

MKULTR4: Very Vague And Not Well-Funded

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Editors 1

Tossups

1. In 2009, Flickr's API was shown to be broken by exploiting one of these constructs using length extension. A "sponge"-based example of these constructs, Keccak [KET-SHACK], was designed to supersede examples of them based on the Merkle-Damgård construction. Bitcoin's proof-of-work system requires finding an (*) input to one of these constructs with a sufficiently small output. Both pre-image and collision resistance are desirable properties for these functions, outdated examples of which include SHA1 and MD5. Passwords are obfuscated by storing them *after* running them through one of these functions. For 10 points, name these functions that can also be used to speed up lookups using namesake "tables".

ANSWER: (Cryptographic) Hash functions [or hashes; or hash digests; accept "Message Authentication Code" or "MAC" before "sponge" is read, but do NOT accept or prompt on "HMAC"] <BS>

2. Thomas Tizard wrote an account of a journey of a ship with this name which was captained first by George Nares and then by Charles Wyville Thomson. A corvette of this name was the first steamship to cross the Antarctic Circle during a four-year voyage which surveyed the depth and composition of the ocean floor and catalogued over 4000 new species. According to a commission whose members included Richard (*) Feynman and Neil Armstrong, an accident involving a craft of this name killed the teacher Christa McAuliffe and occurred due to the failure of O-rings at low temperatures. The deepest point in the Marianas Trench shares its name with, for 10 points, which Space Shuttle that exploded in 1986?

ANSWER: Challenger (accept HMS Challenger)

3. It's not a tank, but the most common vehicle used by "snakers" for time trials in *Mario Kart DS* closely resembles one of these objects. In a 2003 Sega video game, Uri-Uri informs the title character that that Dark Raven wishes to use one of these objects to transform him into Ultimate Raven. In the main series of Pokémon games, one of these items which boost experience points by 50% has a small chance of being held by wild (*) Chansey. In *Cool Runnings*, Sanka offers Yul the chance to kiss his "lucky" one of these items. These objects are offered to the rats Nick and Fetcher as payment by the title creatures in *Chicken Run*. For 10 points, name these objects, explosive ones of which are dropped by the white *Angry Birds*.

ANSWER: Eggs [accept Lucky Egg or *Billy Hatcher and the Giant Egg*]

4. E.D. Morel led a campaign against a ruler with this name based on observations made while working for Elder Dempster. Mark Twain wrote a satirical *Soliloquy* condemning the actions of a ruler with this name. An Adam Hochschild book about "greed, terror, and heroism" is titled for the *Ghost* of someone with this name. A corporation operated by someone with this name was exposed by mortality statistics collected by Roger Casement. People in a (*) rubber producing state set up by a person with this name frequently had their hands cut off as punishment. A king with this regnal name established the Congo Free State. For 10 points, give this name shared by the first two kings of Belgium.

ANSWER: Leopold <JG>

5. In this country, Czech climber Adam Ondra ascended *Silence*, the world's first 9c difficulty climb. A whirlpool in this country is unusual in that it is located in the open sea, and inspired Edgar Allan Poe to write *A Descent into the Maelstrom*. This country has the highest number of electric vehicles per capita in the world, and this country is (*) Europe's leading producer of hydroelectric power.

Around 1.3% of all listed shares in Europe are controlled by this country's sovereign wealth fund. This country controls the world's most remote island, Bouvet Island. The Svalbard Archipelago is owned by, for 10 points, which country whose cities include Bergen and Oslo?

ANSWER: Norway [or Norge]

6. **It's not a planet inhabited by bouncing balls, but a person called Lemon in this country is the addressee of Jensen's performance of "Lemon Tree". A character living in this country is questioned by a daughter who changed her name to Vivien about why she and her sister were both given the same birth name. The author of *Nothing Ever Dies* wrote a novel in which a spy from this country endangers his mission by sleeping with the General's daughter, a singer called Lana. That character later murders the journalist (*) Sonny, who had slept with his former lover Ms Mori. This country is the setting of most of Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried*. For 10 points, a conflict in what country provides the impetus for Viet Thanh Nguyen's *The Sympathizer*?**

