

Sawbones 225: The Ghostly Gauntlet: A Sawbones Super Quiz

Published April 12th, 2018

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Clint: Sawbones is a show about medical history, and nothing the hosts say should be taken as medical advice or opinion. It's for fun. Can't you just have fun for an hour and not try to diagnose your mystery boil? We think you've earned it. Just sit back, relax and enjoy a moment of distraction from that weird growth. You're worth it.

[theme music plays]

Justin: Hello everybody, and welcome to Sawbones, a marital tour of misguided medicine. I'm your cohost, Justin McElroy!

Sydnee: And I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Justin: A little too much on my end. I'm realizing that now.

Sydnee: Yeah, I'm not gonna do any of that. I have Cooper on my shoulder. She's very close to my mouth, so... I'll use my regular voice, which I think she finds soothing.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: Or at least not—it's not like that thing you just did.

Justin: I do, I find it soothing. Yeah.

Sydnee: That thing you just did was not soothing.

Justin: Have a drink of my Horse's Neck?

Sydnee: No, the voice thing.

Justin: Oh, okay. I'll try to keep it to a minimum. Hi everybody, it's MaxFunDrive!

Sydnee: [pause] Yes.

Justin: That's exciting.

Sydnee: Were you waiting for everybody to say hi?

Justin: "Hi, Justin! We're in—"

Sydnee: [laughs] You paused as if you were waiting for everybody. "Hello, Mr. McElroy."

Justin: Everyone, did you bring your headphones or microphones? Give it a try, I'll listen. Oh, you. You card. It's MaxFunDrive, which is the time of the year where we come to you, just once a year, for a couple weeks, and say, "Hey, if you enjoy this show please kick us a few bucks." Because it's how we support the network, it's how we keep all these shows running, it's really important to us.

And we're gonna talk about the MaxFunDrive and what it means and everything here in the break, but we'll mention right up top if you can take a moment, if you haven't done it yet, the drive is winding down, we just have a little bit of time left. So please, right now, if you're waiting for the moment, this is the moment. Go to maximumfun.org/donate and five, 10 bucks a month, whatever. 20, whatever you can do.

Sydnee: Whatever you can do, it really helps us out. It helps us make our shows, it helps us make our shows better, and bring new shows onto the network.

Justin: But enough about that, Sydnee. I'm so excited about tonight's show. It was my idea, and I think I'm gonna regret it by the time we're done, but... regardless. Um, do you have a name for this, that we've cooked up here?

Sydnee: No, I didn't. I've titled my document "Sawbones Quiz," and that's not very—

Justin: Whoa!

Sydnee: That's not a... that's just a literal—that's exactly what we're gonna do.

Justin: I'm gonna call it "The Ghastly Gauntlet: A Sawbones Super Quiz."

Sydnee: Ooh.

Justin: The Ghastly Gauntlet: A Sawbones Super Quiz.

Sydnee: The first part sounds like it's from Harry Potter.

Justin: Yes. Yes.

Sydnee: Yes. There is nothing about Harry Potter in this quiz. I would beat you in a Harry Potter quiz.

Justin: You would beat me in a Harry Potter quiz. We got—the Smirls just went to Universal, and they brought back Harry Potter Trivial Pursuit, and Sydnee's looking forward to dominating me.

Sydnee: Yes. Yes, I am a Gryffindor, in case you're interested. Justin—

Justin: If you didn't guess, I'm a Hufflepuff.

Sydnee: Yes.

Justin: We make it work.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Justin: [laughs] So, here's the thing, and this is gonna be fun, because you can play along at home, if you would like to. Sydnee has gone through the history of Sawbones – not all the episodes, but a selection of episodes – and pulled out trivia questions. Some number to be determined, time dependent, trivia questions based on our previous episodes that she is going to quiz me on to test my comprehension, and let you sort of, at home, test yourself. What have you learned? This is an educational podcast. What have you retained?

Sydnee: [laughs] Absolutely. And your prize if you do well is, uh...

Justin: Tweet your score. Get those bragging rights, tweet your score with the maximumfun.org/donate link. Tweet your score out with the MaxFunDrive hash tag and donate link, and uh...

Sydnee: You'll have the satisfaction of a job well done, as well as my pride in you.

Justin: Yes.

Sydnee: I will be very proud of you.

Justin: Make sure to tag us in it, too, and we'll retweet some of those if you really crushed it.

Sydnee: Yeah, if you did well. If you didn't, we won't retweet it... like, mercifully?

Justin: Yeah, we don't want you to get internet bullied. Publicly shamed.

Sydnee: We don't want everybody to make fun of you for not remembering all these episodes.

Justin: So, friends. It's me, Justin McElroy. Ready player one, me, Justin, stepping into the oasis and preparing for this virtual gauntlet that Sydnee has prepared.

Sydnee: So you know, it's a mixture of, there's some multiple choice, there's some just... answer the question. [laughs] Essay type, I suppose.

Justin: Essay type, fantastic.

Sydnee: Yeah, so it just depends. Our first one, I feel like this is... we're starting out kind of mild, to get things running.

Justin: Okay.

