



## Mock Challenge #2

This challenge consists of 120 questions.

Difficulty: ★★☆☆☆

Time limit: 60/75 mins

*Good luck!*

## Art & Music

1. If we emulated Christian Holland's *Wind Farmer*, which technology might experience a resurgence in popularity?
  - a. pagers
  - b. zeppelins
  - c. disposable cameras
  - d. hydrogen vehicles
  - e. mechas
2. Which of the following best describes the sound of a tanpura, as heard in "Journey in Satchidananda"?
  - a. percussive
  - b. melodic and resonant
  - c. low and droning
  - d. airy woodwind
  - e. high-pitched and abrupt
3. Which selected work would you be MOST able to play at a piano recital?
  - a. *Winter Bonfire* | Sergei Prokofiev
  - b. "Feux d'artifice" | Claude Debussy
  - c. *Fire Symphony* | Joseph Haydn
  - d. "Magic Fire Music" | Richard Wagner
  - e. "Caribbean Blue" | Enya
4. Katy Perry's selected work would likely resonate the MOST with
  - a. someone with a crush
  - b. a festival-goer
  - c. someone nostalgic for childhood
  - d. an insecure person
  - e. a reckless party-goer
5. For which occasion would it have been MOST appropriate to play "Chariots of Fire"?
  - a. the "Miracle on Ice"
  - b. the Apollo 11 landing
  - c. a performance of *The Firebird*
  - d. a test of a flying car
  - e. Eurovision
6. After listening to "Return to Innocence", you might be motivated to
  - a. revisit your childhood experiences
  - b. embrace your own identity
  - c. protect the environment
  - d. strive for peaceful relationships
  - e. avoid new technologies
7. Which word best describes the atmosphere created by Suzanne Vega's "Predictions"?
  - a. mystical
  - b. mournful
  - c. whimsical
  - d. epic
  - e. operatic
8. The song "Pure Imagination" would be MOST effective in advertising
  - a. optimism for the future
  - b. a new LEGO set
  - c. an artificial general intelligence
  - d. meditation classes
  - e. a PvP shooter game
9. If you went to a palm-reader after viewing Caravaggio's selected work, you would MOST likely
  - a. gain appreciation for their work
  - b. keep watch of your belongings
  - c. ask them about their reasoning
  - d. not trust what the palmist says
  - e. take more time for introspection
10. Which is NOT a similarity between *Red Plastic* and *Fire Paintings*?
  - a. both feature char marks
  - b. both were made around the same time period
  - c. both required the use of a torch
  - d. both are abstract in nature
  - e. both depict fire as a regenerative force

11. Which selected work is best performed by a large choir?
- "Heal The World"
  - "Trio des Cartes"
  - "The Second Coming"
  - "Nostradamus"
  - "O Fortuna"
12. When creating their selected work, which political movement were the Scorpions MOST likely inspired by?
- pan-Slavism
  - the Civil Rights Movement
  - the Arab Spring
  - the Levellers movement
  - the liberalisation of the U.S.S.R.
13. Based on his selected work, how might Tom Lehrer cope with negativity in the news?
- reading more positive news
  - avoiding devices
  - advocating for world peace
  - making jokes about it
  - visiting a sustainable farm
14. Which statement would the songwriter of "Atom and Evil" be MOST likely to agree with?
- "To mess with atoms would be to defy God and nature."
  - "La la la, I'll just watch the world burn."
  - "We are using nuclear energy for the wrong purposes."
  - "Nuclear war is imminent."
  - "We should opt for more sustainable energy sources instead."
15. When a young person takes a picture with an instant camera, they are MOST likely seeking
- social media fame
  - approval from peers
  - high colour contrast
  - a sense of authenticity
  - low-cost alternatives to digital cameras

