

RQBCo Novice 2025-2026

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Round 3

- 1) **X-ray photons interact with these particles in Compton scattering, and, if they're energetic enough, can release these particles from their shells. JJ Thomson discovered these particles, whose (*) "valence" type forms ionic bonds. These particles have a mass roughly eighteen hundred times smaller than the proton. For ten points, name these subatomic particles with a negative charge that orbit the nucleus of an atom.**

ANSWER: electrons (accept valence electrons)

Bonus 1) This literary character is passed from Mrs Mann's baby farm to a workhouse to Mr Sowerberry's undertaker business as an apprentice, all before he is ten years old. For ten points each,

[10m] Name this title orphan who learns he is the heir to a fortune after he joins up with the Artful Dodger and a group of pickpockets.

ANSWER: Oliver Twist (accept Oliver Twist; accept Oliver Twist; or, the Parish Boy's Progress)

[10e] The novel *Oliver Twist* is a condemnation of England's failure to care for the poor written by this English author of *Bleak House* and *David Copperfield*.

ANSWER: Charles Dickens (accept Charles John Huffam Dickens)

[10h] When Oliver is recruited to the Artful Dodger's pickpocket ring, he works under this man, one of Dickens's many Jewish caricatures. This man tricks his associate, Bill Sikes, into killing Nancy when she tries to help Oliver.

ANSWER: Fagin [FAY-gin]

- 2) **This religion's first order of bhikkhuni was founded by Prajapati, the foster mother of a member of this religion who preached at the Sarnath Deer Park. This religion's founder preached against both indulgence and self-denial by promoting the (*) Middle Way. This religion's Noble Eightfold Path is a method of seeking release from samsara, the cycle of death and rebirth. For ten points, name this Indian religion founded by Siddhartha Gautama.**

ANSWER: **Buddhism** (accept word forms like **Buddhist**)

Bonus 2) These weather phenomena are measured on the Enhanced Fujita scale. For ten points each,

[10m] Name these weather phenomena that form in the mesocyclones of supercells.

ANSWER: **tornado** (accept **twister**; accept **funnel** cloud)

[10e] Tornadoes form in the mesocyclones of the "supercell" form of these common weather systems that produce rain and lightning.

ANSWER: **thunderstorm** (prompt on "storm")

[10h] To identify a high risk for tornadoes, meteorologists examine radar images of supercells for an "echo" with this curled shape.

ANSWER: **hook** echo

- 3) **In this country, Maureen runs toward a helicopter near the village of her former servants in the novel *July's People* by Nadine Gordimer. In another novel set in this country, Absalom is imprisoned for killing the white man Arthur Jarvis. Stephen (*) Kumalo tries to save his son in Alan Paton's novel *Cry, the Beloved Country*, which is set during the apartheid era in, for ten points, what country whose largest city is Johannesburg?**

ANSWER: **South Africa** (accept Republic of **South Africa**; accept **RSA**)

Bonus 3) Legend holds that King George the Second stood during a climactic moment of this work's second part, so now everyone traditionally stands during it. For ten points each,

[10m] Name this 1741 oratorio that includes the "Hallelujah Chorus."

ANSWER: Messiah

[10h] *Messiah* was composed by this German-turned-British composer.

ANSWER: George Frideric Handel (accept Georg Friedrich Händel)

[10e] Handel's *Zadok the Priest*, which includes the Biblical lyric "God save the King," has been played at every one of these ceremonies since 1727, including that of Charles the Third in 2023.

ANSWER: coronation (accept crowning of the British monarch(s); accept elaborations that include the term coronation)

- 4) **David Payne is often called the "father" of this U.S. state for leading the Boomer Army on questionably-legal raids. On April 22, 1889, tens of thousands of people lined up for a land rush in this modern-day state that was cheated by people who illegally entered (*) "sooner." The Trail of Tears primarily ended in what became this state. The "Indian Territory" became, for ten points, what U.S. state between Kansas and Texas?**

ANSWER: Oklahoma

Bonus 4) Answer the following about watersheds, regions where all water flows to a single point, for ten points each.

[10e] The largest watershed in the United States unsurprisingly belongs to the Mississippi River, partly because it includes the watershed of this slightly longer river that flows into the Mississippi at Saint Louis in its namesake state.