Sydnee: So, question number one. What was the Tumi used for in some ancient Indian cultures? And I am just gonna say, you are on a computer, and I'm gonna trust that you're not gonna Google anything.

Justin: I'm not Googling; I'm creating a score sheet here.

Sydnee: Okay.

Justin: Just to help me keep track. So, what was the...

Sydnee: Tumi used for, in some Indian cultures.

Justin: Tumi. [pause] If I ask the episode, would it give it away?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm.

Justin: Okay. The Tumi was a device used for... creating holes in the skull.

Sydnee: Hey! Can you name that procedure?

Justin: Trepanation.

Sydnee: Ding ding ding, you got it!

Justin: Uh, so what's up? I just kind of—that, okay, so what I used there. Did not remember that. Context clues. I figured that Sydnee would probably go to our first episode for the first question of the quiz, and I took a flyer.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Justin: Okay, so here we are. The Tumi is used for trepanation. Give yourself one point if you got that one right.

Sydnee: Alright, you ready for question number two?

Justin: Are you gonna assign point values? Are they all of equal point value? Can you give a point value after each question, or before?

Sydnee: Uh, no, the... okay.

Justin: I can keep track of it, it's no problem.

Sydnee: Then if I'm assigning point values, if they're not all just one point, then that one is only one point. Because I thought that one was kind of easy.

Justin: [laughs] Okay, great.

Sydnee: [laughs] Sorry. Right, question number two.

Justin: Yes.

Sydnee: What was in the blue mass pills taken by Abraham Lincoln for depression, that was likely also poisoning him? I have multiple choices if you need them.

Justin: Was it mercury?

Sydnee: That is correct.

Justin: Yes! Justin rules. How many points is that?

Sydnee: That one I think was harder, and you didn't go for the multiple choice that I was going to provide you, so I'm gonna give you three points.

Justin: Three points, alright!

Sydnee: This is all random. This is sticking with the Harry Potter theme. This is all random. This is like the house points. Like, I'm just gonna randomly give and take points away. [laughs]

Justin: Okay, but I will keep track of a complete, total score that you could have by the end.

Sydnee: [laughs] Okay. Question number three.

Justin: Yes.

Sydnee: Do we use bloodletting in any form today?

Justin: Yes, we do.

Sydnee: And for bonus points, for what do we use bloodletting in modern medicine?

Justin: We use bloodletting... to get rid of... [pause] Like, necrotic flesh. No, okay, you gave me a look, let me try again.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Justin: We use bloodletting to eat scabs.

Sydnee: No. No, I'm sorry.

Justin: No, what is it, what do we use it for?

Sydnee: I'll give you a point for knowing that we still use it today, but you don't get the bonus points, which you'll never know what they even were, I guess. No, I gotta assign them.

Justin: You have to assign them in case people—yeah, you have to assign some.

Sydnee: In case, yeah. I gotta—okay. So, the things we can use bloodletting for today. So, we can still apply leeches to, like, when we reattach fingers. Remember that? With microsurgery. Reattaching appendages, and to prevent them from getting congested with blood once they are reattached.

Justin: Okay.

Sydnee: So you can use leeches for that. And then for conditions like hemochromatosis, a buildup of iron in the body. We do, obviously, bloodletting by like, taking blood from people. We don't use leeches or anything.

Justin: What do you wanna say? That's two points, if you know that?

Sydnee: Sure.

Justin: Okay. Next question, Sydnee.

Sydnee: If you got either of them. Either of the uses.

Justin: Okay. Yes.

Sydnee: Yeah. You didn't have to get both. Question number four.

Justin: Okay.

Sydnee: According to the now defunct urine flavor wheel, from what ailment did you likely suffer if your urine was "astringent, sweet, white, and sharp"?

Justin: Um...

Sydnee: And again, I do have multiple choices if you need them.

Justin: Uh, okay, yeah. Give me the multiple choices.

Sydnee: Okay. Your choices are anemia, diabetes, cholera, or lupus.

Justin: Okay, and what are my choices? What are my—sorry, the qualities?

Sydnee: Astringent, sweet, white, and sharp.

Justin: The only one I remember is that diabetes was sweet, so I'm gonna say diabetes.

Sydnee: That is correct.

Justin: Woohoo! Hoops!

Sydnee: I stuck lupus in there as a nod to House.

Justin: 'Cause it's never lupus?

Sydnee: Because it's never lupus. Sometimes it's lupus, but in this case it wasn't.

Justin: Okay. How many points?

Sydnee: Uh, that was a tougher one. We'll give you three points for that one.

Justin: Three points again, okay. Even with the multiple choice?

Sydnee: Yeah, you're right. No, two.

Justin: So it was a three-point question if you knew it—

Sydnee: You just talked yourself down.

Justin: If you knew it without the choices, it's a three-point question. I got two points, but it's a three—

Sydnee: You get two points.

Justin: Two out of three points. Okay. Fair enough. Now, the urine flavor wheel... we should provide some context for some of these, in case people never listened to the episode.

Sydnee: Yeah, I figured we would. If we just go straight through them, we're gonna run out of time—um, we're gonna out of questions.

Justin: Yeah. So, you're kind of the physician here.

