



2025-26 Post-Secondary Championship (T3) – Pack 3

Head Editor: *Paul Kasiński*

Writers/Editors: *Nicolas Edwards, Ian Greig, Paul Kasiński, Jenny Mao, Malhaar Moharir, Jack van Nostrand, Joe Su, Isaac Thiessen, Zhongtian Wang*

PACK 3

5-Part Blitz

1. What Yiddish-derived noun for fat rendered from ducks or geese used for cooking can also mean excessive sentimentality in works of art?
A: **schmaltz**
2. What author wrote about hexagon-shaped rooms containing an infinite number of books in his short story *The Library of Babel*?
A: Jorge Luis **Borges** ["BORE-hess"]
3. What word refers to the ratio of useful output energy to input energy when energy is transformed between forms?
A: **efficiency**
4. Encompassing several ancient civilizations between the Mediterranean Sea and Tigris and Euphrates rivers, in what historical region did agriculture begin?
A: **Fertile Crescent**
5. What word refers to the lengthy paper that research-based master's students must write and defend, summarizing the research they have worked on throughout their degree?
A: **thesis** (accept: **theses**)

Double Jump

6. What kind of organization was led by Nemesio Cervantes, better known as El Mencho, who was killed in a February 2026 raid led by the Mexican army?
A: drug **cartel** (prompt on: criminal organization, criminal syndicate, mafia, drug gang)
7. El Mencho led a cartel known as "New Generation" that is based in and named for which Mexican state?
A: **Jalisco** ["hal-EESS-co"]

Double Jump

8. What kind of geographical features emit tephra, which can be released as deadly pyroclastic flow during large eruptions?
A: **volcanoes**
9. Active volcanoes sit above what kind of locations, where molten rock sits and builds up before escaping in an eruption?
A: **magma chambers**

Set of 4

10. Who designed an attraction for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition consisting of 36 cars that took 20 minutes to complete a two-rotation cycle?
A: George Washington **Ferris**
11. Surpassed in 2013 by the Shard as the highest publicly open viewing location in its city, what Ferris wheel is located on the southern shore of the River Thames?
A: **London Eye** (prompt on: the Eye)

12. What country contains a Ferris wheel with yellow cars that has been abandoned for 40 years since the Chernobyl disaster?
A: **Ukraine**
13. What city is home to the tallest Ferris wheel in the world, along a waterfront that also includes an incomplete set of artificial islands resembling a world map?
A: **Dubai**

Jackpot

The answer to this question will be one word.

14. Part 1: What kind of physical objects can have their characteristics demonstrated through use of Tissot's indicatrices ["in-DICK-uh-tri-SEEZ"]?
15. Part 2: Medieval scholar Isidore of Seville was responsible for developing the "T and O" kinds of these objects.
16. Part 3: An object of this kind created by a 16th-century Flemish scholar was the first to equate straight lines to rhumb ["rum"] lines, leading to significant improvements in sailing.
17. Part 4: These objects represent three-dimensional space in two dimensions by means of a projection, and are made by cartographers.
A: **maps**

Set of 3: A.I.-Generated Content

18. Potentially due to overrepresentation in the formal writing used for training data, excessive use of what punctuation mark is now considered a hallmark of A.I. writing?
A: **em dashes** (prompt on: dashes) (reject: en dashes)
19. Peaking at number 21 on the Billboard U.S. Christian Songs chart, what song credited to Spalexma honored the founder of Turning Point U.S.A. following his assassination?
A: **"We are Charlie Kirk"**
20. Shortly after the gold medal game, the White House's TikTok account posted an A.I.-generated video of what Ottawa Senators captain insulting Canadians?
A: **Brady Tkachuk** ["kuh-CHUCK"] (prompt on: Tkachuk)

