

**KNOCKOUT SEMI FINALS  
THURSDAY 1 MAY 2014  
QUESTIONS BY THE ALEXANDRA**

**First Verbal Round**

1. In 1905 four articles in the scientific journal *The Annals of Physics* caused such a shift in thinking that they became known as the *Annus Mirabilis* papers. Who wrote them?

**Albert Einstein**

2. Taken from the French word for 'servant', what name is given to a road cycle racer whose principal role is to work for the benefit of the team and its leader?

**Domestique**

3. In a notorious incident following a Five Nations game in Paris in 1982, England prop Colin Smart was hospitalised after drinking a bottle of what?

**Aftershave**

4. What title is shared by a series of works produced in the mid-1960s by pop artist Roy Lichtenstein and a BBC TV sitcom that was first shown in 1986 and had a theme tune by Dexy's Midnight Runners?

**Brush Strokes**

5. Which city is described here? Due to its notable architecture and rich history it is nicknamed *La Superba*. Its tourist attractions include the Cathedral of San Lorenzo, the Doge's Palace, the *Lanterna* lighthouse and the second-largest aquarium in Europe. A major economic centre and former European Capital of Culture, it is the capital of the Italian region of Liguria.

**Genoa**

6. Previous winners include Plymouth's Drake's Circus shopping centre, Liverpool's ferry terminal and Salford's MediaCity. What name, inspired by a comment made by Prince Charles in 1984, is given to the humorous, annual British architecture prize awarded to the ugliest building completed during the preceding twelve months?

**The Carbuncle Cup** (accept any answer containing 'carbuncle')

7. Give the full name of either of the regular judges on BBC TV's *Great British Bake Off*.

**Mary Berry or Paul Hollywood**

8. What is the alternative, six-letter name for carbolic acid?

**Phenol**

9. Which European capital city is the principal setting for Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*?

**Vienna**

10. If an event is described as *hebdomadal* how often does it occur?

**Every seven days** (accept 'weekly' or 'once-a-week')

11. Commonly referred to as 'Here Comes the Bride' when played at weddings, *The Bridal Chorus* features in which romantic opera by Wagner?

**Lohengrin**

12. In which English city can you see the topmast from Brunel's ship *Great Eastern*?

**Liverpool** (it forms the flagpole outside Anfield)

13. The rivers Rhine and Rhône both have their source in which country?

**Switzerland**

14. Richard Chartres has held which prominent position in the Church of England since 1995?

**Bishop of London**

15. Of which 1961 novel are these some of the opening lines?

*The girls could not take off their panama hats because this was not far from the school gates and hatlessness was an offence. Certain departures from the proper set of the hat on the head were overlooked in the case of fourth-form girls and upwards, so long as nobody wore their hat at an angle.*

***The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie***

16. Which Sky One spoof police drama is written by Charlie Brooker and Daniel Maier and stars John Hannah and Suranne Jones?

***A Touch of Cloth***

17. What word can be a business leader, a member of a sixteenth century Asian dynasty or a bump on a ski run?

**Mogul**

18. Who wrote the early twentieth century fantasy book *Puck of Pook's Hill* and its sequel, *Rewards and Fairies*?

**Rudyard Kipling**

19. Who is currently touring the UK with his stage show *Infamous*? His previous UK tours have included *Enigma*, *Svengali* and *Something Wicked This Way Comes*.

**Derren Brown**

20. Which American composer collaborated with lyricist Sheldon Harnick to produce the 1964 musical *Fiddler on the Roof*?

**Jerry Bock**

21. In 1997 a newly-recorded version of which song became the first single released in aid of the BBC's *Children in Need* appeal to top the UK charts? The original song was written in 1972 by a man who died in October 2013.

***Perfect Day***

22. At just over 19,000 feet, which is the world's highest free-standing mountain, i.e. one that is not part of a larger mountain range?

**Kilimanjaro**

23. The cachalot is a large marine predator that is more commonly referred to by which name?

**Sperm whale**

24. Which Ancient Greek playwright of the fifth and sixth centuries BC was notable for his tragedies, which included *The Oresteia*, *The Persians* and *Seven Against Thebes*? According to legend he was killed when a bird dropped a tortoise on his head.

**Aeschylus**

25. In trigonometry what is the value of the cosine of 180 degrees?

**Minus one**

26. Which English King ordered the construction of many Welsh castles, including Harlech, Conway and Caernarfon?

**Edward I**

27. Hennes and Mauritz, better known as H&M, is one of the world's largest clothing retailers. In which European country was it founded in 1947?

**Sweden**

28. Nick Matthew of Sheffield and Laura Massaro of Preston are world champions in which sport?

**Squash**

29. Robert J. Donovan's 1961 novel *PT-109* is based on real-life events aboard a US motor torpedo boat during World War II in the Pacific. Name the boat's commander, played by Cliff Robertson in the 1963 film version.

