

PLATE FINAL THURSDAY 28 APRIL 2024
QUESTIONS BY THE RAILWAY AND THE WANDERING STAR

First Verbal Round

1. What was the name of the boring, monotonal know-it-all created by Peter Cook?
E. L. Wisty
2. The common species of which bird of prey has the Latin name *Buteo buteo*?
Buzzard
3. The fictional character Amanda Grayson has been played on film by Winona Ryder, and on TV by Jane Wyatt (among others). Who is her famous son?
Spock
4. What was invented by the New York dentist Alfred Southwick, and first used on William Kemmler in Albany in 1890?
The electric chair
5. Who was buried next to the organ in Westminster Abbey, following his death in 1695?
Henry Purcell
6. Since taking over its rival Wenger in 2005, Victorinox is the only manufacturer of which iconic product?
The Swiss Army Knife
7. In which country are the Tugela Falls – the world's second-highest waterfall, after Angel Falls?
South Africa
8. Born Rachel Keen, which singer-songwriter recently broke the record for most Brit awards in a single year, including British Album of the Year and British Artist of the Year?
RAYE
9. Chinstrap, Donegal, Garibaldi and Verdi are types of what?
Beard
10. In the world of entertainment, how were George Logan and Patrick Fyffe better known?
Hinge and Bracket
11. Originally a joint venture with Topshop, which celebrity created and owns the athleisure clothing brand Ivy Park?
Beyoncé
12. Thomas Arnold was the headmaster of which public school from 1828 to 1841?
Rugby
13. Which 1995 film starred Nicole Kidman as a ruthlessly ambitious TV weather girl?
To Die For
14. Where can you see Jacob Epstein's sculpture *St Michael's Victory over the Devil*?
(On the outside wall of) **Coventry Cathedral**
15. What term was coined in 1952 by critic Harold Rosenberg to describe the works of abstract expressionists such as Jackson Pollock?
Action painting

16. On what date was the public holiday known as Oak Apple Day observed, commemorating the restoration of the monarchy in 1660?

29 May

17. *Old Man's Beard* and *Traveller's Joy* are alternative names for which flowering plant, popular with gardeners?

Clematis

18. How did the writer Sylvia Plath commit suicide in 1963?

She gassed herself (accept anything that mentions a gas oven/gas poisoning)

19. Who said in a 1983 speech: "*I warn you not to be ordinary, I warn you not to be young, I warn you not to fall ill, I warn you not to get old*"?

Neil Kinnock

20. Born in 1932, how is Richard Penniman better known?

Little Richard

21. Which cricketer was the first to score 10,000 runs in Test matches?

Sunil Gavaskar

22. What is the modern name of the country known between 1967 and 1977 as the French Territory of the Afars and Issas?

Djibouti

23. In nature, what is a Destroying Angel?

A type of mushroom (also accept 'fungus')

24. According to *The Iliad*, who tamed the horse Pegasus and slew the Chimera?

Bellerophon

25. In Judaism what name is given to the ritual feast that marks the beginning of Passover?

The Seder

26. The second son of Theodore and Edith Roosevelt was given which first name, which was Edith's middle name, and much later became the name of a popular TV comedy character?

Kermit

27. Who composed the theme song to the Bond movie *From Russia with Love*?

Lionel Bart

28. In the card game cribbage, what's the only score below 24 that it's impossible to get?

Nineteen

29. In the Royal Navy, at what time does the First Watch traditionally begin?

2000 hours (8pm)

30. With an atomic number of 11, what is the first element in the Periodic Table whose symbol starts with a different letter from its English name?

Sodium (Na)

First Written Round There is a theme

31. The Edinburgh surgeon Joseph Bell was the inspiration for which fictional character, according to his creator who met Bell in 1877?

