

International History Bee – Asian Division – High School Sample Packet 2013-2014

Instructions: The Bee consists of three rounds, each with 30 questions. In this sample packet, questions are grouped by theme for convenience, but during an actual round, a question on Roman history can be followed by a question on the history of modern China, followed by a question on American history, followed by a question on 19th century Germany, etc. Also, note that about 15% of questions will reference Asian history prior to 1945, not 1/3 as shown here. Also, some questions will reference multiple parts of the world or multiple historical eras; these can be categorized under any of the fields they reference.

Students are grouped into different random groups in each round, of 5-10 students. When one student gets 8 questions correct in a particular round, they are then finished for that round. However, they get bonus points based on how early in the round they reach their quota of 8.

10 Sample Questions – Asian History to 1945

1. While under colonial control, this country's largest city was known as Batavia, after a location in The Netherlands. This country saw a devastating 19th century volcano eruption when Krakatoa killed thousands. After World War 2, this country became independent from the Dutch. For the point, name this Southeast Asian country with the world's 4th largest population that contains the islands of Sumatra, Java, and Bali.

ANSWER: **Indonesia**

2. Ground fighting during this battle was prolonged due to Tadamichi Kuribayashi prohibiting banzai charges, and that commander also ordered an extensive series of tunnels to be dug. It's not Okinawa, but some of the heaviest fighting in this battle took place on Mount Suribachi. For the point, name this early 1945 battle in World War II on a Japanese island where several Marines famously raised a US flag.

ANSWER: Battle of **Iwo Jima** [or **Operation Detachment**]

3. This region's northern boundary includes the Laptev Sea which was explored by Semyon Denisev. A railroad was built across this region over the course of several decades, despite difficulties in construction in the area around Lake Baikal. During the Ice Ages, this region was connected to Alaska through the Bering land bridge. For the point, name this region of Northern Asia, which is used as a synonym for any cold, inhospitable place.

ANSWER: **Siberia** (prompt on "Russia")

4. This city lost roughly 90% of its population from an original total of roughly 500,000 in the 6th century when it lost its right to free grain. Many of its inhabitants fled in 1453, heading west to Italy to boost the Italian Renaissance. For the point, name this city, whose landmarks included the Hippodrome and the Hagia Sophia, located in modern-day Turkey, on the border of Europe and Asia.

ANSWER: **Constantinople** (accept Byzantium or Istanbul as well)

5. This city was the namesake of a time period when the Hebrews were deported to Mesopotamia before being allowed to return by Cyrus the Great. Earlier, this city had seen the development of an early law code under Hammurabi. For the point, name this city, perhaps most famous for one of the wonders of the world, its Hanging Gardens.

ANSWER: **Babylon**

6. It contains teachings and sayings from a period of about 23 years and was standardized by a man named Uthman. Its first version was written down after the Battle of Yamama when Abu Bakr realized the danger in having so many of its reciters perish. For the point, name this book consisting of 114 chapters known as "suras," the holy book of Islam.

ANSWER: **Qur'an or Koran**

7. Aritomo led the Supreme War Council during this era, and a namesake constitution that provided for a bicameral legislature was overshadowed by the fact the emperor still held ultimate power. Military conflicts during this period included the Sino-Japanese War and the Russo-Japanese War. The name of this period translates to "enlightened rule" and it began with the installation of Mutsuhito as Emperor of Japan. For the point, name this period of Japanese history, lasting from 1868 to 1912, that also names a famous Restoration.

ANSWER: **Meiji** period (or restoration)

8. This work discusses "divine manipulation of the threads" in a section on "The Use of Spies," and cautions against recklessness and cowardice in the section, "Variation in Tactics." This work also suggests "breaking the enemy's resistance without ever fighting." For the point, name this early Chinese military treatise that has become popular with Western business leaders, a work written by Sun Tzu.

ANSWER: **The Art of War**

9. This dynasty was founded by the Aisin Gioro clan and it faced the Dungan Revolt, the Nien (pr. **Nee-en**) Rebellion, and the Panthay Rebellion. This dynasty also saw some 20 million people die during the Taiping Rebellion and nearly as many during the White Lotus Rebellion. This dynasty was finally overthrown following the Xinhai (pr. **zhin – high**) Revolution when the empress dowager Longyu abdicated in favor of the last emperor, Puyi. For the point, name this last dynasty to rule China.

