

A note from the author (a.k.a. me):

This is the SIMARYA – Some Interesting Material About Random Yaps and Academics. I wrote this during spring break when I should've been cold-emailing research labs. Don't worry, I still did that.

This is a potpourri of 20 tossups written based on books I have read, Wikipedia rabbit holes I have gone down, personal content, and a few inside jokes here and there. There's not really a distribution, but this set is mostly academic with some trash questions sprinkled in, and hopefully the difficulty is fine, I was aiming for 2.5-dot. Also, do what you will with this information, there are no science questions.

I do apologize if some of the wording, the answerlines, or the difficulty is a little scuffed; I did write this in three days with no help. I'm gonna stop yapping, let's begin with the first tossup.

-Simarya :)

1. One candidate for this position began their campaign with an open letter to Fidel Castro, saying “In Cuba, hatred runs over into the love of blood; in America, all too few blows are struck to the flesh.” In an interview with Mike Wallace, that candidate for this position claimed he was campaigning on an “Existentialist ticket,” and that (*) inner-city crime could not be resolved by disarming people. A 1969 blizzard was named after one holder of this position, who ran with the unofficial motto, “He is fresh and everyone else is tired,” which was taken from a column written by Murray Kempton. That holder of this position was appointed the vice chairman of the Kerner Commission two years after being elected to this position. The first holder of this position, Thomas Willett, was appointed by Governor Nicoll in 1665 and served two terms. The current holder of this position tweeted he would take his first three paychecks in Bitcoin, and pledged to bring back the “gifted and talented” school program. For 10 points, name this position currently being held by Eric Adams.

ANSWER: mayor of New York City [prompt on mayor by asking, “of which place?”]

2. One character in this film claims that nobody's read *Gravity's Rainbow*, but he likes the title and explains, “It describes the path of a projectile determined by natural law.” Another character in this film is described by his family members as “literally a Nazi” and an “alt-right troll dipshit.” Another character in this film bought a mansion (*) in the 1980s from a Pakistani real estate millionaire. That character in this film threatens to call the AARP because he keeps losing in Gomuko to a person who's not trying to beat him, but instead trying to create a beautiful pattern. During a will reading in this movie, a character tells his whole family to eat shit, to which Walt says, “I'm not eating one iota of shit!” In this movie, it's revealed that Fran hid a copy of a toxicology report in a clock mantle after realizing that Ransom was framing Marta for murder. For 10 points, name this 2019 film starring Daniel Craig and Ana de Armas, which focuses on Harlan Thrombey's death.

ANSWER: “Knives Out” [do not accept “Glass Onion: A Knives Out Story”]

3. In one work by this author, the narrator sits by a pool with an old man who remarks, “They are all fine evenings here in Jamaica.” In that work by this author, it's revealed the old man has taken 47 fingers from different people, and has lost 11 cars. (*) In another work by this author, a police sergeant discovers a small patch of congealed blood on a murder victim's hand. In that work by this author, Mary Maloney reminds herself, “Keep things absolutely natural, and there'll be no need for any acting at all.” This author wrote a short story in which a boy finds the names Gregory Temple and Christopher Mulholland written in a guestbook, but can't remember where he heard those names before. That work by this author ends with Billy Weaver drinking tea that faintly tastes of bitter almonds, implying his death from cyanide poisoning. For 10 points, name this author of short stories like “The Landlady” and “Man from the South.”

ANSWER: Roald Dahl

4. Every three years, this city hosts the Honens International Piano Competition, whose finalists perform piano concertos with this city's Philharmonic Orchestra. This city is the birthplace of Theatresports, a form of competitive improvisation similar to ComedySportz. The Sled Island music festival occurs in this city every June, (*) which was headlined by artists like JPEGMafia and Japanese Breakfast in 2019. The film "Ghostbusters: Afterlife" was filmed in Inglewood and the downtown of this city. One of this city's public libraries served as the filming location for the music video of the 2020 song "lie to me," a collaboration between Ali Gatie and Tate McRae. In 2026, the JR Shaw Center for Arts and Culture will serve as the new home for this city's Glenbow Museum, the largest museum in western Canada. For 10 points, name this Canadian city which hosts an annual stampede in July.

