Outliers Questions #1 [Pg. 3-89]

1. Why was Stewart Wolf interested in Roseto?

 2. What did Wolf find was the reason for Roseto's outlier status?

 3. Using Roseto as an example, what did Wolf try to inform the medical establishment of?

 4. What does Gladwell say is really at the heart of success instead of individual effort and grit?

  5. Why is a January birth date important for a Canadian hockey player's success?

  6. In what three other areas does Gladwell find the same relationship as hockey regarding preferential birth date?

  7. What does Gladwell suggest is the real relationship between innate talent and preparation in personal success?

 8. What did Ericsson find was the greatest contributing factor in differentiating the excellent, from the good, from the average violinists at the Berlin Academy of Music?

 9. What is important about the figure of 10,000 hours?

 10. To what does Gladwell attribute Bill joy's success as a computer programmer?

 11. To what does Gladwell attribute The Beatles' success?

 12. To what does Gladwell attribute Bill Gates's success?

 13. What does Gladwell Say is extraordinary about the list of hstory's wealthiest people?

 14. What was so important about 1975?

 15. What intersting correlation did Gladwell point out between birth years and mega-success in the computing industry?

Outliers Questions #2 [Pg. 69-160]

1. Why did Christopher Langan think that his high IQ might be detrimental to doing well on the game show *1 vs. 100*?

 2. What is special about the IQ score of 120?

 3. What was psychologist Barry Schwartz's idea for reforming college admissions?

 4. What is a divergence test?

 5. Why did Chris Langan say a Harvard professorship might not be the best thing for him?

 6. What did Robert Oppenheimer do that caused him to be put on probation by Cambridge?

 7. What does Gladwell suggest Oppenheimer had that Chris Langan didn't?

 8. What terms does Lareau use to compare middle-class parenting styles to the parenting styles of poor parents?

 9. What advantage did Joe Flom obtain by taking anything that came through the door as opposed to being hired by the old-line firms that did corporate law?

 10. What does Gladwell suggest is the reason for the greater number of failures among "Terman's geniuses" who were born between 1903-1911?

 11. What is a "demographic trough" and how did it help Ted Friedman?

 12. What item did Louis Borgenicht seize upon to make his fortune and what point does Gladwell illustrate in telling his story?

 13. What is "meaningful work" as Gladwell defines it?

 14. What impact did the meaningful work have on the offspring of Jewish immigrants?

 15. What demographic similarity did all the major partners at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen and Katz share?

Outliers Questions #3 [Pg. 161-223]

1. Why would the events of Harlan County not have seemed unusual if looked at from a broader context?

 2. How does Gladwell define a "culture of honor"?

 3. What does David Hackett Fischer argue about the waves of Britsh migration in the first 150 years of the U.S.?

 4. What was so important about the word "asshole" in the study done at the University of Michigan?

 5. What is Gladwell's theory about how plane crashes and industrial disasters happen?

 6. What distinctions does Gladwell draw between Ratwatte and Klotz?

 7. What is "mitigated speech"?

 8. What are the six different levels of mitigation for captians and officers in the cockpit?

 9. To what do aviation experts attribute the extraordinary decline in airline accidents in recent years?

 10. What was the fatal miscommunication that doomed the Avianca flight?

 11. What country is the top of the individualism scale that Geert Hofsted devised?

 12. What is the Power Distance Index?

 13. What were the three factors that combined to down the plane that was flying into Guam?

 14. How many forms of conversational address are there in the Korean Language? What are they?

 15. What is the difference between "transmitter orientation" and "receiver orientation"?

Outliers Questions #4 [Pg. 224-286]

1. What advantage do Mandarin speakers have over English speakers with respect to articulating numbers?

 2. What contrast in lifestyle does Gladwell draw between agrarian life in Europe and that in China?

 3. Why would the proverb "No one who can rise before dawn 360 days a year fails to make his family rich" be unthinkable for someone outside of the practice of cultivating rice?

 4. What does Alan Schoenfeld feel is the key to being good at mathematics?

 5. What is the difference between how long on average an American child will work on a math puzzle compared to a Japanese child?

 6. What does the KIPP acronym SSLANT stand for?

 7. Why were early school reformers in the 1800s in the U.S. concerned that schoolchildren not get too much schooling?

 8. How do agricultural patterns imprint themselves on education in Asia versus the U.S.?

  9. Why does Gladwell take issue with the notion that schools are failing all, but particularly low income, kids?

  10. Why is the retention of math knowledge higher at KIPP, according to Frank Corcoran?

  11. What did William MacMillan foretell in his book *Warning from the West Indies*?

  12. To whom does Gladwell say his mother is beholden for her education?

  13. Why did "coloreds" get more opportunities in Jamaica than in the U. S.?

  14. Why did Gladwell's mother acknowledge that it was not appropriate for her to be angry at a London landlady?