Sydnee: Oh.

Justin: I didn't even know what this was, so you should provide the context.

Sydnee: The urine flavor wheel? You don't remember? There used to be a—

Justin: I do, Squid. I'm trying to, like...

Sydnee: Okay. There used to be a tool that physicians could use. And I mean, it's kind of self-explanatory. It was a wheel with different properties of urine marked on it. And it would have to do with, like, the smell, the color, the taste, [laughs] how bubbly it was or frothy it was, or how cloudy or how clear, all these different things.

And you would kind of use the wheel to turn it to the different things until they lined up, and it would lead you to various diagnoses. And that was because urine was a popular way to diagnose disease for thousands of years.

Justin: And this wasn't one oddball doctor, or one culture. Like, these are all over. If you Google image search this, you will see dozens of different urine flavor wheels.

Sydnee: That was one of the first things a doctor would do for many thousands of years, was take your urine and try to figure out what was wrong with you based on your urine. That was kind of step number one. I think we in the episode reference, like, Shakespeare. I think Falstaff talking about the doctor checking out his water and letting him know what was going on.

Justin: Alright Syd, next question.

Sydnee: Alright. Question number five. This is an essay question.

Justin: Okay. [laughs]

Sydnee: It's not a long one. Explain the doctrine of signatures, and provide an example.

Justin: Uh... okay. The doctrine of signatures is where... I'm stalling. I mean, I know this of course, but I wanna give people time to think about it, so they can get their answers in.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

Justin: The doctrine of signatures is a... I think this was from homeopathy, and it was things that look like things can treat the things.

So like, if something looks like—if you had a problem with your brain, you eat cauliflower, because it kind of looks like a brain.

Sydnee: That'll work.

Justin: Alright, yay!

Sydnee: Good job. Yes, that's "like cure like," is the doctrine of signatures. So yes, things that look like things. I think our example was the head. Like, if you have a headache, a cure would be a walnut, because it looks like a brain. But I'll take cauliflower, 'cause sure. You got the idea.

Justin: But that's different from "like attracts like," is The Secret. And that's the law of attraction, that is different from the—what did you call it? What did you say it was?

Sydnee: Doctrine of signatures.

Justin: Doctrine of signatures and law of attraction are similar in that they are both... not real. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Justin: But it is not The Secret. That is like attracts like.

Sydnee: Can I say, though, that the doctrine of signatures, while it is not real, I agree with you, it's much, like, more poetic. It's a beautiful idea, and it's a lovely name for it.

Justin: It's not real though. It's all made up.

Sydnee: No, it's all fake. But I just like the name. The doctrine of signatures?

Justin: I mean, it's a very good name.

Sydnee: Yeah. It's better than The Secret.

Justin: Maybe. The Secret is a very big title.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Justin: How many points would you ascribe to that one, Sydster?

Sydnee: That was an essay. And you got both parts of the essay, and it was well done. So, I'll give you four points for that one.

Justin: Ohh, dunk! I don't feel like—how do you feel like I'm doing so far?

Sydnee: I think you're doing impressively well. I mean, you haven't—you've only missed, like, one, right?

Justin: Yeah, I feel like I'm crushing it. Alright. I feel really good about this. Let's keep truckin'.

Sydnee: Alright. Question number six.

Justin: Okay.

Sydnee: Which of the following was *not* a former patent medicine?

Justin: Okay.

Sydnee: Was not. Vick's VapoRub, Luden's Cough Drops, Angostura Bitters, or Phillips' Milk of Magnesia?

Justin: Hmm... Okay, Vick's VapoRub...

Sydnee: Luden's Cough Drops, Angostura Bitters, or Phillips' Milk of Magnesia.

Justin: I'm pretty sure that Vick's was. I think Milk of Magnesia was... I'm pretty sure Angostura Bitters, I know that was originally created—I think it was a patent medicine. I'm gonna go with Luden's Cough Drops as the ones that were not patent medicines.

Sydnee: I'm gonna say I feel really bad, because this was a trick question. They were all former patent medicines.

Justin: Oh, man!

Sydnee: [laughs]

Justin: [sighs]

Sydnee: Can I give you a point 'cause a I feel bad?

Justin: No, you can't give me a point because you feel bad, I don't want your pity points and neither do the listeners.

Sydnee: This was not—this would never be allowed on a test. Especially, like, in med school. The professor would get eaten alive for a question like this. So no, these were all patent medicines. I just wanted to demonstrate that so many things that are now, like, we use as medicine today, originated as these fake medications—not real medicines, just items that made you have different effects and that were well marketed to people and sold widely.

Justin: What kind of point value would you give that one, Sydster?

Sydnee: Um... if you got that, since that was a trick question, if you managed to get that one right, you get four points for that.

Justin: Four?

Sydnee: Yeah.

Justin: Alright.

Sydnee: That was a hard one.

Justin: I know, I just feel like—okay, fine.

Sydnee: It was really unfair.

Justin: Yeah, it was really—

Sydnee: I acknowledge that, it was really unfair.

Justin: It was really unfair, Syd. Okay, alright. Go ahead. Next one.

Sydnee: Question number seven.

