will Venezuelan opposition leader Juan G	100	0.415	0.451	-0.036
2021-01-01	Before 1 January 2021, will the Council	100	0.000	0.267	-0.267
2021-01-01	How many homicides will there be in Chic	100	0.212	0.117	0.095
2021-01-01	Before 1 January 2021, will there be a l	100	0.000	0.111	-0.111
2021-01-01	Before 1 January 2021, will a date be se	100	0.000	0.111	-0.111
2021-01-01	Will Benjamin Netanyahu cease to be the	100	0.334	0.599	-0.265
2021-01-01	Before 1 January 2021, will there be a l	96	0.000	0.149	-0.143
2021-01-01	Will the UN declare that a famine exists	69	0.804	0.595	0.145
2020-12-31	What will Uber's end-of-day market capit	100	1.629	1.113	0.516
2020-12-31	What will be the closing price of Tesla	100	0.026	0.113	-0.087
2020-12-31	What will be the closing yield for the 3	90	0.240	0.181	0.053
2020-12-04	What will be Airbnb's end-of-day market	99	0.643	0.827	-0.181
2020-12-01	What will be the Estimated CO2 (carbon d	100	0.026	0.148	-0.122
2020-12-01	Before 1 December 2020, will Mohammed bi	100	0.000	0.004	-0.004
2020-12-01	Between 15 May 2020 and 30 November 2020	100	1.341	0.839	0.502
2020-11-27	How many countries other than the U.S. a	78	0.038	0.793	-0.586
2020-11-26	Between 25 July 2020 and 25 November 202	100	0.758	0.130	0.628
2020-11-16	How many total major hurricanes (Categor	97	1.032	0.761	0.263
2020-11-11	Before 11 November 2020, will Alexander	68	0.000	0.007	-0.005
2020-11-03	Who will win the 2020 United States pres	100	0.063	0.363	-0.300
2020-11-03	Who will win the U.S. Senate election fo	1	0.000	0.080	-0.001
2020-11-03	Which presidential candidate will win Fl	96	1.327	0.636	0.663
2020-11-03	Who will win the U.S. Senate election fo	26	2.000	0.897	0.289
2020-11-03	Will the winner of the popular vote in t	100	0.001	0.120	-0.120
2020-11-03	Which presidential candidate will win Te	5	0.405	0.155	0.014
2020-11-03	Before 3 November 2020, will federal leg	82	0.057	0.925	-0.712
2020-11-03	How many presidential candidate debates	36	0.167	0.188	-0.007
2020-11-03	Before 3 November 2020, will federal leg	99	0.307	0.183	0.122
2020-11-03	In how many states will Kanye West appea	77	0.000	0.081	-0.062
2020-11-01	What will be the U.S. civilian unemploy	30	0.195	0.194	0.000
2020-11-01	When will Microsoft announce a deal for	71	0.010	0.038	-0.020
2020-11-01	When will the EU add the U.S. to its lis	100	0.000	0.007	-0.007
2020-10-26	Before 1 January 2021, will a United Sta	100	1.036	1.107	-0.071
2020-10-26	When will the U.S. Senate confirm Amy Co	100	0.000	0.040	-0.040
2020-10-17	When will opposition leader Svetlana Tik	75	0.000	0.001	0.000
2020-10-07	For any seven consecutive day period bet	69	0.000	0.289	-0.201
2020-10-01	When will a new tax framework for mult	100	0.001	0.010	-0.009
2020-10-01	When will Telegram's digital currency, G	100	0.002	0.029	-0.027
2020-10-01	Will China's Three Gorges Dam fail befor	99	0.000	0.000	0.000
2020-09-29	How many states will have reported more	75	0.120	0.743	-0.467
2020-09-26	Will the team winning the 2020 National	99	0.005	0.038	-0.033
2020-09-22	What will be the closing yield for the 3	32	0.085	0.066	0.006
2020-09-22	What will be the closing price of Tesla	100	0.869	0.251	0.619
2020-09-22	Before 22 September 2020, will federal l	96	0.000	0.001	-0.001

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2020-09-17	Before 1 October 2020, will there be a p	82	0.000	0.001	-0.001
2020-09-01	When will the Transportation Security Ad	35	0.000	0.000	0.000
2020-09-01	Before 1 September 2020, will Cameroon’s	100	0.017	0.032	-0.015
2020-08-18	Will the Democratic Party nominate their	88	0.000	0.004	-0.004
2020-08-18	Who will be the 2020 Democratic nominee	93	0.000	0.046	-0.043
2020-08-15	Will Félix Tshisekedi cease to be presid	100	0.002	0.020	-0.018
2020-08-05	Will President Trump’s approval rating b	36	2.000	1.027	0.348
2020-08-05	Before 5 August 2020, will Mark Esper ce	17	0.000	0.018	-0.003
