# VIRAL PUB TRIVIA — HOST BOOK

*Questions · Answers · Explanations · Host Script*

Everything the host needs for a full trivia night: 510 questions across 10 rounds, plus 10 tie-breakers. Every question carries its answer and a one-line explanation to read aloud after each round.

## THE HOST SCRIPT

### SETTING UP

Split your crowd into teams of 2–6 and hand each team an Answer Sheet and a pen. Teams pick a name — read the best ones aloud before Round 1; it warms up the room better than any microphone trick.

### RUNNING A ROUND

Read each question twice: once for the room, once for the writers. Give teams about 30 seconds per question. Answers stay hidden until the END of the round — then read the answers and the one-line explanations (they're the bits the crowd repeats on the way home). Teams swap sheets with a neighbouring team for marking. Trust no one: this is trivia.

### SCORING

Each question is worth the points printed on it (100–400). The Lightning Round is worth 300–400 a question and moves FAST — first team to shout the correct answer takes the points; a wrong shout locks that team out of the next question. Keep the Scorekeeper Matrix updated after every round and read the standings aloud — last place first, for drama.

### TIES

If the top two teams finish level, use the Tie-Breaker questions at the back of this book. They are closest-number or instant-answer questions — first correct (or closest) answer takes the night.

### PACING

Ten themed rounds, fifty-one questions in each — far more than one night needs. Run any five rounds for a classic 90-minute night, or go the full ten for a marathon. Every round is self-contained and balanced, and the questions inside each round run from gentle 100s to brutal 400s. Short breaks after every second round keep the room fresh.

## ROUND 1 — POP CULTURE & 90s/2000s NOSTALGIA

**Q1 (200 PTS) — Which 1999 sci-fi movie popularised the cinematic bullet-time visual effect?**

Answer: The Matrix

Directed by the Wachowskis, it used a green-screen ring of 120 cameras firing in micro-second succession.

**Q2 (150 PTS) — What was the name of Ross Geller's pet white-headed capuchin monkey on 'Friends'?**

Answer: Marcel

Marcel famously swallowed a Scrabble tile and loved the song 'The Lion Sleeps Tonight'.

**Q3 (300 PTS) — Which toy introduced in 1996 triggered nationwide holiday riots across US department stores?**

Answer: Tickle Me Elmo

Originally retailing for $28.99, secondary black-market resales reached over $1,500 that winter.

**Q4 (200 PTS) — Which games console, launched in 1994, became the first in history to sell over 100 million units?**

Answer: The Sony PlayStation

The original PlayStation passed 100 million sales in 2003 — a first for any games console.

**Q5 (150 PTS) — In 'The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air', in which city was Will born and raised, according to the theme song?**

Answer: West Philadelphia

The famous theme opens: 'In West Philadelphia, born and raised...'

**Q6 (150 PTS) — Which 1997 film about an ocean liner became the highest-grossing movie of all time on its release?**

Answer: Titanic

James Cameron's Titanic held the all-time box-office record until his own Avatar passed it in 2009.

**Q7 (100 PTS) — What does 'www' stand for in a web address?**

Answer: World Wide Web

The Web was invented by Tim Berners-Lee at CERN between 1989 and 1991.

**Q8 (150 PTS) — Which boy band released the hit 'I Want It That Way' in 1999?**

Answer: The Backstreet Boys

The song appears on 'Millennium', one of the best-selling albums of all time.

**Q9 (150 PTS) — In the Pokémon anime, what was Ash Ketchum's very first Pokémon?**

Answer: Pikachu

Ash overslept on his first day; Pikachu was the only starter Pokémon left.

**Q10 (200 PTS) — Which handheld virtual-pet craze hatched from Japan in 1996?**

Answer: Tamagotchi

Bandai's egg-shaped keychain pet sold tens of millions of units worldwide.

**Q11 (100 PTS) — The coffee house Central Perk is the hangout in which sitcom?**

Answer: Friends

Set in Manhattan, the series ran for ten seasons from 1994 to 2004.

**Q12 (200 PTS) — Which 2001 film opened the screen trilogy of 'The Lord of the Rings'?**

Answer: The Fellowship of the Ring

All three films were shot back-to-back in New Zealand under director Peter Jackson.

**Q13 (150 PTS) — Which 1990 film stars Macaulay Culkin as a boy left behind at Christmas who defends his house with booby traps?**

Answer: Home Alone

It became one of the highest-grossing comedies of all time and made Culkin a superstar at age ten.

**Q14 (100 PTS) — What does the 'S' stand for in the console abbreviation 'SNES'?**

Answer: Super (Super Nintendo Entertainment System)

The SNES launched in Japan in 1990 as the Super Famicom.

**Q15 (100 PTS) — Which British girl group urged the world to 'spice up your life' in the 1990s?**

Answer: The Spice Girls

Their 1996 debut single 'Wannabe' topped charts in 37 countries.

**Q16 (100 PTS) — In 'The Lion King' (1994), what is the name of Simba's father?**

Answer: Mufasa

Mufasa was voiced by James Earl Jones — who returned for the 2019 remake.

**Q17 (150 PTS) — Which 1990 song by Los del Rio became a worldwide wedding-party dance craze?**

Answer: Macarena

The song spent 14 weeks at number one in the US in 1996.

**Q18 (100 PTS) — Which actor played the Terminator in 'Terminator 2: Judgment Day' (1991)?**

Answer: Arnold Schwarzenegger

Schwarzenegger reportedly earned about $15 million for roughly 700 words of dialogue.

**Q19 (100 PTS) — The Walkman and Discman portable music players were made by which company?**

Answer: Sony

The original Walkman launched in Japan in 1979 and changed how the world listened to music.

**Q20 (100 PTS) — Which cartoon family lives in the fictional town of Springfield?**

Answer: The Simpsons

The show never officially confirms which US state its Springfield is in.

**Q21 (150 PTS) — What was the name of Nintendo's handheld console released in 1989?**

Answer: Game Boy

Its killer app was Tetris, bundled with the console in most markets.

**Q22 (200 PTS) — Which 1996 film ends with Will Smith punching an alien and saying 'Welcome to Earth'?**

Answer: Independence Day

It was the highest-grossing film of 1996 worldwide.

**Q23 (100 PTS) — In 'Toy Story' (1995), what is the name of the cowboy doll voiced by Tom Hanks?**

Answer: Woody

Woody's full name is Woody Pride, though it is never said in the first films.

**Q24 (200 PTS) — Which early-90s TV series followed Agent Dale Cooper investigating the murder of Laura Palmer?**

Answer: Twin Peaks

David Lynch's eerie series ran 1990-91 and returned for a revival in 2017.

**Q25 (100 PTS) — What did the letters 'MTV' originally stand for when the channel launched in 1981?**

Answer: Music Television

The first video aired was 'Video Killed the Radio Star' by The Buggles.

**Q26 (200 PTS) — Which Canadian singer released the 1995 album 'Jagged Little Pill'?**

Answer: Alanis Morissette

The album sold over 33 million copies, one of the best sellers ever by a female artist.

**Q27 (150 PTS) — Beanie Babies, the 1990s plush craze, were filled with what instead of stuffing?**

Answer: Plastic pellets (beans)

Creator Ty Warner deliberately under-stuffed them so they felt floppy and lifelike.

**Q28 (100 PTS) — Which 1992 Disney film features a genie voiced by Robin Williams?**

Answer: Aladdin

Williams improvised so much dialogue that hours of unused material were recorded.

**Q29 (150 PTS) — The catchphrase 'Did I do that?' belongs to which nerdy 1990s sitcom character?**

Answer: Steve Urkel (Family Matters)

Urkel was meant to appear in a single episode — he became the show's breakout star.

**Q30 (100 PTS) — Which search giant was founded in 1998 by Larry Page and Sergey Brin?**

Answer: Google

The name is a playful spelling of 'googol', the number 1 followed by 100 zeros.

**Q31 (200 PTS) — Which 1999 horror hit was marketed as real found footage of three missing student filmmakers?**

Answer: The Blair Witch Project

Made for roughly $60,000, it went on to gross nearly $250 million worldwide.

**Q32 (200 PTS) — In 'Jurassic Park' (1993), the fictional Isla Nublar lies off the coast of which country?**

Answer: Costa Rica

The island's name is Spanish for 'clouded island', for the mist around its peaks.

**Q33 (100 PTS) — Which boy band featured Justin Timberlake before his solo career?**

Answer: NSYNC

The band's name came from the last letters of the five members' first names.

**Q34 (150 PTS) — Which furry robotic toy, launched in 1998, appeared to learn language as it 'grew up'?**

Answer: Furby

Furby spoke its own language, 'Furbish', and slowly mixed in English words.

**Q35 (150 PTS) — The line 'Show me the money!' comes from which 1996 Tom Cruise film?**

Answer: Jerry Maguire

The line was shouted by Cuba Gooding Jr.'s character, footballer Rod Tidwell.

**Q36 (200 PTS) — Which actress played the title role in TV's 'Buffy the Vampire Slayer' from 1997?**

Answer: Sarah Michelle Gellar

Gellar did most of Buffy's taekwondo-based fight training herself.

**Q37 (150 PTS) — Which 1989 Disney film, starring a mermaid named Ariel, revived the studio's animation fortunes?**

Answer: The Little Mermaid

It kicked off the decade-long 'Disney Renaissance' of animated hits.

**Q38 (100 PTS) — Which grunge band released 'Nevermind' in 1991, fronted by Kurt Cobain?**

Answer: Nirvana

'Nevermind' knocked Michael Jackson off the top of the US album chart in January 1992.

**Q39 (100 PTS) — Which video game plumber made his arcade debut in 1981's 'Donkey Kong'?**

Answer: Mario

He was originally called 'Jumpman' and worked as a carpenter, not a plumber.

**Q40 (150 PTS) — The 1994 film 'Pulp Fiction' was directed by whom?**

Answer: Quentin Tarantino

Tarantino wrote the diner scenes while working in a video rental store years earlier.

**Q41 (100 PTS) — Which Saturday-morning cartoon featured four turtles named after Renaissance artists?**

Answer: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

Leonardo, Michelangelo, Donatello and Raphael began in a gritty 1984 indie comic.

**Q42 (150 PTS) — Which internet provider famously flooded mailboxes with free trial CDs throughout the 1990s?**

Answer: AOL (America Online)

AOL later claimed about half of all CDs produced worldwide in the mid-90s carried its logo.

**Q43 (150 PTS) — Which handheld console did Nintendo release in 2001 as the Game Boy line's successor?**

Answer: Game Boy Advance

The Advance was backwards-compatible with the entire Game Boy library.

**Q44 (200 PTS) — Who sang the 1995 hit 'Gangsta's Paradise', featured in the film 'Dangerous Minds'?**

Answer: Coolio

The song samples Stevie Wonder's 1976 track 'Pastime Paradise'.

**Q45 (150 PTS) — The catchphrase 'As if!' belongs to Cher in which 1995 teen film?**

Answer: Clueless

The film is a loose modern retelling of Jane Austen's novel 'Emma'.

**Q46 (100 PTS) — In 'Mrs. Doubtfire' (1993), Robin Williams disguises himself as what so he can see his children?**

Answer: A Scottish nanny and housekeeper

Williams's full prosthetic makeup took about four hours to apply each day.

**Q47 (250 PTS) — Which MTV countdown show, hosted by Carson Daly from Times Square from 1998, defined after-school TV?**

Answer: TRL (Total Request Live)

At its peak, fans crowded Times Square hoping to glimpse pop stars through the studio windows.

**Q48 (150 PTS) — The 1996 film 'Space Jam' paired Michael Jordan with which cartoon characters?**

Answer: The Looney Tunes

Bugs Bunny and company recruited Jordan to save them from the Monstars.

**Q49 (100 PTS) — Which 2000 reality TV show stranded contestants on an island to 'outwit, outplay, outlast'?**

Answer: Survivor

The US version was based on a Swedish format called 'Expedition Robinson'.

**Q50 (150 PTS) — The letters 'DVD' are most commonly expanded to what?**
Answer: Digital Versatile Disc

It was also originally read as 'Digital Video Disc' — the Versatile name won out officially.

**Q51 (100 PTS) — Which doll, launched in 1959, got her first Dreamhouse in 1962 and a blockbuster film in 2023?**
Answer: Barbie

Barbie's full name is Barbara Millicent Roberts, from the Mattel founders' daughter.

## ROUND 2 — BIZARRE HISTORY & TRUE CRIME FACTS

**Q1 (250 PTS) — In 1971, which notorious hijacker parachuted out of a Boeing 727 with $200,000 and was never found?**

Answer: D.B. Cooper

The FAA subsequently mandated the installation of the aerodynamic 'Cooper Vane' on all 727s.

**Q2 (200 PTS) — What famous poison leaves a distinct bitter almond scent in autopsy investigations?**

Answer: Cyanide

Only roughly 40-50% of the population genetically possesses the ability to smell the almond odor.