ANSWER: Calgary

5. This conflict ended with the signing of a "three-stranded" treaty that established eight "interlocking and interdependent institutions." This conflict is widely regarded to have started with the Battle of the Bogside, which resulted in over 1,000 injuries but no deaths. The city in which that battle occurred (*) saw the visit of an orca named Dopey Dick at the height of this conflict. Operation Judy, which occurred during this conflict, resulted in a paramilitary group's biggest loss of life in a single incident. Negotiations to end this conflict were overseen by Mo Mowlam, who made a visit to the HM Prison Maze that was "variously described as mad or brave." Mowlam was able to restore a ceasefire, which led to the Sinn Féin party being included in peace talks to end this conflict. For 10 points, name this ethnonationalist conflict between English Protestants and Northern Irish Catholics, which concluded with the signing of the Good Friday Agreement in 1998.

ANSWER: The Troubles

6. This person is name-dropped in RAYE's song "Worth It," in the lyric, "Classic like cars, classic like [this person]." This woman's ex-husband remarked that she had "the face of an angel and the morals of a truck driver." In one movie, this actress plays a character being evaluated to receive a lobotomy (*) after witnessing the death of her cousin. Another movie starring this actress is credited with putting Puerto Vallarta on the map; that movie was "The Night of the Iguana." After this actress's death in 2011, Carrie Fisher remarked, "If my father had to divorce my mother for anyone, I'm glad it was [this actress.]" This actress said Debbie Reynolds "didn't get to the top of her profession by being weak-kneed. She must have some inherent strength," and rekindled her friendship with Reynolds on a cruise many years later. For 10 points, name this British-American actress and "femme fatale," who was married to Richard Burton, Eddie Fisher, and Mike Todd.

ANSWER: Elizabeth Taylor

7. This person's first marriage was annulled on the grounds that she was a virgin, and her husband was impotent; in reality, this person was pregnant, and her husband was spying on her family. Upon her second marriage, this person was granted governorship of Spoleto and Foligno, and was also named Duchess Consort of Bisceglie and Princess Consort of Salerno. Lord Byron claimed this person wrote (*) "the prettiest love letters in the world...they are short but very simple, sweet and to the purpose." This person's hair was the subject of writings by Walter Landor and Lorenzo Pucci, and a lock of this person's hair is on display at the Biblioteca Ambrosiana in Milan. Also at that museum are this person's correspondences with Pietro Bembo, with whom she had an affair during her third marriage. This woman attended a banquet arranged by her brother, in which attendants crawled around naked near burning candelabras; that event was the Banquet of Chestnuts in 1501. For 10 points, name this daughter of Pope Alexander VI, and sister of Cesare.

ANSWER: Lucrezia Borgia [prompt on Borgia]

8. One person on this show eats a flower and remarks that it tastes like a clown's nose, and after having spiced rum claims it tastes like pirate's tears. During a Halloween-themed episode of this show, that person asks Kevin what his biggest fear is, to which he says, "Same as any musician, child prodigies." (*) Sandi Toksvig, who appeared on this show for three seasons, called her time on this show "the longest years of my life."

Compost Carole, who was on this show's 13th season, came under fire for peeling an avocado during one episode. Nicky Lacey, who appeared in a different season of this show, called her savory picnic pies an "absolute bag of pants." In the most recent season of this show, Paul Hollywood joked that he was tired of shaking Dylan Bachelet's hand. For 10 points, name this competition show in which 12 amateur bakers from the title country compete every year to win the Star Baker title.

ANSWER: "The **Great British Baking Show**" [accept "The **Great British Bake-Off**"]

9. The first proponent of this concept introduced it in an attempt to create a new Christianity in which science and theology can coexist. Don DeLillo wrote a novel that takes its name from this concept, and involves a character who studies the man that first theorized this concept. John Walker criticized this concept, noting that the (*) event horizons of black holes prevent the infinite growth of information required for this concept to be true. Salvador Dalí's 1959 painting "The Ecumenical Council" includes a representation of the interconnectedness of this concept. This concept is the final step before "Singularity," at which point humans would cease to exist. Flannery O'Connor took the title of "Everything That Rises Must Converge" from the work introducing this concept. For 10 points, name this term coined by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, which theorizes the universe spiraling into a final point of unification.