ANSWER: Vietnam <JG>

7. **Erin Thompson's *Possession* begins by analysing the role in self-legitimation of the art collection of a state based in this city. The first ruler of a Kingdom based at this city betrayed one Diadochi for another at the Battle of Corupedium. Philetaerus was the first ruler of that Kingdom at this city. This city fell under the control of the Roman Republic after the death of its final Attalid ruler. This city's library, which was the (*) second largest in the ancient world after that of Alexandria, was expanded by Eumenes II. Eumenes II also commissioned a structure named for this city that is displayed near the Ishtar Gate. For 10 points name this city, the original home of an altar that names a museum in Berlin.**

ANSWER: Pergamum or Pergamon [do not accept Bergama] <JG>

8. **This film's eponymous social media 'challenge' involved sprinting directly towards the camera before swerving away at the last second, in homage to a scene in this film. One character in this film puts the protagonist in a headlock during a dinner party, and is later bludgeoned with a bocce ball. This film's director cameos both as the voice of a UNCF advert and the sounds of an injured (*) deer. One character in this film arouses suspicion by describing the protagonist's girlfriend as "a real doggone keeper", and the sound of a spoon in a teacup is used to send that protagonist into a hypnotic state referred to as "the sunken place". For 10 points, name this 2017 horror film starring Daniel Kaluuya, directed by Jordan Peele.**

ANSWER: Get Out <EL>

9. **In the Westcar Papyrus, Heqet, Meskhenet, Nephthys and Isis disguise themselves as some of these people to attend the birth of Rededjet's children, and a fertility deity personified as one of these people can be seen on the Moon in Hopi tradition. In Welsh tradition, one of these people escaped pirates by using a wooden buckler as a boat, and has a name meaning (*) 'radiant brow'. In Greek tradition, one of these people was the son of Oeagrus, and received his most famous possession from the deity courting his aunt. That man's wife's name may have originally been an epithet of Persephone, and he was torn to pieces by Maenads after being unable to rescue that wife from Tartarus. For 10 points, name this profession, shared by Kokopelli, Taliesin, and Orpheus.**

ANSWER: musicians [prompt on 'Kokopelli', 'Taliesin', or 'Orpheus' before said, accept bard, antiprompt on more specific kinds of musician, such as 'flute-player'] <EL>

10. **The hierarchical inverse opal structure is a common feature of materials named for these particles. Systems which have excited states that undergo inter-system crossing will tend to emit these particles more slowly than those which don't. Two of these particles are generated during spontaneous parametric down-conversion. In general relativity, these particles move along (*) null geodesics, and they are represented as wavy lines on Feynman diagrams. An absorbed one of these**

particles is re-emitted at a longer wavelength in fluorescence. The interference of these particles with themselves gave rise to the fringes in Young's Double-Slit Experiment. For 10 points, name these quanta of light.

ANSWER: **Photons**

11. Examples of these works classified as "difficult to pass" include 'The Old Woman Burns the Hut' and 'Nansen Has Died'. Enigmatic statements in these works include "The cypress tree in front of the hall", and "Three pounds of flax." Analysis of these works is formalised through *sassho* and *jakugo*. One of these works ends with the master Zhaozhou saying (*) "Mu.", while another simultaneously praises a divine figure and urges the listener to kill him. Famous collections of these works include the *Book of Equanimity*, the *Blue Cliff Record*, and *The Gateless Gate*, and famous examples of these works include the question of whether a dog has Buddha-nature, and the sound of one hand clapping. For 10 points, name these cryptic questions or stories, used to provoke the 'great doubt' in Zen Buddhism.

ANSWER: **Kōans** [accept **gong-an**] <EL>

12. Norman Cherner pioneered the post-Bauhaus design of these objects in the US. Arne Jacobsen designed one of these objects for use by the Danish medical company Novo Nordisk that got their name due to their resemblance to ant's heads. A curvy one of these objects designed by Alvar Aalto is used in the treatment of tuberculosis in Finland. It's not a cabinet, but one of these objects was designed by Marcel Breuer and named for Wassily Kandinsky and is produced by (*) Knoll. Ray and Charles Eames designed an iconic leather and wood one of these items that is produced by the Herman Miller company. For 10 points, name these items of furniture that are usually used for sitting on rather than looking at.

