

# 2020 MIT Science Bowl High School Invitational

## Round 2

### TOSS UP

1) BIOLOGY *Multiple Choice* Which of the following traits is an example of codominance?

- W) Blue feathers in chickens
- X) Eye colors in humans
- Y) Blood groups in humans
- Z) Skin colors in humans

ANSWER: Y) Blood groups in humans

### BONUS

1) BIOLOGY *Multiple Choice* Which of the following four species is usually the limiting factor in plant growth?

- W) Sulfate
- X) Iodate
- Y) Chloride
- Z) Phosphate

ANSWER: Z) Phosphate

---

### TOSS UP

2) PHYSICS *Multiple Choice* Which of the following statements is true of two systems A and B which are in thermal equilibrium with each other?

- W) The root mean square speed of molecules in each system is the same
- X) Energy transfer between the two systems is impossible
- Y) If system C is in thermal equilibrium with system A, then it is also in thermal equilibrium with system B
- Z) The temperatures of the two systems are different

ANSWER: Y) If system C is in thermal equilibrium with system A, then system C is also in thermal equilibrium with system B

### BONUS

2) PHYSICS *Short Answer* By name or number, identify all of the following three properties that neutrinos have a nonzero value for:

- 1) Charge
- 2) Mass
- 3) Color

ANSWER: 2 only

---

### TOSS UP

3) EARTH AND SPACE *Multiple Choice* After 10 billion years, the sun will most likely occupy which region on a Hertzsprung-Russell diagram?

- W) Upper left
- X) Upper right
- Y) Lower left
- Z) Lower right

ANSWER: Y) Lower left

### BONUS

3) EARTH AND SPACE *Short Answer* Tyler has three eyepieces to use with his refracting telescope, which has a primary lens focal length of 90 centimeters. Eyepiece 1 has a focal length of 25 millimeters, eyepiece 2 has a focal length of 15 millimeters, and eyepiece 3 has a focal length of 12 millimeters. Which eyepiece should he use to have the maximum magnification, and what is the magnification of his telescope when he uses that eyepiece?

ANSWER: Eyepiece 3; 75

---

### TOSS UP

4) CHEMISTRY *Short Answer* What process can be described as the passing of gas particles through a small hole, which is characterized by Graham's law?

ANSWER: Effusion

### BONUS

4) CHEMISTRY *Multiple Choice* In a galvanic cell, the presence of a salt bridge filled with an electrolyte, such as aqueous potassium nitrate, is crucial. Over the course of the reaction, what happens to the potassium and nitrate ions in the salt bridge?

- W) The potassium ions move toward the cathode, while the nitrate ions move toward the anode.
- X) The potassium ions move toward the anode, while the nitrate ions move toward the cathode.
- Y) Both the potassium and nitrate ions move toward the cathode.
- Z) Both the potassium and nitrate ions move toward the anode.

ANSWER: W) The potassium ions move toward the cathode, while the nitrate ions move toward the anode.

---

### TOSS UP

5) ENERGY *Short Answer* The MIT Energy Initiative is currently exploring efficient catalysts for oxygen reduction for the hydrogen fuel cell. How many electrons are transferred per oxygen molecule in the hydrogen fuel cell reaction?

ANSWER: 4

### BONUS

5) ENERGY *Short Answer* The MIT Energy Initiative is also looking for ways to reduce carbon dioxide into combustible liquid hydrocarbons. Currently, there is an industrial process which converts a syngas (*SIN-gas*) mixture to hydrocarbons as fuel. What is this process called?

ANSWER: Fischer-Tropsch process

### TOSS UP

6) MATH *Multiple Choice* Which of the following is closest to  $2^{3^4}$  (read: *two to the power of quantity three to the fourth power*)?

W)  $10^{23}$

X)  $10^{24}$

Y)  $10^{25}$

Z)  $10^{26}$

ANSWER: X)  $10^{24}$

### BONUS

6) MATH *Short Answer* By name or number, order the following three numbers from least to greatest:

1)  $2^{21}$

2)  $5^9$

3)  $3^{14}$

ANSWER: 2, 1, 3

---

### TOSS UP

7) ENERGY *Multiple Choice* Researchers in the Yaffe (*yeah-fee*) group at MIT are studying cell signaling, especially in the context of cancer. Cell signaling commonly involves phosphorylation. Which tool is commonly used to examine the phosphorylation state of a protein?

- W) Northern blot
- X) Western blot
- Y) Southern blot
- Z) MS2 tagging

ANSWER: X) Western blot

### BONUS

7) ENERGY *Short Answer* Researchers in the Voigt (*voyt*) group at MIT are developing novel gene pathways to produce new molecules in bacteria. What is the name for a group of genes in bacteria under the same promoter?

ANSWER: Operon

---

### TOSS UP

8) MATH *Short Answer* How many edges are in a pentagonal prism?

