

SHOUT Quiz: Find Your Inner Olympian

SHADMAN MUHTADI

The 2020 Tokyo Olympics are almost over. But wait, out of the 339 events, do you know which one is *your* calling?

Find out based on your answers to this short quiz! Ready, set, go!

1. *It's the weekend, and you've managed some free hours for yourself. How are you planning to spend it?*

- Going to the gym. Fitness is my passion!
- Sleep isn't harming anyone.
- Learning new life skills is my jam.
- It's party-all-day time!

2. *It's been a busy day and you're happy to make it home, starving. In a normal world, what would you do?*

- Visit my favourite restaurant and grab that pasta dish.
- Just order something online and be done with it.
- Go to the kitchen and cook a meal.
- Invite friends over, order a pizza, and tell them I'm up for a feast!

3. *Which sports from your school days do you recall the most?*

- I used to run for miles!
- Nobody could beat me in board games.
- Water is life. I was into swimming.
- Nothing specific. Any games I played with my buddies.



4. *It's movie night, on Netflix. Which of the following are you going to pick?*

- Some heart-pounding action film.
- Only a good rom-com can fix my mood.
- Something suspenseful because I can hold my nerves.
- The story of three college mates set out for an epic adventure.

5. *Which of the following pets resembles you the most?*

- Dogs. They're so active and lively all the time.
- Cats. I like how comfortable they feel around me.
- Parrots. They talk. Can pets get any

cooler?

- Fish. An aquarium can fit so many of them.

6. *You got an unexpected week-off. Where are you headed?*

- The mountains, because I want to reach newer heights.
- The beach, because sunsets are amazing.
- Places with history, and therefore, trivia.
- Reach out to colleagues and head towards the nearest resort.

Congratulations, you're through! Time to match your responses with the final result.

If you picked mostly a's, you are up for challenges all day, every day! You never back down no matter how difficult life gets. For courageous souls like you, hurdles, sport climbing, and weightlifting are some appealing Olympic events.

If you picked mostly b's, you're less likely to get into anything physically challenging. You've found a comfort zone in working smart without breaking a sweat. You, the intelligent, would excel in archery, shooting, golfing, skateboarding, and fencing – events that require tremendous focus and mental fortitude.

If you picked mostly c's, the devil is in the details for you. You thrive on working with specifications and excel in them. You are capable of technically outclassing most of your opponents, too. Figure skating, diving, and rhythmic gymnastics can be your hunting ground in the Olympics.

If you picked mostly d's, you're the life of the party. And teamwork is your modus operandi. You can shoot your shot in the team events like artistic swimming, basketball, rugby, volleyball, rowing, and water polo. You can definitely go for the doubles events as well.

Go for gold!

Shadman Muhtadi got stuck in the '80s with a faulty time machine. Send him reality checks, book suggestions, playlists, and escape routes at shadman100712@gmail.com

How to Draw a Typical Bangladeshi Village Scenery

HASIB UR RASHID IFTI

Arts and Crafts is a real academic subject under the national curriculum now, so it's time you took drawing a typical village scenery seriously.

As the local record holder of the "highest numbers of *gram er drisho* drawn per hour", I thought I could be the right person to give you a few simple tips on how to draw the perfect Bangladeshi village scenery.

THE RIVER

The river has to go through the middle of the village, providing sufficient water supply to the only two families living on either side of it.

The river typically contains two boats, one of which is sailing and the other one is comfortably docked near the bank. There are two people on the sailing boat -- the boatman with the oar, and his partner sitting there doing absolutely nothing. Make sure both of them are smiling. There should be three fishes in the river, visible, all of them smiling.

THE SUN

Draw four mountains in front of the sky and shove the sun somewhere between mountain number two and three. Draw a few straight lines popping out of the sun to prove once and for all that light travels in straight lines. However, make sure the rays are alternatively long and short.

Now on to the most important aspect of the river: the reflection of the sun. No

matter how primitive the rest of your painting looks, this particular portion is going to make you fall for the beautiful delusion that you too can draw.

Tilt your pencil a tad bit and draw thick continuous lines right under the sun. Once you're done breaking your pencil in the process, take a step back and appreciate the most beautiful sun ever drawn. You're welcome.

THE HORIZON

To make the sky beautiful, add a few pieces of perfectly white clouds here and there and a plane in the middle of nowhere (maybe even a UFO if you want to let your inner Bob Ross out).

Get creative with the birds. Your choices are V-shaped birds or tick-shaped birds. Who knows how those tick-shaped birds fly defying the laws of physics with one of their wings being shorter than the other? But they do.

THE HOUSE

Your typical house should have two windows on either side of a door, and steps in front of the door. Though it's a humble thatched-roof house with one banana tree in the back, it has its own separate road leading from the river bank straight to its doorstep. The width of the meandering road must be exactly equal to the width of the door.

THE PEOPLE

There should be children beside the perfect yellow haystack; a boy and a girl. The girl



ILLUSTRATION: AYRA AREEBA ABID

in her red frock and perfectly puffed hair is skipping rope as the boy stares and smiles at her, creepily. No matter how many characters you draw, make sure all of them are smiling as wide as possible based on your flawed assumption that Bangladeshi villages are utopias where people have no real problems.

Remember, whoever said art is subjective didn't have to deal with Arts and Crafts as a subject.

Hasib Ur Rashid Ifti reads books, idolizes Osamu Dazai and plans to check his email any day now. Send him book suggestions at hasibur-rashidifti@gmail.com