

Middle School Sample Packet
Packet 1

Tossups

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1. **The "Blue" branch of this river begins at Lake Tana while the "White" branch starts near Lake Victoria. The Aswan High Dam is found along this river that flows into the (*) Mediterranean Sea after passing through Cairo, Egypt. For 10 points—name this African river, the longest in the world.**

answer: Nile River

<265406>

2. **These characters first appeared in *The Tower Treasure*, in which Chet Morton's car was stolen. While tracking missing money, they get help from their father (*) Fenton, a Bayport investigator. For 10 points—name this mystery-solving duo, whose first names are Frank and Joe.**

answer: The Hardy Boys (accept Frank and Joe Hardy before those names are given)

<265538>

3. **The dew point one is also called a "dry line." Funnel clouds may appear around occluded [uh-KLOO-did] ones while shearlines with varying wind speed are common near (*) stationary ones. For 10 points—name these weather air boundaries depicted on maps with blue and red lines representing cold and warm masses.**

answer: weather fronts

<269957>

4. **In 1921 Britain made Faisal king of this country. During the 1980s it used poison gas on its Kurdish population, fought (*) Iran, and invaded Kuwait during the rule of Saddam Hussein. For 10 points—in 2003 American troops looking for weapons of mass destruction invaded what country?**

answer: Iraq

<265383>

5. **Characters in this novel include Mayella Ewell, whose father Bob breaks into Judge Taylor's home and attacks two children before being killed by (*) Boo Radley. For 10 points—name this novel that features a lawyer named Atticus Finch, a work by Harper Lee.**

answer: To Kill a Mockingbird

<265547>

6. **A pair of complementary angles sum to this many degrees, and this number of degrees is the upper bound of reflex angles. A polygon's exterior angles sum to it, as do the values of (*) four right angles. For 10 points—give this number, also the amount of degrees in a circle.**

answer: 360 degrees

<266218>

7. **This man captured Vercingetorix and sent troops across the Rubicon to start a civil war. Along with Crassus and Pompey, he formed the First (*) Triumvirate.** For 10 points—a conspiracy led by Cassius and Brutus killed what Roman leader on the Ides of March?

answer: (Gaius) Julius Caesar

<265381>

8. **In 2003 Dick Gephardt was replaced as House minority leader by this legislator, whose “100-Hour Plan” headlined the (*) Democratic takeover of Congress in 2006.** For 10 points—name this current speaker of the House, the first woman in U.S. history to hold that post.

answer: Nancy (Patricia D'Alesandro) Pelosi

<265408>

9. **The Gusev Crater on this planet shows evidence of dust devils, which kick up the iron oxide on its surface. Features on this planet include the canyon Valles Marineris and the volcano (*) Olympus Mons.** For 10 points—name this fourth planet from the Sun, the red planet.

answer: Mars

<266215>

10. **Clement Attlee replaced this man, who announced that an “iron curtain” had descended across Europe. He promised that “we shall fight on the beaches” in a June (*) 1940 speech to the House of Commons.** For 10 points—name this man who served as British prime minister during most of World War II.

answer: Winston (Leonard Spencer) Churchill

<265377>

11. **Oil from this state's Prudhoe Bay is carried in a pipeline to a terminal at Valdez. This state's longest river, the Yukon, flows west into the (*) Bering Sea.** For 10 points—the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the capital of Juneau are in what largest U.S. state?

answer: Alaska

<265407>

12. **In one work by this author, a lawyer switches places with a condemned aristocrat and the names of guillotine victims appear in the knitting of Madame Defarge. A (*) *Tale of Two Cities* was written by—** for 10 points—what British novelist who created Ebenezer Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*?

answer: Charles (John Huffam) Dickens

<269509>

13. **This author of *Notes on the State of Virginia* served as vice president under John Adams and secretary of state under George Washington. The Lewis and Clark expedition was sent by this (*) third U.S. president.** For 10 points—what resident of Monticello wrote the Declaration of Independence?

answer: Thomas Jefferson

<265384>

14. **This heavenly body's name is from the Greek for “scorching,” and it used to rise at dawn in the hottest part of summer. Trace an imaginary line through Orion's belt to find this bluish star in (*) Canis Major.** For 10 points—name this brightest night-sky star, sometimes called the “Dog Star.”

