

2020 CLASSICS DAY OPEN CERTAMEN

SESSION 2

ROUND 1

1. It's game time, everyone! Athena would be a master of what strategic board game, featuring pieces such as *turres ambulatoriae*, *equites*, and *pontifices*, in which the goal is to capture the opponent's *rex*?

CHESS

B1: What East Asian board game, played on a 19x19 board, might have been Hermes' specialty considering its name, which can be translated into Latin as the imperative *Ite*?

GO

B2: You thought there was going to be an actual Roman board game here? Too bad. At what much more recent game, which might be translated as *me paenitet: ludus dulcis vindictae* would Nemesis have been unbeatable?

SORRY (THE GAME OF SWEET REVENGE)
2. Complete the following lyric from *Africa* by Toto, which I shall now sing: "I know that I must do what's right, sure as Kilimanjaro rises like [this mountain] above the Serengeti."

OLYMPUS

B1: In one of their most popular songs, Bastille sings that "the walls kept tumbling down in the city that we loved." Name this titular city, one of several destroyed by Mt. Vesuvius in 79 AD.

POMPEII

B2: What character in a novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald took Rick Astley's masterpiece "Never Gonna Give You Up" to heart in order to win back his first love Daisy?

JAY GATSBY
3. Small children can often be expected to get into trouble around the Roman house. If you decided to swim in the *impluvium*, what central room of the Roman house would you be in?

ATRIUM

B1: As if you're not already trouble enough, you decide that your *paterfamilias* absolutely must watch you fulfill your dream to become a dolphin! However, your father is currently busy in his office, which goes by what name in the Roman household?

TABLINUM

B2: After a long day of antics, it's time to go to bed. But of course, you're not tired! What was the Latin term for the bedroom that you are desperately avoiding?

CUBICULUM
4. Eleven chemical elements have symbols that don't seem to match their English name, all but one of which were known to the Romans. What element, with what symbol, was used by Hephaestus to construct a dog sculpture, and is given to athletes who place second at the modern Olympics?

SILVER, Ag

B1: Bronze is not an element, but an alloy consisting of a blend of two elements, both with unusual symbols. Name either.

COPPER, TIN

B2: What highly unusual element, despite sharing its name with a Roman god, has a symbol ultimately derived from Greek, and is also known as "quicksilver"?

MERCURY
5. Who was declared dictator for life in early 44 BCE, only to be assassinated by Brutus and his co-conspirators just a couple months later on the Ides of March?

JULIUS CAESAR

B1: Who was a member of the First Triumvirate, along with Pompey and Crassus, and started a civil war when he crossed the Rubicon with his army, famously declaring "*alea iacta est*," "The dice is cast?"

JULIUS CAESAR

B2: Who led extremely successful campaigns in Gaul, about which he wrote the *Commentarii de Bello Gallico*?

JULIUS CAESAR

6. Considering the royal mess COVID has made of our lives, its name is pretty well suited. What does *corona* mean, a type of royal headgear?

CROWN

B1: Luckily, many researchers are working quickly towards a vaccine. What is the meaning of the Latin word at the root of “vaccine”?

COW

B2: The word “pandemic” is not derived from Latin, but rather from Greek. Name the meaning of either of the two words from which “pandemic” is derived.

ALL / PEOPLE

7. What dish synonymous with New England is made from clams, milk, and vegetables, and is often complemented by oyster crackers, although some lunatics insist on adding tomatoes to make a Manhattan version?

CLAM CHOWDER

B1: What is Massachusetts’s state doughnut, which is named after the state’s largest city and which just so happens to be the only state doughnut in the nation?

BOSTON CREAM DOUGHNUT

B2: What is Massachusetts’s state berry, the prime component of nearly all Ocean Spray products as well as a popular Thanksgiving sauce?

CRANBERRY

8. A lot of parents in the ancient world weren’t exactly cut out for the job. Who, at a banquet for the gods, butchered his son Pelops and served him as the main course, prompting the gods to banish him to Tartarus with insatiable hunger and thirst?

TANTALUS

B1: What descendant of the revived Pelops and king of Mycenae killed his daughter Iphigeneia in order to gain favorable winds for the expedition to Troy, of which he was the leader?

AGAMEMNON

B2: What mythological hero, driven mad by Hera, killed his wife and children, causing him to undertake twelve labors as repentance?

HERACLES

9. The British Museum contains artifacts from all around the world. However, several items in the Museum are highly controversial, considered stolen from their places of origin during the British Empire. The Elgin Marbles are a perfect example, taken from what temple to Athena on the Acropolis of Athens?

PARTHENON

B1: Another controversial piece is a set of bronze plaques from what African kingdom in Nigeria, after which a nearby country, whose capital is Cotonou, is named?

BENIN

B2: Yet another controversial piece is Hoa Hakananai’a, a *moai* sculpture taken from what island off the coast of Chile?

EASTER ISLAND

10. Pop quiz! Answer in Roman numerals: X + IX

XIX

B1: Answer in Roman numerals: XIII × VIII

CIV

B2: Answer in Roman numerals: VII^{II} (READ: VII to the II)

XLIX

11. Are you stressed out after that pop quiz? Don't be! A world-renowned spiritual leader dropped an album this year titled "Inner World" that's sure to relax you and help you find peace. Who is this man, the former leader of Tibet and winner of the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize?

DALAI LAMA

B1: The Dalai Lama is a member of what religion, founded in the fifth century BCE by Siddhartha Gautama?
BUDDHISM

B2: What is the ultimate goal of Buddhism, described as "freedom from want" and an end to the cycle of reincarnation?