Justin: Yes.

Sydnee: What did Austrian physician Wilhelm Reich believe was the cure for all neuroses?

Justin: Wilhelm Reich believed that the cure for all neuroses...

Sydnee: And I have multiple choices if you need them.

Justin: No, I don't.

Sydnee: Okay.

Justin: Wilhelm Reich believed that the cure for all neuroses was a, uh, orgiastic cosmic sex energy that he tried to capture in a box.

Sydnee: You know, I put the orgasm, but I'll accept that answer.

Justin: Okay.

Sydnee: Because the orgasm was the climax of your orgiastic sex energy.

Justin: He was trying to capture the energy. He was trying to, like, bottle up that orgasm energy.

Sydnee: Bottle an orgasm, yes.

Justin: Orgone energy, is that what he called it?

Sydnee: Mm-hmm, orgone energy.

Justin: Oh man! Somebody's been listening the whole time.

Sydnee: And you may remember from this episode, Wilhelm Reich—

Justin: You gotta start giving me the points right away, or else I'll forget.

Sydnee: Oh.

Justin: Gimme the points, Syd. How many points?

Sydnee: Uh... three, because you didn't accept the multiple choices.

Justin: Okay. If you needed the multiple choices, I guess, I'm sorry. I guess I could have asked for them.

Sydnee: Me too.

Justin: Okay.

Sydnee: So, if you remember, this was Reich's sex box. He created a box to, it was like a Faraday cage, to collect orgone energy, and he sent one to Einstein. And Einstein spent a day investigating it, and determined that he could not find any cosmic sex energy in the box.

Justin: As you may have guessed. You probably would have heard of that. [laughs] If Einstein did manage to pull that off.

Sydnee: He studied under Freud, and even Freud thought this sounded a little off.

Justin: Alright, question number eight, Syd.

Sydnee: Number eight is a gimme. I just felt like at this point in the quiz I should give you one.

Justin: You didn't think I'd be, like, destroying it this good.

Sydnee: Well, I didn't know. I didn't know how you were gonna do. Question eight is, should you get vaccines?

Justin: Um, yes, you should.

Sydnee: This is the point in Sawbones where I remind everyone, and everybody knows this already. I'm not gonna patronize you, but... please get your immunizations. Please get all of them and get them in a timely fashion. You're helping yourself and everyone else.

Justin: How many points?

Sydnee: Do I really have to give you points for that?

Justin: 100 points.

Sydnee: 100 points?

Justin: We're all gonna get it.

Sydnee: Okay, 100 points.

Justin: 100 points, nice!

Sydnee: Yeah, cause if you got that one wrong, then...

Justin: You should lose.

Sydnee: You're gonna lose this—yeah, I'm sorry.

Justin: Yeah, I want it to be the golden snitch of the quiz.

Sydnee: You have to lose this, yeah. Alright, number nine.

Justin: Yes, I'm ready.

Sydnee: What "medicinal," and I have air quotes around medicinal, I should say, "medicinal" substance did King Francis I carry at his waist in a pouch at all times? [pause] I don't have multiple choice for this one, 'cause it'd give it away as soon as you heard it, so...

Justin: Oh, okay. Um. What medicinal substance that—what was the cat's name?

Sydnee: King Francis I.

Justin: [pause] I have absolutely no idea.

Sydnee: He carried a pouch of mummy.

Justin: Ohhh, okay.

Sydnee: So, as you may remember from our episode, I think we titled it "Medical Cannibalism," for a while, it was fashionable to eat mummies as medicine. So fashionable, that we almost ran out of mummies. We didn't, I think there are still some left, but...

Justin: Delicious, by the way. Dry aged at this point. They're gonna be even more tempting.

Sydnee: [laughs] All kinds of human substances were used as medicine, but mummies were the most shocking and most powerful.

Justin: How many points would you have given someone for getting that one right, Syd?

Sydnee: Mm... we'll say three points for that one.

Justin: Alright, three points. Alright, one more before the break.

Sydnee: Okay. King Louis XIV, that's the Sun King, had over 2,000 of this medical procedure performed in his life. What is the procedure?

Justin: King Louis the Sun King had what?

Sydnee: Over 2,000 of this medical procedure. He has this medical procedure performed over 2,000 times in his life. [pause] Sometimes while holding court.

Justin: Is it an enema?

Sydnee: That is correct.

Justin: Yes! Yes!

Sydnee: The Sun King loved his enemas.

Justin: Yes!

Sydnee: As a lot of royalty did at the time, I don't wanna single him out.

Justin: But he really liked them.

Sydnee: Enemas were very popular. But yeah. He famously, even while holding court.

Justin: How many points?

Sydnee: Um, that was another tough one. You get three for that one.

Justin: Great. Alright, we are—hold on. You know what, I'm actually gonna pause the recording and come back with a quick tally of where we're at currently. So currently, by my math, we are at 127 available points. Of those, I currently have 117 of them.

Sydnee: That's really good.

Justin: I think it's not bad. Another thing that's not bad is supporting the media that you love. In fact, Sydnee, I would go so far as to say it's good.

Sydnee: It's really good.