**Q3 (250 PTS) — In the 'Dancing Plague' of 1518 in Strasbourg, hundreds of people were struck by an urge to do what, for days on end?**

Answer: Dance

Victims danced for weeks without resting; some reportedly died from exhaustion and heart attacks.

**Q4 (300 PTS) — Which US president survived a 1912 assassination attempt partly because a folded speech and a steel glasses case in his breast pocket slowed the bullet?**

Answer: Theodore Roosevelt

Shot in Milwaukee, Roosevelt insisted on delivering his campaign speech before going to hospital.

**Q5 (200 PTS) — The 'Great Emu War' of 1932 — a military operation against some 20,000 birds — took place in which country?**

Answer: Australia

Soldiers were deployed in Western Australia; the emus evaded them so well the operation was abandoned.

**Q6 (150 PTS) — The wreck of which famous liner was finally located in 1985, 73 years after she sank?**

Answer: RMS Titanic

Robert Ballard's team found her about 370 miles off Newfoundland, nearly 3,800 metres down.

**Q7 (200 PTS) — In 1962, Frank Morris and the Anglin brothers escaped from which island prison — and were never found?**

Answer: Alcatraz

They fled on a raft made from raincoats. Whether they survived the bay remains unknown.

**Q8 (150 PTS) — The Great Pyramid of Giza — the only Ancient Wonder still standing — was built by which civilisation?**

Answer: Ancient Egypt

It was already ancient when the other six wonders were built, and it outlasted them all.

**Q9 (250 PTS) — In 19th-century Britain, wealthy hosts held 'unwrapping parties' to unwrap what imported curiosity?**

Answer: Egyptian mummies

Mummies were shipped to Europe and unwrapped as society entertainment — and even ground into paint pigment.

**Q10 (250 PTS) — Outlaw Jesse James was shot dead in 1882 by which former associate, hoping to collect the reward?**

Answer: Robert Ford

Ford shot James in his own home in St. Joseph, Missouri — and was later branded a coward for it.

**Q11 (200 PTS) — The 1908 Tunguska event flattened around 2,000 square kilometres of forest in which country?**

Answer: Russia

The Siberian blast is believed to have been an asteroid or comet exploding in mid-air — no crater was found.

**Q12 (300 PTS) — Which legendary con artist 'sold' the Eiffel Tower to scrap dealers — twice — in the 1920s?**

Answer: Victor Lustig

Posing as a government official, Lustig convinced dealers the tower was being sold for scrap metal.

**Q13 (250 PTS) — Which Roman emperor is said to have planned to make his favourite horse, Incitatus, a senator?**

Answer: Caligula

Historians suspect the story was exaggerated by hostile writers — but the horse did get a marble stall.

**Q14 (250 PTS) — In 1726, English hoaxer Mary Toft fooled doctors into believing she had given birth to what animals?**

Answer: Rabbits

Toft confessed after a porter was caught smuggling a rabbit into her room.

**Q15 (200 PTS) — The crew of which ship vanished in 1872, leaving the vessel drifting in the Atlantic with its cargo intact?**

Answer: The Mary Celeste

The ship was found near the Azores with a lifeboat missing — and no one was ever found.

**Q16 (300 PTS) — During the 1904 St. Louis Olympic marathon, runner Thomas Hicks was dosed mid-race with brandy, egg white and what dangerous poison?**

Answer: Strychnine

Strychnine was then believed to be a stimulant in tiny doses. Hicks won — and nearly died.

**Q17 (100 PTS) — Which French monarch, builder of Versailles, was known as the Sun King?**

Answer: Louis XIV

His 72-year reign is the longest of any verified monarch in European history.

**Q18 (300 PTS) — The 'mystery cloud' that dimmed the sun and caused crop failures around 536 AD is now blamed on what?**

Answer: A massive volcanic eruption

Ice-core evidence points to a huge eruption whose ash veil cooled the Northern Hemisphere for years.

**Q19 (150 PTS) — Which unidentified murderer terrorised London's Whitechapel district in 1888?**

Answer: Jack the Ripper

Five victims are generally attributed to the Ripper — the case remains officially unsolved.

**Q20 (150 PTS) — In 1928, which Scotsman discovered penicillin by accident from a mould growing in his lab?**

Answer: Alexander Fleming

The mould was Penicillium — its juice killed the bacteria on Fleming's culture plates.

**Q21 (250 PTS) — The Voynich manuscript, a centuries-old book nobody can read, is written in what?**

Answer: An unknown, undeciphered script

Carbon dating puts the vellum in the early 1400s; every codebreaker since has failed.

**Q22 (200 PTS) — Which US state was an independent republic with its own president, Sam Houston, before joining the Union in 1845?**

Answer: Texas

The Republic of Texas existed from 1836 to 1845, with its own currency and navy.

**Q23 (300 PTS) — In 1977, Ohio State's Big Ear telescope received a famous 72-second radio burst known by what name?**

Answer: The Wow! signal

Astronomer Jerry Ehman circled the printout and wrote 'Wow!' beside it — the source is still unknown.

**Q24 (100 PTS) — Which queen of ancient Egypt was the last active ruler of the Ptolemaic Kingdom?**

Answer: Cleopatra VII

Cleopatra spoke nine languages and was the only Ptolemaic ruler who learned Egyptian.

**Q25 (200 PTS) — The 1883 eruption of which Indonesian volcano produced the loudest sound in recorded history?**

Answer: Krakatoa

The blast was heard nearly 4,800 km away, and its ash lowered global temperatures for years.

**Q26 (150 PTS) — The Salem witch trials of 1692-93 took place in what is now which US state?**

Answer: Massachusetts

Twenty people were executed; Massachusetts formally apologised for the trials in 1957.

**Q27 (150 PTS) — Which British king abdicated in 1936 in order to marry Wallis Simpson?**

Answer: Edward VIII

He reigned just 326 days — one of the shortest reigns in British history.

**Q28 (300 PTS) — The 'Piltdown Man', exposed as a fraud in 1953, was a faked specimen of what?**

Answer: A fossil human ancestor (a human skull combined with an orangutan's jaw)

The hoax fooled much of the scientific establishment for over forty years.

**Q29 (100 PTS) — In 1961, which Soviet cosmonaut became the first human in space?**

Answer: Yuri Gagarin

His single orbit of Earth aboard Vostok 1 lasted 108 minutes.

**Q30 (100 PTS) — Which civilisation built the mountain citadel of Machu Picchu?**

Answer: The Inca

The site was never found by the Spanish and stayed unknown to the outside world until 1911.

**Q31 (200 PTS) — The Great Fire of London in 1666 started in a bakery on which street?**

Answer: Pudding Lane

The fire raged for four days and destroyed more than 13,000 houses.

**Q32 (250 PTS) — Which 19th-century US president is the only one to have served two non-consecutive terms?**

Answer: Grover Cleveland

Cleveland was both the 22nd and the 24th president.

**Q33 (250 PTS) — In 1919, a flood of what food substance killed 21 people in Boston?**

Answer: Molasses (the Great Molasses Disaster)

A storage tank burst and sent a wave of molasses up to 7.6 metres high through the streets.

**Q34 (200 PTS) — The lost Roanoke Colony was planted on an island off the coast of which modern US state?**

Answer: North Carolina

The only clue left behind was the word 'CROATOAN' carved into a post.

**Q35 (150 PTS) — Which pharaoh's tomb did Howard Carter discover nearly intact in 1922?**

Answer: Tutankhamun

The boy king's tomb held over 5,000 artefacts, including his famous gold mask.

**Q36 (100 PTS) — Julius Caesar was assassinated on the Ides of which month in 44 BC?**

Answer: March

The Ides of March — the 15th — became a byword for betrayal and doom.

**Q37 (400 PTS) — At the bizarre 'Cadaver Synod' of 897 AD, the corpse of which church leader was put on trial?**

Answer: Pope Formosus

His body was exhumed, dressed in papal robes and propped on a throne to answer charges.

**Q38 (200 PTS) — Which British ocean liner, sunk by a U-boat in 1915, helped push the US toward entering World War I?**

Answer: RMS Lusitania

Nearly 1,200 people died, including 128 Americans, when she sank in just 18 minutes.

**Q39 (200 PTS) — In 1519, which Spanish conquistador marched into the Aztec capital Tenochtitlan?**

Answer: Hernan Cortes

Within two years the Aztec Empire had fallen to Cortes and his Indigenous allies.

**Q40 (100 PTS) — What was the name of the ship that carried the Pilgrims to Massachusetts in 1620?**

Answer: The Mayflower

The ship carried 102 passengers and about 30 crew across the Atlantic in 66 days.

**Q41 (200 PTS) — The Berlin Airlift of 1948-49 supplied which half of the divided city?**

Answer: West Berlin

Allied planes landed up to every 30 seconds at the peak, delivering food and coal.

**Q42 (200 PTS) — Which Viking explorer is credited with reaching North America around the year 1000?**

Answer: Leif Erikson

His settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland was confirmed by archaeologists in the 1960s.

**Q43 (200 PTS) — Outlaws Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow were killed by police in which year?**

Answer: 1934

Their ambush in Louisiana ended a two-year crime spree across the American Midwest and South.

**Q44 (100 PTS) — The Rosetta Stone, the key to deciphering hieroglyphs, was found in which country?**

Answer: Egypt

French soldiers rebuilding a fort near Rosetta uncovered it in 1799.

**Q45 (200 PTS) — Which Chinese dynasty built most of the Great Wall that still stands today?**

Answer: The Ming dynasty

The Ming rebuilt the wall in stone and brick during the 1300s-1600s.

**Q46 (100 PTS) — In 1867, the United States purchased Alaska from which country?**

Answer: Russia

Critics mocked the $7.2 million deal as 'Seward's Folly' — until gold and oil were found.

**Q47 (150 PTS) — The first successful powered aeroplane flight in 1903 was made by which brothers?**

Answer: The Wright brothers

Orville won the coin toss and flew first: 12 seconds and 36.5 metres at Kitty Hawk.

**Q48 (150 PTS) — Which Chicago gangster was finally jailed in 1931 — not for murder, but for tax evasion?**

Answer: Al Capone

The FBI's accountants built the case that sent 'Scarface' to Alcatraz.

**Q49 (100 PTS) — The ancient Olympic Games were held in honour of which Greek god?**

Answer: Zeus

A colossal gold-and-ivory statue of Zeus at Olympia was one of the Seven Wonders.

**Q50 (200 PTS) — In 1974, farmers digging a well near Xi'an, China, accidentally uncovered what famous army?**

Answer: The Terracotta Army

Thousands of life-size clay soldiers guard the tomb of China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang.

**Q51 (300 PTS) — In 1811-12, the most powerful earthquakes in recorded US history struck near New Madrid in which state?**

Answer: Missouri

The quakes were so strong they reportedly made the Mississippi River appear to run backwards.

## ROUND 3 — MOVIES, TV SHOWS & STREAMING HITS

**Q1 (100 PTS) — Which actor played both Jack Dawson in 'Titanic' and Howard Hughes in 'The Aviator'?**

Answer: Leonardo DiCaprio

DiCaprio finally won his first Oscar for 'The Revenant' in 2016.

**Q2 (150 PTS) — Wakanda, the fictional high-tech African nation, is the homeland of which Marvel hero?**

Answer: Black Panther

Wakanda's wealth comes from vibranium, a fictional metal from a meteorite.

**Q3 (100 PTS) — The Iron Throne is fought over by the houses of which TV series?**

Answer: Game of Thrones

The throne is said to be forged from a thousand swords of surrendered enemies.

**Q4 (150 PTS) — Who directed 'Jaws', 'E.T.' and 'Schindler's List'?**

Answer: Steven Spielberg

Spielberg co-founded DreamWorks and is the highest-grossing director of all time.

**Q5 (200 PTS) — In the 1939 film 'The Wizard of Oz', Dorothy's magical slippers are what colour? (They were silver in the book!)**

Answer: Ruby red

The filmmakers changed them to ruby to show off the new Technicolor process.

**Q6 (150 PTS) — Which Netflix series opens its deadly contest with a game of 'Red Light, Green Light'?**

Answer: Squid Game

The South Korean series became Netflix's most-watched launch of its time in 2021.

**Q7 (150 PTS) — In what year was the very first 'Star Wars' film released in cinemas?**

Answer: 1977

It was re-titled 'Episode IV — A New Hope' only in later re-releases.

**Q8 (100 PTS) — Which actress played Hermione Granger in the 'Harry Potter' films?**

Answer: Emma Watson

Watson was cast at age nine, in her first professional acting role.

**Q9 (150 PTS) — In 'Breaking Bad', by what name is Walter White known in the criminal underworld?**
Answer: Heisenberg

He named himself after physicist Werner Heisenberg — of uncertainty-principle fame.

**Q10 (100 PTS) — Olaf the snowman sings 'In Summer' in which animated film?**
Answer: Frozen

The song is a joke: Olaf dreams of the one season that would melt him.