ANSWER: 15

### BONUS

8) MATH *Short Answer* Sarah is playing a game where she rolls a 6-sided die up to two times. Her winnings are determined by the roll she stops on. After rolling once, she can choose to re-roll. Assuming Sarah chooses when to re-roll optimally, what are her expected winnings?

ANSWER:  $17/4$  (accept: 4.25)

### TOSS UP

9) CHEMISTRY *Multiple Choice* Which of the following processes is a direct transition of a substance from solid to gas?

- W) Vaporization
- X) Sublimation
- Y) Deposition
- Z) Fusion

ANSWER: X) Sublimation

### BONUS

9) CHEMISTRY *Multiple Choice* The Lyman (*LIE-muhn*) series consists of spectral lines produced by an excited hydrogen electron relaxing to the ground state. What class of electromagnetic radiation does the Lyman series fall into?

- W) Infrared
- X) Visible
- Y) Ultraviolet
- Z) X-ray

ANSWER: Y) Ultraviolet

---

### TOSS UP

10) BIOLOGY *Short Answer* Which vitamins are fat soluble?

ANSWER: Vitamins A, D, E, and K

### BONUS

10) BIOLOGY *Short Answer* A mother needs to get a paternity test done for her recently born baby, who is blood type A. The mother refuses to disclose her own blood type. By name or number, identify all of the following four blood types which the father could possibly have had.

- 1) B
- 2) O
- 3) AB
- 4) A

ANSWER: 1, 2, 3, 4 (accept: all)

---



### TOSS UP

11) PHYSICS *Multiple Choice* A ball is tied to a string and swung around in a vertical circle. When observed in a rotating reference frame, which of the following forces acting on the ball does not have a reaction force pair according to Newton's third law?

- W) Gravitational force
- X) Tension
- Y) Centrifugal force
- Z) Air friction

ANSWER: Y) Centrifugal force

### BONUS

11) PHYSICS *Short Answer* A small block of cold metal at 0 degrees Celsius that has a specific heat of 2 joules per gram per kelvin is placed inside a tub of water at 27 degrees Celsius. If the metal is only a quarter of the mass of the water, what will be the temperature in degrees Celsius of both bodies at thermal equilibrium, to two significant figures?

ANSWER: 24 degrees Celsius

---

### TOSS UP

12) EARTH AND SPACE *Short Answer* By name or number, indicate all of the following three plate boundaries that are correctly paired with fault types.

- 1) Convergent and normal
- 2) Transform and reverse
- 3) Divergent and thrust

ANSWER: None of them

### BONUS

12) EARTH AND SPACE *Multiple Choice* Which of the following statements is true of magmatic differentiation?

- W) Crystal settling changes magmatic compositions by removing dense iron-rich minerals
- X) Differentiation tends to make magmas more mafic
- Y) A magma chamber that has undergone partial differentiation will be more volatile to eruption
- Z) Magmatic differentiation leads to the creation of uniform batholiths

ANSWER: Y) A magma chamber that has undergone partial differentiation will be more volatile to eruption

---

### TOSS UP

13) EARTH AND SPACE *Short Answer* Identify the fine-grained counterpart in the coarse-grained igneous rock diorite.

ANSWER: Andesite

### BONUS

13) EARTH AND SPACE *Multiple Choice* Which of the following statements best explains why the position of the North Celestial Pole travels in a circle with respect to the background stars, with a period of roughly 26,000 years?

- W) The revolution of the solar system about the center of the Milky Way causes different stars to be at the pole at different positions in the orbit
- X) The gravity of the Sun and Moon causes Earth's axis to wobble
- Y) The gravity of nearby stars causes the ecliptic to wobble, changing the orientation of the whole solar system
- Z) The shape of Earth's orbit varies slightly over time, causing the axis to point at different areas of the sky

ANSWER: X) The gravity of the Sun and Moon causes Earth's axis to wobble

---

### TOSS UP

14) MATH *Multiple Choice* The price of a jacket is discounted by 20%, and a month later it is discounted again by 20% from its price at that time. Which of the following is closest to the percent increase in price needed for the jacket to return to its original price?

- W) 32%
- X) 40%
- Y) 48%
- Z) 56%

ANSWER: Z) 56%

### BONUS

14) MATH *Short Answer* The correlation coefficient between two random variables  $X$  and  $Y$  is zero. By name or number, identify all of the following three statements which must be true:

- 1) The variance of  $X + Y$  equals the variance of  $X$  plus the variance of  $Y$ .
- 2)  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent.
- 3) If one performs least-squares linear regression to predict  $Y$  from the value of  $X$ , one will always predict the same value of  $Y$  regardless of  $X$ .

ANSWER: 1 and 3

---

### TOSS UP

15) ENERGY *Short Answer* Researchers in the Kardar group at MIT are interested in studying the Casimir force, a weak attractive force between closely parallel plates. The Casimir force can be understood as a quantum interaction between the plates and what carriers of the electromagnetic force?

ANSWER: Photons

### BONUS

15) ENERGY *Short Answer* Researchers led by MIT's Haystack Observatory recently developed software to combine radio signals from the 40 telescopes in the Atacama Large Millimeter Observatory coherently, transforming the telescope array into the equivalent of a single large telescope. What is the term for this technique?