answer: Sirius A (prompt on “Dog Star”; accept “Sirius B” up to the word “bluish” but not thereafter)

<266603>

15. **This is among the official languages in Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, and Switzerland, and a dialect is used by many Amish. English words borrowed from it include (*) poltergeist, strudel, blitz, and Gesundheit [guh-ZOONT-hyte].** For 10 points—name this language spoken in Frankfurt.

answer: German (or Deutsch)

<268708>

16. **In 1676 this settlement was burned during Bacon's Rebellion. John Rolfe introduced West Indian tobacco to this place, named after the (*) king who survived the Gunpowder Plot.** For 10 points—John Smith led what colony founded in 1607, the first permanent English settlement in Virginia?

answer: Jamestown

<265385>

17. **This artist's works include studies of Rouen cathedral and a painting of boats at Le Havre, *Impression: Sunrise*, that gave its name to the (*) movement he helped found, Impressionism.** For 10 points—what French painter depicted his garden pond at Giverny [ZHEE-vehr-nee] in his series *Water Lilies*?

answer: Claude Monet

<270536>

18. **This team traded away ace Johan Santana in 2008 and after the 2009 season moved into their new home, Target Field, after 28 seasons in the (*) Metrodome.** For 10 points—name this American League Central team, home to the 2006 and 2009 AL MVPs, Justin Morneau and Joe Mauer.

answer: Minnesota Twins (accept either)

<256712>

19. **In adult humans, it is formed from 22 bones, including the ethmoid [ETH-moyd] near the sinuses. The fontanelles in baby ones allow for easier births, and result in (*) “soft spots” that later close.** For 10 points—name this bony structure that protects the brain, also called the “cranium.”

answer: skull (accept cranium)

<268705>

20. **This character was first shown in *Plane Crazy*, and later driving the wheel on *Steamboat Willie*. Characters shown with him include a rival named Mortimer, Peg-Leg Pete, Clarabelle Cow, and (*) Pluto.** For 10 points—name this suitor of the rodent Minnie.

answer: Mickey Mouse

<266612>

21. **This country boasts the largest economy of any non-World Trade Organization member, and it joined seven other powers to form the G8 in 1997. The State Duma is the lower house of this nation whose prime minister is (*) Vladimir Putin.** For 10 points—name this country with capital at Moscow.

answer: Russia (or Russian Federation)

<265467>

22. **A few days after his birth, this Greek god killed a dragon named Python. He joined with his sister to kill the children of Niobe [nye-OH-bee] after she bragged about being superior to their mother, (*) Leto.** For 10 points—name this brother of Artemis, the Greek god of light and music.

answer: Apollo

<265550>

23. **This nation was once inhabited by the Toltec and Olmec civilizations. Diego Rivera painted murals of its history, which includes Hidalgo's cry for independence from Spain, and (*) Santa Anna's victory at the Alamo.** For 10 points—name this nation, the southern neighbor of the United States.

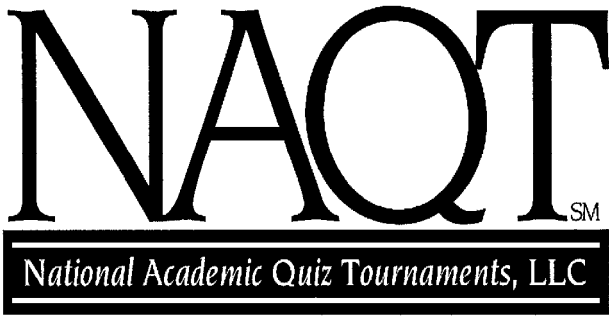
answer: Mexico (or United Mexican States)

<270537>

24. **Pencil and paper ready. Let $2x$ plus 5 equal $6x$ minus 11. To solve for x , one can add 11 to both sides, subtract $2x$ from both sides, and then divide both sides by 4. Use that method or any other and find (*) —for 10 points—the value of x if $2x$ plus 5 equals $6x$ minus 11.**

answer: $x = 4$ [$2x + 5 = 6x - 11$, so $2x + 5 + 11 - 2x = 6x - 11 + 11 - 2x$, so $16 = 4x$, so $16/4 = 4x/4$, and $x = 4$]