5-Part Blitz

21. Who supposedly appeared in La Salette in 1846, in Lourdes in 1858, and in Fatima in 1917?
A: The Virgin **Mary**, Mother of Jesus
22. What term refers to a style of makeup consisting of a full face with noticeable, heavy makeup, often for special events or T.V. appearances?
A: full **glam** (accept: **full beat**)
23. What physicist is the namesake of a hypothetical structure that an advanced civilization could build to surround their star and capture up to all of its output energy?
A: Freeman **Dyson**
24. Teams wear all-white uniforms and play four innings in what form of cricket that can last up to five days?
A: **Test** cricket/match/game
25. Participants might slap themselves with birch whisks called vihtas or vastas in what kind of communal locations, which play an important role in Finnish culture?
A: communal/public **saunas**

END OF FIRST QUARTER

SECOND QUARTER

Splits: Data Analysis & The Renaissance

Data Analysis

26. Using a degree-10 polynomial to model 10 data points is an extreme example of what common mistake in data analysis?
A: **overfitting** (accept word forms)
27. What quantity is reduced with methods like t-SNE and P.C.A.?
A: number of **dimensions**
28. What name is given to a boxplot with a kernel density function on each side?
A: **violin** plot (accept: **bean** plot)
29. What term refers to the probability that a statistical test correctly rejects a null hypothesis, and can be calculated using 1 minus beta?
A: statistical **power**

The Renaissance

30. Who first spoke of a cultural "rebirth" taking place in Italy in his biographical work *Lives of the Artists*?
A: Giorgio **Vasari**
31. The Renaissance was spurred by Petrarch's discovery of the writings of what conservative Roman Senator, who tried to maintain the Republic against Caesar and Antony?
A: **Cicero**
32. Renaissance art was distinguished by the development of what technique, allowing for realistic depictions of depth as it is seen by the human eye?
A: linear **perspective** (accept: one-point **perspective**)
33. Renaissance thinkers developed what worldview that prioritized a liberal education to develop a responsible citizenry influenced by Classical ideals?
A: Renaissance **humanism/humanist**

Double Jump

34. At around 25 million, what country suffered the highest death toll of World War II, as the site of many German atrocities and the war's largest theatre, the Eastern Front?
A: **Soviet Union** (accept: **Union of Soviet Socialist Republics**, **U.S.S.R.**, Soviet **Russia**)
35. At between 15 and 20 million, what country suffered the second-highest death toll of the war?
A: Republic of **China** (accept: Nationalist **China**, **R.O.C.**) (reject: People's Republic of China, Communist China, P.R.C.)

Double Jump

36. What film opens with the undertaker Bonasera declaring "I believe in America" as he pleads for retributive justice from Don Vito Corleone?
A: *The **Godfather** Part I*
37. In *The Godfather*, who is Vito's eldest and most hot-headed son, his chosen heir as head of the family?
A: **Santino** "**Sonny**" Corleone (accept either bolded part)

Set of 4: Fictional Eateries

38. What chain owned by Madrigal Electromotive is a front for drug trafficking run by Gustavo Fring?
A: Los **Pollos Hermanos** ["POY-oss air-MAH-noss"]
39. Despite making multiple calls, at what New York restaurant is Patrick Bateman never able to get a reservation?
A: **Dorsia**
40. What two rival fast food restaurants are located on Bottom Feeder Lane, and offer menu items such as coral bits and kelp rings?
A: the **Krusty Krab** AND the **Chum Bucket**
41. At what fine dining establishment in Paris does the head chef die of a broken heart due to his restaurant being downgraded from five to four stars by critic Anton Ego?
A: **Gusteau's**

4-Part Mystery

42. Until dying before the release of *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, who portrayed Albus Dumbledore on screen?
A: Richard **Harris**
43. What company has created characters such as The Fry Kids, Grimace, and The Hamburglar?
A: **McDonald's**
44. Adopting the name Kwame Ture ["KWAM-ay TOOR-ay"] after he moved to Africa, what civil rights activist was instrumental in developing the Black Power movement as leader of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee?
A: Stokely **Carmichael**
45. Which American president defused South Carolina's attempt to overturn two federal tariffs during the Nullification Crisis?
A: Andrew **Jackson**
[Theme: Group of Seven painters]