**John F. Kennedy**

30. Which peace treaty of 1713 granted Britain control of Gibraltar?

**Treaty of Utrecht**

### First Written Round

31. In the years 1957, 1960, 2007 and 2009 the BBC Sports Personality of the Year award was won by a Welshman. Name any three of the four.

Three from: **Dai Rees, David Broome, Joe Calzaghe, Ryan Giggs**

32. With a population approaching 180 million, which is the most populous country in Africa?

**Nigeria**

33. Who lost six Wimbledon Ladies' Singles finals between 1978 and 1985?

**Chris Evert** (or Evert-Lloyd)

34. What, specifically, does a cereologist study?

**Crop circles** (do not accept 'crops' or 'corn')

35. Between 1917 and 1920 two Yorkshire schoolgirls created a series of fake photographs that became known as *The Cottingley Fairies*. Which renowned author was hoodwinked into using the photos as proof that fairies actually exist in an article he wrote for *The Strand* magazine?

**Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**

36. Of the three Brontë sisters that reached adulthood and became known for their literary works, who was the eldest?

**Charlotte**

37. Which city's film festival awards The Golden Lion, The Silver Lion, The Queer Lion and the Special Jury Prize?

**Venice**

38. During World War II which two-word sporting term was used by Allied servicemen to describe a successful escape from a German prisoner-of-war camp?

**Home run**

39. On 27 August 1896, against which African Sultanate did Britain fight what is usually referred to as the shortest war in history? Victory was achieved in less than forty minutes.

**Zanzibar**

40. One of only two of its type in the UK—the other being the much more modern Falkirk Wheel in Scotland—which structure near Northwich connects the River Weaver and Trent & Mersey Canal?

**Anderton Boat Lift**

## Second Verbal Round

41. Which city is the capital of the Belgian province East Flanders?

**Ghent**

42. It was announced last month that who will replace American TV icon David Letterman when he retires as host of *The Late Show* next year?

**Stephen Colbert**

43. Name either of the British singer-songwriters who were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame earlier this year.

**Cat Stevens or Peter Gabriel**

44. Which river has its source in the Macclesfield Forest and joins the Mersey near Lymm?

**River Bollin**

45. Who wrote the classic children's novel *Stig of the Dump*?

**Clive King**

46. In Bournemouth in July 1910, who had the misfortune to become the first British person to die in a crash of a powered aircraft?

**Charles Rolls** (of Rolls-Royce fame)

47. On what date will the opening ceremony of this year's Commonwealth Games take place in Glasgow?

**23 July**

48. Published earlier this year, *Be Careful What You Wish For* is the fourth book in the series known as *The Clifton Chronicles*. Who is its author?

**Jeffrey Archer**

49. The Battle of the Catalaunian Plains in 451 AD was fought between a combined Visigoth/Roman army and the forces of Attila the Hun. In which modern-day country did it take place?

**France**

50. Who comes next in this sequence? Troy, Scott, Jones...

**Nelson** ('sidekicks' to Tom/John Barnaby in *Midsomer Murders*)

51. On this day in which year were the first Penny Black postage stamps issued?

**1840**

52. What is the common name of the popular, highly-scented climbing flower whose scientific name is *Lathyrus odoratus*? Although cultivated varieties exist in many colours, wild flowers are always purple.

**Sweet pea**

53. What is the most common surname in Germany?

**Müller**

54. Also the name of the callus at the bottom of a horse's fetlock, what is the five-letter name of the group of fungi that infects cereal crops and may have serious—even fatal—effects if ingested by humans? The symptoms of poisoning are sometimes referred to as Saint Anthony's Fire.

**Ergot**

55. What is the two-word name of the group of molecules that includes serine, tryptophan, glycine and proline? Its twenty-two members are the 'building blocks' from which proteins are made.

**Amino acids**

56. Which East European country comprises sixteen provinces known as *voivodeships*? The largest of these, Mazovia, contains the country's capital.  
**Poland**
57. Who was the Member of Parliament for the constituency of Cambridge from 1640 to 1649?  
**Oliver Cromwell**
58. The Zimbabwean capital Harare was known by what name until 1982?  
**Salisbury**
59. Which six words make up the first line of lyrics in the song *Love is All Around*, which spent fifteen weeks at number one in the UK charts for Wet Wet Wet in 1994?  
**"I feel it in my fingers"**
60. Isabella, Countess of Gloucester was the first wife of which English king?  
**King John**
61. Which Oscar and BAFTA-winning actress plays the Dowager Countess of Grantham in ITV's *Downton Abbey*?  
**Dame Maggie Smith**
62. What English name is commonly given to the work of art known in Italian as *Il Cenacolo* or *L'Ultima Cena*?  
**The Last Supper**
63. Which US TV programme that ran for five series between 2008 and 2013 starred Bryan Cranston as Walter White?  
**Breaking Bad**
64. The US federal holiday *Labor Day* is celebrated on the first Monday of which month?  
**September**
65. Which superhero has an enemy called Doctor Octopus?  
**Spider-man**
66. Commonly used as the name of a variety of pizza, what is the English translation of the Italian phrase '*Quattro Stagioni*'?  
**Four Seasons**
67. What sort of animal is a red gurnard?  
**Fish**
68. Which city in Connecticut is home to Yale University?  
**New Haven**
69. At just over four-and-a-half miles the M32 is one of Britain's shorter motorways. Which city does it link to the M4?  
**Bristol**
70. In the satirical publication *Private Eye*, who is referred to by the nickname 'Brenda'?  
**The Queen**