**Q11 (200 PTS) — Which film is the highest-grossing of all time worldwide, not adjusted for inflation?**
Answer: Avatar (2009)

Re-releases have pushed James Cameron's Avatar to roughly $2.9 billion worldwide.

**Q12 (200 PTS) — The sitcom 'Parks and Recreation' is set in the fictional town of Pawnee — in which US state?**
Answer: Indiana

Pawnee's fierce rival town in the show is the much wealthier Eagleton.

**Q13 (100 PTS) — Which actor played Forrest Gump in the 1994 film?**
Answer: Tom Hanks

Hanks won back-to-back Best Actor Oscars in 1994 and 1995 — for 'Philadelphia' and 'Forrest Gump'.

**Q14 (100 PTS) — The US version of 'The Office' is set in which fictional paper company?**
Answer: Dunder Mifflin

The show is set in Scranton, Pennsylvania — which embraced its fictional fame with real fan conventions.

**Q15 (150 PTS) — Which 1972 film about the Corleone family is routinely ranked among the greatest movies ever made?**
Answer: The Godfather

Marlon Brando stuffed his cheeks with cotton wool for the audition to get Don Corleone's bulldog jowls.

**Q16 (200 PTS) — In 'The Shawshank Redemption', what was Andy Dufresne's profession before prison?**
Answer: Banker

Andy uses his banking skills to launder the warden's money — and to plot his escape.

**Q17 (100 PTS) — Which Netflix series features the alternate dimension called the Upside Down and a girl named Eleven?**

Answer: Stranger Things

The show premiered in 2016 and turned Dungeons & Dragons into a mainstream craze again.

**Q18 (150 PTS) — Who played the Joker in 'The Dark Knight' (2008) and won a posthumous Oscar for it?**

Answer: Heath Ledger

Ledger kept a character diary and locked himself away for weeks to build the Joker's voice.

**Q19 (200 PTS) — As a full series, 'The Simpsons' first aired in which year?**

Answer: 1989

The family began as short cartoons on 'The Tracey Ullman Show' two years earlier.

**Q20 (300 PTS) — Which film won the very first Academy Award for Best Picture in 1929?**

Answer: Wings

The silent WWI epic is the only fully silent film ever to win the top Oscar.

**Q21 (100 PTS) — In 'Friends', what is Joey Tribbiani's famous pick-up line?**

Answer: 'How you doin'?'

Matt LeBlanc improvised the line's swagger — it became Joey's signature across ten seasons.

**Q22 (100 PTS) — Who directed 'Psycho', 'Vertigo' and 'Rear Window'?**

Answer: Alfred Hitchcock

Hitchcock was nominated for Best Director five times but never won a competitive Oscar.

**Q23 (100 PTS) — The adventurer Indiana Jones is famously afraid of which animals?**

Answer: Snakes

'Snakes. Why did it have to be snakes?' — the phobia was written into the character from the first film.

**Q24 (200 PTS) — Which 2019 South Korean film became the first non-English-language winner of the Best Picture Oscar?**

Answer: Parasite

Bong Joon Ho's thriller also won Best Director, Original Screenplay and International Feature.

**Q25 (200 PTS) — Which creature bites off Frodo's finger at Mount Doom in 'The Return of the King'?**

Answer: Gollum

Gollum then falls into the fire with the Ring — destroying it by accident, not heroism.

**Q26 (150 PTS) — The sitcom 'Seinfeld' is famously described as a show about what?**

Answer: Nothing

The pitch George makes inside the show — a show about nothing — mirrored the real series.

**Q27 (100 PTS) — Which actress played Katniss Everdeen in 'The Hunger Games' films?**

Answer: Jennifer Lawrence

Lawrence did her own archery training and performed most of Katniss's stunts.

**Q28 (150 PTS) — In 'Back to the Future', what speed must the DeLorean reach to travel through time?**

Answer: 88 miles per hour

The speed was chosen simply because it looked good on the digital speedometer prop.

**Q29 (150 PTS) — Which HBO series about a New Jersey mob boss is often credited with starting TV's golden age?**

Answer: The Sopranos

James Gandolfini's Tony Soprano redefined what a TV protagonist could be — a villain you root for.

**Q30 (100 PTS) — The line 'May the Force be with you' comes from which film franchise?**

Answer: Star Wars

The phrase was first delivered by General Dodonna before the Death Star assault.

**Q31 (100 PTS) — Which film series follows spy Ethan Hunt and his Impossible Missions Force team?**

Answer: Mission: Impossible

Tom Cruise famously performs many of the franchise's most dangerous stunts himself.

**Q32 (100 PTS) — In 'Harry Potter', what is the name of the school of witchcraft and wizardry?**

Answer: Hogwarts

Its full name: Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, hidden somewhere in Scotland.

**Q33 (200 PTS) — Which 1999 film's twist ending reveals that Bruce Willis's character has been dead all along?**

Answer: The Sixth Sense

M. Night Shyamalan hid the clues in plain sight — Willis's character is never seen touching anything.

**Q34 (250 PTS) — Which actor played the liquid-metal T-1000 in 'Terminator 2: Judgment Day'?**

Answer: Robert Patrick

Patrick trained to run at full sprint without breathing through his mouth, to look less human.

**Q35 (100 PTS) — The Netflix series 'Wednesday' centres on a member of which fictional family?**

Answer: The Addams Family

Jenna Ortega learned cello and fencing for the role — and choreographed the famous dance herself.

**Q36 (150 PTS) — Which war film opens with the Normandy landings and a mission to find one paratrooper?**

Answer: Saving Private Ryan

Veterans praised its opening 24 minutes as the most realistic battle footage ever filmed.

**Q37 (100 PTS) — In 'The Lion King', what does the phrase 'Hakuna Matata' mean?**

Answer: No worries

The Swahili phrase became one of Disney's most famous songs, written by Elton John and Tim Rice.

**Q38 (150 PTS) — Which actress starred as Elle Woods in 'Legally Blonde'?**

Answer: Reese Witherspoon

Witherspoon kept Elle's entire wardrobe after filming — all 77 costume changes.

**Q39 (100 PTS) — In 'Doctor Who', the Doctor's time machine is called the what?**

Answer: The TARDIS

TARDIS stands for Time And Relative Dimension In Space — and it is famously bigger on the inside.

**Q40 (100 PTS) — Which 2008 Marvel film launched the Marvel Cinematic Universe?**

Answer: Iron Man

Robert Downey Jr. improvised the final line — 'I am Iron Man' — changing Marvel's plans on the spot.

**Q41 (100 PTS) — In 'E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial', what does E.T. famously want to do?**

Answer: Phone home

The line 'E.T. phone home' ranks among the most quoted in cinema history.

**Q42 (150 PTS) — Which film features Tyler Durden and an unnamed narrator who start an underground club?**

Answer: Fight Club

The first rule of Fight Club is famous — the film flopped in cinemas, then became a cult phenomenon on DVD.

**Q43 (200 PTS) — Which director made 'The Grand Budapest Hotel' and 'Moonrise Kingdom'?**

Answer: Wes Anderson

Anderson's perfectly symmetrical shots are so distinctive the style has its own name among film students.

**Q44 (100 PTS) — In 'The Wizard of Oz', what is Dorothy's little dog called?**

Answer: Toto

Toto was played by a Cairn terrier named Terry, who appeared in 16 films.

**Q45 (150 PTS) — Which TV series follows the Shelby crime family in post-WWI Birmingham?**

Answer: Peaky Blinders

Cillian Murphy's Tommy Shelby made flat caps fashionable again a century later.

**Q46 (250 PTS) — Which 2024 Pixar sequel became the highest-grossing animated film of all time?**

Answer: Inside Out 2

It passed the 2019 'Lion King' remake with roughly $1.7 billion at the worldwide box office.

**Q47 (250 PTS) — In 'Jaws', what is the name of the grizzled shark hunter played by Robert Shaw?**

Answer: Quint

Shaw ad-libbed much of Quint's legendary USS Indianapolis monologue.

**Q48 (100 PTS) — Which sitcom centres on physicists Sheldon, Leonard and their neighbour Penny?**

Answer: The Big Bang Theory

The show ran 12 seasons and made 'Bazinga!' a global catchphrase.

**Q49 (150 PTS) — The 1976 boxing film 'Rocky' is set in which US city?**

Answer: Philadelphia

Sylvester Stallone wrote the script in three days and refused to sell it unless he could star.

**Q50 (100 PTS) — Which actor played Captain Jack Sparrow in the 'Pirates of the Caribbean' films?**

Answer: Johnny Depp

Depp based Sparrow's swaying walk on Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards.

**Q51 (150 PTS) — In 'The Hunger Games', Katniss Everdeen volunteers from which district?**

Answer: District 12

District 12 is Panem's impoverished coal-mining district, in the former Appalachians.

## ROUND 4 — MIND-BLOWING SCIENCE & SPACE ODDITIES

**Q1 (400 PTS) — How long does a photon take to travel from the center core of the Sun to its outer surface?**

Answer: Approx. 100,000 to 170,000 Years

Dense plasma collisions force the light particle into a violent 'random walk' before it finally escapes.

**Q2 (150 PTS) — Which creature has three hearts, blue hemocyanin blood, and doughnut-shaped brains?**

Answer: The Octopus

Two hearts pump blood to the gills, while the third central heart stops beating when swimming.

**Q3 (150 PTS) — Olympus Mons, the largest volcano in the solar system, towers over which planet?**

Answer: Mars

Olympus Mons is about 22 km high — roughly two and a half times the height of Mount Everest.

**Q4 (200 PTS) — Which planet is tilted so far that it effectively rotates on its side, at about 98 degrees?**

Answer: Uranus

Astronomers believe an ancient collision with an Earth-sized body knocked Uranus sideways.

**Q5 (100 PTS) — What is the chemical symbol for gold?**

Answer: Au

The symbol comes from 'aurum', the Latin word for gold.

**Q6 (100 PTS) — Which cells in your blood are responsible for carrying oxygen around the body?**

Answer: Red blood cells

They get their colour from haemoglobin, the iron-containing protein that binds oxygen.

**Q7 (150 PTS) — Who published the laws of motion and universal gravitation in the 1687 work 'Principia Mathematica'?**

Answer: Isaac Newton

The Principia is considered one of the most important scientific books ever written.

**Q8 (200 PTS) — Approximately how fast does light travel through a vacuum, in kilometres per second?**

Answer: About 300,000 km/s

The exact figure is 299,792 km/s — nothing with mass can reach it.

**Q9 (150 PTS) — Which organ of the human body produces the hormone insulin?**
Answer: The pancreas

Insulin is made by the beta cells in the pancreatic islets of Langerhans.

**Q10 (150 PTS) — What was the name of the first artificial satellite, launched into orbit in 1957?**
Answer: Sputnik 1

The Soviet satellite's simple 'beep-beep' signal could be picked up by radios around the world.

**Q11 (100 PTS) — About 78% of Earth's atmosphere consists of which gas?**
Answer: Nitrogen

Oxygen makes up most of the rest, at about 21%.

**Q12 (150 PTS) — Roughly how long does sunlight take to reach the Earth?**
Answer: About 8 minutes

Eight minutes and twenty seconds on average — so we always see the Sun as it was, not as it is.

**Q13 (250 PTS) — Which planet's day is longer than its year, taking 243 Earth days to spin once?**
Answer: Venus

Venus rotates backwards and so slowly that one spin outlasts its 225-day trip around the Sun.

**Q14 (100 PTS) — What is the chemical symbol for iron?**
Answer: Fe

Fe comes from 'ferrum', the Latin word for iron.

**Q15 (100 PTS) — What is H2O more commonly known as?**
Answer: Water

Two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom — the most familiar molecule on Earth.

**Q16 (100 PTS) — Which gas do plants absorb from the air to power photosynthesis?**
Answer: Carbon dioxide

Plants trade it for oxygen — the gas exchange that keeps the air breathable.

**Q17 (100 PTS) — What is the largest planet in our solar system?**
Answer: Jupiter

More than 1,300 Earths could fit inside Jupiter.

**Q18 (150 PTS) — How many bones are there in the adult human body?**
Answer: 206

Babies are born with around 300 bones; many fuse together as we grow.

**Q19 (100 PTS) — Who proposed evolution by natural selection in 'On the Origin of Species' (1859)?**
Answer: Charles Darwin

Darwin delayed publishing for years, gathering evidence after his voyage on HMS Beagle.

**Q20 (100 PTS) — What force keeps the planets in orbit around the Sun?**
Answer: Gravity

The same force that drops your pen bends the path of entire planets.

**Q21 (250 PTS) — Which metal is the most abundant in the Earth's crust?**
Answer: Aluminium

Aluminium makes up about 8% of the crust — yet was once costlier than gold.

**Q22 (100 PTS) — Which blood cells are the soldiers of the immune system, fighting infection?**
Answer: White blood cells

They make up only about 1% of your blood, but a high count signals your body is fighting something.