5-Part Blitz

46. Referring to a disturbance or commotion, spell the word "kerfuffle".
A: **K-E-R-F-U-F-F-L-E**
47. What benefit is awarded each time a player draws one of the Library, Market, Chapel, Great Hall, or University development cards in a game of Catan?
A: one **Victory Point** each (accept: one **V.P.** each) (prompt on: one point each)
48. In what language are the operas *The Cunning Little Vixen* and *The Bartered Bride*?
A: **Czech**
49. What thesis posits that it is possible to instantiate a given mental state in different physical ways, perhaps even non-biological ones?
A: **multiple realizability**
50. Known for its unique landscapes and many endemic species, what island in the northwestern Indian Ocean belongs to Yemen?
A: **Socotra**

END OF FIRST HALF

THIRD QUARTER

Splits: Girl Groups & Languages of India

Girl Groups

51. What group released the English-language version of the song "Jai Ho" as well as "Buttons" and "Don't Cha"?
A: The **Pussycat Dolls**
52. In 1970, Cindy Birdsong replaced Diana Ross as the lead singer of what Motown girl group?
A: The **Supremes**
53. What first name was shared by two members respectively known for leopard-print outfits and athletic wear, nicknamed Scary and Sporty, in the Spice Girls?
A: **Melanie**
54. "Touch", "Gnarly", and "Gabriela" are all songs by what girl group, known for following early 2000s fashion and for having members with diverse cultural backgrounds?
A: **Katseye**

Languages of India

55. Famous for its Sangam literature, what Dravidian language is widely spoken in southern India as well as northern and eastern Sri Lanka?
A: **Tamilian**
56. Since independence, many southern states, especially Tamil Nadu, have agitated against efforts to impose what tongue as a national language?
A: **Hindustani** (accept: **Hindi**)
57. What language spoken in a neighbouring country is essentially equivalent to Hindi but written in the Arabic script with slight changes in vocabulary?
A: **Urdu**
58. From around 1200 until British rule, what was the main court and governing language in most of India?
A: **Persian** (accept: **Farsi**)

Set of 3

59. According to the model developed by scientists such as Richard Dawkins, what entities are the fundamental units of natural selection, on which the process acts?
A: **genes**
60. The gene-centred view successfully explains what behaviour that had previously puzzled biologists, since the fact that another organism shares many of one's genes can provide an evolutionary reason to help that organism at a cost to oneself?
A: **altruism** (accept: **altruistic** behaviour)
61. In two papers titled *The Genetical Evolution of Social Behaviour*, who first showed that a gene-centric view explains how altruism can be naturally selected for?
A: W.D. **Hamilton**

Jailbreak

62. Villa Villekulla is the home of what red-haired, powerful little girl created by Astrid Lindgren?
A: **Pippi Longstocking** (accept: **Pippi Langstump**) (accept either bolded part)
63. What is the only element present in the azide anion?
A: **nitrogen** (prompt on: **N**)
64. What country recently granted asylum to seven members of the Iranian women's soccer team who had refused to sing the national anthem before a game?
A: **Australia**
65. What English word means "little water" in Russian?
A: **vodka**

66. Who used Gertrude Stein's quote "You are all a lost generation" as an epigraph for his novel about World War I veteran Jake Barnes, *The Sun Also Rises*?
A: Ernest **Hemingway**
67. In Chinese chess, what piece moves like a rook but can only capture if it jumps over a piece?
A: **cannons** (accept: **catapults**)
68. What word do economists use for how much consumers want of a given product or service?
A: **demand**
69. What two-word name do people in the American South use for a non-alcoholic beverage that originated there and is widely considered to be their regional drink?
A: **sweet tea**
70. What point guard led the "Bad Boy" Pistons to consecutive N.B.A. titles?
A: Isiah ["eye-ZAY-uh"] **Thomas**
71. What animal names an "Island" that Indigenous peoples use to refer to North America?
A: **turtle**
72. What influential clergyman succeeded Charles d'Albert as chief minister to King Louis XIII ["thirteenth"] of France?
A: Cardinal **Richelieu**
73. What word refers to the parallel copies of a repository, each containing their own changes, which might eventually be merged back into main?
A: **branches**
74. Chenille stems are an alternate name for what fuzzy, flexible objects commonly used in children's crafts?
A: **pipe cleaners**
75. Who is shown surrounded by an indigenous warrior with his hand on his chin and several other figures who were not actually at the battle, in a 1770 painting by Benjamin West that depicts his death?
A: General **Wolfe** (accept: General James **Wolfe**)