ANSWER: **omega point**

10. This place was originally named McCarthysville, after the man who leased a sawmill constructed in this city, Martin McCarthy. Actress Olivia de Havilland and her half-sister Joan Fontaine grew up in this city, where the former made her amateur theater debut in a production of "Alice in Wonderland." Mary Brown, wife of abolitionist John Brown, (*) is buried in this city's Madrona Cemetery, along with her daughters Sarah and Ellen. The west coast premiere of Puccini's "Madame Butterfly," was held in this city's Hakone Gardens in 1923. This city's public high school is depicted in Steven Spielberg's film "The Fabelmans," as Spielberg was an alum of that school. After World War II, this city underwent rapid development and incorporated in 1955 to avoid being annexed by San Jose. For 10 points, name this California city, known for its wineries and restaurants on Big Basin Way.

ANSWER: **Saratoga**, California

11. This ruler rose to power after her cousin died of smallpox the night before his wedding, and was deemed "ill adapted" by noblemen to carry out certain duties. This ruler's wedding ended with her husband, the Duke of Courland, dying of alcohol poisoning in a drinking contest with this ruler's uncle. This ruler had a man attempting to convert a sailor to Judaism burned alive and (*) meticulously recorded all the small animals she had killed whenever she went hunting. This ruler's former lover Mikhail Galitzine was appointed as a jester and ordered to dress up as a chicken and lay eggs when a visitor arrived. This ruler was instructed by the Supreme Privy Council not to start a war, but she abolished the council and began a war against Turkey in 1735. This ruler married Galitzine to one of her maids, and forced the pair to spend their wedding night in an ice palace. For 10 points, name this tsarina of Russia, the daughter of Ivan the Ignorant and niece of Peter the Great.

ANSWER: **Anna** Ivanovna [accept Tsarina **Anna**, accept Empress **Anna**]

12. The last song on this album's tracklist is a cover of Nina Simone's "Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood." Another song on this album describes the color blue as "my favorite color and my favorite tone of song." The music video for this album's lead single is described by its singer as "glamorized paranoia," (*) and is the last song she wrote for this album. That song on this album contains the lyrics, "The truth is I never bought into your bullshit, when you would pay tribute to me" in the chorus. "Salvatore," another track on this album, details imagery of soft ice cream and passionate love in 1940s southern Italy. This album's title track is the first on the tracklist, containing lyrics such as "We could cruise to the blues, Wilshire Boulevard if we choose." For 10 points, name this fourth studio album by Lana Del Rey, which contains songs like "Art Deco" and "Freak."

ANSWER: **Honeymoon**

13. One person with this surname shot himself with a revolver, and a lock of his mother's hair was found in his pocket. That person with this surname wrote a suicide note that stated, "life no longer pleased him, so he handed back his ticket." Another person with this surname was the subject of an Oskar Kokoschka painting, where she's depicted as the (*) "new Mona Lisa." That woman with this surname claimed her first husband brought about their daughter's death by composing *Kindertotenlieder* in their home. One critic praised the Second Symphony by a man with this surname, deeming it "the most masterly work of its kind since Mendelssohn." That man with this surname composed a total of nine complete symphonies, and an unfinished tenth one. For 10 points, what surname is shared by composer Gustav, his brother Otto, and his ex-wife Alma?

ANSWER: Mahler [accept Otto Mahler, Alma Mahler, and Gustav Mahler until read]

14. A 1976 work describes God as an old idea that has sufficient psychological appeals to survive as one of these entities. That work states, "When you plant a fertile [one of these things] in my mind you literally parasitize my brain." In the final chapter of *The Selfish Gene*, (*) Richard Dawkins introduces this term by analogy to genetic transmission. Limor Shifman argues that these things are more effective if they exhibit "positivity, provocation of high-arousal emotions, participation, packaging, prestige, and positioning." An article by *Politico Magazine* argues that there is no evidence that these things won the 2016 presidential election, but "there is little question they changed its tone." One of these things created by Matt Furie was included in the Anti-Defamation League's hate symbol database in 2016, after it became appropriated as a symbol of the white nationalist movement. For 10 points, name these things that were initially circulated on sites like 4chan and Reddit in the early 2000s.

ANSWER: memes

15. "Return is never the experience you hope for," begins a novel set in this country, where Grace returns to her hometown after her mother's death and discovers she has inherited a pink beach house. That work, *Small Days and Nights*, describes the whiplash of rain as "smells of sex" and trees looking weak and hungover. Another novel set in this country, *Sacred Games*, (*) describes the homes of the wealthy as "30,000 square feet of Italian marble floors tied together with intercoms." An author from this country argued, "the country of my birth and my deepest inspiration, on that day found no words" in the wake of an attack that left him blind in one eye. That author penned a metafiction novel inspired by *Don Quixote*, in which a man from this country travels across the U.S. in pursuit of a celebrity TV show host. The "Love Laws" in this country's state of Kerala upend the lives of fraternal twins in another novel set in this country, *The God of Small Things*. For 10 points, name this country, home to authors like Arundhati Roy, Salman Rushdie, and Vikram Chandra.