16. Which song would be MOST suitable to play at an antiwar rally?
- "Right Here, Right Now"
  - "To the Unknown Man"
  - "Fire◎Flower"
  - "Heal The World"
  - "Feux d'artifice"
17. Which aspect of Singapore might MOST appeal to a solarpunk?
- its cultural diversity
  - its architectural projects
  - its cleanliness
  - its safety
  - its year-round summer
18. Which is a similarity between the songs "Written in Stone" and "Surrender"?
- both achieved mainstream success
  - both convey a sense of hopelessness
  - both were written by the same person
  - both are list songs
  - both were replaced by a different song
19. What is a car MOST likely to symbolise in the musical *Ragtime*?
- uniqueness
  - optimism
  - wealth
  - industrialisation
  - motivation
20. Which selected work treats its primary theme with a dark undertone?
- "Imaginary" | Evanescence
  - "Can You Imagine That?" | *Mary Poppins Returns*
  - "Pure Imagination" | Gene Wilder
  - "Imagination" | Tommy Dorsey
  - "Imagine" | John Lennon

## History

21. If you played hide-and-seek with Anne Frank, she would MOST likely look for you
- underwater
  - behind a bookcase
  - behind the curtains
  - under a sofa
  - in a treetop
22. If you stood close to Krakatoa during its famous eruption, the first effect you would experience is
- being combusted
  - having your eardrums burst
  - suffocating in sulfur dioxide
  - being swept away by lahars
  - being burnt by lava
23. If you were a Roman consul preparing to fight the First Punic War against Carthage, you would MOST likely order the construction of
- siege towers
  - small villages in rural areas
  - a strong naval fleet
  - incendiary weapons
  - castles across the empire
24. The Great Fire of London is MOST likely to have been witnessed by
- Juan Carlos I
  - Jimmy Carter
  - Charles II
  - Alfred Wegener
  - Dante
25. Which state, in their respective time periods, would be the best example of unipolarity?
- the Neo-Assyrian empire
  - modern India
  - Song dynasty
  - the Soviet Union
  - the Carolingian empire
26. Which measurement of time would you MOST likely use to predict an eclipse?
- computus
  - Saros cycle
  - Metonic cycle
  - Chinese agricultural calendar
  - Mayan cyclical calendar
27. If he were alive today, Filofei would MOST likely bestow the title of “the fourth Rome” to a country with
- great cultural significance
  - large landmass
  - a powerful military
  - strong religious institutions
  - a stable republic system
28. Compared to previous French kings, Louis XVIII would MOST likely be described as
- long-reigning
  - less powerful
  - unpopular
  - cruel
  - lavish
29. If you were a Mongol cavalry commander, you would MOST prefer to march your army
- through a grassland
  - into a forest
  - through a marsh
  - into a mountain range
  - along a coastline
30. The earliest evidence of man-made fire was found in
- human remains
  - a forest
  - fossil records
  - a cave
  - tree stumps

31. You are tasked with writing a speech for the inhabitants of Valhalla. It would be MOST appropriate to address your audience as
- martyrs
  - kings
  - sinners
  - messiahs
  - warriors
32. Which historical event had the MOST influence on the development of atompunk?
- anti-communism in the US
  - the emergence of television
  - the Space Race
  - the rise of youth culture
  - decolonisation
33. If you travelled to the Byzantine Empire, the people there would MOST likely call themselves
- Byzantians
  - Greeks
  - Romans
  - Turks
  - Numidians
34. If you asked an Okinawan person about Shuri Castle, they would probably say that it represents
- the destructiveness of war
  - Japanese imperialism
  - exploitation by the West
  - Okinawan pride
  - ancient feudal society
35. Which of the following people would you MOST credit with popularising the Yellow Crane Tower?
- documentary producers
  - ancient historians
  - Chinese poets
  - the Mongol hordes
  - Western architects
36. Which statement about Shakespeare's Globe is the MOST accurate?
- it was demolished due to accusations of heresy
  - it has very few seats
  - it has been fully converted into a museum
  - the current structure is only an approximation of the original playhouse
  - it was built by Christopher Marlowe's theatre company
37. If you asked someone in the 1940s to evaluate zeppelins, they would MOST likely be concerned about
- feasibility
  - safety issues
  - practicality
  - excessive costs
  - emissions
38. The Aztecs kept track of the passing years by observing
- changes in temperature
  - the position of the sunrise
  - the growth of sacred plants
  - repeating lunar phases
  - the alignment of planets and constellations
39. Both Shuri Castle and Shakespeare's Globe were destroyed by
- warfare explosives
  - human demolition
  - accidental fires
  - natural wear and tear
  - religious extremism
40. Schools in which country are MOST likely to teach the history of the Ottonian empire?
- Russia
  - Germany
  - UK
  - France
  - Italy