2020-08-01	Will the federal emergency increase in u	35	0.000	0.351	-0.124
2020-07-28	Before 28 July 2020, will Saudi Arabia a	100	0.831	0.515	0.316
2020-07-16	When will the first Major League Basebal	92	0.000	0.075	-0.069
2020-07-15	What will be the end-of-day closing valu	98	0.099	0.151	-0.050
2020-07-06	Who will win the 2020 Dominican Republic	100	0.066	0.289	-0.223
2020-07-01	When will an NBA game next be played?	91	0.000	0.015	-0.014
2020-07-01	For the month of June 2020, what will be	94	0.439	0.268	0.161
2020-07-01	Before 1 July 2020, will Nepal release i	93	0.801	0.911	-0.102
2020-07-01	Before 1 July 2020, will the Chilean gov	100	0.000	0.015	-0.015
2020-07-01	Will domestic sales of passenger vehicle	99	0.003	0.109	-0.105
2020-07-01	When will British Airways resume commerc	76	0.000	0.147	-0.112
2020-07-01	Before 1 July 2020, will federal legisla	95	0.026	0.039	-0.012
2020-07-01	What will be China’s year-on-year GDP gr	98	0.057	0.179	-0.120
2020-07-01	Before 1 July 2020, will the Chilean gov	100	0.000	0.003	-0.003
2020-06-22	Will formal negotiations between Russia	10	0.005	1.398	-0.142
2020-06-19	What will be the closing value of the S&	97	1.305	0.663	0.621
2020-06-13	Between 11 October 2019 and 12 June 2020	64	0.000	0.007	-0.004
2020-06-10	Before 9 October 2020, will the music fe	96	0.000	0.095	-0.091
2020-06-10	At close of business on 10 June 2020, wi	92	0.004	0.133	-0.119
2020-06-02	Will the 2020 Nuclear Non-Proliferation	100	0.003	0.012	-0.010
2020-06-01	Will Nicolas Maduro cease to be presiden	100	0.000	0.040	-0.040
2020-06-01	When will the CDC’s novel coronavirus tr	61	0.000	0.039	-0.023
2020-05-30	Before 1 July 2020, will SpaceX launch i	47	0.034	0.725	-0.323
2020-04-29	At close of business on 29 April 2020, w	83	0.001	0.088	-0.072
2020-04-17	How many confirmed cases of COVID-19 wil	100	0.000	0.027	-0.027
2020-04-12	How many total cases of COVID-19 in the	100	0.084	0.074	0.010
2020-04-02	Will the monthly U.S. civilian unemploym	74	0.171	0.814	-0.475
2020-04-02	Will the United States experience at lea	100	0.707	1.104	-0.397
2020-04-01	What will be China’s year-on-year GDP gr	15	0.000	0.010	-0.002
2020-04-01	What will be the closing price for Brent	100	0.292	0.426	-0.134
2020-03-24	Before 24 July 2020, will it be official	4	0.000	0.020	-0.001
2020-03-10	Between 13 December 2019 and 1 May 2020,	100	0.272	0.418	-0.147
2020-03-04	Will Bernie Sanders win a majority of De	88	0.005	0.204	-0.174
2020-03-01	Which horse will win the Saudi Cup?	85	0.806	0.785	0.018
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2020-02-10	Who will win the 2020 Oscar® for Best Su	96	0.063	0.322	-0.249
2020-02-10	Who will win the 2020 Oscar® for Best Su	96	0.150	0.344	-0.186
2020-02-10	Who will win the 2020 Oscar® for Best Ac	96	0.316	0.378	-0.060
2020-02-10	Which film will win the 2020 Oscar® for	96	1.039	1.239	-0.192

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2020-02-10	Who will win the 2020 Oscar® for Best Ac	96	0.217	0.145	0.069
2020-02-04	Who will win the 2020 Iowa Democratic ca	93	1.301	0.912	0.363
2020-02-02	Which film will win the 2020 BAFTA Award	100	0.320	0.303	0.017
2020-02-01	Will Sebastián Piñera cease to be presid	44	0.000	0.000	0.000
2020-01-31	Before 1 February 2020, will the United	54	0.000	0.114	-0.061
2020-01-26	Who will win the 2020 Grammy for Album o	100	0.468	0.282	0.186
2020-01-26	Who will win the 2020 Grammy for Best Ne	100	0.215	0.374	-0.159
2020-01-26	Who will win the 2020 Grammy for Record	100	0.609	0.666	-0.057
2020-01-26	Which song will win the 2020 Grammy for	100	0.619	0.594	0.025
2020-01-19	Who will win the 2020 Screen Actors Guil	100	0.541	0.680	-0.139
2020-01-19	Who will win the 2020 Screen Actors Guil	100	0.815	1.039	-0.224
2020-01-19	Which ensemble will win the 2020 Screen	100	0.622	0.640	-0.018
2020-01-19	Which ensemble will win the 2020 Screen	100	0.595	0.692	-0.097