**Q23 (200 PTS) — The asteroid belt lies between the orbits of which two planets?**
Answer: Mars and Jupiter

Despite the movies, the belt is mostly empty space — its total mass is less than the Moon's.

**Q24 (100 PTS) — What is the name of the galaxy that contains our solar system?**
Answer: The Milky Way

It holds at least 100 billion stars — and probably more than 200 billion.

**Q25 (100 PTS) — Which element has the chemical symbol 'O'?**
Answer: Oxygen

Oxygen is the third most abundant element in the universe, after hydrogen and helium.

**Q26 (250 PTS) — Roughly how long does the International Space Station take to complete one orbit of Earth?**
Answer: About 90 minutes

Its crew sees about 16 sunrises and sunsets every single day.

**Q27 (100 PTS) — What is the tallest land animal in the world?**
Answer: The giraffe

A giraffe's heart weighs around 11 kilograms to pump blood up that long neck.

**Q28 (150 PTS) — Which organ of the human body is the largest?**
Answer: The skin

An adult's skin weighs roughly 3.6 kilograms and covers about 2 square metres.

**Q29 (100 PTS) — What do you call an animal that eats only plants?**
Answer: A herbivore

Cows, horses and giant pandas are all herbivores — though pandas belong to the bear family.

**Q30 (100 PTS) — Which planet is famous for its rings of ice and rock?**
Answer: Saturn

The rings are billions of ice chunks — some as small as grains of sugar, some as big as houses.

**Q31 (300 PTS) — What was the name of the first space station, launched into orbit in 1971?**
Answer: Salyut 1

The Soviet station hosted one crew for 23 days before its tragic return flight.

**Q32 (100 PTS) — Which subatomic particle carries a negative electric charge?**
Answer: The electron

Electrons weigh about 1/1836th of a proton — they are almost pure nothing, yet run all of chemistry.

**Q33 (150 PTS) — What is the chemical formula for common table salt?**
Answer: NaCl (sodium chloride)

One sodium atom and one chlorine atom — two dangerous elements that make a kitchen essential.

**Q34 (200 PTS) — Which bird is the fastest animal on Earth in a hunting dive?**
Answer: The peregrine falcon

In a stoop it has been clocked at over 380 km/h — faster than a Formula 1 car.

**Q35 (100 PTS) — How many legs does a spider have?**
Answer: Eight

All spiders are arachnids — if it has six legs, it is an insect, not a spider.

**Q36 (200 PTS) — What is the main gas that makes up the Sun?**
Answer: Hydrogen

The Sun converts about 600 million tonnes of hydrogen into helium every second.

**Q37 (250 PTS) — Which human sense is most strongly wired to memory, which is why smells trigger nostalgia?**
Answer: Smell (olfaction)

Smell signals travel almost directly to the brain's memory and emotion centres.

**Q38 (300 PTS) — Approximately how fast does sound travel through air at sea level?**
Answer: About 343 metres per second

That is roughly 1,235 km/h — fast, but light beats it by a factor of nearly a million.

**Q39 (100 PTS) — Which scientist's equation E = mc2 links energy and mass?**
Answer: Albert Einstein

The equation appeared in 1905, Einstein's 'miracle year' of four revolutionary papers.

**Q40 (100 PTS) — What do bees collect from flowers to make honey?**
Answer: Nectar

A single jar of honey requires nectar from roughly two million flower visits.

**Q41 (150 PTS) — Which is the only mammal capable of true powered flight?**
Answer: The bat

There are over 1,400 bat species — about one in five of all mammal species.

**Q42 (100 PTS) — What is the name of the process by which plants make food from sunlight?**
Answer: Photosynthesis

Nearly all life on Earth runs on energy captured by this one chemical trick.

**Q43 (100 PTS) — How many chambers does the human heart have?**
Answer: Four

Two atria on top, two ventricles below — a double pump in a single organ.

**Q44 (100 PTS) — Which dwarf planet was classed as the ninth planet until 2006?**
Answer: Pluto

Pluto is smaller than Earth's Moon and takes 248 years to orbit the Sun once.

**Q45 (150 PTS) — What is the hardest naturally occurring substance on Earth?**
Answer: Diamond

Diamonds are pure carbon squeezed under enormous pressure deep underground.

**Q46 (300 PTS) — Which mammal can live for over 200 years, making it the longest-lived of all?**

Answer: The bowhead whale

Some bowheads alive today may carry 19th-century harpoon points in their blubber.

**Q47 (150 PTS) — What is the pH of a neutral solution?**

Answer: 7

The scale runs 0 to 14: below 7 is acid, above 7 is alkaline.

**Q48 (200 PTS) — Which blood type is known as the universal donor type?**

Answer: O negative

O-negative blood can be given to almost anyone in an emergency — its donors are always in demand.

**Q49 (150 PTS) — The Great Red Spot is a centuries-old storm on which planet?**

Answer: Jupiter

The storm is wider than Earth and has been raging for at least 190 years of observation.

**Q50 (300 PTS) — How many eyes does a honeybee have?**

Answer: Five

Two large compound eyes plus three tiny simple eyes, called ocelli, on top of its head.

**Q51 (100 PTS) — What is the dense centre of an atom called?**

Answer: The nucleus

The nucleus holds over 99.97% of the atom's mass in a speck a hundred-thousandth of its width.

## ROUND 5 — GEOGRAPHY & WORLD CAPITALS

**Q1 (300 PTS) — What is the only letter in the English alphabet that does NOT appear in any US state name?**

Answer: The Letter 'Q'

Every other letter from A to Z appears at least once across all 50 states.

**Q2 (150 PTS) — What is the capital city of Australia?**

Answer: Canberra

Canberra was purpose-built as a compromise between rivals Sydney and Melbourne.

**Q3 (200 PTS) — According to the United Nations, which country became the most populous on Earth in 2023?**

Answer: India

India overtook China in 2023, with a population passing 1.43 billion people.

**Q4 (200 PTS) — The Danube flows through which capital city, famed as the home of the waltz?**

Answer: Vienna

Vienna is one of four capitals on the Danube — the others are Bratislava, Budapest and Belgrade.

**Q5 (100 PTS) — Which is the largest hot desert in the world?**

Answer: The Sahara

At about 9.2 million square kilometres, the Sahara is almost the size of the entire United States.

**Q6 (150 PTS) — Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak, stands in which country?**

Answer: Tanzania

Its highest point, Uhuru Peak, rises 5,895 metres above sea level.

**Q7 (100 PTS) — Which country is also an entire continent by itself?**

Answer: Australia

Australia is the world's smallest continent and its sixth-largest country.

**Q8 (150 PTS) — What is the capital city of Canada?**

Answer: Ottawa

Queen Victoria chose Ottawa in 1857, partly because it sat safely between Toronto and Montreal.

**Q9 (150 PTS) — The Strait of Gibraltar separates southern Spain from which North African country?**
Answer: Morocco

At its narrowest point the strait is only about 14 kilometres wide.

**Q10 (100 PTS) — The Grand Canyon is carved into which US state?**
Answer: Arizona

The canyon is about 446 kilometres long and up to 1,857 metres deep.

**Q11 (100 PTS) — Reykjavik, the world's northernmost capital, belongs to which island nation?**
Answer: Iceland

Reykjavik runs almost entirely on geothermal and hydroelectric renewable energy.

**Q12 (150 PTS) — Which river is traditionally considered the longest in the world, at about 6,650 km?**
Answer: The Nile

The Amazon carries far more water, but the Nile is usually measured as the longest.

**Q13 (100 PTS) — What is the capital of Japan?**
Answer: Tokyo

Tokyo is the largest metropolitan economy in the world, home to over 37 million people in its metro area.

**Q14 (100 PTS) — Which is the smallest country in the world?**
Answer: Vatican City

At under half a square kilometre, it is smaller than many shopping malls — yet issues its own stamps and passports.

**Q15 (100 PTS) — The Eiffel Tower stands in which city?**
Answer: Paris

It was meant to be temporary, built for the 1889 World's Fair, and was nearly scrapped in 1909.

**Q16 (100 PTS) — Which river flows through the centre of London?**
Answer: The River Thames

The Thames is 346 km long and was once so polluted it was declared biologically dead in 1957.

**Q17 (150 PTS) — Mount Everest lies on the border of Nepal and which other country?**
Answer: China (Tibet)

Everest grows about 4 millimetres taller every year as tectonic plates keep colliding.

**Q18 (150 PTS) — What is the capital of Brazil?**
Answer: Brasilia

Brasilia was built from scratch in just 41 months and inaugurated in 1960.

**Q19 (100 PTS) — Which country has the largest land area in the world?**
Answer: Russia

Russia covers about one-eighth of the world's inhabited land and spans 11 time zones.

**Q20 (150 PTS) — The Panama Canal connects which two oceans?**
Answer: The Atlantic and the Pacific

Ships save a journey of some 13,000 km around South America by using the canal.

**Q21 (250 PTS) — Which African country was formerly known as Abyssinia?**
Answer: Ethiopia

Ethiopia is the only African country never formally colonised, and uses its own calendar with 13 months.

**Q22 (100 PTS) — What is the longest river in South America?**
Answer: The Amazon

The Amazon discharges more water than the next seven largest rivers combined.

**Q23 (100 PTS) — Which US state is nicknamed the Sunshine State?**
Answer: Florida

Florida was given the nickname officially in 1970 — and earns it with some 230 sunny days a year.

**Q24 (200 PTS) — The Great Barrier Reef lies off the coast of which Australian state?**
Answer: Queensland

The reef is the largest living structure on Earth — big enough to be seen from space.

**Q25 (100 PTS) — What is the capital of Egypt?**
Answer: Cairo

Cairo is the largest city of the Arab world and sits a short drive from the pyramids of Giza.

**Q26 (100 PTS) — Kangaroos are native to which country?**
Answer: Australia

There are roughly twice as many kangaroos in Australia as there are people.

**Q27 (100 PTS) — Which is the largest ocean on Earth?**
Answer: The Pacific Ocean

The Pacific covers more area than all of Earth's land combined.

**Q28 (200 PTS) — The city of Istanbul straddles which two continents?**
Answer: Europe and Asia

The Bosphorus Strait splits the city in two — you can breakfast in Asia and lunch in Europe.

**Q29 (100 PTS) — What is the capital of Spain?**
Answer: Madrid

Madrid is Europe's highest capital city, sitting about 650 metres above sea level.

**Q30 (100 PTS) — Which is the coldest continent on Earth?**
Answer: Antarctica

It holds about 70% of the planet's fresh water, locked up as ice.

**Q31 (100 PTS) — Which capital city is home to the ancient Colosseum?**
Answer: Rome

The Colosseum could hold around 50,000 spectators — and was sometimes flooded to stage sea battles.

**Q32 (250 PTS) — Which country has more natural lakes than any other on Earth?**
Answer: Canada

Estimates suggest Canada holds over 60% of the world's lakes.

**Q33 (150 PTS) — What is the largest island in the world?**
Answer: Greenland

Australia is bigger, but it counts as a continent — Greenland takes the island title.

**Q34 (100 PTS) — Which US state is nicknamed the Lone Star State?**
Answer: Texas

The lone star recalls Texas's decade as an independent republic, 1836 to 1845.

**Q35 (250 PTS) — Angel Falls, the world's tallest waterfall, is located in which country?**
Answer: Venezuela

The falls drop 979 metres — so high that much of the water evaporates before reaching the bottom.

**Q36 (150 PTS) — What is the capital of Argentina?**
Answer: Buenos Aires

Buenos Aires has more bookshops per person than any other city in the world.

**Q37 (100 PTS) — Which European country is famously shaped like a boot?**
Answer: Italy

The 'boot' kicks the triangular 'ball' of Sicily across the Mediterranean.

**Q38 (100 PTS) — Mount Fuji is the highest mountain of which country?**
Answer: Japan

Fuji last erupted in 1707 and is still classified as an active volcano.

**Q39 (300 PTS) — The Strait of Malacca separates Malaysia from which large Indonesian island?**
Answer: Sumatra

It is one of the world's busiest shipping lanes, carrying about a quarter of global traded goods.

**Q40 (150 PTS) — What is the smallest US state by land area?**
Answer: Rhode Island

You could fit Rhode Island inside Alaska more than 400 times over.

**Q41 (250 PTS) — The Victoria Falls lie on which African river?**
Answer: The Zambezi

The falls form the largest sheet of falling water in the world, over 1.7 km wide.

**Q42 (100 PTS) — Cape Town is a major city of which country?**
Answer: South Africa

South Africa has three capitals: Cape Town (legislative), Pretoria (executive) and Bloemfontein (judicial).

**Q43 (200 PTS) — Which country has the longest coastline in the world?**
Answer: Canada

Counting its Arctic islands, Canada's coastline runs over 200,000 kilometres.

**Q44 (150 PTS) — What is the capital of New Zealand?**
Answer: Wellington

Wellington is the world's southernmost capital city — and one of the windiest.