## Social Studies

41. In which location would you find the realm of Jigoku?
- on a mountaintop
  - above the sky
  - in fourth dimensions
  - deep underground
  - in a person's soul
42. Which modern trend or technology might pose the greatest threat to physical media?
- a resurgence in cassette tapes
  - AM radio
  - digital piracy
  - fibre optics transmission
  - Wi-Fi
43. "The winners write the history books," says your friend. Which concept should they use to support their argument?
- isekai* plotlines
  - hyperloops
  - happy hunting ground
  - Jyotish divination
  - flash point
44. If you aimed to reduce the psychological distance felt by consumers towards the environment, you would MOST likely say that
- you can read more positive news
  - polar bears are not losing their homes
  - you waste lots of water every day
  - deforestation is decreasing
  - your choices make a big difference
45. Which type of country is MOST likely to experience prolonged low fertility rates?
- a wealthy country
  - a dictatorship
  - a country in a civil war
  - an island nation
  - a country in famine
46. What would Francis Fukuyama MOST likely say if he were to participate in a group project?
- "Y'all are terrible, I'm not working with you anymore."
  - "I love group projects! They're so collaborative."
  - "We should split up the work to increase efficiency."
  - "Don't argue please!"
  - "Let's vote for our group leader."
47. Which word best describes the existing research on loneliness?
- unimportant
  - lacking
  - expensive
  - controversial
  - abundant
48. Which strategy would Canada MOST likely adopt to solve the issue of a high ageing population?
- encouraging international immigration
  - financial incentives for families with children
  - offering childcare support
  - changing public attitudes towards childbirth
  - easier access to subsidised housing for those with children
49. If you are told to switch train cars on the New Eurasia Land Bridge, that MOST likely indicates that
- you are crossing a country border
  - your train car needs cleaning
  - the train is being hijacked
  - the train car is defective
  - you are entering a tunnel
50. Which term best describes the usage of soft power in global politics?
- slander
  - coercion
  - alliances
  - attraction
  - empty threats

51. Recently, the US government shut down their foreign assistance department. The MOST direct consequence of this is that

- a. their national debt will increase
- b. fewer countries will trade with the US
- c. international alliances will become strained
- d. humanitarian crises will be worsened
- e. dictatorships will proliferate in poorer regions

52. A product is LEAST likely to follow the bathtub curve model, if it

- a. can be used by everyone
- b. is out of fashion
- c. has a very high unit price
- d. expires/breaks down quickly
- e. is meant for one-time use

53. A futurist and a solarpunk are MOST likely to disagree upon

- a. the ideal social structure
- b. idealism vs. realism
- c. unipolarity vs. multipolarity
- d. the merits of space exploration
- e. environmental policies

54. A critic of megaprojects might say that its planners are

- a. careless
- b. elitist
- c. greedy
- d. too optimistic
- e. inconsiderate

55. Which word best matches the word “parasocial” in “parasocial interaction”?

- a. online
- b. one-sided
- c. abnormal
- d. awkward
- e. traumatised

56. Which megaproject might be referred to as an arcology?

- a. Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge
- b. Khazar Islands
- c. Hambantota
- d. NEOM
- e. Three Gorges Dam

57. “If we raised the minimum wage, people would live more comfortably.”

What is the MOST important issue that this person has missed?

- a. companies exploiting their workers
- b. tax increases
- c. lower consumer confidence
- d. increasing social isolation
- e. inflation

58. “I love fast trains!”

