

Which Hogwarts house do you belong to?

TASNIM ODRIKA

1. You see a redhead wearing hand me downs. What do you do?
 - a. You befriend him
 - b. You tell (a) that he is making friends "with the wrong sort"
 - c. Everyone is your friend
 - d. You're too smart for this
2. Your best friend's sister gets kidnapped by a talking, magical diary and taken into the Chamber of Secrets. What do you do?
 - a. March down there in a shining armour (school robes and with no magical skill whatsoever) and defeat the beast residing in the Chamber of Secrets (HOW?)
 - b. You are BFFs with the Heir of Slytherin
 - c. Why can't everyone just get along?
 - d. You go read a book
3. If you were in Hogwarts now, what would you be doing?
 - a. Defeating evil
 - b. Creating evil
 - c. Making lots of friends
 - d. Reading a book
 - e. Yelling at all the students for having

- fun and creating a mess because you're a sad, old man who owns a cat (-1 point)
4. Which pet would you bring with you to Hogwarts?
 - a. A Hippogriff to show off your bravery
 - b. A Dementor sponsored by your rich father
 - c. You don't believe in keeping pets - animals are your friends
 - d. A book
 5. What is your favourite spell?
 - a. *Expelliarmus!*
 - b. "My father will hear about this"
 - c. *Accio* Butterbeer
 - d. You know every spell
 - e. You despise all things magical (-2 points)
 6. Your all time favourite movie is:
 - a. Brave
 - b. Resident Evil
 - c. Pursuit of Happyness
 - d. Real intellectuals read books, okay?
 7. If you could choose any one of the Deathly Hallows, which one would you choose?



- a. The Elder Wand - to fight and be more arrogant than you already were
 - b. The Elder Wand - to become the strogest one in the kingdom and make everyone kneel before you
 - c. You're more interested in spreading love and peace
 - d. No Deathly Hallows for me, thanks; just a good book will do
8. Which animal do you identify the most with?
 - a. A Griffin
 - b. A Snake
 - c. A Badger
 - d. An Eagle
 9. You get your OWL results. What are your grades?
 - a. Moderate grades in all subjects except in Defence Against the Dark Arts where you have an Outstanding
 - b. Moderate grades in all subjects except in Dark Arts where you have an Outstanding
 - c. Moderate grades in all subjects

- d. Outstanding in all your subjects because you've been reading all those books (Good job!)
10. Just like the Sorting Hat, I will also take into account what house you associate yourself the most with:
 - a. Gryffindor (10 points)
 - b. Slytherin (20 points)
 - c. Hufflepuff (30 points)
 - d. Ravenclaw (40 points)

Now, go back and count your points.
 10 points: You have been sorted into Gryffindor.
 20 points: You have been sorted into Slytherin.
 30 points: You have been sorted into Hufflepuff.
 40 points: You have been sorted into Ravenclaw.
 -1 point: Yer a Squib, Potter.
 -2 points: Hogwarts has no place for Muggles.

Tasnim Odrika is having an existential crisis at the moment and doesn't really know who she is anymore. Send her compliments at odrika_02@yahoo.com

STOP, YOU DON'T NEED THAT SCARF

SAMIN SABAH ISLAM

But it's a new hand embroidered designer cashmere one, that too in shamrock green? Oh dear, you need help. Read on.

On·i·o·man·i·a
 (noun) an obsessive or uncontrollable urge to buy things.

I get it. You were sad, so you went shopping, but now you're broke and sad. You'll probably want to shop again, because that's how you muddle through heartbreak, and by now I hope you see the issue here. In the wise words of your mother, "Taka gaach e dhore na". Thus, your shopping addiction is one that requires effective immediate therapy.

MINIMAL MALL TIME PROTOCOL

Limit your time spent in the shopping mall. Cut down your mall visits only to pre-Eid shopping, times of dire need of new underwear or your *mama* is home from abroad and is ready to shower you with love (new shoes). No more, "Hey, I'm bored. Let's hang out in the mall." The mall is not your hangout place. You'll be walking into the mall with the intentions of "just looking" and stumbling out with two hefty bags, on each hand. And two more on your boyfriend's. Let's face it, there is no "window shopping" in your dictionary. If anything, all it does is open the window to your heart and your wallet to buy things you don't need or

ever craved before. The mall is a sly seductress. Stay away.

RESIST RESIST RESIST

The thing about commercials is, they can make clinically underweight people invest into a lifelong supply of slimming tea. In other words, they have abilities of hypnotism, black magic and world invasion. But you, my recovering shopaholic, must stay strong. Don't believe the pretty ladies who sing songs about jasmine-scented body washes. Their stories are as fake as their overly sweet smiles. Do not ever turn on the television after 2 AM, that's every recovering shopaholic's darkest hour. Every channel will be showing these product advertisements, but like 3 hours long. Like Ted Mosby's mother once said, "Nothing good ever happens after 2 AM."

BEWARE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Save yourself before you get sucked into the dark underworld of online shopping as well. Cut all your ties to the media sites of any commercial places. Unlike and unfollow any pages that inform about sales and new stocks of very attractive hair extensions. You are a weakling who must be sheltered from any sort of shopping related showcasing.

SHOP WITH A FRIEND

When you do find yourself in that very limitedly allotted slot to go shopping,

do not, under any circumstances, go solo. Make a friend tag along to ensure you don't relapse into your old shopaholic tendencies. Choose your shopping buddy wisely. Take with you a true friend, one who'll say that beige Gucci bag isn't that good anyways, or karate chop your hands off those gold stilettos - a friend who'll be ready to take you down in public if you spare a second glance at the pretty pink raincoat you'll never really use. Don't accompany one of those pansies or worst, another severe shopaholic. To be safe, take your calculating, budget-making, strict Bengali mother with you.

You are in war against mannequins in pretty dresses and shoes on sale, with zero self-control and an empty wallet. I hope you come out with both kidneys still intact.

Samin Sabah Islam believes, there are very few problems in life, if any, that a good nap can't fix. If she isn't asleep, your queries may be answered at sabahsamin11@gmail.com