**Q45 (100 PTS) — Which sea separates Europe from Africa?**
Answer: The Mediterranean Sea

Its name comes from Latin for 'sea in the middle of the land'.

**Q46 (250 PTS) — The Atacama, one of the driest deserts on Earth, lies mainly in which country?**
Answer: Chile

Some parts of the Atacama went roughly 400 years without recorded rain.

**Q47 (150 PTS) — Which island nation off Africa's southeast coast is famous for its lemurs?**

Answer: Madagascar

About 90% of Madagascar's wildlife exists nowhere else on Earth.

**Q48 (100 PTS) — What is the capital of South Korea?**

Answer: Seoul

Nearly half of South Korea's population lives in the Seoul metropolitan area.

**Q49 (200 PTS) — Which mountain range separates France from Spain?**

Answer: The Pyrenees

The tiny country of Andorra sits entirely within the Pyrenees.

**Q50 (200 PTS) — Lake Baikal, the deepest lake in the world, is in which country?**

Answer: Russia

Baikal holds about a fifth of the world's fresh surface water — more than all the US Great Lakes combined.

**Q51 (100 PTS) — Which country's flag features a red maple leaf?**

Answer: Canada

The flag was adopted in 1965 after a famous nationwide design debate.

## ROUND 6 — MUSIC & AUDIO RIFFS

**Q1 (100 PTS) — Which band released the album 'Abbey Road' in 1969?**
Answer: The Beatles

The cover photo of the zebra crossing was taken in about ten minutes outside EMI Studios.

**Q2 (200 PTS) — How many keys are there on a standard modern piano?**
Answer: 88

52 white keys and 36 black keys — a range of just over seven octaves.

**Q3 (150 PTS) — Which deaf-in-old-age composer wrote the famous 'Moonlight Sonata'?**
Answer: Ludwig van Beethoven

Beethoven never called it that — the nickname came from a critic writing after his death.

**Q4 (250 PTS) — A 'luthier' is a craftsman who builds and repairs which instruments?**
Answer: Stringed instruments (violins, guitars and their family)

The word comes from 'luth', French for lute.

**Q5 (100 PTS) — Which singer is universally known as the 'Queen of Pop'?**
Answer: Madonna

Madonna is the best-selling female recording artist of all time.

**Q6 (150 PTS) — In 4/4 time, a whole note (semibreve) is held for how many beats?**
Answer: Four beats

A whole note fills the entire bar in 4/4 — hence the name.

**Q7 (100 PTS) — Chart-topping quartet ABBA came from which country?**
Answer: Sweden

ABBA won Eurovision in 1974 with 'Waterloo', launching their global career.

**Q8 (150 PTS) — What was Elvis Presley's famous Memphis mansion called?**
Answer: Graceland

Graceland is one of the most visited houses in America, second only to the White House.

**Q9 (150 PTS) — Rapper Eminem performs his angrier alter ego under what name?**
Answer: Slim Shady

'The Slim Shady LP' of 1999 made Eminem a superstar — and thoroughly infamous.

**Q10 (100 PTS) — How many strings does a standard acoustic or electric guitar have?**
Answer: Six

The standard tuning, low to high, is E–A–D–G–B–E.

**Q11 (300 PTS) — The tune of 'Happy Birthday' was first published in 1893 under what title?**
Answer: 'Good Morning to All'

Sisters Patty and Mildred Hill wrote it as a classroom greeting song.

**Q12 (250 PTS) — Before a concert, which orchestral instrument traditionally plays the note A for everyone to tune to?**
Answer: The oboe

The oboe's piercing tone cuts through the whole orchestra, making it easy to hear.

**Q13 (150 PTS) — How many symphonies did Beethoven compose?**
Answer: Nine

His Ninth, premiered when he was almost completely deaf, gave us the 'Ode to Joy'.

**Q14 (300 PTS) — Which instrument has 47 strings and seven pedals in its full concert form?**
Answer: The harp

Each pedal has three positions, letting one harp play in any key.

**Q15 (100 PTS) — Who is universally known as the 'King of Rock and Roll'?**
Answer: Elvis Presley

Presley had 18 US number-one singles and starred in 31 films.

**Q16 (100 PTS) — Which singer released the album 'Thriller' in 1982?**
Answer: Michael Jackson

'Thriller' remains the best-selling album of all time, with over 70 million copies sold.

**Q17 (200 PTS) — What is the lowest-pitched instrument in a standard string quartet?**
Answer: The cello

A string quartet is two violins, a viola and one cello.

**Q18 (100 PTS) — The song 'Bohemian Rhapsody' is by which band?**
Answer: Queen

Record executives said the nearly six-minute song would never get radio play. It topped the charts twice.

**Q19 (200 PTS) — Which Italian composer wrote the violin concertos known as 'The Four Seasons'?**

Answer: Antonio Vivaldi

Vivaldi wrote the concertos around 1720 and published them with matching sonnets about each season.

**Q20 (150 PTS) — In 4/4 time, a half note (minim) lasts for how many beats?**

Answer: Two beats

Exactly half of a whole note — the name gives it away.

**Q21 (200 PTS) — The tango originated in the working-class districts of which capital city?**

Answer: Buenos Aires (Argentina)

UNESCO lists the tango as part of the world's Intangible Cultural Heritage.

**Q22 (150 PTS) — Which band recorded the 1973 album 'The Dark Side of the Moon'?**

Answer: Pink Floyd

The album spent a record 900-plus weeks on the Billboard 200 chart.

**Q23 (200 PTS) — What is a group of exactly eight musicians called?**

Answer: An octet

Four is a quartet, five a quintet — Latin counting runs through chamber music.

**Q24 (100 PTS) — Which pop superstar is known to her fans as 'Queen Bey'?**

Answer: Beyonce

Beyonce is the most awarded artist in Grammy history, with over 30 wins.

**Q25 (250 PTS) — The finale of Rossini's 'William Tell Overture' became famous as the theme of which TV hero?**

Answer: The Lone Ranger

The galloping finale has signalled heroic horseback rides in cartoons ever since.

**Q26 (100 PTS) — How many strings does a standard violin have?**

Answer: Four

They are tuned in fifths: G, D, A and E.

**Q27 (250 PTS) — Which German composer wrote the epic opera cycle 'The Ring of the Nibelung'?**

Answer: Richard Wagner

The full Ring cycle runs about 15 hours across four operas.

**Q28 (150 PTS) — What does 'a cappella' mean in music?**
Answer: Singing without instrumental accompaniment

The Italian phrase means 'in the manner of the chapel'.

**Q29 (200 PTS) — Which jazz trumpeter and singer was nicknamed 'Satchmo'?**
Answer: Louis Armstrong

The nickname came from 'Satchel Mouth', shortened over his early career.

**Q30 (100 PTS) — The Beatles were formed in which English city?**
Answer: Liverpool

Before settling on The Beatles, the band played as The Quarrymen and The Silver Beetles.

**Q31 (250 PTS) — Which instrument is traditionally nicknamed the 'king of instruments'?**
Answer: The organ (pipe organ)

Mozart himself used the title — the largest pipe organs have over 30,000 pipes.

**Q32 (200 PTS) — Who composed the ballet 'The Nutcracker'?**
Answer: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Tchaikovsky disliked the score at first; it is now the most performed ballet in the world.

**Q33 (100 PTS) — What word describes the words of a song, as opposed to its melody?**
Answer: Lyrics

The word comes from the lyre, the instrument that accompanied sung poetry in ancient Greece.

**Q34 (100 PTS) — Which singer's fanbase call themselves 'Swifties'?**
Answer: Taylor Swift

Swift's Eras Tour became the highest-grossing concert tour of all time.

**Q35 (150 PTS) — Which brass instrument changes pitch with a slide instead of valves?**
Answer: The trombone

'Trombone' is Italian for 'large trumpet' — its slide gives it seven basic positions.

**Q36 (250 PTS) — The opera 'Carmen' was written by which French composer?**
Answer: Georges Bizet

Bizet died three months after the premiere, never knowing 'Carmen' would conquer the world.

**Q37 (200 PTS) — Hip hop was born in the 1970s in which New York City borough?**

Answer: The Bronx

DJ Kool Herc's 1973 back-to-school party in the Bronx is widely counted as hip hop's birthplace.

**Q38 (100 PTS) — What do we call a slow, sentimental song, often about love?**

Answer: A ballad

Ballads began as narrative folk songs sung for centuries before they were ever written down.

**Q39 (300 PTS) — Which Mozart opera features the Queen of the Night and her famously high aria?**

Answer: The Magic Flute

The Queen's aria reaches one of the highest notes in all opera — a top F.

**Q40 (100 PTS) — How many musicians perform in a string quartet?**

Answer: Four

Two violinists, one violist and one cellist — Haydn effectively invented the format.

**Q41 (150 PTS) — Which American band sang the 1977 classic 'Hotel California'?**

Answer: Eagles

'Hotel California' won the Grammy for Record of the Year in 1978.

**Q42 (200 PTS) — The tempo marking 'allegro' instructs musicians to play how?**

Answer: Fast and brightly

Allegro is Italian for 'cheerful' — the opposite end of the scale from the slow 'adagio'.

**Q43 (100 PTS) — Which Caribbean country gave the world reggae and Bob Marley?**

Answer: Jamaica

Reggae was added to UNESCO's cultural heritage list in 2018.

**Q44 (100 PTS) — A 'duet' is a piece performed by how many musicians?**

Answer: Two

Duet for two performers; a piece for two pianists at one piano is a special favourite of the form.

**Q45 (250 PTS) — Which Polish-French composer is celebrated as the 'poet of the piano'?**

Answer: Frederic Chopin

Chopin wrote almost exclusively for the piano — and transformed what the instrument could express.

**Q46 (200 PTS) — Which large tuned drums, also called kettledrums, anchor the orchestra's percussion section?**

Answer: Timpani

A timpanist tunes each drum with a pedal, mid-performance, by ear.

**Q47 (200 PTS) — The 1985 charity supergroup USA for Africa recorded which single?**

Answer: We Are the World

Written by Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie, it raised over $60 million for famine relief.

**Q48 (250 PTS) — Roughly how many symphonies did Mozart compose?**

Answer: Over 40 (41 are numbered)

Mozart wrote his first symphony at eight years old and his last, the 'Jupiter', at 32.

**Q49 (300 PTS) — The saxophone was invented in the 1840s by Adolphe Sax, a maker from which country?**

Answer: Belgium

Sax patented the saxophone in Paris in 1846, aiming to bridge brass and woodwind.

**Q50 (100 PTS) — What genre of music is most associated with Nashville and Johnny Cash?**

Answer: Country music

Nashville's Grand Ole Opry, founded in 1925, is the longest-running radio show in US history.

**Q51 (200 PTS) — Which note value, also called a crotchet in British terms, gets one beat in 4/4?**

Answer: The quarter note

Four quarter notes fill a 4/4 bar — hence the name.

## ROUND 7 — SPORTS & EPIC CHAMPIONS

**Q1 (100 PTS) — How often are the Summer Olympic Games held?**
Answer: Every four years

The modern Games began in Athens in 1896; the four-year cycle is called an Olympiad.

**Q2 (150 PTS) — Which national team has won the FIFA World Cup the most times?**
Answer: Brazil

Brazil has five titles — 1958, 1962, 1970, 1994 and 2002 — and has played in every World Cup.

**Q3 (100 PTS) — In tennis scoring, what is a score of zero points called?**
Answer: Love

The term may come from the French 'l'oeuf' — the egg — describing the shape of a zero.

**Q4 (100 PTS) — How many players from one basketball team are on the court at the same time?**
Answer: Five

Five on court, with squads typically carrying up to twelve players on game day.

**Q5 (100 PTS) — Which heavyweight champion, born Cassius Clay, called himself simply 'The Greatest'?**
Answer: Muhammad Ali

Ali won the world heavyweight title three times across three different decades.

**Q6 (100 PTS) — In golf, a score of one stroke under par on a hole is called what?**
Answer: A birdie

Two under par is an eagle; one over par is a bogey.

**Q7 (150 PTS) — Which swimmer is the most decorated Olympian in history, with 28 medals?**
Answer: Michael Phelps

Phelps won 23 golds — more than most countries have managed in total.

**Q8 (100 PTS) — The Super Bowl decides the champion of which American sports league?**
Answer: The NFL (National Football League)

Super Bowl Sunday is one of the most-watched television events on Earth.

**Q9 (100 PTS) — Excluding stoppage and extra time, a standard association football match lasts how long?**

Answer: 90 minutes

Two halves of 45 minutes, with a 15-minute half-time break.

**Q10 (150 PTS) — The sport of badminton is played over a net with what feathered projectile?**

Answer: A shuttlecock

A shuttlecock's feathers come traditionally from the left wing of a goose.

**Q11 (200 PTS) — Usain Bolt's 100 metres world record, set in Berlin in 2009, stands at what time?**

Answer: 9.58 seconds

Bolt's record has survived more than a decade and a half of challengers.