ANSWER: Missouri River

[10m] Much of the central Appalachian Mountains is in the watershed of this east coast bay, whose coastal cities include Annapolis and Baltimore in Maryland.

ANSWER: Chesapeake Bay

[10h] Watersheds are usually separated by these boundaries that often, but not always, follow the path of a mountain range. The "Great" one of these lines of North America passes through the Rocky Mountains, separating the Pacific watershed from the Atlantic watershed.

ANSWER: continental divides (accept hydrological divides; prompt on "divide")

- 5) **In this film, "Love, Maybe" by MeloMance plays when the protagonist drops a box of fake tonics. In this film, a "lament" played on the bipa [bee-pa] mocks Gwi-Ma [gwee-mah]. The manager (*) Bobby is shocked when the song "Takedown" plays during a concert in this film. A surprise performance in this film features verses by Baby, Mystery, and Jinu. The Saja Boys and HUNTR/X [hun-TRICKS] appear in, for ten points, what Sony animated movie that spawned the tracks "Soda Pop" and "Golden?"**

ANSWER: **KPop Demon Hunters**

Bonus 5) This town's namesake Institute is a Historically Black University whose faculty included George Washington Carver and founder Booker T. Washington. For ten points each,

[10h] Name this central Alabama town, whose university trained the Red Tails, a group of Black World War Two pilots known as its "Airmen."

ANSWER: **Tuskegee** (accept **Tuskegee University**; accept **Tuskegee Institute**; accept **Tuskegee** Airmen)

[10m] For four decades, the CDC carried out a wildly unethical experiment in which Black men in and around Tuskegee who had this sexually transmitted disease were observed without treatment, in order to see how the disease progressed when untreated.

ANSWER: **sypphilis**

[10e] In 1957, Tuskegee was sued for attempting this discriminatory political process, in which they drew a twenty-eight sided polygon that excluded almost the entire Black population from the city limits. This term gets its name from a conniving governor of Massachusetts.

ANSWER: **gerrymandering**

- 6) **Characters in this novel re-enact *Pilgrim's Progress* before their father, a chaplain in the Union Army, returns home on Christmas. After a visit to the Hummel family, a character in this novel contracts (*) scarlet fever and laments that her sewing needle is too heavy. Another character in this novel marries Professor Bhaer [bare] after declining Laurie's advances. For ten points, name this novel by Louisa May Alcott about Amy, Meg, Beth, and Jo March, the title sisters.**

ANSWER: **Little Women**

Bonus 6) While it wasn't the first dynasty of China, the Qin Dynasty [chin dynasty] was the first to rule as an empire. For ten points each,

[10h] The first Qin emperor was this man, a survivor of several assassination attempts, including one where a guy tried to roll a huge metal cone down a hill toward his carriage.

ANSWER: Qin **Shi Huangdi** (accept **Ying** Zheng; accept **Zhao** Zheng; prompt on "Qin")

[10e] As a unified empire, the Qin bolstered this ancient defensive structure, which was further improved to a length of over thirteen thousand miles by later dynasties.

ANSWER: **Great Wall** of China (accept **Wanli Chancheng**)

[10m] The Qin Dynasty only ruled for a decade and a half. After a power vacuum, this dynasty ruled from 202 B·C·E to 220 C·E. This dynasty shares its name with the majority ethnic group of modern China.

ANSWER: **Han** Dynasty

- 7) **In this country, Luiz Fux [loo-eez fooks] was the only dissenting justice in a trial that sentenced a former leader to twenty-seven years in prison in September 2025. This country's Supreme Federal Court and other government buildings were attacked on January 8, 2023, in an attempt to return a right-wing leader to power. (*) Jair Bolsonaro [zhai-eer bo-sa-nar-oh] was succeeded as president by Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in, for ten points, what largest South American country?**

ANSWER: **Brazil** (accept Federative Republic of **Brazil**; accept Republica Federativa do **Brasil**; do not accept or prompt on "Brasilia")

Bonus 7) In chemist slang, this process generally refers to any experiment in which a single variable is changed slowly in concentration over a gradient. For ten points each,

[10h] Name this process that formally refers to an experiment that measures the concentration of an unknown liquid by reacting it with increasing volumes of a known liquid.

