

The following items made the news last week; all are Tossup Questions:

[] 5 points

Talk show host David Letterman and his girlfriend had a baby boy or girl?
Boy—named Harry Joseph Letterman born to long-time girlfriend Regina Lasko

[] 5 points

A freeway shootout left 4 people dead in: Arizona, Nevada or California?
Arizona—the shootout appeared to be between immigrant smugglers

[] 5 points

Maine voters soundly rejected a proposal for a: wildlife park, casino or tax cut?
Casino—two Indian tribes wanted to build a Vegas-style casino in Maine

[] 5 points

A UN Security Council mission met with rival Afghan: peacekeepers, religious leaders or warlords?
Warlords—they are in a feud for power in the north of Afghanistan

[] 5 points

Scientists have reported that there is no medicinal cure or therapy for addiction to what entertainment activity?
Video games—they may stimulate the brain like other addictive substances

[] 10 points

Technology used by emergency service vehicles to do what with traffic lights is showing up for sale on the internet and worrying transportation officials?
To change traffic lights from red to green—which could seriously disrupt traffic

[] 10 points

Firefighters in California welcome rain in containing the last of the fires, but rain could bring what new natural disaster to the burned out area?
Mud slides—now that the trees are gone rains could cause huge damage in slides

[] 10 points

What national retail chain is being investigated its for use of illegal workers?
Wal-Mart—the workers work for subcontracting cleaning firms

[] 15 points

Illinois Senator Dick Durbin said helicopters in Iraq lack what defense equipment?
Anti-missile equipment that could have prevented the recent helicopter crash

[] 15 points

The watchdog group, The Center for Public Integrity released a report stating that many of the businesses doing billions of dollars of contract work in Iraq donated heavily to who's election campaign?
President Bush's—and their boards are filled with military and political insiders

Headquarters of American Civilian Authorities Attacked

The headquarters of the American civilian authorities were attacked by mortar fire that rocked what Iraqi city?
Baghdad—the explosions were reportedly bigger than in recent attacks

Point Value Questions:

[] 5 points

A UN report says Al Qaida operatives that attacked a hotel and plane in Kenya were trained in nearby: Ethiopia, Somalia or Liberia?
Somalia—in Mogadishu—Somalia is considered a haven for terrorists

[] 5 points

In New Delhi, where cows and elephants roam the streets, they are now overrun with another sacred animal: monkeys, pigs or rabbits?
Monkeys—believed to be the god Hanuman, they are protected from harm and allowed to roam free, but are becoming a public nuisance

[] 5 points

At least 85 people were killed in flooding on the island of Sumatra in: The Philippines, Indonesia or Japan?
*Indonesia—the floods hit the island resort and washed away buildings**

[] 10 points

What NATO country that formerly agreed to send troops to Iraq has now said they won't send troops without an explicit invitation from the Iraqi Governing Council?
Turkey—the Iraqi Governing Council has opposed the arrival of Turkish troops

[] 10 points

The oil company Yukos has appointed a new CEO after tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky was jailed on charges of tax evasion in what country?
Russia—Khodorkovsky's arrest has sent the financial markets into a tailspin

[] 15 points

Sri Lanka's President Chandrika Kumaratunga suspended Parliament, fired three Cabinet members and deployed troops around the capitol while her political rival, Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe was in Washington to meet with President Bush. Sri Lanka is off the coast of what country?
India—the political fight has US and Asian leaders worried

*** Bonus Question:**

[] 20 points

The flooding on the island of Sumatra was caused by what being done in the Leuser National Park?
Logging—the logging had made the surrounding area at risk for flash flooding

2 — FOCUS on the NATION

Farmers in South Dakota Unveil Marketing Campaign

Farmers in South Dakota have unveiled a new marketing campaign to encourage people to eat more: beef, beans or dairy products?

Beans—they called them the Rodney Dangerfield of foods that get no respect

Point Value Questions:

[] 5 points

For the first time since 1972, the Alaska Board of Game has authorized aerial hunting of: elk, moose or wolves?

Wolves—only in secluded areas where wolves are threatening moose and caribou

[] 5 points

Congress approved a record-level \$3.4 billion spending package to fight: wildfires, the war on terrorism or campaign corruption?

Wildfires—the measure was approved in the Senate right after the \$87 billion vote

[] 5 points

Capitol Police arrested a man breaking a window of the House office building after throwing: a grenade, eggs or a brick?

A brick—he threw the brick twice and appeared to be protesting something

[] 10 points

An annual index of charitable giving has ranked what state as the 'least charitable' in the country according to how much state residents give on average to charity:

New York, New Hampshire or New Mexico?

*New Hampshire—while the average income of \$51,000 is 8th highest in the country, the average charitable giving is ranked last at \$2,400 annually**

[] 10 points

Candidate Howard Dean drew criticism during the 'Rock the Vote' debate of Democratic presidential candidates for earlier statements about courting southern voters with what flag 'in their pickup trucks'?