ANSWER: **chairs** <JG>

13. One character in this work responds to the claim that George Seacole is best suited to be constable due to his literacy with the remark that, "to be a well-favored man is the gift of fortune; but to write and read comes by nature." One central character in this work claims he "was not born under a rhyming planet", and is addressed by the other as (*) "Don Worm", while the latter says "a star danced, and under it I was born", and is addressed as "Lady Disdain". In one scene in this work, one central character muses on how to respond to "quips and sentences...and paper bullets of the brain", before concluding, "When I said I would die a bachelor, I did not think I should live till I were married." FTP, name this play by William Shakespeare, focused on the "merry war" between Beatrice and Benedick.

ANSWER: ***Much Ado About Nothing*** <EL>

14. After thermoplastic starch, a polymer of this compound is the world's most-produced bioplastic. A high level of this compound in the blood is a potential side effect of the diabetes drug Metformin. Either acetic acid or this compound are added to Ringer's solution prior to its intravenous use. The Cori cycle describes how this molecule is returned to the liver and subsequently reduced then converted to (*) glucose by gluconeogenesis. The accumulation of this compound due to pyruvate dehydrogenation in anaerobically-working muscles can cause intense pain to athletes. For 10 points, name this acid found in sour milk.

ANSWER: **Lactic acid** (or **Lactate**)

15. In *The Six Sacred Stones*, this structure is used a map to the six Vertices, while in *Civilisation VI*, this structure gives +2 Faith and a free Great Prophet. In an eponymous song by Ylvis, possible uses for this structure include "a prison far too easy to escape", and in *Halloween III*, fragments of this structure are hidden inside the Silver Shamrock masks. In *Doctor Who*, the (*) Pandorica is located underneath this structure, and in *Thor: The Dark World*, Erik Selvig is arrested after stripping naked and harassing tourists near this structure. In *This Is Spinal Tap*, confusion between feet and inches

leads to the creation of an embarrassingly small replica of this structure. For 10 points, name this megalithic structure on Salisbury Plain.

ANSWER: Stonehenge <EL>

16. The narrator of this poem faces “obscene threats” in a field whose air is “thick with a bass chorus”. The narrator of this poem relishes filling “window sills at home” and “shelves at school” with “jampotfuls” of certain “specks.” The opening lines of this poem describe how (*) “bluebottles / Wove a strong gauze of sound” around the smell of rotting flax that had “festered in the heart / Of the townland.” This poem claims one can “tell the weather by frogs” after describing “hundreds of little eggs” and frogspawn. For 10 points, name this poem by Seamus Heaney that also titled his first published collection.

ANSWER: “Death of a Naturalist” <JG>

17. To be sold in North America, this substance must have a density of 66° on the Brix scale and be filtered to remove calcium malate crystals, and imitation forms of this substance are generally made using sotolon. In the USA, the highest grade of this substance was previously designated ‘Fancy’, but is now ‘Class A Golden Colour and Delicate Taste’. In 2011-12, nearly 3,000 tons of this substance were (*) stolen from the International Strategic Reserve in Saint-Louis-de-Blandford. The production of this substance is monitored by the FPAQ in Quebec, and facilities for the production of this substance are generally known as sugar shacks. For 10 points, name this sweet foodstuff, refined from the sap of trees of the genus *Acer* and produced predominantly in Canada.

ANSWER: maple syrup [prompt on partial, prompt on ‘maple sap’ until ‘sotolon’] <EL>

18. One work establishing this philosophy describes various historical figures as either ‘Attilas’ or ‘Witch Doctors’, and contains axioms such as “Consciousness is identification” and “Existence is identity”. As well as *For the New Intellectual*, an *Introduction to [this philosophy’s] Epistemology* described consciousness as “an active process”. A *Newsletter* named for this philosophy was started in 1962 by the(*) Nathaniel Branden Institute, and this philosophy’s founder chose its name because ‘existentialism’ had already been taken. Major tenets of this philosophy include the importance of self-interest and laissez-faire capitalism, as expressed in works like *The Virtue of Selfishness* and *Atlas Shrugged*. For 10 points, name this philosophical system described as “the concept of man as a heroic being”, originally developed by Ayn Rand.