Justin: It's really good to do that. Once a year, we—let me back up. We're part of the Maximum Fun network, which is a bevy of some of the finest podcasts and nicest podcasters that you would hope to meet. And once a year, we come to you the listeners and say, "Hey, if you wouldn't mind, please kick a few bucks towards the shows that you have been enjoying."

It's how we keep the network running. The really cool thing about it is, you know, the money that you donate, you choose what shows you listen to when you donate, and your donation goes to those shows. Max Fun

takes a percentage for their staff, who handle all our stuff like advertising and what have you, and then, the rest of it goes to the shows that you listen to.

We don't, like, force people to pay for this stuff. We release all of our shows for free, and we always are gonna do that, because I want anybody to listen to it that wants to.

Sydnee: And we're happy to do it. It makes us happy to make this content.

Justin: Yeah, but it also, you know, it takes time, and being able to make money from the stuff that we're making makes it easier for us to make more.

Sydnee: And hopefully make it better.

Justin: Yeah, absolutely. I know that, like, Sydnee has been able to work a little bit less since we've been doing Sawbones, but it's also because she has to do a lot of research for Sawbones, and we have two children, so really, things like the Drive are the way we keep the lights on here at the McElroy house, so thank you.

Sydnee: And the way we improve things like audio quality. I know I don't understand all the equipment you get, but I trust that it is better. And that is thanks to you, the listeners.

Justin: But it's not just about getting that good feeling of supporting the media that you love. That is fantastic, and if that's all you need, go to maximumfun.org/donate right now and go give what you can.

But you want the goods. You want something in exchange for your charity, and you know what? I celebrate you. For five dollars a month, you're going to get access to an exclusive bonus content library. What I mean by library... "Justin, that sounds like you're overstating the point". I am not.

Over 120 hours of content awaits you, the listener, if you've never donated before. There's like, five Sawbones bonus episodes at this point,

including our Two and a Half Men, uh, our commentary track on the Two and a Half Men—

Sydnee: Is that the one you wanna promote, really?

Justin: There's other good ones, like what Sawbones episodes we might do in the future, I think that was one that we did.

Sydnee: Mm-hmm, and the one we just did was uh, we went on a field trip to a pharmacy and talked about all the things you shouldn't use there.

Justin: So that's at five dollars a month. At \$10 a month, you get a drive-exclusive enamel pin designed by Megan Lynn Kott. There are brand new designs for every Max Fun show. The Sawbones one is super cool, it looks like a little patent medicine bottle and it says "Cure all cure nothing."

Sydnee: I really want that.

Justin: I know, I want one too.

Sydnee: It's really cool. They're all very cool, but I'm partial to ours.

Justin: And so, when you make a donation, you can pick which pin you want, and you should get the Sawbones one, because it looks neat. For \$20 a month, you are gonna get the other stuff—oh, you also get access to the bonus content.

For \$20 a month, you're gonna get a pin, you're gonna get the bonus content, and you're also gonna get the Max Fun Family Cook Book. It has dozens of recipes, from cocktails to desserts and everything in between from Max Fun hosts. There's a recipe for my mom's chess bars in there. Rachel—

Sydnee: I can't emphasize enough how good those are.

Justin: Rachel McElroy, our sister-in-law, has her recipe for chili, which is apparently legendary. And there's a lot more good stuff in there, and you're also gonna get some space-themed cookie cutters.

So, if you start a new donation at \$20 a month, or you upgrade your donation to \$20 a month, that is what you are going to receive. And there's other donation levels above that. And if you can give \$35 a month and \$50 a month, we certainly would love that. It would really mean the world to us. You get a cool carafe if you donate \$35 that has the Max Fun logo engraved on it, it looks really neat.

Sydnee: And again, at every level of donation, you get all of the gifts associated with the previous levels of donation.

Justin: And again, these gifts also are just for new and upgrading donors. If you're already a donor, we so appreciate you, but the gifts are for the folks who are stepping up to give a little bit more this year. We still appreciate everybody, though, that gives your support.

And honestly, for me, it's not really about the amount that you can give. It's really the fact that you're supporting us at all. If everybody kicks in a few bucks, it really does make a big difference. So, thank you so much for your support over the years, we really appreciate it. Like, it literally helps us to feed our kids and clothe our kids and put a roof over their heads. So uh... really appreciate it, it means a lot.

Sydnee: Yeah, thank you. Thank you, you have no idea. For everyone who has donated, who is donating, who can upgrade their donations, thank you.

Justin: Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Alright, Syd. I think we have a little unfinished business. You have some indeterminate number of questions that I'm ready to take on.

Sydnee: That's right. So, we're at question number 11.

Justin: Okay, I'll take your word for it.

Sydnee: What was the purpose of nose bleeds for men, according to Pliny the Elder?

Justin: Oh, God.

Sydnee: I picked this just for you, because you get nosebleeds so often.

Justin: Cool. So it's like a quiz combo dunk on Justin sesh.

Sydnee: Why would Pliny say it was so important for you to have nosebleeds?

Justin: Because I'm too smart, and there's too much blood in my brain, so I need to get rid of some of it.

Sydnee: No.