### Second Written Round

71. Name any three of the four brothers who, in addition to Michael, made up the Jackson 5.  
Three from: **Jackie, Jermaine, Marlon and Tito**

72. These two seven-letter words are anagrams of each other. One is a member of the cat family and the other is a Welsh seaside resort on the Severn estuary, to the south of Cardiff Bay. Name both.

**Panther and Penarth** (both answers required)

73. Owned by the White Star line, what were the two sister ships of RMS Titanic?

***Olympic and Britannic***

74. *Speak to Me* is a largely instrumental piece containing sound effects that include a ticking clock, a heartbeat, a cash register and manic laughter. It is the first track on which iconic album?

***Dark Side of the Moon***

75. Together with Richard Dawkins and the late Christopher Hitchens he was a member of the so-called 'Unholy Trinity' of prominent atheists. His published works include *Letter to a Christian Nation* and *The End of Faith: Religion, Terror and the Future of Reason*. Who is this American neuroscientist, sceptic, philosopher and critic of religion?

**Sam Harris**

76. In September 2012 who replaced Caroline Lucas as leader of the Green Party of England and Wales?

**Natalie Bennett**

77. In 1517, in an act often seen as the beginning of the Protestant reformation, Martin Luther posted his *Ninety-Five Theses* on the door of All Saints' Church in which German city?

**Wittenberg**

78. Which Manchester City player's squad number suggests that, as defined by *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, he is 'the answer to the great question of life, the universe and everything'?

**Yaya Touré** (Number 42)

79. In chemistry what name is given to a large, chain-like molecule composed of many repeated sub-units? Examples include cellulose, starch and Perspex.

**Polymer**

80. The first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima by the aircraft nicknamed *Enola Gay*. What was the name of the plane that dropped the second bomb on Nagasaki?

**Bockscar** (accept 'Box Car')

### Extra Time Written Round

1. Finger, Butterfly, Crown of Thorns, Scarf and Bridle are all types of what?

**Joint** (in woodworking)

2. What name is given to the tenth day of the first month of the Islamic calendar, Muharram?

(Day of) **Ashura**

3. Broadcasting from a studio on Hillgate, what was the name of the unlicensed (pirate) radio station that was on air in Stockport from late 1983 until early 1985?

**KFM**

4. The antibiotics mimimycin, musettamycin, marcellomycin and rudolphomycin were all named after characters in which Puccini opera?

***La Bohème***

5. Which 1973 David Bowie album is made up of cover versions, including The Who's *I Can't Explain* and Pink Floyd's *See Emily Play*? The album cover depicts Bowie and the model Twiggy.

***Pin Ups***

6. Who was the Conservative MP for Cheadle from 1970 until 1987?

**Tom Normanton**

7. She is best known for her 1996 novel that was made into a very successful film by Welsh director Sharon Maguire in 2001. Her other works include the 1994 satire *Cause Celeb* and the 2003 comic spy novel *Olivia Joules and the Overactive Imagination*. Who is this English writer?

**Helen Fielding** (author of *Bridget Jones's Diary*)

8. Which British television and radio critic, a regular contributor to *The Guardian*, once said: "*Agatha Christie has given more pleasure in bed than any other woman*"?

**Nancy Banks-Smith**

9. Which flowering garden plant has the scientific name *Convallaria majalis*? Sometimes referred to as *Our Lady's Tears* it is a popular choice for wedding bouquets, even though it is highly poisonous.

**Lily of the Valley**

10. Which Asian country is the principal setting for the 2008 film *Rambo*, the most recent of the four-part film series starring Sylvester Stallone?

**Burma** (Myanmar)

### Tie-breaker

1. How many votes did David Cameron receive when he was elected MP for Witney at the 2010 General Election?

**33,973**

2. What is the total number of Penny Black stamps ever printed for general issue?

**68, 808, 000**

### Spares

1. Atlantic Airways is the national airline of which island group?

**Faroe Islands**

2. Name this chemical element. It is a soft, grey metal, has the atomic number 41, is represented by the symbol Nb and is named after the daughter of Tantalus in Greek mythology.

**Niobium** (named after Niobe)

3. What is the only city in the Austrian federal state of Tyrol?

**Innsbruck**

4. Home to more than 100 million people, which is the most populous province in China? It is in the south east of the country, has a border with Hong Kong and is home to the cities of Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Shantou.

**Guangdong**