ANSWER: Objectivism [accept word forms] <EL>

19. This piece’s third movement is based on a B major *allegro gentile* theme consisting of a $\frac{3}{4}$ [three-four] bar followed by three $\frac{2}{4}$ bars, and it was dedicated to Regino Sáinz de la Maza, who also produced the first recording of it. This piece’s second movement opens with a B minor cor anglais theme based on a long F-E-F motif, which was rumoured to be inspired by the bombing of (*) Guernica. The only original manuscripts of this piece are written in Braille, due to its composer’s blindness, and its composer was made Marquess of this piece’s eponymous Gardens in 1991. This piece’s *allegro con spirito* first movement opens with a flamenco-inspired hemiola rhythm played by a solo guitar. For 10 points, name this 1939 guitar concerto by Joaquín Rodrigo, named for a Spanish royal residence.

ANSWER: Concierto de Aranjuez <EL>

20. One weapon in one of these games has the unique ability ‘Dornröschen’, and is obtained at the end of the Violent Intel quest chain, while another has alternate skins named ‘Ragabone’ and ‘Cold Between Stars’, and is obtained by defeating Driviks, the Chosen within a ten-minute time limit, rather than destroying a shard of a Hive Prince’s soul. Historic battles in this game series include (*) Bannerfall, Six Fronts and Twilight Gap, and deceased members of one faction in this series include Tallulah Fairwind, Andal Brask, and Saint-14, as well as the soon-to-be-deceased Cayde-6. Species

available to players of this game series include humans, space-born Awoken, and sentient machine Exos. For 10 points, name this pair of space-set online first-person shooters, first released by Bungie in 2014.
ANSWER: **Destiny** [accept **Destiny 2**] <EL>

Bonuses

1. This historian's intensely detailed approach to understanding the daily experience of people in Britain is borne out in his *Religion and the Decline of Magic*. For 10 points each:

[10] Identify this historian, who argued that belief in magic and witchcraft was not just at the margins of English society in the 16th and 17th century. This historian traced the changing views that people in general had of nature in *Man and the Natural World*.

ANSWER: Keith **Thomas**

[10] A hill of this name in Lancashire names a group of supposed witches tried in Lancashire in the 1610s. Two of the witches involved, Elizabeth Southern, aka Demdike, and her granddaughter Alizon Device met at their coven of Malkin Tower.

ANSWER: **Pendle** Hill

[10] This first Stuart monarch of England wrote on witchcraft in his *Daemonologie*.

ANSWER: **James I** and VI <JG>

2. Four years before Joseph Stiglitz wrote a book called *Globalization and its Discontents*, this sociologist wrote a book of that name about global mobility. For 10 points each:

[10] Identify this sociologist, who introduced the notion of a global city in a 1991 book of the same name.

ANSWER: Saskia **Sassen**

[10] This sociologist and author of many widely used textbooks coined the idea of McDonaldization to look at how rationalisation and globalisation interact.

ANSWER: George **Ritzer**

[10] Ritzer's use of the idea of rationalization is derived from the work of this author of *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*.

ANSWER: Max **Weber** <JG>

3. Answer some questions about hunky historian Matthew Karp's tome *This Vast Southern Empire*, for 10 points each.

[10] Karp extensively analyses the presidency of this pro-slavery president, who called his estate Sherwood Forest because he was a "political outlaw". He held office without support from the Whigs or Democrats and signed the bill to annex Texas shortly before leaving office.

ANSWER: John **Tyler**

[10] In 1844 the *Peacemaker* gun aboard this ship exploded killing six people, including Tyler's Secretary of State, Abel Upshur, and his Secretary of the Navy, Thomas Gilmer.

ANSWER: USS **Princeton**

[10] The USS *Princeton* was designed by John Ericsson, who designed the steam locomotive *Novelty* which lost out to this man's *Rocket* in the Rainhill Trials.

ANSWER: George **Stephenson** <JG>

4. Winners of this TV show include Panic Attack, Chaos 2, and Carbide. For 10 points each:

[10] Name this recently-cancelled BBC series, in which teams piloted the title fighting machines in a combat tournament.

ANSWER: **Robot Wars**

[10] For the first seven Wars, the show was hosted by Craig Charles, but in the revived series, hosting duties were taken up by this comedian.

ANSWER: Dara **Ó Briain**

[10] Most of the House Robots made it through to the rebooted series, with the notable exception of this flamethrower-wielding enforcer.

ANSWER: **Sergeant Bash** <EL>

5. Forgery and restoration have rather entwined histories. For 10 points each:

[10] Cavaceppi may have made most of his money by “restoring” Greek sculptures such that they just so happened to exactly match the dimensions of niches in homes of British nobles, but he nevertheless befriended this pioneering 18th century German scholar of Greek art.