ANSWER: Interferometry

---

### TOSS UP

16) CHEMISTRY *Multiple Choice* Which of the following atoms has the smallest atomic radius?

- W)  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$
- X)  $\text{Na}^+$
- Y)  $\text{F}^-$
- Z)  $\text{O}^{2-}$

ANSWER: W)  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$

### BONUS

16) CHEMISTRY *Short Answer* Identify the number of distinct bond lengths in the following two molecules.

- 1)  $\text{ClF}_3$
- 2)  $\text{PCl}_5$

ANSWER: 1) 2; 2) 2

### TOSS UP

17) BIOLOGY *Multiple Choice* Which of the following molecules normally CANNOT travel through a channel protein?

- W) Sodium
- X) Bicarbonate
- Y) Creatinine (*cree-A-tih-neen*)
- Z) Albumin

ANSWER: Z) Albumin

### BONUS

17) BIOLOGY *Short Answer* By name or number, order the following three root zones in a typical eudicot (*YOO-dih-cot*) from least to most mature.

- 1) Zone of differentiation
- 2) Zone of cell division
- 3) Zone of elongation

ANSWER: 2, 3, 1

---

### TOSS UP

18) PHYSICS *Multiple Choice* Two cylindrical columns of water that have the same height but different cross-sectional areas are sitting on a table. Which of the following is true of the water pressure at the bottom of the containers and the normal force the table exerts on them?

- W) The columns have the same water pressure and have the same normal force
- X) The columns have the same water pressure and have different normal forces
- Y) The columns have different water pressures and have the same normal force
- Z) The columns have different water pressures and have different normal forces

ANSWER: X) The columns have the same water pressure and have different normal forces

### BONUS

18) PHYSICS *Short Answer* A circuit consists of an ideal DC voltage source of 10 volts, an inductor with an inductance of 2.0 millihenries, and a fuse which causes the circuit to become open when the current reaches 12 amperes, all in series. The current through the circuit is initially 0 amperes. How long, in seconds to two significant figures, will it take until the fuse opens the circuit? Give your answer in scientific notation.

ANSWER:  $2.4 \times 10^{-3}$  seconds

---

### TOSS UP

19) CHEMISTRY *Multiple Choice* Which of the following molecules has the highest normal boiling point?

- W) HF
- X) H<sub>2</sub>O
- Y) NH<sub>3</sub>
- Z) CH<sub>4</sub>

ANSWER: X) H<sub>2</sub>O

### BONUS

19) CHEMISTRY *Multiple Choice* Which of the following functions as a Lewis acid, but not a Bronsted Lowry acid?

- W) HF
- X) CH<sub>3</sub>COOH
- Y) BH<sub>3</sub>
- Z) NH<sub>3</sub>

ANSWER: Y) BH<sub>3</sub>

---

### TOSS UP

20) PHYSICS *Short Answer* A particle's position as a function of time is given by the equation  $x(t) = 5t^3 - 9t^2 - 19t + 28$ . What is its acceleration at time  $t = 2$ ?

ANSWER: 42

### BONUS

20) PHYSICS *Short Answer* In the operation of lasers, the phosphor can be excited to a metastable state. In order for the laser to function, a state in which more of the phosphor is in the excited state than ground state is required. What is this state known as?

ANSWER: Population inversion (do not accept: inversion)



### TOSS UP

21) BIOLOGY *Multiple Choice* Which of the following organs plays an important role in immune system maturation?

- W) Telencephalon (*tell-en-SEH-fuh-lawn*)
- X) Thyroid
- Y) Thymus
- Z) Thalamus

ANSWER: Y) Thymus

### BONUS

21) BIOLOGY *Short Answer* In a cross between two peas heterozygous in pea color and shape, where both traits follow Mendelian genetics and the yellow trait and the smooth trait are dominant, what fraction of the child peas will be both yellow and smooth?

ANSWER: 9/16

---

### TOSS UP

22) MATH *Short Answer* What is the probability of drawing two consecutive queens from a standard 52-card deck, without replacement?

ANSWER: 1/221

### BONUS

22) MATH *Short Answer* An ant is walking from one corner of a cube to the corner farthest from it. What is the shortest distance it must walk if the cube has volume 216?

ANSWER:  $6\sqrt{5}$

### TOSS UP

23) EARTH AND SPACE *Short Answer* By name or number, identify all of the following three metamorphic rocks which exhibit foliation.

- 1) Slate
- 2) Schist
- 3) Quartzite

ANSWER: 1 and 2

### BONUS

23) EARTH AND SPACE *Multiple Choice* Which of the following sedimentary rocks were NOT formed through chemical precipitation of sediment?

- W) Chalk
- X) Travertine (*TRAA-vr-teen*)
- Y) Gypsum (*JIP-sum*)
- Z) Rock salt

ANSWER: W) Chalk

---