**Q12 (100 PTS) — Which bat-and-ball sport is played on a diamond with four bases?**

Answer: Baseball

The four bases — home, first, second and third — form the diamond.

**Q13 (100 PTS) — How many rings appear on the Olympic flag?**

Answer: Five

The five rings represent the inhabited continents, and their colours appear in every national flag.

**Q14 (100 PTS) — In which sport would a player perform a slam dunk?**

Answer: Basketball

The dunk was banned in US college basketball from 1967 to 1976 — partly thanks to Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's dominance.

**Q15 (150 PTS) — Which country is credited with inventing golf, centred on St Andrews?**

Answer: Scotland

Golf was so popular that Scotland's parliament banned it in 1457 for distracting men from archery practice.

**Q16 (200 PTS) — To the nearest whole number, how many kilometres long is a marathon?**

Answer: 42 kilometres (42.195 km)

The odd distance was standardised at the 1908 London Olympics so the race could finish at the royal box.

**Q17 (100 PTS) — Which tennis tournament is played on grass at the All England Club?**
Answer: Wimbledon

Wimbledon began in 1877 and still insists on a strict all-white dress code for players.

**Q18 (100 PTS) — In American football, how many points is a touchdown worth?**
Answer: Six points

Add the extra-point kick and a scoring drive usually yields seven.

**Q19 (100 PTS) — Which heavyweight boxer was nicknamed 'Iron Mike'?**
Answer: Mike Tyson

Tyson became the youngest heavyweight champion in history at just 20 years old.

**Q20 (200 PTS) — Which nation won the very first FIFA World Cup in 1930?**
Answer: Uruguay

Uruguay hosted and won the tournament, beating Argentina 4-2 in the final.

**Q21 (100 PTS) — How many holes are played in a standard round of golf?**
Answer: 18

The 18-hole standard also comes from St Andrews, whose course settled at 18 holes in 1764.

**Q22 (100 PTS) — Which sport uses the terms 'strike' and 'spare'?**
Answer: Tenpin bowling

A perfect game of 12 straight strikes scores exactly 300.

**Q23 (100 PTS) — In ice hockey, what is the small rubber disc called?**
Answer: A puck

Game pucks are frozen before matches to stop them bouncing on the ice.

**Q24 (150 PTS) — Which gymnast, with multiple skills named after her, is widely considered the greatest of all time?**
Answer: Simone Biles

Biles has more World Championship medals than any gymnast in history, male or female.

**Q25 (150 PTS) — The Tour de France traditionally finishes in which city?**
Answer: Paris (on the Champs-Elysees)

The final stage has ended on the Champs-Elysees every year since 1975.

**Q26 (200 PTS) — How many players does a rugby union team field at once?**
Answer: 15

Fifteen a side, from the loosehead prop (number 1) to the fullback (number 15).

**Q27 (150 PTS) — Karate developed on the island of Okinawa, part of which country?**
Answer: Japan

'Karate' means 'empty hand' — a fighting art built for the unarmed.

**Q28 (150 PTS) — In darts, what is the highest possible score with three darts?**
Answer: 180

Three triple-twenties — the commentator's famous cry of 'One hundred and eighty!'

**Q29 (250 PTS) — In an Olympic individual medley, which stroke is swum first?**
Answer: Butterfly

The medley order is butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke, freestyle.

**Q30 (200 PTS) — The Ashes is a historic cricket series between England and which country?**
Answer: Australia

The rivalry began in 1882, named for a mock obituary of English cricket printed in a newspaper.

**Q31 (100 PTS) — In baseball, a batter who strikes out has accumulated how many strikes?**
Answer: Three strikes

'Three strikes and you're out' passed from baseball into everyday language — and US law.

**Q32 (200 PTS) — Which two drivers share the record of seven Formula 1 world championships?**
Answer: Michael Schumacher and Lewis Hamilton

Schumacher set the mark in 2004; Hamilton equalled it in 2020.

**Q33 (150 PTS) — Japan's national sport features wrestlers, called rikishi, grappling in a clay ring called a dohyo. What is it?**
Answer: Sumo wrestling

Sumo's rituals — salt throwing, leg stomps — descend from ancient Shinto ceremonies.

**Q34 (100 PTS) — How many players of one volleyball team are on the court at a time?**
Answer: Six

Teams rotate clockwise every time they win back the serve.

**Q35 (100 PTS) — Which chess piece is the only one that can jump over other pieces?**
Answer: The knight

The knight's L-shaped leap makes it the trickiest piece for beginners to track.

**Q36 (150 PTS) — The Stanley Cup is the championship trophy of which sport?**
Answer: Ice hockey (the NHL)

Donated in 1893, the Stanley Cup is the oldest trophy still contested in North American pro sport.

**Q37 (150 PTS) — How many events make up a decathlon?**
Answer: Ten

Four runs, three jumps and three throws across two days decide the 'world's greatest athlete'.

**Q38 (250 PTS) — The Olympic motto 'Citius, Altius, Fortius' translates into English as what?**
Answer: Faster, Higher, Stronger

In 2021 the IOC added a fourth word: 'Communiter' — Together.

**Q39 (200 PTS) — In snooker, how many points is the black ball worth?**
Answer: Seven

The black is the most valuable ball; a maximum break totals 147 points.

**Q40 (300 PTS) — What is the only sport to have been played on the Moon?**
Answer: Golf

Apollo 14 astronaut Alan Shepard smuggled a club head aboard and hit two shots in 1971.

**Q41 (250 PTS) — In which sport do athletes perform the 'Fosbury Flop'?**
Answer: High jump (athletics)

Dick Fosbury's backwards technique, mocked in 1968, won Olympic gold and replaced every older style.

**Q42 (200 PTS) — The America's Cup, first contested in 1851, is a trophy in which sport?**
Answer: Sailing (yachting)

It is the oldest international trophy in world sport — older than the modern Olympics.

**Q43 (150 PTS) — Taekwondo originates from which country?**
Answer: Korea

Its name breaks down as 'the way of foot and fist'; it became an Olympic sport in 2000.

**Q44 (100 PTS) — What colour jersey does the overall leader wear in the Tour de France?**
Answer: Yellow (the maillot jaune)

The yellow jersey was introduced in 1919 so crowds could spot the leader easily.

**Q45 (150 PTS) — How many players does a cricket team have on the field?**
Answer: Eleven

All eleven field, but only two bat at a time — cricket's enduring oddity.

**Q46 (100 PTS) — Curling matches are played on what surface?**
Answer: Ice

Curlers sweep the ice to melt a microscopic layer, steering the 20-kilogram stone.

**Q47 (100 PTS) — In boxing, what does the abbreviation 'KO' stand for?**
Answer: Knockout

A technical knockout, TKO, is when the referee or corner stops the fight instead.

**Q48 (150 PTS) — Which Grand Slam tennis tournament is played on clay courts at Roland Garros?**
Answer: The French Open

Rafael Nadal won the title a staggering 14 times, earning the nickname 'King of Clay'.

**Q49 (300 PTS) — A basketball hoop's rim has what diameter, in inches?**
Answer: 18 inches

Exactly twice the diameter of the ball — which is why perfect shots can still rattle out.

**Q50 (150 PTS) — Which country has won the most Olympic medals of all time?**
Answer: The United States

The US total across Summer and Winter Games stands well beyond 2,900 medals.

**Q51 (300 PTS) — Of fencing's three weapons — foil, sabre and epee — which is the heaviest?**
Answer: The epee

The epee is also the only weapon with no right-of-way rules: first light wins the point.

## ROUND 8 — FOOD, DRINK & CULINARY SECRETS

**Q1 (200 PTS) — Which European nation officially consumes the most beer per capita in the entire world?**

Answer: Czech Republic (Czechia)

Consuming over 180 liters per person annually, holding the global #1 spot for over 30 years.

**Q2 (250 PTS) — The world's most expensive spice, saffron, is harvested from which flower?**

Answer: The crocus

Saffron threads are the dried stigmas of Crocus sativus — it takes about 150 flowers for one gram.

**Q3 (100 PTS) — What is the principal ingredient of a proper guacamole?**

Answer: Avocado

Traditional Mexican guacamole adds lime, salt, onion, chilli and coriander to mashed avocado.

**Q4 (200 PTS) — Which country drinks the most coffee per person in the world?**

Answer: Finland

The average Finn drinks around four cups of coffee a day.

**Q5 (150 PTS) — Tofu is made by curdling the milk of which bean?**

Answer: The soybean

Tofu originated in China over 2,000 years ago and spread across Asia with Buddhism.

**Q6 (250 PTS) — Green tea and black tea come from the same plant — what process makes black tea different?**

Answer: Oxidation of the leaves

Both come from Camellia sinensis; black tea leaves are fully oxidised, green tea leaves are not.

**Q7 (100 PTS) — According to the proverb, eating one of which fruit 'a day' keeps the doctor away?**

Answer: An apple

The saying began in 19th-century Wales: 'Eat an apple on going to bed...'

**Q8 (250 PTS) — The ancestor of the croissant, the kipferl, comes from which country — France's famous pastry is an import!**

Answer: Austria

Viennese bakers made the kipferl for centuries before it was refined in Paris as the croissant.

**Q9 (250 PTS) — True wasabi is a relative of which sharp-tasting Western condiment root?**

Answer: Horseradish

Both are in the brassica family — most 'wasabi' outside Japan is actually dyed horseradish.

**Q10 (100 PTS) — What is the maximum number of Michelin stars a single restaurant can hold?**

Answer: Three

Michelin's own words: three stars mean 'exceptional cuisine, worth a special journey'.

**Q11 (150 PTS) — A classic Ferrero Rocher chocolate wraps its wafer around which nut?**

Answer: A hazelnut

Each Rocher contains a whole roasted hazelnut inside its chocolate shell.

**Q12 (150 PTS) — Which Italian city is credited as the birthplace of modern pizza?**

Answer: Naples

Neapolitan pizza is protected by UNESCO-listed traditional methods and an official association.

**Q13 (100 PTS) — What is the main ingredient in hummus?**

Answer: Chickpeas

Chickpeas, tahini, lemon and garlic — the Levant has argued over the perfect ratio for centuries.

**Q14 (200 PTS) — Which famously pungent fruit is called the 'king of fruits' in Southeast Asia and banned in many hotels?**

Answer: Durian

Its smell has been described as almonds, onions and gym socks — airlines ban it from cabins.

**Q15 (100 PTS) — Sushi originates from which country?**

Answer: Japan

Sushi began as a preservation method: fish fermented in rice, which was originally thrown away.

**Q16 (250 PTS) — Eclairs and profiteroles are both made from which type of pastry?**

Answer: Choux pastry

Choux relies on steam, not yeast, to puff its hollow shells.

**Q17 (200 PTS) — Which country typically produces the most wine in the world by volume, trading the lead with France?**
Answer: Italy

Italy and France swap first place depending on the harvest; Spain is usually third.

**Q18 (150 PTS) — After water, what is the most widely consumed drink in the world?**
Answer: Tea

All true teas — black, green, oolong, white — come from one plant: Camellia sinensis.

**Q19 (100 PTS) — A 'sommelier' is a trained expert in what?**
Answer: Wine

The word once meant the officer in charge of provisions and pack animals at a French court.

**Q20 (150 PTS) — Which nut is the base of marzipan?**
Answer: Almonds

Ground almonds and sugar — Lubeck and Toledo both claim to have perfected it.

**Q21 (250 PTS) — What gives black pudding its dark colour and much of its protein?**
Answer: Blood (traditionally pig's blood)

Versions of blood sausage exist on every continent, from Spanish morcilla to Korean sundae.

**Q22 (200 PTS) — Which spice was once so valuable it was nicknamed 'black gold' and accepted as payment for rent?**
Answer: Black pepper

Pepper was literally worth its weight in gold in medieval Europe — ransom demands were paid in it.

**Q23 (250 PTS) — The Caesar salad was invented in the 1920s in which country?**
Answer: Mexico (in Tijuana, by Caesar Cardini)

Italian immigrant Cardini improvised it on a busy 4th of July — it contains no anchovies in the original.

**Q24 (100 PTS) — What is the star ingredient of a traditional Swiss fondue?**
Answer: Melted cheese

Gruyere and Emmental, melted with white wine and eaten with bread on long forks.

**Q25 (250 PTS) — The jam layer of a traditional Bakewell tart is made from which berry?**

Answer: Raspberry

The tart comes from Bakewell in Derbyshire — legend says it began as a cook's happy mistake.

**Q26 (150 PTS) — What does the Italian cooking term 'al dente' literally instruct?**

Answer: 'To the tooth' — pasta firm to the bite

Properly al dente pasta keeps a tiny white core of uncooked starch at its centre.

**Q27 (150 PTS) — The Mojito cocktail originates from which Caribbean country?**

Answer: Cuba

Havana's mint-and-rum highball was a favourite of Ernest Hemingway — or so the bars of Havana insist.