ANSWER: Johann Joachim **Winckelmann**

[10] Probably the greatest art forger of the 20th century is this Hungarian painter. This friend of Clifford Irving was the subject of the film *F for Fake*.

ANSWER: Elmyr **de Hory**

[10] Glafira Rosales recently made a fortune selling Pei-Shen Qian’s forgeries as though they were originals by Rothko, Pollock and de Kooning. Those artists all worked within this broad style that encompasses action painting and colour field.

ANSWER: **Abstract Expressionism** <JG>

6. Joey was infuriated at the lack of New York intellectual history displayed in reviews of this man’s clearly Dwight Macdonald inspired essay collection *Against Everything*. For 10 points each:

[10] Identify this critic based at the New School whose *The Age of the Crisis of Man* analyses the cause and effect of changing anthropologies in American literature from 1933-1973

ANSWER: Mark **Greif** [pronounced like ‘rife’ with a ‘g’ at the front]

[10] Greif co-founded the literary magazine *n+1* with Chad Harbach, who is best known for *The Art of Fielding*, a novel about Henry Skrimshander, a shortstop for the Westish College Harpooners, who play this sport.

ANSWER: **baseball**

[10] In a chapter on “[this author] and Technology” in *The Age of the Crisis of Man*, Greif opts to analyse this author’s perception of the mundane developments of tech in the 20th century, rather than the grandiosity displayed in stories like “Entropy” or his novel *V*.

ANSWER: Thomas **Pynchon** <JG>

7. This ecumenical council was convened in 1414 to deal with the Western Schism. For 10 points each:

[10] Identify this council that elected Martin V and burned Jan Hus.

ANSWER: Council of **Constance**

[10] In 1431 Martin V called a council in Basel against the backdrop of the Hussite Wars and debate over the Conciliar movement. After the death of Emperor Sigismund, Pope Eugene IV called a rival council in this Italian city.

ANSWER: **Ferrara**

[10] Emperor Zara Yaqob attended the already confusing Council of Basel-Ferrara-Florence. Zara Yaqob’s confusion mounted when all present insisted that he was this legendary king.

ANSWER: **Prester John** <JG>

8. In *Preacher*, an unnamed technician played by James Kyson in a van marked “TAMASHII URESHII IKU IKU” enables people to perform this action. For 10 points each:

[10] Name this action. Tears for Fears wrote, “in violent times/You shouldn’t have to” perform this action in their 1984 hit ‘Shout’.

ANSWER: **selling your soul** [accept clear equivalences]

[10] Legends claim this blues musician sold his soul to the devil at a crossroads for mastery of the guitar, leading both to hits such as 'Cross Road Blues' and his untimely death at 27.

ANSWER: **Robert Johnson** [prompt on partial, do not accept 'Tommy Johnson']

[10] Probably the most famous alleged soul-seller is this German scholar and alchemist, whose life was fictionalised in works by Marlowe and Goethe. His name has become a byword for all deals of this kind.

ANSWER: **Faust** [accept Johann Georg **Faust** or John **Faustus**] <EL>

9. Students at this institution have carried out pranks including putting a fire engine on top of their main building's great dome. For 10 points each:

[10] Name this university, whose students once launched a weather balloon from the centre spot of the Harvard-Yale football game.

ANSWER: **MIT** (or the **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**)

[10] One of the most famous pranks at MIT was the rigging of all the lights on the face of a building with controllable LEDs so that they could play a version of this Alexey Pajitnov game.

ANSWER: **Tetris**

[10] This unit of measurement named after an alumnus is unique to MIT. The Harvard Bridge was measured at '364.4 plus or minus one ear' of these units by getting him to lie down repeatedly and be marked.

ANSWER: **Smoot**

10. Jacopo Corsi collaborated with this man in writing one of his earlier works. For 10 points each:

[10] Name this composer of the earliest work to be considered an opera: *Dafne*. He also wrote *Euridice*, the oldest opera to survive to the present day.

ANSWER: Jacopo **Peri** [or "Il **Zazzerino**", apparently]

[10] Peri's *Euridice* probably inspired this slightly later opera, with libretto by Alessandro Striggio. This opera begins with a spritely toccata for trumpets, and the title character and his lover declare their love for each other in the aria "Rosa del ciel".

