

TRUMP WON'T HAND IN HIS OPEN BOOK TEST UNTIL HE CHECKS HIS ANSWERS WITH MATT WHITAKER AND PUTIN

Rudy is working the press today (CNN, Politico), describing how the President's advisors are trying to decide whether to hand in the open book test Mueller gave him back in October. He says he's pretty sure that his client will get a 90% grade on his open book test.

"The questions they gave us, if they don't know the answer to 90 percent of them now, I'd be shocked," Giuliani said. "I guess the only thing I can do is, if they get his answers – if that's what happens – is they're going to check it against what they thought his answers were going to be, and I think it's going to come out almost 100 percent."

But his client is not going to turn in his open book test until he returns from Paris and thinks about it for a day.

A meeting with Trump to make a final decision on the first round of questions is expected soon after the president returns Sunday night from his trip to Paris for the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, Giuliani said.

"We're close," Giuliani said. "I think the only thing that throws us off a little, which we explained to [Mueller], is that the president's going to be away for about three, four days."

"So, before we make a final decision – which I'm not sure I could tell you what that is, although I think we have

an idea right now – but before we can make it, we really want the president to have a day home where he can just think about it, make sure he’s comfortable with it and then we’ll tell [Mueller] what the decision is,” the president’s lawyer added.

Of course, by the time this happens, Matt Whitaker will presumably have been briefed on the investigation – a briefing the contents of which he can share with Trump. And, depending on whether you think the Kremlin or the White House is a better source on these things, Trump will also have met with Vladimir Putin for lunch on Sunday.

As a reminder: The Watergate special prosecutor did not have to, and did not, wait for Nixon’s answers before he dropped the big conspiracy indictment. I’m not sure Mueller will, either. Indeed, I think it at least possible that this year long process of negotiating with Rudy and others about Trump questions has been a ploy to buy time, working Rudy’s mistaken assumption that Mueller thinks he needs Trump’s answers.

So all Rudy’s spinning about this open book test may actually be hurting his client.