ANSWER: **Qing** Dynasty (pr. approximately "Ching," be lenient) (also accept **Manchu** Dynasty)

10. This religion is still practiced today but primarily in India among a diaspora community known as Parsis. Its liturgies are known as the Avesta and it teaches that evil, embodied by Ahriman, and good, embodied by Ahura Mazda, are in conflict, but that eventually good will prevail. For the point, name this religion of ancient Persia whose founder was the title character in a work by Nietzsche.

ANSWER: Zoroastrianism

10 Sample Questions – World (i.e. non-Asian) History to 1945

1. One of this man's direct paternal ancestors was a successful English general in the War of the Spanish Succession. This man who saw combat in India, Sudan, and the Second Boer War, then returned to England and entered politics, planning the Gallipoli campaign as First Lord of the Admiralty. For the point, name this man, who had nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears, and sweat as Prime Minister during World War II.

ANSWER: Winston Churchill

2. During the American Revolutionary War, this city was abandoned after a clandestine retreat in August 1776. It was also the intended destination of John Burgoyne's march meant to isolate New England from the rest of the colonies. Peter Stuyvesant was a prominent early leader of it while it was still ruled by the Dutch. For the point, name this large city which was originally named New Amsterdam.

ANSWER: New York City

3. One of this empire's armies that was sent as reinforcements lost to Gaius Nero and was led by Hasdrubal. Cato the Elder frequently used this empire's name with the words "delenda est," and it was destroyed in its third war with Rome. For the point, name this empire based around a North African city whose generals included Hamilcar Barca and Hannibal during its fighting in the Punic Wars.

ANSWER: Carthage

4. Events leading to this battle include the Battle of Lade (**pr. LAH-day**). In one of Byron's works, after musing "an hour alone" at this battle's site, the narrator, "could not deem myself a slave." Miltiades (**pr. mill-TIE-uh-deez**) commanded the winning side, and the losers sailed back across the Aegean, returning ten years later in 480 BC. For the point, name this battle where Athens defeated Persia, source of the name of a long race.

ANSWER: Battle of Marathon

5. As this language spread, it displaced the related Faliscan (**pr. fuh-LISS-can**) language. Early texts of this language, including the 12 Tables, contain the nominative masculine ending –os (**pr. OH-ESS**), which shows its Indo-European origin. Later, it gave rise to such languages as the now extinct Dalmatian and the still-spoken Catalan (**pr. kah-tuh-LON**). For the point, name this language used by the authors Livy, and Horace.

ANSWER: Latin

6. This country is home to the archeological site of La Tene, (**pr. la – TEN**) from which an Iron Age culture takes its name. Its later inhabitants included the Helvetii who were conquered by Rome, but whose name lives on in this country's Latin name. For the point, name this European country, home to William Tell, and John Calvin, which has been neutral since the early 19th century, despite bordering France and Germany.

ANSWER: Switzerland

7. In 1888, this nation became the last in the Western Hemisphere to officially ban slavery. This country is the largest Lusophone nation in the world, by both population and area and on January 1, 2011, this country's first female president, Dilma Rouseff, took office. For the point, name this country discovered in 1500 by a fleet commanded by Pedro Cabral, a Portuguese-speaking country in South America.

ANSWER: Brazil

8. In one painting of this figure as a young boy, he stands next to his smiling father with an axe at his feet. Another painting of this man unrealistically depicts a scene of a general leading a river crossing on a sunny day. For the point, name this man depicted by Emanuel Leutze (**pr. LOYTZ –uh**) crossing the Delaware River, as he went to the Battle of Trenton where he defeated the British and Hessians in the American Revolution.

ANSWER: George Washington

9. This country is home to many tombs called Mastabas. This nation's Siwa Oasis can be found in its Qattara Depression, which is the second lowest point in all of Africa. The ancient cities of Thebes and Memphis are located in this present-day nation. For the point, name this country that once sported the Pharos lighthouse in its city of Alexandria.