The Confederate flag—a racially divisive symbol—but Dean made no apologies saying he thinks the Democrats need to expand their target group to win in 2004

[] 15 points

A Staten Island Ferry crewman testified that the pilot did not do what just before the ferry crashed into a pier?

Slump over—the pilot stated earlier that he passed out before the crash

* Bonus Question:

[] 20 points

What state ranked the highest in charitable giving despite having the lowest average income in the nation?

Mississippi—where residents gave an average of \$3,500 with an average income of \$34,000—largely through tithing—giving 10% of one's income to the church

7 — FOCUS on HISTORY

Panama Celebrates 100th Birthday

Panama celebrated 100 years of independence marking the anniversary of their separation from: Belize, Columbia or Peru?

*Columbia—they declared their independence with the help of US battleships**

Point Value Questions:

[] 5 points

The solar flares hitting Earth represent the most turbulent solar storms since: 1930, 1940 or 1970?

1940—they can harm satellites but don't pose a threat to people

[] 5 points

A peace rally was held to mark the eighth anniversary of the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in: Israel, Egypt or Lebanon?

Israel—Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, was killed by an extremist Jew for his peace efforts in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

[] 5 points

This month in 1957, Sputnik II, the second manmade satellite, was launched into orbit with a dog named "Laika," onboard by what country: the United States, China or the Soviet Union?

The Soviet Union—sadly the dog did not survive the trip

[] 10 points

Thousands of Iranians chanted anti-American sayings and burned US flags to celebrate the 24th anniversary of the takeover of the US Embassy in what city?

Tehran—the event drew a larger than normal crowd this year

[] 10 points

The argument among scientists is heating up over whether volcanoes or an asteroid hitting the earth killed off what species?

Dinosaurs—the scientists are engaged in a heated debate defending their theories

[] 15 points

The FBI has identified an al-Qaeda operative as being a suspect believed to be assigned what role in the September 11 terrorist attacks?

The 20th hijacker—explaining why there were only 4 aboard flight 93 that went down over Pennsylvania

* Bonus Question:

[] 20 points

The US has been a strong influence in Panama since it declared its independence, particularly with the US-run area known as "Little America" that made up what major waterway in Panama?

The Panama Canal—which opened in August of 1914

6 — FOCUS on ENTERTAINMENT

ABC's '8 Simple Rules' Continues

ABC's '8 Simple Rules' aired its first show taped after the death of star John Ritter. Rather than replacing Ritter, writers decided to write his death into the script and bring in what actor to play the grandfather who helps the family cope with the loss: James Garner, Bob Newhart or Mike Farrell?

James Garner—best known for TV's 'Rockford Files' he plays Cate's father who comes to help her deal with the loss of her husband (Ritter)

Point Value Questions:

[] 5 points

Sarah McLachlan's first studio album in 6 years is titled: 'Surfacing', 'Afterglow' or 'Mirrorball'?

Afterglow—the CD is dedicated to her daughter and her mother

[] 5 points

Jazz musician Regina Carter performed at Lincoln Center in New York on what instrument that is 257 years old: a violin, a piano or a guitar?

Violin—the violin was transported with armed guards from Italy to NYC

[] 5 points

Which Democratic presidential candidate will be hosting Saturday Night Live in December: Wesley Clark, Howard Dean or Al Sharpton?

Al Sharpton—he is known for his humorous rhetoric in campaign appearances

[] 10 points

What musician, who's real name is Gordon Mathew Sumner, has just released his autobiography entitled 'Broken Music'?

Sting—the book describes what shaped him into the musician and man he is

[] 10 points

CBS has cancelled a planned mini-series about what former president and first lady amid controversy and pressure from political conservatives?

*The Reagans—the Republican National Committee chairman had requested that CBS run a disclaimer across the screen during the show that states it was fiction**

[] 15 points

Tenacious D has a new DVD out titled 'The Complete Masterworks'. Band member Jack Black stars in what movie released this fall?

School of Rock—where he plays a rock-and-roll substitute teacher

* Bonus Question:

[] 20 points

Instead of airing the miniseries on CBS, the network opted to sell it to what cable movie network also owned by parent company Viacom?

Showtime—the cable network is known for edgy programming

3 — FOCUS on GOVERNMENT

Congress Sends Iraq Budget Bill to Bush

Congress has approved the \$87 billion spending package requested by President Bush to continue the war in Iraq. The bill passed with what kind of vote in the Senate: a roll call vote, a voice vote or a veto?

A voice vote—Senators say 'yay' or 'nay' and do not have a recorded vote

Point Value Questions:

[] 5 points

The Supreme Court ruled that it would not hear an appeal on the Ten Commandments monument case brought before the courts by Chief Justice Roy Moore of: Alabama, Georgia or Florida?

Alabama—a lower court ordered the monument removed from the Alabama Judicial Building and the Supreme Court refused Moore's appeal of that ruling

[] 5 points

Bush met with both Governor Gray Davis and Governor-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger to survey the fire damage in what state?