**Q28 (100 PTS) — Kimchi, the spicy fermented vegetable dish, comes from which country?**

Answer: Korea

Traditional kimchi is buried in clay pots to ferment through the winter; there are over 200 varieties.

**Q29 (150 PTS) — Sake, the Japanese rice wine, is brewed from which grain?**

Answer: Rice

Sake rice is polished down — the finest grades mill away 50% or more of each grain.

**Q30 (300 PTS) — As of recent records, which chilli pepper is officially the hottest in the world?**

Answer: Pepper X

Pepper X, certified in 2023, averages about 2.69 million Scoville units — hotter than police pepper spray.

**Q31 (100 PTS) — A 'baker's dozen' is how many items?**

Answer: 13

Medieval bakers added a thirteenth loaf to avoid punishment for selling short weight.

**Q32 (150 PTS) — Cavendish and Lady Finger are varieties of which fruit?**

Answer: Banana

The Cavendish accounts for about half of all bananas grown on Earth.

**Q33 (150 PTS) — Miso soup is built on miso, a paste fermented from which bean?**

Answer: Soybeans

Miso ferments for months to years; the oldest styles are aged like fine cheese.

**Q34 (250 PTS) — Which country drinks the most tea per person in the world?**

Answer: Turkey

The average Turk drinks over 1,300 cups a year, served in tulip-shaped glasses.

**Q35 (200 PTS) — Paella originates from which Spanish city and region?**

Answer: Valencia

True Valenciana paella uses rabbit, chicken and green beans — never chorizo, Valencians insist.

**Q36 (100 PTS) — Sauerkraut is made by fermenting which vegetable?**

Answer: Cabbage

Finely shredded cabbage plus salt: lactic fermentation does the rest over several weeks.

**Q37 (150 PTS) — Tequila is distilled from which desert plant?**

Answer: The blue agave

By law, tequila must be made in designated Mexican regions, chiefly Jalisco.

**Q38 (100 PTS) — A 'barista' crafts drinks in what kind of establishment?**

Answer: A coffee shop (espresso bar)

'Barista' is Italian for bartender — in Italy, they serve both coffee and alcohol.

**Q39 (100 PTS) — Which soft white cheese is traditional on a pizza Margherita?**

Answer: Mozzarella

The Margherita's red, white and green mirror the Italian flag — tomato, mozzarella, basil.

**Q40 (200 PTS) — What is the French term for a small appetiser, literally meaning 'outside the work'?**

Answer: Hors d'oeuvre

It was served to workers and guests outside the main body of the meal — hence the name.

**Q41 (100 PTS) — Prunes are the dried form of which fruit?**

Answer: Plums

In 2000, US prunes were officially rebranded as 'dried plums' to shake off their stuffy image.

**Q42 (250 PTS) — Kopi luwak, among the world's priciest coffees, is made from beans eaten and passed by which animal?**
Answer: The Asian palm civet

The beans ferment inside the civet, which producers claim mellows their bitterness.

**Q43 (100 PTS) — Which herb is the essential green base of a classic pesto?**
Answer: Basil

Pesto alla Genovese is protected by tradition: basil, pine nuts, Parmesan, garlic and olive oil.

**Q44 (200 PTS) — Which country is the world's largest producer of bananas?**
Answer: India

India grows over 30 million tonnes a year — though most are eaten at home, not exported.

**Q45 (150 PTS) — Which spirit takes its signature flavour from juniper berries?**
Answer: Gin

Juniper is the one botanical every gin must contain by law in most countries.

**Q46 (150 PTS) — Tempura, the light batter-frying technique, was introduced to Japan by traders from which country?**
Answer: Portugal

Portuguese missionaries brought the technique in the 16th century — even the name echoes Latin 'tempora'.

**Q47 (100 PTS) — What is the name of the Italian rice dish stirred slowly with stock until creamy?**
Answer: Risotto

Carnaroli rice, 'the king of rices', is prized for risotto because it holds its bite.

**Q48 (100 PTS) — Which vitamin are citrus fruits most famous for providing?**
Answer: Vitamin C

British sailors were nicknamed 'limeys' for the citrus issued to prevent scurvy.

**Q49 (100 PTS) — A traditional 'full English' breakfast features which cured pork, cut from the loin and back?**
Answer: Back bacon

Unlike streaky American bacon, back bacon includes a meaty loin eye.

**Q50 (250 PTS) — Sourdough bread gets its tang from fermentation by which organisms?**
Answer: Lactic acid bacteria and wild yeast

A sourdough 'starter' is a living culture — some bakeries keep starters over a century old.

**Q51 (200 PTS) — Which red grape is Bordeaux's most famous, blended classically with Merlot?**

Answer: Cabernet Sauvignon

Cabernet Sauvignon is itself a natural cross of Cabernet Franc and Sauvignon Blanc.

## ROUND 9 — LITERATURE & MYTHOLOGICAL BEASTS

**Q1 (100 PTS) — Who wrote the 1813 novel 'Pride and Prejudice'?**
Answer: Jane Austen

Austen published anonymously in her lifetime — the title page simply said 'By a Lady'.

**Q2 (150 PTS) — In Greek myth, which Titan stole fire from the gods and gave it to humanity?**
Answer: Prometheus

His punishment: to be chained to a rock while an eagle ate his ever-regenerating liver.

**Q3 (150 PTS) — The witches' chant 'Double, double, toil and trouble' opens Act IV of which Shakespeare play?**
Answer: Macbeth

Shakespeare's shortest tragedy is also surrounded by a real theatre superstition — 'the Scottish play'.

**Q4 (100 PTS) — A mythical creature with the torso of a human and the body of a horse is called what?**
Answer: A centaur

The wise centaur Chiron was tutor to Achilles and other Greek heroes.

**Q5 (100 PTS) — In Norse mythology, the hammer Mjölnir belongs to which god of thunder?**
Answer: Thor

Mjölnir was forged by the dwarf brothers Sindri and Brokkr.

**Q6 (150 PTS) — Which great American novel opens with the line 'Call me Ishmael'?**
Answer: Moby-Dick

Herman Melville's whaling epic of 1851 was a commercial flop in his lifetime.

**Q7 (150 PTS) — In Egyptian mythology, the god Anubis has the head of which animal?**
Answer: A jackal

Anubis presided over mummification and guided the dead to the afterlife.

**Q8 (150 PTS) — The epic poems 'The Iliad' and 'The Odyssey' are traditionally attributed to which ancient Greek poet?**
Answer: Homer

Whether one man or many composed them is a mystery scholars still debate — the 'Homeric Question'.

**Q9 (100 PTS) — Which Gorgon of Greek myth had living snakes in place of hair?**

Answer: Medusa

Looking directly at Medusa turned viewers to stone; Perseus killed her using a mirrored shield.

**Q10 (100 PTS) — Detective Sherlock Holmes lives at which famous (fictional) London address?**

Answer: 221B Baker Street

The address did not exist when Conan Doyle wrote — the museum there now answers fan mail.

**Q11 (100 PTS) — Which legendary bird cyclically rises, reborn, from its own ashes?**

Answer: The phoenix

In Greek tradition the phoenix lived for centuries before burning and renewing itself.

**Q12 (200 PTS) — Who wrote the landmark magical-realist novel 'One Hundred Years of Solitude'?**

Answer: Gabriel García Márquez

The Colombian author's masterpiece helped win him the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1982.

**Q13 (100 PTS) — Who wrote the tragedy 'Romeo and Juliet'?**

Answer: William Shakespeare

Shakespeare based it on an Italian tale — his lovers are just 13 and 17 years old in the play.

**Q14 (100 PTS) — In Greek myth, who flew too close to the sun on wings of feathers and wax?**

Answer: Icarus

His father Daedalus built the wings and warned him about both the sun and the sea spray.

**Q15 (150 PTS) — Which Dickens novel opens: 'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times'?**

Answer: A Tale of Two Cities

Set in London and Paris during the French Revolution, it is among the best-selling novels ever.

**Q16 (100 PTS) — What is the name of the great lion in C.S. Lewis's Narnia books?**

Answer: Aslan

'Aslan' is simply the Turkish word for lion.

**Q17 (200 PTS) — In Norse mythology, what is the name of the immense world tree that connects the realms?**

Answer: Yggdrasil

A dragon gnaws its roots while an eagle watches from its crown — the tree holds all worlds between.

**Q18 (100 PTS) — Who wrote the 'Harry Potter' series?**

Answer: J.K. Rowling

Rowling wrote the first book as a struggling single mother; twelve publishers rejected it.

**Q19 (150 PTS) — Which Greek hero slew the Minotaur inside the Labyrinth of Crete?**

Answer: Theseus

Ariadne's ball of thread let him retrace his steps out of the maze.

**Q20 (100 PTS) — The dystopian novel '1984', with its watcher Big Brother, was written by whom?**

Answer: George Orwell

Orwell wrote it in 1948 — swapping the last two digits gave him his grim future date.

**Q21 (200 PTS) — In Egyptian myth, which goddess gathered and restored the body of her husband Osiris?**

Answer: Isis

Isis became the model of the devoted wife and mother across the ancient world.

**Q22 (100 PTS) — Which author created the Belgian detective Hercule Poirot?**

Answer: Agatha Christie

Poirot appeared in 33 novels — Christie grew to dislike him but kept him for the readers.

**Q23 (100 PTS) — What is the popular nickname of the creature said to inhabit Scotland's Loch Ness?**

Answer: Nessie (the Loch Ness Monster)

The loch is so deep and murky that all of England and Wales's lakes could fit inside it.

**Q24 (100 PTS) — In Greek mythology, who is the goddess of wisdom and warfare, born from Zeus's head?**

Answer: Athena

Athens took her name after she won the city with the gift of the olive tree.

**Q25 (150 PTS) — Which 1818 novel tells of Victor, a scientist, and the Creature he assembles?**

Answer: Frankenstein

Mary Shelley wrote it at 18, during a ghost-story contest with Lord Byron and her husband Percy.

**Q26 (250 PTS) — The Hindu epic 'Mahabharata' contains which sacred dialogue between Arjuna and Krishna?**

Answer: The Bhagavad Gita

The Gita's 700 verses are set on a battlefield, in the moments before the war begins.

**Q27 (100 PTS) — Who wrote 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland'?**

Answer: Lewis Carroll

Carroll — real name Charles Dodgson — was an Oxford mathematics lecturer.

**Q28 (150 PTS) — The Roman god of war, Mars, corresponds to which Greek god?**

Answer: Ares

The Greeks disliked chaotic Ares; Rome elevated Mars to father of Romulus and patron of soldiers.

**Q29 (150 PTS) — Which Bronte sister wrote 'Jane Eyre'?**

Answer: Charlotte Bronte

She published as 'Currer Bell' to hide that the author was a woman.

**Q30 (150 PTS) — In 'Charlotte's Web', what kind of animal is Charlotte, who writes words to save a pig?**

Answer: A spider

Her web-words — 'Some Pig', 'Terrific' — save Wilbur from the smokehouse.

**Q31 (250 PTS) — In the original Greek story, Pandora opened not a box but what container, releasing the world's evils?**

Answer: A jar (a pithos)

A mistranslation by Erasmus turned the jar into a box — and the box stuck for 500 years.

**Q32 (100 PTS) — Who wrote 'The Hobbit' and 'The Lord of the Rings'?**

Answer: J.R.R. Tolkien

Tolkien began with one line, scribbled on an exam paper: 'In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit.'

**Q33 (100 PTS) — Which legendary British king is said to have wielded the sword Excalibur?**

Answer: King Arthur

In some tales Excalibur comes from the Lady of the Lake; in others, from the stone.

**Q34 (200 PTS) — In Japanese folklore, the shape-shifting kitsune takes the form of which animal?**

Answer: A fox

Kitsune grow extra tails as they age — the wisest are said to have nine.

**Q35 (150 PTS) — Which American poet wrote the gothic classic 'The Raven' (1845)?**

Answer: Edgar Allan Poe

Poe was paid just $9 for the poem that made him famous overnight.

**Q36 (100 PTS) — Aphrodite, Greek goddess of love, has which Roman counterpart?**

Answer: Venus

The planet Venus keeps her Roman name, as do all the planets — a Roman sweep of the sky.

**Q37 (200 PTS) — In 'The Great Gatsby', who narrates the story of Jay Gatsby?**

Answer: Nick Carraway

Nick is both insider and outsider — Gatsby's neighbour, cousin to Daisy, and the reader's conscience.

**Q38 (100 PTS) — A mythical creature that is half human and half fish is called what?**

Answer: A mermaid (or merman)

Sailors' mermaid sightings are now widely blamed on manatees and dugongs.

**Q39 (200 PTS) — Ray Bradbury's dystopia about book-burning is named for the temperature at which paper burns. What is it?**

Answer: Fahrenheit 451

Bradbury wrote the novel on a rented typewriter in a library basement, for $9.80 in dimes.

**Q40 (100 PTS) — In Norse myth, which shape-shifting trickster god is Thor's frequent companion?**

Answer: Loki

Loki is by turns the gods' cleverest helper and the architect of their doom at Ragnarok.