ANSWER: Egypt

10. Martensite is characteristic of one kind of this material that was made in crucibles by Indians and Sri Lankans from the twelfth to nineteenth centuries. A Gilchrist-Thomas converter removes impurities by blowing air during the production of this material in an inexpensive process patented in 1855 by Henry Bessemer. For the point, name this alloy of carbon and iron that made Andrew Carnegie rich.

ANSWER: Steel

10 Sample Questions – World and Asian History since 1946

1. This man formerly served in Dresden as a KGB agent during the Cold War. He was elevated politically on December 31, 1999 by his predecessor, Boris Yeltsin. He practices judo, and he also reportedly discovered some ancient Greek artifacts while diving in the Black Sea, though some say that was a stunt for journalists. For the point, name this man who will welcome the 2014 Olympics to Sochi as the president of Russia

ANSWER: Vladimir **Putin**

2. It was originally for a time referred to as “BackRub” before it acquired its first employee, Craig Silverstein. Originating from a Stanford research project, this company was founded in 1998 and its IPO in 2004 gave it a market capitalization of \$23 billion, though it is now about 8 times that. For the point, name this company, founded by Larry Page and Sergey Brin that warns itself “Don’t Be Evil,” a leader in internet searches.

ANSWER: **Google**

3. During the Roman Empire, this country was an important grain growing region, and was home to a city at Aleppo. One leader of this country succeeded his father, Hafez, and has been supported by Russia and Iran. This country saw a 2013 chemical weapons strike during its ongoing civil war. For the point, name this Middle Eastern country where Bashar Assad has been struggling to hold on to power in its capital of Damascus.

ANSWER: **Syria**

4. This country’s first prime minister wore a type of jacket later named for him and led this country after the partition that accompanied its independence. Another prime minister of this country was shot by her bodyguards after the Amritsar Massacre at the Golden Temple. Its current prime minister is the first Sikh to hold the position, Manmohan Singh. For the point, name this South Asian country, whose prime ministers lead the world’s largest democracy in terms of population.

ANSWER: **India**

5. This country declared its independence from the Qing (**pr. Ching**) dynasty in 1911, and its constitution was rewritten following the 1990 Democratic Revolution. During the Cold War it served as a buffer state between the world’s two largest communist nations. For the point, name this second largest landlocked nation, and also the least densely populated, an Asian nation located between Russia and China.

ANSWER: **Mongolia**

6. Her wedding was witnessed by approximately 750 million television viewers worldwide, and during her tenure in her most famous position, she was active in charities dealing with AIDS awareness, landmines, and the arts. After her divorce, she remained a public figure until her sudden death in August of 1997. For the point, name this "People's Princess", the former wife of Prince Charles and mother of Prince William.

ANSWER: Diana Spencer, Princess of Wales

7. This band's lead singer was originally a student at the London School of Economics. This band was performing at Altamont Speedway and singing a song about causing anarchy when the Hells Angels security crew killed a man in the crowd. Famous for hits such as "Gimme Shelter" and "Jumpin Jack Flash," for the point, name this British band, now nearly 50 years in the making, featuring Keith Richards and Mick Jagger.

ANSWER: Rolling Stones

8. She was the brainchild of Ruth Handler, and she made her debut on March 9, 1959. The idea came from a similar German version known as Bild Lilli though production was at first done in Japan. Since then, she's been an Air Force pilot, presidential candidate, cheerleader, and the resident of her own Dream House with her boyfriend Ken. For the point, name this Mattel icon, whose full name is Barbara Millicent Roberts.

ANSWER: Barbie

9. The majority religion in this country believes that this country's head of state is a bodhisatva. The majority of young men in this Southeast Asian country spend at least a few months as Buddhist monks, and the prevalence of that religion led to a failed 2007 initiative to have Buddhism declared its state religion. For the point, name this monarchy that attracts many tourists to Phuket and has its capital at Bangkok.

ANSWER: Kingdom of Thailand

10. The original trophy awarded to the winners of this event was stolen in Brazil in 1983, and has never been recovered. Uruguay is by far the smallest country by population to have ever won it, and the current champion has only won it once. For the point, name this global occurrence, held every four years, including in Korea in 2002.

ANSWER: The (FIFA) World Cup