Justin: What did Pliny say?

Sydnee: He said it was vicarious menstruation.

Justin: Vicarious menstruation. What a sweetheart I would be.

Sydnee: Yeah. You would get headaches and joint pains if you did not have regular nosebleeds. So, he thought it was very important.

Justin: Okay, vicarious menstruation. How many points would you give for vicarious menstruation?

Sydnee: Oh my gosh, that's like a lot, isn't it?

Justin: Yeah, that was a toughie.

Sydnee: That was tough. Five points for that.

Justin: Whoa, God, of course I missed the biggest one, sheesh. Okay.

Sydnee: That's kind of how I'm gauging how many points they should be worth, so now I feel bad.

Justin: Oh, okay. That's fine.

Sydnee: Alright, number 12. What is a tricobezoar made of? I have multiple choice if you need them.

Justin: Hair?

Sydnee: Hey! Just that fast. You got it.

Justin: Noice.

Sydnee: You got it. That's three points, right? You got it without the—

Justin: Because apparently it wasn't that hard, because I got it right away, huh?

Sydnee: Without the multiple choices.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: Alright, and number 13—

Justin: And what is that?

Sydnee: Oh, a tricobezoar, I should probably—yeah.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: In case you didn't listen to that episode, bezoars are collections of indigestible material that is found in the human—or, well, any GI tract. It doesn't have to be human. Anybody's GI tract, any animal, and it can be made up of different substances.

In the case of hair, that's specifically associated with trichotillomania, which is when you eat your own hair, and you can find these giant collections of hair in the stomach or throughout the GI tract. Actually, if it snakes down throughout the intestines, it's sometimes called Rapunzel Syndrome.

Justin: Charming. What a charming vish.

Sydnee: Yeah, and those can be very dangerous. But you can find different collections of, like, seeds, plant fibers, grass, whatever, in other animals as well.

Justin: Alright Syd, hit me with another question.

Sydnee: Hey, it was also used in Harry Potter.

Justin: What?

Sydnee: Bezoar.

Justin: Oh yeah, I guess that's true.

Sydnee: Yeah. Harry saves Ron, right, with the bezoar? From poison?

Justin: Yeah, that's right.

Sydnee: Yeah. `Cause they were thought to be a cure for all kinds of different poisons and things.

Justin: And apparently they were, because it worked.

Sydnee: So, there was a market for fake ones, that's how popular they were.

Justin: That's right, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Sydnee: Question number 13. And this is not a trick question. This is a real question.

Justin: That's what you would say, but go ahead.

Sydnee: Which of the following did Tarrare... remember Tarrare?

Justin: Yup.

Sydnee: Guy who ate a lot? Which of the following did he not eat? Okay?

Justin: [laughs] Okay.

Sydnee: And this is in one sitting.

Justin: Okay.

Sydnee: A quarter of a cow, a whole eel, a live cat, an entire bull, or a human corpse?

Justin: [laughs] What was the last one?

Sydnee: A human corpse.

Justin: A human corpse would be what he did not eat.

Sydnee: That is incorrect.

Justin: Was it a bull?

Sydnee: He was kicked out of a hospital because he was drinking blood and—

Justin: That's right! Aw, that's right!

Sydnee: And eating bits of corpses in the morgue. It was the entire bull.

Justin: The entire bull was in the morgue?

Sydnee: No. He didn't eat an entire bull.

Justin: You said... so the cat was in the morgue?

Sydnee: No, I—

Justin: You said in one sitting.

Sydnee: Yeah, in one sitting.

Justin: He ate the corpse...

Sydnee: No, I mean like, each of these things he ate all at once.

Justin: Okay, Syd, now you—

Sydnee: Like, to say that you ate a quarter of a cow over the course of, you know, several days is not a big deal, but—

Justin: But I thought you meant he ate all of them in one sitting, and I didn't see a situation where he would have a live cat and a dead person all in one room.

Sydnee: So do I have to make this worth fewer points because you misunderstood the question?

Justin: I don't—it's up to you.

Sydnee: This is just like med school, you're a gunner. You're a gunner.

Justin: You're the quizmaster. You're the quizmaster.

Sydnee: I'll just make it one point.

Justin: Okay, fine.

Sydnee: He ate a quarter of a cow in one sitting, he ate a whole eel, he ate a live cat once, he ate parts of a human corpse, but he never did eat an entire bull. He was given 30 pounds of bull liver and lung as a present from Napoleon's army. Because he worked as, like, a messenger for them. He would swallow boxes with messages.

Justin: [laughs] Yeah.

Sydnee: And then carry them to the other side.

Justin: That's wild.

Sydnee: Yeah.

Justin: A cool cat.

Sydnee: Question number 14.

Justin: Yes.

Sydnee: What did John Hunter get during his self-experimentation to discover the cause of gonorrhoea and syphilis? It was a disease. And I have multiple choices.

Justin: Okay, hold on. What did John Hunter get—say it again. Say the whole question again.

Sydnee: What did John Hunter get during his self-experimentation to discover the cause of gonorrhoea and syphilis?

[pause]

Justin: Gonorrhoea and syphilis?