**Q41 (150 PTS) — Which ancient Greek storyteller is credited with fables like 'The Tortoise and the Hare'?**

Answer: Aesop

Whether one man or a tradition, 'Aesop' has fronted talking-animal wisdom for 2,500 years.

**Q42 (150 PTS) — The 1897 novel 'Dracula' was written by whom?**

Answer: Bram Stoker

Stoker researched Transylvanian folklore for years — but never actually visited Romania.

**Q43 (100 PTS) — In Egyptian mythology, the sun god travels the sky in a boat. What is his name?**

Answer: Ra

Each night Ra sailed the underworld and battled the serpent Apophis to rise again at dawn.

**Q44 (100 PTS) — Which children's author wrote 'Matilda' and 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'?**

Answer: Roald Dahl

Dahl wrote in a garden shed he called his 'Gipsy House hut', in pencil, on yellow legal pads.

**Q45 (200 PTS) — What is the name of the one-eyed giant blinded by Odysseus and his men?**

Answer: Polyphemus (the Cyclops)

Odysseus gave his name as 'Nobody' — so the giant's cries that 'Nobody' hurt him brought no help.

**Q46 (200 PTS) — Who wrote the epic poem 'Paradise Lost'?**

Answer: John Milton

Milton composed the entire epic blind, dictating verses to his daughters and assistants each morning.

**Q47 (150 PTS) — In Arthurian legend, who was King Arthur's queen?**

Answer: Guinevere

Her love affair with Lancelot is the crack that eventually shatters Camelot.

**Q48 (150 PTS) — Which Russian author wrote the vast novel 'War and Peace'?**

Answer: Leo Tolstoy

Tolstoy's wife Sophia copied out the manuscript by hand at least seven times.

**Q49 (200 PTS) — The mythical city of gold hunted by Spanish conquistadors across South America was called what?**

Answer: El Dorado

The legend began with a real ritual: a Muisca king covered in gold dust, bathing in Lake Guatavita.

**Q50 (200 PTS) — Who wrote 'The Picture of Dorian Gray', his only novel?**

Answer: Oscar Wilde

Wilde's wittiest lines were used against him as evidence at his trial in 1895.

**Q51 (100 PTS) — In Greek myth, which hero was invulnerable everywhere except his heel?**

Answer: Achilles

His mother Thetis dipped him in the River Styx — holding him, fatally, by that heel.

## ROUND 10 — THE ULTIMATE HIGH-STAKES LIGHTNING ROUND

**Q1 (300 PTS) — What is the smallest prime number of all?**
Answer: 2

Two is also the only even prime number — every other even number divides by it.

**Q2 (400 PTS) — The chemical symbol 'W' stands for which metal?**
Answer: Tungsten

The W comes from its German name, Wolfram — which is why the symbol confuses everyone.

**Q3 (300 PTS) — In which year did the Berlin Wall fall?**
Answer: 1989

The wall fell on 9 November 1989, opening the way to German reunification the next year.

**Q4 (300 PTS) — What is the official currency of Japan?**
Answer: The yen

The yen was introduced in 1871 as part of Japan's Meiji-era modernisation.

**Q5 (300 PTS) — Which post-impressionist painter famously severed part of his own ear in 1888?**
Answer: Vincent van Gogh

Van Gogh sold almost nothing in his lifetime and died at just 37.

**Q6 (300 PTS) — How many sides does a dodecagon have?**
Answer: 12

A dodecagon: 'dodeca' means twelve in Greek.

**Q7 (300 PTS) — In biology class terms, what organelle is nicknamed 'the powerhouse of the cell'?**
Answer: The mitochondria

Mitochondria generate most of the cell's chemical energy, ATP.

**Q8 (300 PTS) — The mysterious Bermuda Triangle lies in which ocean?**
Answer: The Atlantic Ocean

Its rough corners are Miami, Bermuda and Puerto Rico.

**Q9 (400 PTS) — The abbreviation DNA stands for what?**
Answer: Deoxyribonucleic acid

Its double-helix structure was published by Watson and Crick in 1953, using Rosalind Franklin's data.

**Q10 (300 PTS) — Which chess piece moves only along diagonals?**
Answer: The bishop

Each bishop stays forever on the colour of square it started on.

**Q11 (300 PTS) — What is the square root of 144?**
Answer: 12

12 × 12 = 144 — one of the neatest perfect squares.

**Q12 (300 PTS) — The vast majority of Brazil's 200+ million people speak which language?**
Answer: Portuguese

Brazil is the largest Portuguese-speaking country in the world by far.

**Q13 (300 PTS) — Three continents are crossed by the Equator. South America and Africa are two — which is the third?**
Answer: Asia

The Equator clips Indonesia and island nations of Oceania-Asia on its way around the planet.

**Q14 (300 PTS) — Which metal is liquid at ordinary room temperature?**
Answer: Mercury

Mercury melts at -39 C — old thermometers used its steady expansion to measure heat.

**Q15 (300 PTS) — How many minutes are there in one full day?**
Answer: 1,440

60 minutes x 24 hours. Spend them wisely — the lightning round is watching.

**Q16 (300 PTS) — What is 15 percent of 200?**
Answer: 30

Ten percent is 20, five percent is 10 — add them for a fast pub-quiz calculation.

**Q17 (300 PTS) — Which gas makes up about 21% of the air you are breathing right now?**
Answer: Oxygen

Nitrogen takes 78%; oxygen's 21% is the slice that keeps every fire and body burning.

**Q18 (300 PTS) — Who painted the Mona Lisa?**
Answer: Leonardo da Vinci

Leonardo carried the portrait with him for years, refining it until his death in 1519.

**Q19 (300 PTS) — Including wisdom teeth, how many teeth does a typical adult human have?**
Answer: 32

Eight incisors, four canines, eight premolars and twelve molars.

**Q20 (300 PTS) — Which planet is known as the Red Planet?**
Answer: Mars

Its colour comes from iron oxide — literal rust — across its dusty surface.

**Q21 (300 PTS) — How many sides does a heptagon have?**
Answer: 7

From the Greek 'hepta', seven — one more than a hexagon, one fewer than an octagon.

**Q22 (300 PTS) — In which year did World War II end?**
Answer: 1945

The war in Europe ended that May; Japan's formal surrender followed in September.

**Q23 (300 PTS) — What is the chemical symbol for sodium?**
Answer: Na

Na comes from 'natrium', sodium's Latin name — the same root as the word natron.

**Q24 (300 PTS) — Which is the smallest and shallowest of the world's oceans?**
Answer: The Arctic Ocean

Most of it sits under a floating cap of sea ice that grows and shrinks with the seasons.

**Q25 (300 PTS) — How many legs does an insect have?**
Answer: Six

Six legs is the defining trait of insects — spiders, with eight, are not insects.

**Q26 (300 PTS) — Which flightless bird is the largest bird in the world?**
Answer: The ostrich

An ostrich eye is bigger than its brain — and bigger than any other land animal's eye.

**Q27 (300 PTS) — What does the abbreviation 'USB' stand for?**
Answer: Universal Serial Bus

One of its designers joked the name was so dull it could only succeed on merit.

**Q28 (300 PTS) — How many colours are traditionally counted in a rainbow?**
Answer: Seven

Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet — Newton chose seven to match the musical scale.

**Q29 (300 PTS) — The Great Wall, over 21,000 km of fortifications, was built across which country?**
Answer: China

The wall is a network of many walls built by successive dynasties over 2,000 years.

**Q30 (300 PTS) — How many grams are there in one kilogram?**
Answer: 1,000

The kilogram was the last unit defined by a physical object — a platinum cylinder in Paris — until 2019.

**Q31 (300 PTS) — Who wrote the tragedy 'Hamlet'?**
Answer: William Shakespeare

Hamlet's 'To be, or not to be' soliloquy may be the most quoted speech in English drama.

**Q32 (300 PTS) — What is the fastest land animal over short distances?**
Answer: The cheetah

A cheetah can hit about 60-70 km/h in seconds — but only for a few hundred metres.

**Q33 (300 PTS) — Which element, symbol Ca, is essential for bones and teeth?**
Answer: Calcium

Calcium is the most abundant metal in the human body — about a kilogram of it in each adult.

**Q34 (300 PTS) — What is the currency of the United Kingdom?**
Answer: Pound sterling

The pound is the world's oldest currency still in use, dating back over 1,200 years.

**Q35 (300 PTS) — Which instrument is used to measure temperature?**
Answer: A thermometer

Galileo built an early version in the 1590s that measured air with floating glass bulbs.

**Q36 (300 PTS) — The Gobi Desert spans the border of Mongolia and which other country?**
Answer: China

The Gobi is a rain-shadow desert — the Himalayas block the moist air that might water it.

**Q37 (300 PTS) — Which vitamin does the human body produce when skin is exposed to sunlight?**
Answer: Vitamin D

Just 10-30 minutes of midday sun can cover a day's needs in summer at mid-latitudes.

**Q38 (300 PTS) — Which river, at about 6,300 km, is the longest in Asia?**
Answer: The Yangtze

A third of China's population lives in the Yangtze basin.

**Q39 (300 PTS) — How many strings does a standard cello have?**
Answer: Four

Tuned C, G, D and A — exactly one octave below the viola.

**Q40 (400 PTS) — H2SO4 is the formula of which powerful acid?**
Answer: Sulfuric acid

Known historically as 'oil of vitriol', it is among the most produced industrial chemicals on Earth.

**Q41 (300 PTS) — Paper was invented in which ancient country?**
Answer: China

Cai Lun standardised papermaking in 105 AD, using bark, rags and old fishing nets.

**Q42 (300 PTS) — How many moons does the planet Mars have?**
Answer: Two (Phobos and Deimos)

Both are lumpy, cratered little worlds — probably captured asteroids.

**Q43 (400 PTS) — In the air humans exhale, which gas is still the most abundant?**
Answer: Nitrogen

Exhaled air is still about 78% nitrogen — we only swap a little oxygen for carbon dioxide.

**Q44 (300 PTS) — What is the smallest unit of life, the building block of every organism?**
Answer: The cell

Your body holds roughly 37 trillion of them — and hosts about as many bacteria besides.

**Q45 (400 PTS) — Which astronomer published the three laws of planetary motion in the early 1600s?**
Answer: Johannes Kepler

Kepler derived his laws from Tycho Brahe's obsessively precise star charts.

**Q46 (300 PTS) — How many time zones does Russia officially span today?**
Answer: 11

Russia shrank from 11 zones to 9 in 2010, then restored 11 in 2014.

**Q47 (300 PTS) — The ancient city of Petra, carved into rose-red cliffs, is in which modern country?**
Answer: Jordan

Petra was the Nabataeans' capital and was 'lost' to the West until 1812.

**Q48 (300 PTS) — Which type of blood vessel carries blood away from the heart?**
Answer: Arteries

Remember it with 'A for Away' — veins bring blood back to the heart.

**Q49 (300 PTS) — How many Nobel Prize categories are awarded in a typical year?**
Answer: Six

Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Literature, Peace — and Economics, added in 1968.

**Q50 (400 PTS) — Which planet has the fastest winds in the solar system, gusting past 2,000 km/h?**
Answer: Neptune

Neptune radiates more heat than it receives from the Sun, powering its supersonic storms.

**Q51 (300 PTS) — How many years are there in one millennium?**
Answer: 1,000

Ten centuries, one hundred decades — and roughly forty human generations.

## TIE-BREAKER QUESTIONS

Use only if the night ends level. Closest or fastest correct answer wins.

**TB1 — How many hearts does an octopus have?**
Answer: Three

Two pump blood to the gills; the main heart serves the rest of the body.

**TB2 — In what year was the very first iPhone released?**
Answer: 2007

Steve Jobs unveiled it in January 2007; it went on sale that June.

**TB3 — By the standard count used in most classrooms, how many continents are there on Earth?**
Answer: Seven

Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Europe, North America, South America and Oceania/Australia.

**TB4 — At sea level, water boils at what temperature in Fahrenheit?**
Answer: 212°F

That is 100°C — the two fixed points Anders Celsius built his scale around.

**TB5 — How many players does a football (soccer) team field at one time?**
Answer: Eleven

Ten outfield players plus one goalkeeper.

**TB6 — Which planet is nicknamed the Morning Star?**
Answer: Venus

Venus shines so brightly near dawn and dusk that it earned the name in ancient times.

**TB7 — How many minutes are there in one full week?**
Answer: 10,080

60 minutes × 24 hours × 7 days = 10,080 minutes.

**TB8 — What is the largest mammal in the world?**
Answer: The blue whale

A blue whale's heart alone can weigh as much as a small car.

**TB9 — In what year did humans first walk on the Moon?**
Answer: 1969

Apollo 11 landed on 20 July 1969; Neil Armstrong stepped out first.

**TB10 — How many letters are there in the English alphabet?**

Answer: 26

The shortest complete sentence using them all: 'The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.'