California—where fires have burned over 3,500 homes and 740,000 acres

[] 5 points

A woman rammed her car into the building in which President Bush had just delivered a speech in which state: Missouri, Alabama or Mississippi?

Mississippi—she apparently had no intent to harm the President and sources say it was more likely she was trying to hurt herself

[] 10 points

Linda Tripp was awarded a settlement of \$595,000 from the Defense Department to settle a lawsuit stemming over the release of personal information after she made public President Clinton's involvement with what White House intern?

Monica Lewinsky—Pentagon officials told the New Yorker that Tripp had failed to put down information of a prior arrest on her application so Tripp sued

[] 10 points

The US Mint reached the half-way point in their special program to mint what commemorative state coins?

*Quarters—they have just minted #25, Arkansas**

[] 15 points

After 32 years, which party finally won the governor's seat in Kentucky?

Republicans—marking an important gain leading up to the 2004 elections

* Bonus Question:

[] 20 points

The program began with Delaware and will end with which state as the last to be honored on a coin?

Hawaii

4 — FOCUS on SCIENCE

Synthetic ‘Good Cholesterol’ Reduces Plaque

A new synthetic ‘good cholesterol’ pill is shown to reduce plaque: on teeth, in arteries or in the liver?

In arteries—the drug reduces plaque that clogs arteries—a major cause of heart problems—the drug is able to reverse plaque buildup to unclog arteries

Point Value Questions:

[] 5 points

A powerful Antarctic storm has split apart an iceberg the size of: Jamaica, Texas or New Zealand?

Jamaica—it split apart and is now moving through the Ross Sea

[] 5 points

Scientists say global warming means the Great Lakes area will get: less snow, no snow or more snow?

More snow—records show the area is getting more snow due to global warming

[] 5 points

Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan met to discuss environmental protection for the largest inland body of land on earth: the Baltic Sea, the Caspian Sea or the Black Sea?

*The Caspian Sea—all but Turkmenistan signed a framework agreement offered by the UN to protect the Sea’s environment**

[] 10 points

India, the world’s largest recycler, is becoming a dumping ground for the developed world’s used: uranium, toxic mercury or cars?

Toxic mercury—which is showing up in ground water in India

[] 10 points

The Consumer Product Safety Commission voted unanimously to deny a ban on what arsenic-treated product used in building playgrounds?

Lumber—they said the industry was already phasing it out and that the levels of arsenic children ingest were low but environmentalists still wanted the ban

[] 15 points

Solar flares from the sun are threatening satellites and causing what atmospheric phenomenon that usually only occurs in extreme north locations?

Aurora Borealis—the colorful light displays could be seen as far south as Colorado

* Bonus Question:

[] 20 points

This inland sea is home to what delicacy harvested from its waters?

Caviar—the sturgeon stocks from which the caviar comes have been reduced by 90% since the 1970s due largely to over fishing and oil pollution

5 — FOCUS on SPORTS

Patriots Clever in Win Over Broncos

The New England Patriots made a surprising but clever call in their win over the Denver Broncos, to get better field position in the last three minutes of the game, they called for: a punt, an intentional safety or a field goal?

An intentional safety—giving Denver a 3-point lead but setting up a better field position to score a touchdown and win the game

Point Value Questions:

[] 5 points

The Chicago White Sox have announced their new manager, Ozzie Guillen, former shortstop for the: Chicago Cubs, Boston Red Sox or Chicago White Sox?
*Chicago White Sox—he played for 13 of his 16 year career with the Sox**

[] 5 points

In quarterback Brock Berlin’s first loss since jr. high, University of Miami lost 31-7 to what team: Florida State, Virginia Tech or Tennessee?

Virginia Tech—Miami lost their #2 spot dropping to #6 in the rankings

[] 5 points

After being sidelined by injuries for six months, the Williams sisters will return to play in January in: the Australian Open, Wimbledon or the French Open?

The Australian Open—defending champion Serena beat Venus last year

[] 10 points

Olympic organizers are planning to make up for a hotel room shortage in Athens by bringing in: large tent facilities, thousands of construction workers to build pre-fabricated hotels or cruise ships to serve as floating hotels?

Cruise ships to serve as floating hotels—which will be an Olympic first

[] 10 points

French windsurfer Raphaella Le Gouvello completed a solo trek from Peru to Tahiti traveling 4,455 miles in 89 days across what ocean?

Pacific—she followed the route of the Kon Tiki expedition made in 1947

[] 15 points

Michigan state high school football playoffs present an unusual challenge for the Fordsam High School team, on which 52 of the 53 team members are Muslim and are fasting during daytime hours for what Muslim month-long holiday?

Ramadan—players will break the fast for game days and make up the fasting days after the playoffs are over—Fordsam is 8-1 and has 4 state championships

* Bonus Question:

[] 20 points

Ozzie Guillen will leave his job as a third-base coach for what team to take the job with the Chicago White Sox?

World Series Champion Florida Marlins