

Ask AI (But Maybe Don't Ask *That*) Answer Key

1. The Science Fair Struggle

Best question: A - "What are three recent studies on plastic in oceans?"

Reasoning: AI is reliable for gathering factual, research-based information that already exists. It can summarize scientific data, articles, and experiments but cannot predict outcomes or create emotional encouragement.

Discussion Prompts: What makes research-based questions more trustworthy for AI than predictive ones? How can we double-check the accuracy of AI's facts? What are the risks of using AI to replace curiosity or original work?

2. The Friendship Fight

Best question: A - "How can I rebuild trust in a friendship?"

Reasoning: AI can provide general communication tips or advice about resolving conflict, but it cannot understand the feelings or context behind a specific relationship.

Discussion Prompts: Why might AI's advice about friendships sound logical but still feel wrong? When do people's emotions or experiences make human advice more valuable? Can an AI ever truly understand empathy?

3. The Job Interview Jitters

Best question: A - "What are common interview questions for a barista job?"

Reasoning: This question focuses on information and skill development. AI is strong at finding examples, outlining patterns, and offering practice questions, but not at predicting emotional or social outcomes.

Discussion Prompts:

How can AI help someone prepare without promising success?

Why is it unrealistic to expect AI to predict whether someone will get a job?

What kinds of confidence come from practice rather than prediction?

4. The Big History Essay

Best question: A - "What were the main economic and political causes of the French Revolution?"

Reasoning: AI is dependable for factual background, explanations, and summaries, but not for writing an entire essay or offering personal interpretations.

Discussion Prompts: What's the difference between using AI to research versus letting it do your work? Why is it important to check historical facts from multiple sources? Can AI ever understand the "why" behind human history?