ANSWER: **titration** (accept volumetric **titration**; accept **volumetric analysis**; prompt on "analysis")

[10e] For instance, you can "titrate" down this variable, so to speak, by adding acid. This variable is usually measured on a scale from zero to fourteen.

ANSWER: **p·H** (accept **power of hydrogen**)

[10m] The dependent variable in any titration is one of these chemicals, usually one that changes color depending on the p·H.

ANSWER: **indicator** (accept **indicating** solution)

- 8) **The chemotherapy drug Taxol stops this process from moving forward. This process includes checkpoints that determine if spindle fibers are properly connected to kinetochores, and it directly follows the (*) G·2 phase.** This process, which is separate from interphase, consists of prophase, metaphase, anaphase, and telophase. For ten points, name this process of cell division that creates two identical daughter cells.

ANSWER: **mitosis** (accept **prophase** until "prophase" is read in the second-to-last sentence; prompt on "cell division;" do not accept or prompt on "meiosis")

Bonus 8) Answer the following about Southern Gothic literature, a loosely-defined genre that focuses on dramatic and macabre subjects in the American South, for ten points each.

[10m] Lists of Southern Gothic authors generally begin with Flannery O'Connor and this Mississippian author of *The Sound and the Fury* and *As I Lay Dying*.

ANSWER: William **Faulkner** (accept William Cuthbert **Faulkner**)

[10h] A classic work of Southern Gothic fiction is this Flannery O'Connor short story in which a Georgia family's trip to Florida is disrupted when they are murdered by The Misfit.

ANSWER: A **Good Man is Hard to Find**

[10e] A precursor to Southern Gothic fiction is Kate Chopin, a writer who set novels like *The Awakening* in places like Grand Isle and New Orleans in this U·S state.

ANSWER: **Louisiana**

- 9) **Three lunettes above this painting feature the coat of arms of its commissioner, Ludovico Sforza. This painting is held in the Santa Maria delle Grazie, and its central figure's feet were removed to install a doorway. This mural features several foreshadowings to a scene in (*) Gethsemane [geth-SEH-mah-nee], including Peter clutching a knife and Judas knocking over salt.** For ten points, name this Leonardo Da Vinci mural in which Jesus shares a final meal with his apostles.

ANSWER: The **Last Supper** (accept Il **Cenacolo**, accept L' **Ultima Cena**)

Bonus 9) The Greek gods interfered a lot during the Trojan War. Answer the following about their involvement, for ten points each.

[10e] This Greek god of the sea built the walls of Troy alongside Apollo, and protected the Trojan hero Aeneas on the battlefield.

ANSWER: Poseidon

[10m] This goddess provided support to the Greek side in opposition to Poseidon, helping the Greeks build the Trojan horse.

ANSWER: Athena (accept Pallas Athena; accept Athene)

[10h] Apollo helped direct the shot that killed this Greek hero, the nearly-invulnerable son of Thetis.

ANSWER: Achilles (accept Achilleus)

- 10) **This monarch was targeted in the pro-Catholic Babington plot, which was thwarted by her spymaster, Francis Walsingham. This monarch claimed she had "the heart and stomach of a king" in her Speech to the Troops at (*) Tilbury. This queen, who repelled the Spanish Armada, succeeded her sister Mary the First and was succeeded by James Stuart in 1603. For ten points, name this final Tudor monarch, a long-reigning "virgin queen" of England.**

ANSWER: Queen Elizabeth the First (prompt on "Elizabeth" or "Queen Elizabeth")

Bonus 10) The volume of this shape is three times that of a cone inscribed within it. For ten points each,

[10m] Name this three dimensional solid whose volume formula is "height times pi R squared."

ANSWER: cylinder

[10e] This two-dimensional quantity for a cylinder can be found by adding the areas of the top circular base, the bottom circular base, and the area that wraps around the cylinder like the label of a soup can.

ANSWER: surface area

[10h] The rectangular area that wraps around the cylinder is known as this type of surface area. In problem solving, this adjective describes a type of indirect "thinking" that is creative or "outside the box."