END OF THIRD QUARTER

FOURTH QUARTER

Jackpot

76. Part 1: Who described a "swimmer naked in the swimming-bath" in a poem whose titular first line is followed by "the armies of those I love engirth me"?
77. Part 2: This poet wrote that he "wandered off by myself, in the mystical moist night air, and from time to time, looked up in perfect silence at the stars".
78. Part 3: "Flood-tide below me! I see you face to face!" begins this author's poem "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry".
79. Part 4: A "drooping star in the western sky" and sprigs of the title flower feature in this transcendentalist author's poem "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd".
A: Walt **Whitman**

Set of 5: *Stranger Things*

80. Creatures like Demogorgons live in what extradimensional realm, to which Will Byers is kidnapped in season 1?
A: The **Upside Down**
81. Played by real-life couple Natalia Dyer and Charlie Heaton, what two characters form a love triangle with Steve Harrington?
A: **Nancy** Wheeler (prompt on: **Wheeler**) AND **Jonathan** Byers (prompt on: **Byers**)

82. Max Mayfield fights Vecna's mind control by playing what song, whose recurring use in season 4 led to a popularity boost for Kate Bush?
A: **"Running Up That Hill (A Deal With God)"**
83. What is the shared family name of Matt and Ross, the brothers who created the show?
A: **Duffer**
84. The daughter of Uma Thurman, what actress plays a character who comes out as a lesbian while under the influence of truth serum in a bathroom stall, Robin Buckley?
A: Maya **Hawke**

Set of 4: At the Playground

85. What word refers to playing a pair of eighth notes using a 2:1 or 3:1 ratio instead of even note values?
A: **swinging** (accept: **swung**)
86. In video games, what word refers to a world or game mode where players have unlimited freedom without restrictions from stats, levels, currency, and so on?
A: **sandboxes**
87. Sulphur tetrafluoride has what VSEPR ["vesper"] geometry?
A: **seesaws**
88. Trombones adjust the length of the vibrating air column using what device?
A: **slides**

12-Part Blitz

89. If the total mechanical energy of a satellite in circular orbit is negative 1000 joules, what is its kinetic energy in joules?
A: positive **1000** joules
90. What philosopher studied the constitutions of Ancient Greek city states in his *Politics*, often viewed as a continuation of his *Nicomachean Ethics*?
A: **Aristotle**
91. What country's Gripen fighter jets are manufactured by its native company Saab?
A: **Sweden**
92. The English name William has what French equivalent?
A: **Guillaume**
93. What two countries are home to the bulk of the Maasai people?
A: **Kenya** AND **Tanzania**
94. Newtonian and Galilean, or reflecting and refracting, are two of the early types of what optical device?
A: **telescopes**
95. In what company's commercials does their spokesman vandalize property and harass bystanders and then tell viewers to buy insurance to "stay protected from mayhem like me"?
A: **Allstate**
96. What is the tallest mountain in China?
A: Mount **Everest**
97. What actor recently announced that he is expecting his first child with his wife, who has the same first and last name as him?
A: Taylor **Lautner**
98. Most of the territory of what other modern state belonged to Massachusetts during the Thirteen Colonies period?
A: **Maine**
99. After the last male died in 2018, there are only 2 known females left of what species of rhino?
A: **northern white** rhinos/rhinoceroses (prompt on: white rhinos/rhinoceroses)

100. What six-word phrase is spoken by broadcaster David Croft at the beginning of every Formula 1 race?

A: **"lights out and away we go"**

END OF GAME