Based on this year’s outline, you might want to discourage this person from visiting

- a. China
- b. United States
- c. Japan
- d. France
- e. Canada

59. Your friend has recently unsubscribed from a newsletter, citing “headline stress disorder”. They are MOST likely

- a. worried about media bias
- b. reducing their device usage
- c. depressed from reading too much news
- d. too busy to read news
- e. a fan of video-form news

60. Which profession might resonate the MOST with the “seventh-generation principle”?

- a. environmentalists
- b. lawyers
- c. scientists
- d. poets
- e. teachers

## Literature & Media

61. Ray Bradbury is best known as the writer of
- Fahrenheit 451*
  - The Old Man and the Sea*
  - Animal Farm*
  - The Catcher in the Rye*
  - The Great Gatsby*
62. Which destination would you explore in a reading of Dante's *Divine Comedy*?
- Shangri-La
  - Bethlehem
  - Um-Helat
  - Narnia
  - Purgatory
63. In *Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind*, what are the Ohmu?
- magical deer
  - a human subspecies
  - sewer rats
  - dwarves
  - giant insects
64. Euthanasia is the practice of mercifully ending one's life. Which fictional character(s) perform a similar task?
- Tim and Diane
  - Postwand
  - Doctor Manette
  - The Caregiver
  - William Wallace
65. Doctor Manette's story would MOST likely be shown as an exemplar to
- mechanics
  - caregivers
  - dentists
  - entrepreneurs
  - teachers
66. Ted Chiang is MOST likely to agree with the statement that
- predicting the future is ultimately impossible
  - our fates are already sealed, but we should believe otherwise
  - we can decide our destiny
  - free will is under threat by technology
  - knowing the future is not important
67. An event having a short news cycle probably indicates that
- the news stations are overworked
  - people will start talking about it again soon
  - it garners mainstream coverage almost instantly
  - it loses relevance quickly
  - its news coverage is not trustworthy
68. Which of the following audiences are MOST likely to listen to the *Voice of America Jazz Hour* program?
- housewives
  - aspiring Black artists
  - poor workers
  - upper-class men
  - people from foreign countries
69. In which form of media did the character Black Panther make his first appearance?
- a comic book
  - folklore
  - a movie
  - a novel
  - a short story
70. How might a person react to the fictional city of Um-Helat?
- "It's too good to be true."
  - "Think how damaging to the environment this is!"
  - "I'd rather not live here."
  - "This sounds a lot like Tokyo?"
  - "The people here are rebuilding from the rubble."

71. Based on his selected work, the poet Horace would MOST likely think of divination as being
- promising
  - deceiving
  - sinful
  - futile
  - accurate
72. Which selected poet would resonate the MOST with Red Jacket's selected speech?
- Forrest Gander
  - Emily Dickinson
  - Jorie Graham
  - Linda Hogan
  - W. B. Yeats
73. Which person would Robert Menzies MOST likely classify as "forgotten"?
- a factory worker
  - a businessman
  - a lawyer
  - an exiled king
  - a member of an ethnic minority
74. What is a rhythmic trainer MOST likely to say about *Beatmania*?
- "My patients are telling me it's too easy."
  - "The music is way too loud to assist recovery."
  - "It doesn't even have any actual rhythm to it."
  - "It relies excessively on visual cues."
  - "Games like these are very damaging towards the recovery process."
75. Which emotion is MOST prominent in the selected speech from *Love, Actually*?
- hope
  - nationalism
  - love
  - desperation
  - motivation
76. How might Ezra Klein translate Trump's oft-used phrase "many people are saying"?
- "many people are optimistic that"
  - "many people are misled into thinking"
  - "many people have accused me of"
  - "many people have no choice but to"
  - "many people secretly believe"
77. "*Some say the world will end in fire...*"
- When he wrote this line, which of the following contemporary events might Robert Frost have had in mind?
- a great fire
  - a famine
  - a major war
  - the development of nuclear weapons
  - global warming
78. Which trait is a chiptune composer LEAST likely to have?
- perfectionism
  - innovativeness
  - creativity
  - patience
  - resourcefulness
79. Which game would you MOST likely use as "aim training"?
- Deemo*
  - Beat Saber*
  - maimai*
  - osu!*
  - Tap Tap Revenge*
80. Based on syllabus content, which selected work is Matthew Tomkinson MOST likely to admire?
- "We Cast Our Eyes to the Unknowable Now"
  - Sea of Rust*
  - "No Swan So Fine"
  - "The Tyger"
  - Gadsby*