ANSWER: lateral (accept lateral surface area; accept lateral thinking)

- 11) **One of these works written for Nikolaus Esterházy ends with the performers blowing out candles. A set of twelve of these works written in London includes one featuring a sudden (*) loud chord in the second movement. Those examples of these works, the composer's forty-fifth and ninety-fourth, are called *Farewell* and *Surprise*. Joseph Haydn is called the "Father" of both the string quartet and, for ten points, what long musical works for orchestra?**

ANSWER: **symphony** (accept **symphonies** by Franz Joseph Haydn)

Bonus 11) These compounds are released by endocrine glands. For ten points each,

[10m] Give this term for a biomolecule that sends signals to cells or tissues, affecting organism behavior.

ANSWER: **hormones**

[10e] Phytohormones like auxins and abscisic acid control the growth of organisms in this kingdom. Some phytohormones are also found in fungi or bacteria, where they have less of a role.

ANSWER: **plants** (accept **plant** hormones)

[10h] Somatotropin is an alternate name for this hormone, which is secreted by the pituitary gland to promote cell reproduction in humans. The use of this hormone by athletes is generally banned by sporting bodies.

ANSWER: **growth** hormone (accept human **growth** hormone; accept **HGH**; accept **GH**; do not accept or prompt on "steroid")

- 12) **This play's title character snidely accuses his friend of leaving school in Wittenberg to see his mother's wedding rather than his father's funeral. A young man returns from France in this play to avenge the death of his father, (*) Polonius, and discovers that his sister, Ophelia, has been driven mad by the title prince. For ten points, name this Shakespeare play set in Denmark whose title character obsesses over whether "to be or not to be."**

ANSWER: **Hamlet** (accept The Tragedy of **Hamlet**, Prince of Denmark)

Bonus 12) Answer the following about the shenanigans of the ancient philosopher Empedocles, for ten points each.

[10m] Empedocles taught during an era named for being "pre-" this philosopher, who taught Plato.

ANSWER: Socrates (accept pre-Socratic era)

[10e] Empedocles introduced the "classical four" examples of these things: earth, water, fire, and air, claiming that they were manipulated by Love and Strife.

ANSWER: four elements (accept roots)

[10h] Empedocles died on his home island of Sicily by jumping into this active volcano in an unsuccessful attempt to prove that he was immortal.

ANSWER: Mount Etna

- 13) **Lord Curzon's restoration of this building included replacing its Islamic gardens with British lawns. A jet-black counterpart may have been intended opposite the Yamuna River from this building, which was co-designed by (*) Ahmad Lahori, a court architect of the Mughal Empire. This mausoleum was built in the seventeenth century for Mumtaz, the late wife of Shah Jahan. For ten points, name this magnificent white marble building in India.**

ANSWER: Taj Mahal

Bonus 13) Answer the following about Constantin Brâncuși's ["constantine" brin-koosh's] World War One memorial *Sculptural Ensemble... at Târgu Jiu* [tar-goo zhoo], for ten points each.

[10e] Brâncuși commemorated Romanian soldiers with a "Gate" titled for this action. Brâncuși separately sculpted two blocky models performing this romantic action.

ANSWER: kiss (accept word forms like kissing; accept equivalents like smooching; accept The Gate of the Kiss; accept The Kiss)

[10h] Down a path from *The Gate of the Kiss* is one of these structures of *Silence* surrounded by twelve hourglass-shaped objects. Maya Lin built a *Women's* one of these structures for a memorial at Yale University.

ANSWER: tables (accept The Table of Silence; accept Women's Table)

[10m] The final work in the ensemble is an "infinite" one of these structures, consisting of fifteen full-sized and two half-sized rhomboidal units. In architecture, these structures are often classified as Doric, Ionic, or Corinthian.

ANSWER: columns (accept Infinity Column; accept The Endless Column; prompt on "pillar")

- 14) **This country's eighty-mile long Wall of Quảng Ngãi [kwan nye], nicknamed its "Great Wall," was mostly built by the Nguyễn Dynasty [win dynasty]. The delta of the Mekong River is controlled by this country. Military routes through this country extended into (*) Laos and Cambodia; American bombing of those trails failed to defeat a force once led by Ho Chi Minh. For ten points, name this Southeast Asian country, the site of a 1960s-70s war.**

ANSWER: **Vietnam** (accept Socialist Republic of **Vietnam**; after "Laos" is read, accept North and/or South **Vietnam**)

Bonus 14) Contrary to positive modern depictions, this term was almost universally used mockingly against a certain movement, not by its members. For ten points each,

[10m] Give this term for women who advocated for voting equality in the early twentieth century.