NIRVANA (PROMPT ON "ENLIGHTENMENT")

12. What Greek hero in the Trojan War, the friend of Patroclus, was made invulnerable by his mother Thetis by dipping him into the river Styx, but was eventually killed by Paris because of his only weakness, his heel?

ACHILLES

B1: The Trojan War was started because Paris stole away Helen, the wife of Menelaus, who was king of what city famed for its warriors?

SPARTA

B2: Paris, however, had been promised Helen, the most beautiful woman in the world, by what goddess of love and beauty?

APHRODITE

13. Given how 2020 has gone so far, it shouldn't surprise anyone that this year's hurricane season has been one of the most active on record. What hurricane, and fourth letter of the Greek alphabet, became the strongest storm to ever receive a Greek letter name in early October?

DELTA

B1: Delta's rapid intensification has only been rivaled in the Atlantic basin by what hurricane in 2005, which became the most intense Atlantic hurricane on record?

WILMA

B2: Like this season's Hurricane Laura, what other hurricane in 2005 impacted Louisiana, causing billions of dollars in damage at landfall near New Orleans?

KATRINA

14. Livy's *Ab Urbe Condita* begins with the founding of Rome by what son of Mars who killed his brother Remus and after whom the city is named?

ROMULUS

B1: This monumental work extends all the way through history from that point until Livy's own lifetime and the reign of what man, the first emperor of Rome?

AUGUSTUS

B2: The *Aeneid*, an epic poem detailing the journey of Aeneas to Italy after the fall of Troy, was also written during the time of Augustus by what poet?

VERGIL

15. Despite being over two and a half hours long, *Endgame* left quite a few loose ends. What long-awaited movie, scheduled for release on May 1st before the pandemic arrived, will finally reveal what happened in Budapest concerning the world-renowned S.H.I.E.L.D. agent Natasha Romanoff (who also speaks Latin)?

BLACK WIDOW

B1: Black Widow isn't the only Marvel superhero with an arachnid's name. But of course, that's too easy. Name the character who served as Spider-Man's bridge to Tony Stark in *Spider-Man: Homecoming* and oversaw the Avengers' relocation from New York City to their upstate facility.

HAPPY HOGAN (ACCEPT "HAPPY")

B2: There are several other Marvel superheroes with animal names. Name two.

ANT-MAN, WASP, MANTIS, BLACK PANTHER, HAWKEYE

16. What constellation, one of the most recognizable, portrays a friend of Artemis and contains the stars Betelgeuse and Rigel?
ORION
- B1: What zodiac constellation represents the Dioscuri, twin sons of Leda, and contains the bright stars Castor and Pollux?
GEMINI
- B2: What ancient constellation, formally divided in 1763 into Carina, Vela, and Puppis (The Keel, Sail, and Deck), represents the ship that Jason sailed on his expedition to retrieve the golden fleece?
ARGO NAVIS (ACCEPT "ARGO")
17. Given that you're here, you've probably read the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series. The five-book series details the adventures of the titular hero and his friends Annabeth and Grover as they fight to prevent the return of what Titan, Percy's own grandfather through Poseidon?
KRONOS
- B1: Rick Riordan has also written a series about Egyptian mythology, the Kane Chronicles. Their struggle is against what serpent of chaos who seeks to swallow the sun and sink Earth into eternal darkness?
APOPHIS
- B2: Another of Riordan's series is the Magnus Chase series, whose protagonist happens to be Annabeth's cousin. As an *einherji*, he seeks to prevent what event by thwarting the plans of Loki and Surtur?
RAGNAROK
18. The Mercato and Avellino eruptions occurred thousands of years before what volcano destroyed Stabiae, Herculaneum, and Pompeii in the infamous eruption of 79 CE?
VESUVIUS
- B1: What Greek volcano was possibly the cause of the biblical Ten Plagues of Egypt as well as being the inspiration behind the myth of Atlantis, but today is a popular cruise destination?
SANTORINI / THERA
- B2: What large volcano on Sicily is said to owe its fires to Typhon, who was imprisoned beneath the mountain by Zeus?
ETNA
19. It's worth mentioning that this certamen session is due in part to the work of what computer scientist who helped crack the Enigma code and developed a test designed to determine if a computer could think like a human?
ALAN TURING
- B1: Despite Turing's groundbreaking work, the first computer program had actually been written a century earlier by what mathematician and countess for use in an Analytical Engine?
ADA LOVELACE
- B2: However, the Greeks were way ahead. What mechanism, a hand-powered analog computer, was developed to predict astronomical cycles and eclipses?
ANTIKYTHERA MECHANISM
20. When recognized, perform the following command: *Dic Anglice: "est libera terra."*
[COMPETITOR SHOULD SAY "IT'S FREE REAL ESTATE" (ACCEPT "IT'S FREE LAND" AND VARIANTS THEREOF)]
- B1: Perform the following command: *Omnes dicite Anglice: "noli demonstrare dolorem, Harold!"*
[ALL TEAM MEMBERS SHOULD SAY "HIDE THE PAIN, HAROLD" (ACCEPT "DON'T SHOW PAIN, HAROLD" AND VARIANTS THEREOF)]
- B2: Perform the following command: *Omnes dicite Anglice: "maximas gratias vobis agimus!"*
[ALL TEAM MEMBERS SHOULD THANK THE MODERATOR(S) AND SCOREKEEPER(S)]