<266601>



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Bonuses

1. Galileo discovered four of its moons in 1610. For 10 points each—

A. Name this largest planet in the solar system.

answer: Jupiter

B. This innermost of the four Galilean moons has over 400 active volcanoes. Its mythical namesake was once transformed into a cow.

answer: Io

C. This largest of the four Galilean moons is also the largest moon in the Solar System.

answer: Ganymede

<266604>

2. It has a hardness of 10 on the Mohs Scale. For 10 points each—

A. Name this crystalline allotrope of carbon often found in engagement rings.

answer: diamond

B. Diamonds are mined at Kimberley in this nation, which was the site of the Boer War and the struggle against apartheid.

answer: Republic of South Africa

C. This British imperialist earned much of his fortune through South African diamond mining. He established scholarships for Americans to study at Oxford.

answer: Cecil (John) Rhodes (accept Rhodes Scholarship)

<270534>

3. It features a pastor named Arthur Dimmesdale and a seamstress named Hester Prynne, who is ostracized by her fellow townspeople. For 10 points each—

A. Name this novel set in colonial America.

answer: The Scarlet Letter

B. This novelist wrote *The Scarlet Letter*, which was published a year before *The House of the Seven Gables*.

answer: Nathaniel Hawthorne

C. In this short story by Nathaniel Hawthorne, a student named Giovanni falls in love with the title character, who dies after taking an antidote to poison that he gives her.

answer: Rappaccini's Daughter

<266606>

4. For 10 points each—name these European capitals:

A. The Brandenburg Gate is located in this city, which was divided by a wall from 1961 to 1989.

answer: Berlin

B. A 1618 defenestration started the Thirty Years' War in this capital of the Czech Republic.

answer: Prague (or Praha)

C. This city on the Tagus was devastated by a 1755 earthquake depicted in Voltaire's *Candide*.

answer: Lisbon

<266448>

5. These insects of order Lepidoptera [LEP-ih-DOP-tuh-ruh] include checkerspots, viceroys, and the painted lady. For 10 points each –

A. Name these insects that go through a caterpillar stage before growing wings.

answer: butterflies or butterfly

B. Butterflies experience this stage between larva and adult, similar to moths' cocoons. They often fasten themselves on leaf bottoms or twigs.

answer: pupa [PYOO-puh] or pupal stage (or chrysalis)

C. Like other insects, this part of the butterflies' body is broken into segments called coxa ["COCK-suh"], trochanter [TRO-kan-tur], femur, tibia, and tarsus [TAR-sis].

answer: leg

<266619>

6. The attempt to exile this man to Elba failed when he escaped early in 1815. For 10 points each –

A. Name this native of Corsica who crowned himself emperor of the French in 1804.

answer: Napoleon Bonaparte (accept either; accept Napoleon I)

B. Napoleon's final downfall came at this 1815 battle, where his forces were defeated by the combination of Great Britain and Prussia.

answer: Battle of Waterloo

C. The British army that fought at Waterloo was led by this Irish-born general, who became prime minister under George IV.

answer: (Arthur Wellesley, 1st) Duke of Wellington (accept either underlined portion)

<265376>

7. For 10 points each – identify these colorfully named seas:

A. The Suez Canal connects the Mediterranean to this sea that has Saudi Arabia to its east and Sudan and Egypt to its west.

answer: Red Sea

B. This Barents Sea inlet on Russia's northwest coast is connected to the Baltic by a canal through Lake Onega.

answer: White Sea

C. Connected to the Aegean by the Dardanelles, countries on its shores include Georgia, Turkey, and Bulgaria.

answer: Black Sea

<269956>

8. For 10 points each – name these books that have won the Newbery Medal:

A. After Leslie drowns in this book by Katherine Paterson, Jess builds the title structure across a stream to take May Belle to a magical land.

answer: Bridge to Terabithia

B. Hugh Lofting won the award for a book about "The Voyages" of this man, who talks to such animals as Chee-Chee, Polynesia, and Jip.

