

International History Olympiad
Sample Questions – History Bowl

Varsity / Junior Varsity Samples

First Quarter

A woman of this name was accused of paying cooks to poison King Louis IX. Another woman of this name had an affair with her ally Roger Mortimer and was known as "the She-Wolf of France" during her regency for her son Edward III. This name is also held by a queen who conquered Granada and employed Tomas de Torquemada. For 10 points, give this name of the queen of Castile who made a unifying marriage to Ferdinand of Aragon.

ANSWER: **Isabella**

Second Quarter

This modern-day country was the larger of two territories transferred in the 1670 Treaty of Madrid, following the elder William Penn's successful invasion of this country. In 1969, a stopped watch was found in this country, showing the exact time when a natural disaster struck this country in 1692, namely the Port Royal Earthquake. As a British colony, this country fought against Nanny and Cudjoe in the Maroon Wars with escaped slaves. For 10 points, name this country whose 1978 political crisis was mediated by Bob Marley the reggae singer, and which has had trouble fighting a high crime rate in its capital of Kingston.

ANSWER: **Jamaica**

BONUS: The Jamaican bobsled team first became famous for its performance at which city's Winter Olympics, the first to be held in Western Canada?

ANSWER: **Calgary**

Third Quarter

ALBANIA

In the history of Albania, who or what was the...

1. Type of fraud which devastated Albania's economy in 1997, which shares its name with a tomb in Egypt?

ANSWER: **pyramid** scheme

2. Bloc of Communist countries that it left after allying with Mao's China?

ANSWER: **Warsaw Pact**

3. Empire which acquired Albania in the 1385 Battle of Savra, remaining until 1912?

ANSWER: **Ottoman** Empire

4. Country that invaded Albania in 1939 at the order of Benito Mussolini?

ANSWER: Kingdom of **Italy**

5. Only modern King of Albania, deposed in the invasion?

ANSWER: King **Zog**

6. Communist who was dictator from 1944 to 1985?

ANSWER: Enver **Hoxha** (HOH-juh)

7. National hero who led the League of Lezhë in the fifteenth century?

ANSWER: **Skanderbeg** [or George **Kastrioti**]

8. "Pirate queen of Illyria" who fought the Romans from her base at present-day Shkodër?

ANSWER: **Teuta**

Fourth Quarter

An alliance opposing this man was formed by the Water Tatars, the Jurchen, and his distant cousin Nayan, and was put down when this man allied with the king of Goryeo, Chungnyeol. This man became a recluse who communicated with the court through one of his wives, Nambui, before ultimately designating his grandson (+) Temur as successor following the premature death of his son Chinggim. This man was proclaimed emperor following the Battle of Yamen, which eliminated the remaining (*) Song. For 10 points, name this Yuan Dynasty founder, the first Mongol ruler of China.

ANSWER: **Kublai** Khan

Middle School / Junior Varsity Samples

First Quarter

A large commitment of German troops to this battle made it easier for Soviet troops to cross the Oder River. This battle is where General Patton executed a left turn to relieve the American 101st Airborne Division which was surrounded in the town of Bastogne. This battle is sometimes named for the Ardennes Forest, and the attacking side sought to reach Antwerp but failed. For 10 points, name this December 1944 battle, named for the shape it caused in the Allied lines.

ANSWER: Battle of the **Bulge** (accept Battle of the Ardennes before mention)

Second Quarter

This island was known as Serendib to the ancient Greeks, which is the source of the English word “serendipity.” Velipulai Prabakaran and his followers pioneered suicide bombing tactics on this island, whose Prime Minister Bandaranaike was the first modern elected head of state. This country’s civil war ended abruptly when artillery fire wiped out the leadership of the Tamil Tigers. For 10 points, name this country, which saw a transfer of power after 2015 elections.

ANSWER: **Sri Lanka**

BONUS: During the British Empire, Sri Lanka was known by which name, which is still used to describe a type of tea produced there?

ANSWER: **Ceylon**

Third Quarter (Note: Middle School Rounds will only have 6 questions per quarter)

CELTIC EUROPE

In Celtic Europe, who or what was...

1. The Celtic caste of priests who held oak trees to be sacred?

ANSWER: **Druids**

2. The Scottish leader, known as Braveheart, who fought the English at Stirling Bridge?

ANSWER: **William Wallace**

3. The Celtic language that has survived with the largest number of speakers, many of whom live in Cardiff?

ANSWER: **Welsh**

4. French comic book series named for a Celtic leader who is friends with Obelix?

ANSWER: **Asterix**

5. Irish poet who wrote the poem “Easter 1916” about an Irish rebellion?

ANSWER: William Butler **Yeats**

6. The island in the Irish Sea where the Tynwald was used as a parliament?

ANSWER: **Isle of Man**

7. The city in Cisalpine Gaul whose name derives from the Celtic “Mediolanum”?

ANSWER: **Milan**

8. The siege where Vercingetorix was finally defeated by the Romans?

ANSWER: **Alesia**

Fourth Quarter

This country was the site of the failed Darien scheme by Scottish colonists, which ultimately led Scotland to seek union with England. This country’s Vatican (+) Embassy was blasted with rock music in an attempt to force out its dictator who was wanted by the US for drug trafficking, and had sought refuge there. A recent Chinese-led attempt to use (*) Lake Nicaragua as a waterway threatens to undo this country’s strategic position in global shipping. For 10 points, name this Central American country whose independence from Colombia was secured by the USA who was looking to build a canal.

ANSWER: **Panama**