ANSWER: *L'Orfeo* [or *La favola d'Orfeo*; accept **Orpheus**, but do NOT accept "*Orpheus and Euridice*"]

[10] This early Italian composer wrote the operas *L'Orfeo* and *The Coronation of Poppea*. He coined the term "*seconda prattica*" to describe his use of less orthodox musical techniques.

ANSWER: Claudio (Giovanni Antonio) **Monteverdi** <BS>

11. This figure's sister tried to kill herself after this figure broke her husband's back and turned him into a dog because of a fishing argument. For 10 points each:

[10] Other needlessly dickish exploits of this Māori culture hero include beating the Sun to make the day longer, stealing his wife's face, and climbing inside his ancestor's vagina to try and find immortality.

ANSWER: **Māui**-tikitiki-a-Taranga

[10] The Sun-beating was done using a club made from this body part of his ancestor Muri-ranga-whenua, which he also used as a fish-hook to catch the fish that would become North Island.

ANSWER: **jawbone** [prompt on 'bone']

[10] Māui was good at making body parts multitask like that - for example, he stole the secret of fire from the goddess Mahuika by tricking her into giving him this part of herself.

ANSWER: **finger**nails <EL>

12. Quizzers all know the originators of skateboarding tricks, right? For 10 points each:

[10] Technically a fakie 360 aerial, the term 'Cab' has been extended, especially in snowboarding, to describe any frontside switch aerial, and is named after this Californian "Skater of the Century".

ANSWER: Steve **Caballero**

[10] An inverted backside 540 is more commonly known by this name, after Mike McGill, who pioneered it in Sweden in 1984.

ANSWER: **McTwist**

[10] The first documented 900 was performed at the 1999 X-Games by this skater, probably the most well-known vert skater thanks to his series of eponymous video games.

ANSWER: Tony **Hawk** [accept *Tony Hawk's Pro Skater*, but do not accept "Tony Hawks"] <EL>

13. Answer some questions about the Russian literary theorist Viktor Shklovsky, for 10 points each.

[10] Shklovsky argued that this book by Laurence Sterne is a masterpiece due to its conscious appropriation and combination of the techniques displayed in earlier novels.

ANSWER: *Tristram Shandy* [or *The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman*, if they say some intermediate bullshit call them smug and don't give them points]

[10] Shklovsky's final work, *Energy of Delusion*, analysed this narrative element. E.M. Forster's example of this narrative element is "the king died and then the queen died of grief."

ANSWER: **plot**

[10] In a work titled for one of these things Shklovsky asserted that art's "flag has never reflected the colour of the flag that flies over the city fortress." The story direction in Perec's *Life: A User's Manual* is inspired by the movement of one of these things.

ANSWER: a **knight** [prompt on "chess piece"] <JG>

14. This constraint appears due to the fact that small ferromagnetic nanoparticles can spontaneously flip their magnetisation due to ambient thermal energy. For 10 points each:

[10] Name this limit which sets an upper bound on storage density of hard drives.

ANSWER: **Superparamagnetic** limit

[10] Superparamagnetism differs from normal paramagnetism because it occurs at a temperature below one named for this scientist and his wife. The two of them worked to discover polonium and radium.

ANSWER: Pierre **Curie**

[10] With his brother, Pierre Curie was also the first to demonstrate this effect, which requires materials with non-centrosymmetric unit cells, such as quartz and Rochelle salts. It is used in precise actuators.

ANSWER: **Piezoelectricity** (accept word forms)

15. Authors are often criticised for being overly descriptive and attributing too many adjectives to their characters, so identify some authors who bucked that trend, for 10 points each.

[10] This über-long and nevertheless unfinished novel concerns the mathematician Ulrich's search for meaning in Vienna.

ANSWER: *The **Man Without Qualities***

[10] This author explored lack in both *Colourless Tsukuru Tazaki* and *Men without Women*.

ANSWER: Haruki **Murakami**

[10] Shirin Neshat adapted the novel *Women Without Men* by Shahrnush Parsipur for film. Both the film and the novel are in this language.

ANSWER: **Persian** [or **Farsi** I guess] <JG>

16. This object is very similar to Arthur C. Clarke's *Rama* in both shape and origin. For 10 points each:

[10] Name this cigar-shaped comet, the first known interstellar comet to pass through the Solar System. Its Hawaiian name means "scout".