answer: The Voyages of Doctor Dolittle

C. Madeleine L'Engle wrote this novel about Meg Murray's rescue of her father from "IT", a telepathic being on the planet Camazotz.

answer: A Wrinkle in Time

<265628>

9. During this king's reign, Thomas Cromwell oversaw the dissolution of England's monasteries. For 10 points each:

A. Name this 16th-century king noted for beheading two of his six wives.

answer: Henry VIII of England (prompt on "Henry")

B. Henry's second wife was this woman, who encouraged him to start the English Reformation but was beheaded in 1536.

answer: Anne Boleyn

C. Henry VIII was the second English king from this dynasty, which was followed by the House of Stuart.

answer: House of Tudor (or Tudor dynasty)

<265375>

10. A fundamental principle of physics is the conservation of this quantity, which means that it can be changed from one form to another but can neither be created nor destroyed. For 10 points each –

A. Name this physical quantity, which Albert Einstein showed was proportional to mass.

answer: energy

B. An object in motion is said to have this type of energy, required to accelerate it from rest to its current velocity.

answer: kinetic energy

C. This term refers to energy stored within a system, such as a rock on top of a cliff or in a compressed spring.

answer: potential energy

<266605>

11. His works include *The Well-Tempered Clavier* [kluh-VEER] and the *Goldberg Variations*. For 10 points each –

A. Name this German composer, who lived from 1685 to 1750.

answer: Johann Sebastian Bach

B. The music of J. S. Bach exemplifies this style of European music that followed the Renaissance era but preceded the Classical era.

answer: Baroque

C. One of Bach's best-known organ pieces is BWV 565, the Toccata and Fugue in this minor key, the relative minor of F major.

answer: D minor

<266600>

12. The highest point in this state is Mauna Kea [MAH-nah KAY-ah], a shield volcano. For 10 points each –

A. Name this state, whose islands include Molokai [MOH-loh-kye] and Maui.

answer: Hawaii

B. This capital of Hawaii is home to the Iolani [ee-oh-LAH-nee] Palace and Waikiki Beach.

answer: Honolulu

C. Honolulu is located on what island, also the site of Waimea [wye-MAY-ah] Bay and Pearl Harbor?

answer: Oahu

<268486>

13. It describes a lazy, bored, scared, ignored, happy, silly person who sometimes chokes on her own words. For 10 points each –

A. Name this song, released in July 2010.

answer: Ordinary Girl

B. "Ordinary Girl" is performed by this fictional character, the alter ego of Miley Stewart.

answer: Hannah Montana (accept either underlined part, do not prompt on "Miley Cyrus")

C. Hannah Montana is played by Miley Cyrus, whose own biggest hit through 2009 was this song with the repeated lyric "I put my hands up, they're playing my song."

answer: Party in the U.S.A.

<266599>

14. For 10 points each – name these quadrilaterals:

A. This quadrilateral has two pairs of adjacent, congruent sides and one pair of opposite, congruent angles. It is named for its resemblance to a toy.

answer: kite or deltoid (prompt on "dart" or "arrowhead")

B. Squares are a special case of these polygons that have four sides of equal length.

answer: rhombus

C. This is a four-sided figure with one pair of parallel sides.

answer: trapezoid

<266220>

15. In 2010, this government department awarded Race to the Top funds. For 10 points each—

A. Name this department headed by Secretary Arne Duncan that also oversees No Child Left Behind programs.

answer: Department of Education

B. One of the first round winners of funds was this state, home of Vice President Joe Biden. Its three counties are New Castle, Kent, and Sussex.

answer: Delaware

C. States can earn points on applications by promoting success in this kind of school that the majority of New Orleans students attend.

answer: charter school

<268419>

16. Pericles ruled this city during its “Golden Age”. For 10 points each—

A. Name this city that fought against Sparta in the Peloponnesian War and is today the capital of Greece.

answer: Athens

B. Athens was the home of this philosopher, who died in 399 BC after being forced to drink poisonous hemlock.

answer: Socrates

C. This temple on the Athenian Acropolis was once the site of the Elgin Marbles, sculptures removed by a British diplomat in 1806.