ANSWER: **suffragettes**

[10h] A typical example was this newspaper's 1906 definition of "suffragette" as "a woman who ought to have more sense." Today, this is the most-subscribed newspaper in America.

ANSWER: The **New York Times** (accept **NYT**; prompt on "(the) Times")

[10e] The term "suffragette" gradually lost its negative connotation after the movement succeeded through this amendment to the U·S Constitution.

ANSWER: **Nineteenth** Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (accept Amendment **Nineteen**)

- 15) **The stability of a chemical is measured by the heat emitted either when it forms or when it undergoes this type of reaction. This type of reaction occurs above a liquid's flash point if an oxidizer is present. These (*) reactions are called "incomplete" when the supply of oxygen to the reaction is too low. This type of exothermic reaction produces water and carbon dioxide. For ten points, name this type of reaction that occurs in fires.**

ANSWER: **combustion** (accept word forms like **combusting**; accept **burning**; accept **fire** or **flame** before "fire" is read in the last sentence; prompt on "oxidation" before it is read after the powermark)

Bonus 15) This Norwegian author wrote about women dissatisfied with their marriages in plays about the Ekdals and about the professional rival of Eilert Løvborg. For ten points each,

[10h] Name this playwright of *The Wild Duck* and *Hedda Gabler*.

ANSWER: Henrik Ibsen

[10e] In another play by Ibsen, Nora Helmer feels trapped in her marriage, saying that she has been put into a "house" for these children's toys that look like small humans.

ANSWER: doll (accept A Doll's House; accept Et dukkehjem)

[10m] Unhappy women in Ibsen's work are often the victims of this crime. For example, Judge Brack and Nils Krogstad threaten to reveal the secrets of Hedda Gabler and Nora Helmer while committing this crime.

ANSWER: blackmail (accept extortion; prompt on descriptions like "trading money for secrets")

- 16) **The djed is a pillar representing this deity's spine. This god is often depicted wearing his feathered crown, the Atef, while holding a crook and flail. This eldest son of Geb and Nut was turned into the first (*) mummy by Anubis. This god's body, after his murder by Set, was recovered from the Nile by his sister Nephthys and his wife Isis. For ten points, name this green-skinned Egyptian god of the dead.**

ANSWER: Osiris (accept Asar, accept Usire)

Bonus 16) A 2025 report by the website Defector found that a charity involved with this baseball team may be committing fraud, or they may just be making accounting mistakes after growing too fast. For ten points each,

[10m] Name this exhibition "baseball" team that plays against the Party Animals, Firefighters, and Tailgaters. You can give the Georgia city where they're based or their team name, a rhyming fruit.

ANSWER: Savannah Bananas (accept either or both names)

Note: the charity, the delightfully-named Bananas Foster, provides care packages to foster children. At time of writing, the non-profit may or may not be on the level; your writer hopes for, and wishes them, the best.

[10h] The Savannah Bananas play Banana Ball, an offshoot of baseball with several zany rules. For example, according to Rule Eight, fans are allowed to get a player out directly by performing this action in the stands along the base lines.

ANSWER: catch a foul ball (both underlined parts required; prompt on "catching the ball" alone by asking, "Under what specific condition?;" do not accept or prompt on descriptions of "catching a home run")

[10e] The Savannah Bananas' dance routines and trick plays are directly inspired by the Harlem Globetrotters, who have turned this other sport into a showcase of juggling, ball spinning, and dunks since 1926.