Sydnee: Yes, both. [laughs]

Justin: Yes, both of them. Right, yes.

Sydnee: Both of them. He got gonorrhoea and syphilis. If you remember, he was trying to prove that they were different phases of the same disease, and so, he took pus from the penis of someone who had, I believe gonorrhoea, and he put it in his penis.

And then he developed symptoms of both gonorrhoea and syphilis, and so, he thought he proved that gonorrhoea was the first half of the disease and syphilis was the later half, but really, the patient he got it from had both gonorrhoea and syphilis.

Justin: Great, fantastic. Good science.

Sydnee: He set medicine back a while.

Justin: Good science.

Sydnee: Yeah. He created the name for the chancre. It was the Hunterian chancre for a while.

Justin: Right.

Sydnee: Alright, question number 15. For what condition did Pliny recommend using an onion as a suppository, eating garlic with wine but vomiting it back up, or you could use a fresh root of rosemary and rub it on your butt, or a cream made from the lard of a pig and the rust of chariot's wheels?

Justin: [laughs]

Sydnee: I could'a used any one of those, but they're all just so good.

Justin: It's all very good.

Sydnee: So, for what condition did Pliny recommend all this stuff? Was it—I've got choices. You need the choices?

Justin: You know what, I'm not gonna get cocky this time. Give me the choices.

Sydnee: Diarrhea, constipation, hemorrhoids, or pneumonia?

Justin: See, I thought it would be butt stuff, because it seemed like a lot of the stuff was being applied to the butt. Um... I'm gonna say constipation.

Sydnee: I'm sorry, it's hemorrhoids.

Justin: Hemorrhoids. [pause] I'll never spell hemorrhoids.

Sydnee: That was worth two points, since I gave you the choices, right?

Justin: Sure. But would have been worth three?

Sydnee: Yeah. If you got it before I gave the choices, you get three points for that.

Justin: Two points. Um, how much was the last question worth?

Sydnee: Oh, we didn't name a worth for that, did we? Oh, for the last two, did we?

Justin: Yeah, bull was one point.

Sydnee: Okay.

Justin: Because it was a confusing question.

Sydnee: That's right. That's right, yeah. So, for John Hunter, we'll make that one worth, um, two points. That one wasn't particularly difficult.

Justin: Two points. This is all so Calvinball. Okay.

Sydnee: It is, it is. I'm making it up as I go.

Justin: Okay.

Sydnee: Okay. Alright. You ready for question number 16?

Justin: I am ready, Sydnee.

Sydnee: What medical malady might have inspired God Save the King, which may have later inspired God Save the Queen? Do you remember this episode?

Justin: I don't. Um... [pause] I don't know.

Sydnee: It was—we're back to the Sun King. His anal fistula.

Justin: Anal fistula.

Sydnee: This may not be true, but it was a great story that God Save the King was actually sung to the Sun King by a bunch of school children in preparation for his anal fistula surgery. [laughs]

Justin: [laughs]

Sydnee: And that it was stolen by Handel and turned into God Save the Queen. I don't know that that's necessarily true, but it's a good story.

Justin: If you knew that good story, how many points would you be getting off of it?

Sydnee: That should be worth a lot.

Justin: Yeah, that was a toughie.

Sydnee: Yeah. We'll do four points for that one.

Justin: Four points, alright.

Sydnee: Here, this one should be a little easier for you.

Justin: Okay.

Sydnee: Number 17, what you should strap to a bubo to cure the plague?

Justin: A chicken.

Sydnee: That's right, a chicken. That was a popular cure for bubonic plague.

Justin: You strap the chicken to it until it died, which was...

Sydnee: And then you should be fine.

Justin: Great.

Sydnee: Unless you died first.

Justin: That poor chicken.

Sydnee: That one... I guess, is that just a point? Probably.

Justin: Two points.

Sydnee: Two points, you think?

Justin: Because I got it right, so it's probably two points.

Sydnee: Two points, fine, two points.

Justin: Alright Syd, we got two more questions. Let's do it. I'm ready. Crank it.

Sydnee: Okay. We're on question 18?

Justin: Yes. Three more, I should say.

Sydnee: I can skip one, if you need me to.

Justin: No, no, no, let's do it.

Sydnee: Okay, question 18. What New England-based soda, introduced in 1884 by Dr Augustin Thompson, was good for, quote, "brain and nervous exhaustion, loss of manhood, helplessness, softening of the brain, locomotory ataxia and insanity"? It's also loved by John Hodgman.

Justin: Moxie.

Sydnee: That's right.

Justin: Crushed it.

Sydnee: Originally a medicine. I think a lot of our listeners are gonna know that, 'cause of Hodgman's love for Moxie.

Justin: So don't give them any points. Give them two points.

Sydnee: No, give them two points.

Justin: Alright.

Sydnee: Alright, number 19.

Justin: 19.

Sydnee: How many sit-ups did the Presidential Fitness Test, created in 1985, demand of a 17-year-old boy?

Justin: 50.

Sydnee: Oh man, you're so close.

Justin: 40.

Sydnee: No.

Justin: 60.

Sydnee: [laughs] Now you're just all over the place. It was 55.