ANSWER: '**Oumuamua** (accept **11/2017 U1**)

[10] As an interstellar object on a hyperbolic trajectory, 'Oumuamua has the highest ever recorded value for this parameter at 1.20. A circle has a value of 0 for this quantity.

ANSWER: orbital **eccentricity**

[10] 'Oumuamua was reclassified from a comet to an asteroid initially because of the absence of this feature in observations, suggesting that its volatiles must be located below the surface.

ANSWER: **coma** <OSC>

17. There are lots of books in the Tanakh, ^[citation needed] but here are some bonuses on important Jewish books that aren't. For 10 points each

[10] A general term rather than a specific book, this name is given to Jewish prayer books, such as a significant series named for Eliyahu Koren.

ANSWER: **siddurim** [accept **Koren Siddur**]

[10] Of variable importance depending on how heterodox the Judaism in question is, this book with a title generally translated as 'Splendour' is the central text of Kabbalah.

ANSWER: **Zohar**

[10] Probably the most significant Jewish text outside of the Tanakh itself, this compendium of religious law is made up of the Mishnah itself and the Gemara, a Rabbinic commentary on the Mishnah.

ANSWER: **Talmud** [accept **Babylonian Talmud**, **Jerusalem Talmud**, **Talmud Bavli**, **Talmud Yerushalmi**, or **Shas**] <EL>

18. A station in this county has the second-longest platform in the UK, behind only Colchester, and a train from London to a town in this county was the first to be scheduled to run at over 70 miles per hour. For 10 points each:

[10] Name this county which holds an annual competition where contestants chase cheese down a hill.

ANSWER: **Gloucestershire**

[10] Gloucestershire is also home to this agency that occupies "The Doughnut" and in 2016 published a popular book of puzzles.

ANSWER: **GCHQ** (or **Government Communications Headquarters**)

[10] The supporters of Gloucester rugby club were formerly nicknamed for their fondness for eating the young of these animals. A town in Cambridgeshire holds an annual celebration of these animals, though they have now been replaced with rubber toys in a competition for throwing them.

ANSWER: **Eels** (the town is Ely)

19. In the central nervous system, the myelin sheath around these cells is maintained by oligodendrocytes. For 10 points each:

[10] Name these basic cells of the nervous system.

ANSWER: **neurons** (or **nerve cells**)

[10] These glial cells regulate the extracellular environment around neurons. For example, they can supply neurons with glucose during periods of high demand.

ANSWER: **Astrocytes**

[10] Astrocytes were formerly thought to aid in the maintenance of this structure, though recent research suggests that the tight junctions and basal lamina of the cerebral endothelium play a larger role. This structure is easily crossed by small hydrophobic molecules like nicotine.

ANSWER: **Blood-brain barrier** (or **BBB**)

20. Sure, you could just learn American geography from books, or you could listen to the songs of The Mountain Goats. For 10 points each:

[10] The narrators of 'The Mess Inside' open the song by taking a weekend in this Utah city and ski resort, the childhood home of the Osmonds.

ANSWER: **Provo**, UT

[10] 'The Grey King and the Silver Flame Attunement' opens with a description of "the secret caverns beneath" this Southern California suburb, also known for being the primary setting of *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*.

ANSWER: **West Covina**, CA

[10] The album *Beat the Champ* is made up entirely of songs about pro wrestling, including one about Bruiser Brody, who was eponymously 'Stabbed to Death Outside' this capital of Puerto Rico.

ANSWER: **San Juan** <EL>

Tiebreaker

One character in one series created by this man is announced as the “Hero of the Battle Against That Bird That Flew Into the Room One Time”, and a central character from one series created by this man is named for a work by Olivier Messiaen, and becomes the first female player of the “jazzed-up” sport of Blernsball. Recurring retail workers in one series by this man include a nameless vendor of crab juice and (*) Khlav Kalash, and serially unemployed former realtor and Coleco salesman Gil Gunderson. Pets in works by this man include Seymour Asses, the border terrier introduced in ‘Jurassic Bark’, and Stampy, the African elephant won in a radio competition in ‘Bart Gets An Elephant’. For 10 points, name this American cartoonist, the creator of *Futurama* and *The Simpsons*.

ANSWER: Matt **Groening** ('GRAY-ning') <EL>