ANSWER: basketball

- 17) **This formula satisfies the "n equals two" case of a problem that, according to the Abel-Ruffini Theorem, can't be satisfied at all if n is greater than four. This formula includes an expression that will discriminate between functions with zero, one, or (*) two real roots; that expression, "B squared minus four A C," is found under a square root. For ten points, name this formula that will find the solutions of the equation "A x squared plus B x plus C equals zero."**

ANSWER: quadratic formula

Bonus 17) This legendary figure is sometimes believed to be the wife of Samael or Asmodeus and the mother of all other demons. For ten points each,

[10h] Name this first woman who, in some Talmudic stories, preceded Eve as the wife of the first man.

ANSWER: Lilith (accept Lilit)

[10e] Lilith and Eve were the wives of this man, the first human created in Abrahamic religions.

ANSWER: Adam

[10m] Although Lilith had no children with Adam, Eve gave birth to Seth, Cain, and this hunter who was killed by Cain in the first murder.

ANSWER: Abel (accept Habel; accept Hebel)

- 18) **Chester Nimitz said that this event would have been more devastating if ground targets at Hickam Field had been attacked in a third wave that was called off. Over twenty-four hundred people were killed at and around (*) Battleship Row in this attack, with almost half dying on the USS *Arizona*, whose remains are now a memorial in Hawaii. For ten points, name this December 7, 1941 surprise attack by Japan that brought the United States into World War Two.**

ANSWER: Pearl Harbor (accept attack on Pearl Harbor)

Bonus 18) The motion of these phenomena may classify them as transverse or longitudinal. For ten points each,

[10e] Name these phenomena that propagate through space, as seen with the crests of water on a beach.

ANSWER: waves

[10m] This phenomenon is transmitted through air by longitudinal waves at a speed that depends on the air temperature and pressure. For example, the speed of this phenomenon is about three hundred forty meters per second in dry, room-temperature air.

ANSWER: sound (accept sound waves; accept speed of sound)

[10h] This Austrian physicist names the ratio of the speed of an object in air to the speed of sound in the surrounding air. For example, if an object is traveling at exactly the local speed of sound, this ratio would equal one.

ANSWER: Ernst Mach (accept Mach number)

- 19) **This novel's title character allows Klipspringer to live in his house, and hosts events attended by people like Owl Eyes. The title figure of this novel takes the blame for the death of (*) Myrtle Wilson to protect the object of his unrequited love, Daisy Buchanan, who is the cousin of this novel's narrator, Nick Carraway. For ten points, name this novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald about the title Jazz Age party host.**

ANSWER: The Great Gatsby

Bonus 19) This last member of the Julio-Claudian dynasty took power after his mother, Agrippina, poisoned his adoptive father, Claudius. For ten points each,

[10m] Name this fifth emperor of Rome, who legendarily fiddled during the Great Fire of Rome in 64 C.E.

ANSWER: Nero (accept Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus)

[10e] According to Nero's enemies, the Great Fire started because he wanted to clear out land near this landmark to build a new "golden" house. Today, the ruins of this amphitheater are one of Rome's most popular sights.

ANSWER: Colosseum (accept Roman Colosseum; accept Flavian Amphitheater; accept Amphitheatrum Flavium)

[10h] Nero's death kicked off a tumultuous period in which this many men, starting with Galba, held the position of emperor within a twelve-month period.

ANSWER: four (accept Year of the Four Emperors)

- 20) **In sidereal time, this planet's days are longer than its years. Like Uranus, this planet has a retrograde orbit. The highest point on this planet is Skadi Mons, a mountain in the Maxwell Montes range of its (*) Ishtar Terra region. A carbon dioxide atmosphere and sulfuric acid clouds have contributed to this planet's runaway greenhouse effect. For ten points, name this "sister planet" of Earth, the second planet from the Sun.**

ANSWER: Venus

Bonus 20) This author discussed length, method, and "unity of effect" as key parts of writing in his "The Philosophy of Composition." For ten points each,

[10m] Name this American poet who, in that essay, discussed one of his poems whose title figure gives an answer that "little relevancy bore" when it is asked "is there balm in Gilead?"

ANSWER: Edgar Allan Poe

[10e] This Edgar Allan Poe poem is set "upon a midnight dreary" and is named for a bird who repeats "Nevermore."

ANSWER: The Raven

[10h] The narrator repeatedly begs the raven for information about how he can once again see this dead woman, whom he calls a "rare and radiant maiden" named by the angels.

ANSWER: Lenore