## Science & Technology

81. Which life-prolonging technology would you MOST appropriately accuse of relying on speculation?
- genetic enhancement
  - cryonics
  - senolytics
  - genomics
  - stem cell therapy
82. Imagine you have signed up to be cloned. You and your clone would MOST likely be identical in terms of
- height
  - worldview
  - genes
  - memories
  - age
83. Which person might be MOST interested in the field of synthetic creativity?
- a magazine editor
  - a *hikikomori*
  - a Scholar's Challenge writer
  - a graphic designer
  - a blind person
84. If you were worried about a viral spillover from the Arctic region, you would MOST likely want to stop
- deforestation
  - climate change
  - sea exploration
  - oil drilling
  - whale migration
85. Which robot are you MOST likely to mistake for a human?
- nanorobots
  - collaborative robots
  - hybrid robots
  - mobile robots
  - androids
86. The most short-term form of memory is known as
- cognitive
  - lightning
  - sensory
  - automatic
  - immediate
87. A marketer tells you you can "clone yourself to put on advertisements and films". They are probably suggesting the use of
- voice dubbing
  - AI face swap technology
  - cel animation
  - somatic cell nuclear transfer
  - humanoid replicas
88. A city is to a transportation hub as the brain is to the
- frontal cortex
  - thalamus
  - pituitary gland
  - hippocampus
  - neocortex
89. "We should always connect with our inner selves."
- Who would be MOST likely to agree with this statement?
- Bent Flyvbjerg
  - Carl Jung
  - Friedrich Engels
  - Dylan Thomas
  - F. Scott Fitzgerald
90. Which of the following people are MOST likely to study the "nature vs. nurture" debate?
- parenthood experts
  - sociologists
  - economists
  - conservationists
  - nuclear scientists

91. For which technology might it be MOST useful to have a parachute?
- rocket mail
  - hyperloops
  - ground-effect vehicles
  - supersonic transport
  - flying cars
92. Why are maglev trains faster than their normal counterparts?
- they require less stops
  - they reduce ground friction
  - they have increased downforce
  - they use new and powerful fuel sources
  - they are more aerodynamically efficient
93. If you asked a Japanese researcher to solve ocean pollution, which idea are they MOST likely to give you?
- designing a multimillion-dollar ocean net
  - recruiting beach cleanup volunteers
  - subsidising biodegradable goods
  - increasing fines on littering
  - building a robot to extract ocean waste
94. Which thermal process best describes the formation of volcanic hotspots?
- evaporation
  - combustion
  - convection
  - conduction
  - radiation
95. If you asked an AI to take a test, and it were experiencing the alignment problem, what would it do?
- answer questions based on how a human might answer them
  - become confused
  - get every answer incorrect
  - avoid potentially controversial questions
  - cheat on the test
96. When an AI hallucinates, what “symptom” are you MOST likely to see?
- extremely long responses
  - irrelevant responses
  - creepy responses
  - a refusal to answer the question
  - lagging
97. A weather forecaster is MOST likely to agree that
- the devil is in the details
  - no stone should be left unturned
  - the world is not prepared for AI
  - the early bird catches the worm
  - reversing global warming is hopeless
98. What is the word used to describe a system that is affected greatly by a small change in parameters?
- anarchic
  - chaotic
  - reactive
  - disorderly
  - volatile
99. In which example is an unstable equilibrium MOST visible?
- a pendulum swings back and forth
  - a ball is thrown vertically upward from the ground
  - a standing domino is tipped over
  - a boulder rolls to the bottom of a basin
  - water in a bowl swishes left and right
100. Which statement about combustion reactions is FALSE?
- heat is produced when fuel reacts with oxygen
  - a fire needs activation energy to start
  - the temperature at which combustion can happen is called the flash point
  - flames are caused by the byproducts of combustion
  - carbon dioxide is a byproduct of combustion

