

Test your knowledge Answer the questions

Here is your chance to join scholar bowl team

Some may call it useless information, others knowledge but, one thing's for sure: the Decatur Community High School Scholar Bowl team knows the right answers at the right time.

The high school team, made of 20 students, took the Class 2A state championship last weekend by knowing a lot of stuff about a lot of things.

Coach Marlene Moxter said the high school team practices at least once a week during homeroom, which is 30 minutes long.

The junior high team, with 23 students, practices after school or in homeroom.

Sample questions are sent to Mrs. Moxter in a publication each month, and from that, the students practice. She also has some questions on file.

Mrs. Moxter said scholar bowl isn't about memorization. The students are learning the information in class. Some of them have a particular interest in something, so they do outside reading on the subject. All of them are self starters, she said.

Even though the high school team has 20 members, she said, during regular competition only eight go because only five can play at a time and then there are three substitutes. At regional and state, only four compete and there is one substitute.

The students who go to the competitions are picked on how they perform at practice. She said she tries to get a good blend of students who are good in different areas.

Mrs. Moxter said she had a feeling the students were going to win state this year, but then when they did, she said it was like, "Wow, we did it."

Here are some of the questions the students answer in practice and competition. See how many you can get right.

(Answers are printed upside down below.)

Below are actual questions used at the Oberlin Invitational Scholar Bowl on Nov. 10, 1998.

1. Why do many tropical trees lack annual rings?

2. The lifeless lakes in America's Northeast and acres of dead trees in Germany's Black Forest can both be attributed to what kind of precipitation?

3. A photon is never at rest. Relativity theory insists that a photon can exist only at what speed?

4. What nickname was given to Haydn's Symphony No. 96 in D after a chandelier fell during the performance, unaccountably hurting no one?

5. Identify the Spanish-born artist whose real name was José Vicortriano Gonzalez. This artist, who contributed to the Cubist movement and once called his work "flat, colored architecture," adopted a surname that is the French word for "grey."

6. Tracey's best in the high jump was 5 and 5/6 feet. Expressed in simplified form, how many feet below the meet record of 6 and 7/12 feet was her jump?

7. What is the equation of the directrix of the parabola $y = x^2 - 8x$?

8. If A is the set containing 1, 2, and 4, and B is the set containing 4, 5, and 8, what set is the intersection of A and B?

9. This phrase now frequently used in China refers to any difficult task or grand plan in personal or national affairs. What is this phrase reminiscent of the 6,000-mile journey undertaken by the Chinese Communist Red Army between 1934 and 1935?

10. Both in terms of population and land, it is the largest Indian tribe in the United States. Name it.

11. What country is located between Puerto Rico and Haiti?



12. Which type of poetic foot consists of two unaccented syllables followed by one accented syllable as illustrated in the following? *By a hole in the woods sat a green little boy.*

13. What word should be used to correct the one grammatical error in this sentence? *Each of the variants indicated in boldface type count as an entry.*

14. What is the last helping verb in Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address"?

15. Many of the politicians elected last week campaigned with a promise to clean up the agency that collects the kind of tax that Will Rogers said has made more liars out of the American people than golf. Name this tax.

16. Flight 111 that crashed off the coast of Nova Scotia this fall belonged to what airline?

17 Translate the following: (A) *Ein vogel fliegt.* (B) *Un oiseau vole* (C) *Un pajaros esta volando.*

Here is a sampling of questions offered in *Accent on Academics*, a weekly publication offering questions for the high school's gifted program.

18. Identify both the space shuttle, the fleet's oldest, that burned up on re-entry over Texas on Feb. 1, 2003, on its 28th flight, with the loss of 7

astronauts, and the year this shuttle first flew on April 12 with Robert L. Crippen and John W. Young aboard.

19. Identify the only Arab nation that is a member of the U.N. Security Council.

20. AOL Time Warner recently reported a \$99 billion loss for 2002—the largest annual loss ever by a U.S. company—and announced that the man who launched CNN, TBS, and TNT, is resigning as vice chairman. Name him.

21. One of the seats left empty at President Bush's State of the Union Address was a reminder of the victims of which terrorist attacks that took place in the U.S.?

22. A member of Hinduism's lowest caste was recently elected to the highest position in India's most prosperous state. Traditionally, what derogatory name is used for the lowest members in this now outlawed caste system?

23. Identify both the space shuttle that exploded upon liftoff on Jan. 28, 1986, with the loss of 7 lives, and the spacecraft that caught fire, killing 3 men on Jan. 27, 1967.

24. Identify the Nobel Peace Prize winner who recently described President Bush as "arrogant and shortsighted," implied that he was racist for ignoring the U.N. in his

zeal to attack Iraq, and urged the Security Council and the people of the U.S. to oppose him.

25. President Bush in his State of the Union Address said he wanted \$1.2 billion to speed development of hydrogen-powered vehicles in a program called Freedom From Fuel. Which science fiction author predicted that "water will one day be employed as fuel" in his novel *The Mysterious Island*, published in France in the 1870s?

26. Identify the queens of England who were the daughters of Henry VIII.

27. Identify the title Pope Leo X awarded Henry VIII after he wrote his *Assertio septem sacramentorum*, defending the sacraments against Martin Luther's attack.