ANSWER: India

16. The first verse of "Guv'nor" by JJ Doom says this landform will "conquer and destroy the rap world like the white men." In an episode in the fifth season of "Madam Secretary," this landform was the basis for an incident that trapped Elizabeth McCord and the Turkish foreign minister in Ireland. (*) The name of this landform translates to "the mountains of the islands," which likely refers to an archipelago near it. This landform was also featured in the film, "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty," in which Walter flees from an eruption while pursuing Sean O'Connell. This volcano is said to be geographically related to the Katla volcano, since eruptions of this volcano have generally preceded eruptions of Katla. The eruption of this volcano in 2010 created an ash cloud that caused the highest level of air travel disruption in Europe since World War II. For 10 points, name this Icelandic glacier volcano that also goes by the name E15.

ANSWER: Eyjafjallajökull [accept Eyjafjöll, accept E15 until read]

17. An Israeli comedy show satirized failed Israeli-Palestinian peace attempts by featuring peace negotiations between characters in this game. A T-Mobile ad filmed in Barcelona included a real-life mockup of this game in a city plaza. In 2011, during the National Press Club's annual dinner, Jake Tapper introduced Chris Coons

as the Senate's (*) champion of this game. Jo, a nonbinary character in this game, was introduced to celebrate Pride Month in 2023, but has yet to make an appearance as a playable character. A spinoff of this game focuses on its villains, and the objective is to create contraptions out of provided materials. In a scene from "Ted 2," Ted plays this game on his phone after being told to shut up in the courtroom. For 10 points, name this game series created by Rovio Entertainment, which focuses on the titular animals saving their eggs from green-colored pigs.

ANSWER: Angry Birds

18. The use of saliva became illegal in this game as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, a ban that became permanent in September 2022. "Sundries" are extra points in this game that can be gained by one team due to errors made by the other team. After learning of his father's death in 2008, one player of this game scored (*) 90 points in a match before attending the funeral. The first recorded women's match in this game was in 1745, "between eleven maids of Bramley and eleven maids of Hambledon, all dressed in white." The "limited overs" variant of this sport was introduced by English counties in 1963 to have matches finish in one day. India defeated Australia in this sport's T20 World Cup in 2024, becoming the first team to win the series undefeated. For 10 points, name this bat-and-ball game that originated in England, played by athletes like Virat Kohli and Pat Cummins.

ANSWER: cricket

19. Bonnie Montgomery and Britt Barber composed a one-act opera about one of these people, set during a singular day in Hot Springs. That opera contains a scene in which one of these people watches their mother apply makeup while smoking cigarettes and drinking coffee. Three of these people are featured in a Virgil Thomson opera, (*) in which one of these people courts Constance Fletcher in the first act. That opera, "The Mother of Us All" sees another one of these people arguing with a lawyer outside the protagonist's house. In another opera, the wife of one of these people is presented with a small model elephant. That opera about one of these people begins with a military chorus singing, "Three Rules of Discipline and Eight Points for Attention." For 10 points, name these people, the subject of works like "Nixon in China."

ANSWER: U.S. presidents [antiprompt on Bill Clinton, John Quincy Adams, Andrew Johnson, or Richard Nixon]

20. A Vestian asteroid discovered by the Andrushivka Astronomical Observatory in 2008 was named after this entity in January 2013. In 2014, this entity was honored with a monument in Slubice [SOO-beet-za], Poland designed by Armenian sculptor Mihran Hakobyan. In June 2019, Startup Catalog reported that all (*) 16 gigabytes of data from this entity had been encoded into synthetic DNA. Peter Stone published a report in 2014 that called this entity "the best-known example of crowdsourcing." A 2017 opinion piece for *Wired* called this entity "one of the last remaining pillars of the open and decentralized web." The five pillars of this site include that it has "no firm rules" and content is written from a neutral point of view. For 10 points, name this online encyclopedia whose articles are guessed from its categories in catfishing.net.

ANSWER: Wikipedia