

## Questions on John Horton Conway Obituary

Vocabulary:

Autodidact: Self-educated person

Iconoclastic: The act of attacking popular and long held beliefs and views – a rebel

Regale: Entertain or amuse with talk.

Profound: Deep and meaningful; very great

\*/\*\* questions

1. Where and when was John Conway born? (2)
2. Which two universities did he work at and in which countries? (2)
3. i. What is Conway most famous for? (1)  
li Why might he be annoyed at this? (2)
4. Why might Conway have been frustrating to his university teachers (2)
5. Why might students have liked being taught by Dr Conway? (2)
6. Why might some mathematicians have thought that John Conway was not doing maths properly? (2)

\*\*\* questions.

These questions require you to write a short paragraph for each answer. Remember that each question is worth 4 points, so you should be trying to think of four things to say. Overall, your answer should use evidence from the text, but you don't need evidence for every single point you make.

1. In what ways was Conway like, and unlike his parents. Explain using evidence from the text (4)
2. Did Conway take maths seriously? Write a short paragraph to explain as fully as you can (4)
3. John Conway often had the job of trying to encourage new students at Princeton to specialise in mathematics. Why do you think he was suited to this job? (4)