answer: Parthenon

<270535>

17. For 10 points each—name these Civil War battles:

A. Pickett's Charge took place at this 1863 battle that ended Robert E. Lee's invasion of Pennsylvania.

answer: Battle of Gettysburg

B. President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation as a result of this 1862 battle in western Maryland.

answer: Battle of Antietam (or Battle of Sharpsburg)

C. The first battle between Lee and Ulysses S. Grant was this 1864 struggle fought in the dense forest of central Virginia.

answer: Battle of the Wilderness

<265378>

18. For 10 points each—name these chemical elements found in Earth's atmosphere:

A. The most common element in the atmosphere is this one which plants convert into ammonia.

answer: nitrogen or N₂

B. This second most common element is bound to hemoglobin in the blood.

answer: oxygen or O₂

C. There's also a minute amount of this gas discovered in the Sun. Its buoyancy makes it ideal for use in blimps.

answer: helium

<266620>

19. For 10 points each—name these tragedies by William Shakespeare:

A. The title prince of Denmark takes revenge on his uncle Claudius in this play, whose other characters include Ophelia.

answer: Hamlet(, Prince of Denmark)

B. This play centers on a pre-Roman king of Britain and his three daughters: Goneril, Regan, and Cordelia.

answer: King Lear

C. The title character of this play is a “moor of Venice” who is tricked into killing his wife, Desdemona.

answer: Othello(, the Moor of Venice)

<265553>

20. In his first inaugural address, Franklin Roosevelt declared that his primary task was “to put people to work.”

For 10 points each –

A. Name the series of economic programs that FDR created to reduce unemployment and get the United States out of the Great Depression.

answer: New Deal

B. Under this man, Roosevelt's predecessor as president, the federal government tried unsuccessfully to deal with the aftermath of the stock market crash of 1929.

answer: Herbert (Clark) Hoover

C. One of the institutions created by New Deal legislation that is still standing is this agency that regulates the sale of stocks and securities.

answer: Securities and Exchange Commission or SEC

<264944>

21. For 10 points each – answer the following about human evolution:

A. The closest living relatives of humans are this great ape studied by Jane Goodall.

answer: chimpanzee (or Pan troglodytes; do not accept “bonobo”)

B. Cro-Magnons are thought to have displaced this kind of early human named after the German valley where bones were discovered in 1856.

answer: Neanderthals (or Neandertals or Homo (sapiens) neanderthalensis)

C. Specimens of this hominid genus include the Taung child of species *africanus* and Lucy, a skeleton of species *afarensis*.

answer: Australopithecus

<269892>

22. Pencil and paper ready. For 10 points each – answer these questions about percentages:

A. What is $\frac{3}{8}$ expressed as a percentage?

answer: 37.50% or 37 1/2% or 75/2%

B. What is 10% of 30% of 900?

answer: 27 [30% of 900 = $.3 \times 900 = 270$, and 10% of 270 = $.1 \times 270 = 27$]

C. If an item sells for \$120 after having been discounted 25% off the original cost, what was the original cost?

answer: \$160 [$x/(1 - .25) = 120$, so $x/.75 = 120$, so $x = 120/.75 = 120/(3/4) = 120 \times (4/3) = 160$]

<266314>

23. For 10 points each – name these characters from *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*:

A. This oldest of the Pevensie children is said to represent the first Bishop of Rome, a disciple for whom a basilica is named.

answer: Peter

B. Among the titles of this lion are Son of the Emperor-beyond-the-Sea and Creator and Lord of Narnia.

answer: Aslan

C. This faun befriends Lucy when she visits Narnia alone. The White Witch turns him into a statue for not giving Lucy to her.

answer: Mr. Tumnus

<265623>

24. An early version of this structure was built by the emperor Qin Shi Huang. For 10 points each –

A. Name this barrier, intended to prevent settled areas of the Yellow River valley against invasion from the north.

answer: Great Wall of China

B. During the Jin Dynasty, Chinese forces near the Great Wall were threatened by the advance of this khan, who united the Mongols after 1206.

answer: Genghis Khan (or Chingis Khan or Temujin)

C. Although the Ming Dynasty rebuilt the wall, in 1644 it was overthrown by Manchu invaders who established this final dynasty of imperial China.

answer: Qing Dynasty (or Ch'ing Dynasty)

<265382>