28. Which group ruled western Armenia from 1514 until their defeat in WWI?

29. Name the political group that led an army revolt against Turkey's dictator, Abdul-Hamid, in 1908, forced him out in 1909, and dominated Turkish politics until 1918, when they succeeded in making the country a republic.

30. The first U.S. stamp for 2003 honors which Supreme Court justice, the first black to serve in that position?

31. Who took office on Jan. 1, 1990, as the first black mayor of New York City?

32. In which year did the Treaty of Paris end the French and Indian War when it was signed on Feb. 10, twenty years before another Treaty of Paris ended the American Revolutionary War?

33. On Feb. 11, 1812, Massachusetts Gov. Elbridge Gerry signed a law that divided his state into politically convenient but wildly shaped districts. Which term now designates such politically convenient redistricting?

34. On Feb. 10, 1962, U.S. pilot Francis Gary Powers was released in exchange for Soviet spy Rudolf Abel. Which type of plane was he flying when he was shot down?

35. Which amendment to the U.S. Constitution provides for presidential succession and disability and vice presidential vacancy? It was ratified on Feb. 10, 1967.

36. Name the American poet whose novel *The Bell Jar* was published in England in 1963 under the pseudonym Victoria Lucas. She committed suicide on Feb. 11, 1963.

37. Name the Iranian leader who on Feb. 14, 1989, called on Muslims to kill Salman Rushdie, the British author of *The Satanic Verses*, a book that offended him.

38. Which 2 brothers, allegedly suckled by a she-wolf in the Lupercal, a cave on the Palatin in Rome, established a religious festival known as the Lupercalia to be celebrated on Feb. 15?

39. When assassin Giuseppe Zangara shot and killed Chicago Mayor Anton J. Cermak on Feb. 15, 1933, in Miami, Fla., at which President-elect was he aiming?

40. At the start of which war was the U.S. battleship the *Maine* blown up while at anchor in the Havana harbor on Feb. 15, 1898, with the loss of 260 crew members?

41. Which geographic name precedes all of the following: Islands, Standard Time, Rim, and Ocean?

42. Which words precedes all of the following: nautilus, tiger, trail, clip, cutter, and money?

43. The 6 New England states make up what percent of the number of contiguous U.S. states?

44. Calculate the perimeter of an isosceles trapezoid with a height of 4 meters and bases of 6 meters and 12 meters.

45. The sum of the first and fourth terms of an arithmetic series is 25. What is the sum of the second and third term of this series?

46. Identify the U.S. state whose name is derived from an Aleut word meaning "the great land."

47. Identify the Alaskan mountain peak named for the winner of the 1876 presidential election.

48. Identify the breed of spruces that shares its name with the city that served as Alaska's capital when the territory was controlled by Russia, from 1799 to 1867.

49. Which 4-word phrase completes the following line from a 1960 novel: "Shoot all the bluejays you want, if you can hit 'em, but remember it's a sin _____"? The phrase is also the title of the book in which it appears, Harper Lee's only novel.

50. Which word completes the title of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's book *The Gulag _____*, the publication of which led to his exile from Russia in 1974? This word means "a group of islands."

51. On which epic work by which poet is the film *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* loosely based? This film opens with the words "O Muse."

52. Identify the American author whose 1917 novel *A Princess of Mars* tells the story of John Carter, who is magically transported to Mars, where he rescues the beautiful princess Dejah Thoris from the Tharks. He also created the fictional Tarzan.

53. What name do the residents of Mars call their planet in Edgar Rice Burroughs' *A Princess of Mars* and its 9 sequels: Barsoom, Oceania, Brigadoon, or Skull Island?

54. Which major Mississippi city surrendered to Union forces the day after the Battle of Gettysburg ended?

55. Identify the Scottish-born iron and steel magnate who during the Civil War supervised the transportation of the wounded after the First Bull Run battle and in 1901 founded the New York public library system.

Answers

10. Navajo
9. Long March
8. the set containing 4
7. $x = 2$
6. 0.75 feet, or three-fourths feet
5. Juan Gris
4. "Miracle"
3. speed of light
2. acid rain
1. no seasons

11. Dominican Republic
12. accounts
13. nouns
14. shall
15. income tax
16. Swiss Air
17. A bird is flying.
18. *Columbia* (1981)
19. Syria
20. Ted Turner

21. September 11
22. Untouchables
23. *Challenger* and *Apollo*, respectively
24. Nelson Mandela
25. Jules Verne
26. Elizabeth I and Mary I
27. Defender of the Faith
28. Ottoman Turks
29. Young Turks

30. Thurgood Marshall
31. David Dinkins
32. 1763
33. Gerrymandering (from Gerry)
34. U-2 (He was shot down in + salamander)
35. 25th (1960)
36. Sylvia Plath
37. Ayatollah Khomeini

38. Romulus and Remus
39. Franklin D. Roosevelt
40. Spanish-American War
41. Pacific
42. paper
43. 12 1/2%
44. 28 meters
45. 25
46. Alaska
47. Hayes Mountain

48. Sitka spruce
49. To kill a mockingbird
50. Archipelago
51. *The Odyssey* by Homer
52. Edgar Rice Burroughs
53. Barsoom
54. Vicksburg
55. Andrew Carnegie (He was working for the Pennsylvania Railroad at the time.)