Justin: 55!

Sydnee: 55. I know, you were so close.

Justin: Aww.

Sydnee: I'll give you a point for being close.

Justin: Yeah, gimme a point. Out of two.

Sydnee: How about this. One out of two.

Justin: Out of four. One out of four. [laughs]

Sydnee: [laughs]

Justin: That was a hard one! You had to pull a number out of your butt!

Sydnee: Yeah. You get one point out of four points.

Justin: Okay.

Sydnee: Sure, yeah. And as close, just, you know, decide how close you were and give yourself somewhere in there.

Justin: You give yourself on honor system how many points you should get for that one.

Sydnee: Yeah, we trust you on that one.

Justin: Yeah.

Sydnee: If you're curious, for girls, it was 44.

Justin: Just like that, uh...

Sydnee: And you had to do them in a minute.

Justin: Parallelism. Okay.

Sydnee: Yeah. Alright, number 20 is a lightning round.

Justin: Oh, gosh. Okay.

Sydnee: Are you ready?

Justin: Yes.

Sydnee: Alright. We'll do these are one point each, okay?

Justin: Okay.

Sydnee: So, all of these are what did Pliny suggest the following cures for? So I'm gonna give you the cure, and you're gonna give me the disorder.

Justin: Gosh, okay.

Sydnee: You ready?

Justin: Yes.

Sydnee: The ashes of a wolf's head. [laughs] You're never gonna get any of these, but they're fun.

Justin: I'm not. Migraine.

Sydnee: Nope, toothache.

Justin: Okay.

Sydnee: Deep-fried canary?

Justin: Uh... migraine.

Sydnee: [laughs] Hangover.

Justin: Hangover.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Justin: `Kay.

Sydnee: Weasel ashes?

Justin: Um... um... the...

Sydnee: [laughs] Name any medical malady.

Justin: Hysteria.

Sydnee: Nope, cataract.

Justin: Okay.

Sydnee: Rams wool steeped in oil?

Justin: For this one, it's... indigestion.

Sydnee: No, female complaints. [laughs]

Justin: Female complaints. Okay.

Sydnee: Dog's fat?

Justin: Um... that one would be... glaucoma. [laughs] Glaucoma.

Sydnee: Lice.

Justin: Lice, okay.

Sydnee: But partridge eggs boiled in a copper vessel with honey would be good for...?

Justin: Glaucoma.

Sydnee: Hey! We'll give you one.

Justin: Nice. Got that one. See, I just was one ahead. Is that it?

Sydnee: Yeah that's it. That's it.

Justin: Oh my gosh. Okay. Alright, let me give this a final tally and you at home can see... You get one point for each of those, so let's see. So, let's see. For that round I totaled 32 available points. Out of them, I got 14. So, in the end, the total is 131 points out of an available 159.

I really blew it in that second round. I got 14 out of 32. Which is just embarrassing, it's criminal.

Sydnee: The second half, I knew was gonna be harder.

Justin: Well—

Sydnee: Although, you know what's sad? I kind of went through our old episodes in chronological order, so you're forgetting the more recent stuff.

Justin: So, we have a ranking system. It is... if you have 131 points, you are very, very smart. If you have less than 131 points, you should keep

plugging away, but, well, you'll do better next time. If you have more than 131, you're a show off, and nobody likes a show off.

Sydnee: [laughs]

Justin: So that's the ranking system that we developed. You can tweet your score with the MaxFunDrive hash tag and the link, maximumfun.org/donate to help us spread the word and spread what a smarty you are. And congratulations. No matter what your score, I'm sure you did great.

Sydnee: Yeah, it's just fun to play, right?

Justin: It's an honor just to play.

Sydnee: That's what they always say on Supermarket Sweep.

Justin: If you can— [laughs] By the way, it's on Amazon Prime, folks. Get there.

Sydnee: [laughs] I love that show.

Justin: If you can kick in a few bucks, we won't mention it again for, like, another year. The MaxFunDrive disappears like Brigadoon, back into the smoke.

Sydnee: But all those gifts don't.

Justin: Those gifts don't.

Sydnee: 'Cause you've got them, and you're taking them home.

Justin: Yeah, they're yours to keep, they will not disappear into vapor. So please, right now, this may be the last time you hear about it, who knows. The drive's wrapping up very shortly. I think tomorrow is gonna be the deadline, so...

Sydnee: Yeah, Friday. Yeah, that's right.

Justin: Yeah, please, I released this on Thursday. I'm pretty sure I did.

So please, take a moment right now and go to maximumfun.org/donate, and thank you so much in advance. Also thank you to The Taxpayers for letting us use their song "Medicines" as the intro and outro of our program.

And thank you, as always, to you for listening. We very much appreciate it, and we are so happy to have you here.

Sydnee: And I'm sure you're all very happy that I am not the one that writes tests for the medical students. [laughs]

Justin: Uh, yeah.

Sydnee: Let me reassure you, this is not my job.

Justin: Alright folks, that's gonna do it for us. So until next week, my name is Justin McElroy.

Sydnee: I'm Sydnee McElroy.

Justin: And as always, don't drill a hole in your head.

[theme music plays]

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