## Special Area

101. Based on his writing, which recent development might be MOST concerning to Michio Kaku?
- the development of driverless cars
  - Iran's nuclear program
  - flying saucer sightings
  - drone attacks in the Russia-Ukraine war
  - SpaceX's space program
102. A person in the early 1900s would have LEAST likely heard of
- biodiesel
  - the gas turbine engine
  - the Otto cycle
  - the Wankel rotary engine
  - the reciprocating engine
103. A car driver might avoid using bioethanol fuels to power their car, because it
- has a high risk of exploding
  - produces harmful emissions
  - is less cost-efficient
  - causes the car to vibrate
  - has a strong odour
104. Wearing a seatbelt would MOST benefit a driver when the car is
- crashing
  - parking
  - stopping
  - accelerating
  - starting
105. Which is NOT a necessary component to start a fire?
- carbon dioxide
  - fuel
  - heat
  - oxygen
  - chemical chain reactions
106. Which piece of apparatus is MOST necessary to perform pyro-osteomancy?
- a bonfire
  - animal bone
  - sleep-inducing drugs
  - dice
  - beads
107. What is the main difference between a shaman and a witch?
- ancient vs. modern
  - externally validated vs. self-proclaimed
  - Eastern vs. Western
  - real vs. mythical
  - good vs. evil
108. The exterior design of the new Bibliotheca Alexandrina can best be described as
- an inscribed stone slab
  - a futuristic helix
  - a large glass dome
  - a royal palace
  - a repurposed cathedral
109. "Focus your efforts in one spot."
- You would MOST likely make use of this wisdom when starting a fire using
- lenses
  - a lighter
  - a fire striker
  - a hand drill
  - flint and steel
110. What are the potential limitations of a safety match compared to a regular match?
- they are more expensive
  - they are dimmer
  - they are harder to ignite successfully
  - they burn out more quickly
  - they can only be struck on a certain surface

111. Which of the following technologies would be MOST difficult to recreate today?

- a. ground-effect vehicles
- b. Greek fire
- c. pagers
- d. shortwave radio
- e. white phosphorus

112. Scientists are MOST likely to be interested in the brain of

- a. Jesus
- b. Leon Trotsky
- c. Confucius
- d. Albert Einstein
- e. An-My Le

113. If your diviner keeps mentioning “karma”, they are MOST likely practicing

- a. Bazi
- b. ceromancy
- c. Jyotish
- d. haruspicy
- e. Ifá

114. Which phenomenon would MOST influence the accuracy of Ouija divination?

- a. self-fulfilling prophecy
- b. negativity bias
- c. cold reading
- d. Barnum effect
- e. ego depletion

115. Why might a pandemic like COVID-19 lead to a resurgence in the popularity of fortune-telling?

- a. the local sense of community has increased
- b. divination was a popular protest tool against the government
- c. people feel lost and confused
- d. people have more time at home
- e. viral social media trends appeared during the pandemic

116. If you are operating a comparative horoscopy service, your target market would probably consist of people that

- a. are bored
- b. have a romantic interest
- c. want to know more about themselves
- d. own many financial assets
- e. are ardently religious

117. Which of the following is the best example of a Barnum statement?

- a. “Look into my eyes and ask yourself this: are you happy with your situation?”
- b. “I sense a sibling with a rare disease in your life.”
- c. “Your bedsheets are orange-coloured.”
- d. “Last Sunday, you bought two jars of mayonnaise at the supermarket.”
- e. “Life can be difficult for you sometimes.”

118. Which farm animal is MOST likely to be an oracle?

- a. roosters
- b. dogs
- c. horses
- d. pigs
- e. sheep

119. *“Funny when you’re dead, how people start listening...”*

These lyrics would LEAST appropriately be used to describe the life of

- a. Vincent van Gogh
- b. Emily Dickinson
- c. Nick Drake
- d. Gregor Mendel
- e. Billy Joel

120. In which case might confirmation bias play an important role?

- a. observing the behaviour of your worst enemy at school
- b. learning about a new topic
- c. making a collective decision in a group project
- d. recalling a car crash
- e. regretting a rude comment you made yesterday