Sherlock Holmes

32. Name the three performers on the 1993 hit *All for Love*, which was written for the film *The Three Musketeers*.
Bryan Adams, Rod Stewart, Sting
33. Who served as Prime Minister of Ireland between 2011 and 2017?
Enda Kenny
34. The birth of which actress in 1937 was announced on stage by Laurence Olivier during a performance of *Hamlet*, in which her father was playing Laertes?
Vanessa Redgrave
35. Which village three miles south of Chorley is the birthplace of the Commons Speaker Lindsay Hoyle?
Adlington
36. Who was the first French actor to win an Academy Award for Best Actor?
Jean Dujardin
37. Awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1908, who discovered radon and the principle of radioactive half-life?
Ernest Rutherford
38. Which US national park is named after a plant with the scientific name *Yucca brevifolia*?
Joshua Tree
39. What is the county town of County Clare in Ireland?
Ennis
40. Which boiled sweets, now sold under the Maynards Bassets brand, were introduced in 1944 by a company bearing the name of a confectioner from Chicago who had died 32 years previously?
Murray Mints

Theme is GB Olympic gold medallists of the twenty-first century

(Kelly Holmes, Nicola Adams, Jason/Laura Kenny, Steve Redgrave, Rebecca Adlington, Charlotte Dujardin, Greg Rutherford, Anthony Joshua, Jessica Ennis, Andy Murray)

Second Verbal Round

41. Which future King of England was born in Pembroke Castle in 1457?
Henry VII
42. Who is Brazil's most capped male footballer? He played over 140 times for his country and appeared in three World Cup finals.
Cafu (full name Marcos Evangelista de Morais)
43. *Humulus lupulus* is the Latin name for which plant, cultivated for its flowers?
Hop
44. Who plays the title role in the 2024 film *Bob Marley: One Love*?
Kingsley Ben-Adir
45. The British writer Neil Gaiman has twice won science fiction's top award, the Hugo, in 2002 and 2009. Name either winning novel.
American Gods (2002), The Graveyard Book (2009)
46. Who is the bass guitarist in the rock band U2?
Adam Clayton
47. From the start of this month, what is the hourly National Living Wage, if you're 21 or over?
£11.44

48. Built in 1189 (allegedly), England's oldest inn, Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem, is located in which city?

Nottingham

49. This year's Cheltenham Gold Cup was won by Galopin des Champs, for the second year in succession; who was the jockey?

Paul Townend

50. The Victoria Falls are on which African river?

Zambezi

51. Which prominent politician is the MP for Holborn and St Pancras?

Keir Starmer

52. What shape is the pasta called *fusilli*?

Spiral, accept corkscrew see note 1

53. There are seven SI base units, for example second for time and ampere for electric current. What is the base unit for luminous intensity?

Candela

54. Which British poet described himself as having been '*washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home*'?

Rupert Brooke (in *The Soldier*)

55. In which athletic event did Sally Gunnell win her only Olympic Gold Medal, in 1992?

400 metres hurdles

56. What is the English name of the fruit that the French, Germans and others call 'ananas'?

Pineapple

57. Name two of the three films which jointly hold the record for most Academy Awards - eleven Oscars each.

Any two from: ***Ben Hur*, *Titanic*, *Lord of the Rings: Return of the King***

58. Which island in the South Atlantic is named after the mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great?

St Helena

59. Formerly in a railway arch near Victoria Station in Manchester, which brewery relocated in 2023 to central Stockport, off Heaton Lane near the Mersey?

Runaway Brewery

60. In Thomas Mann's *Death in Venice*, what illness is epidemic in the city?

Cholera

61. Give a year in the life of Catherine de' Medici, Queen of France.

1519 to 1589

62. Brimstone is an archaic term for which element?

Sulphur

63. It has been announced that Gaudi's basilica, the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, will be completed in 2026. In what year did work on the building begin? (allow five years either way)

1882 (accept 1877 to 1887)

64. In which of Mozart's operas does Pamina, daughter of the Queen of the Night, fall in love with Tamino?

The Magic Flute

65. From 1928 to the present day, which breed of dog has won *Best in Show* at Cruft's most often?

(English) **Cocker Spaniel**

66. From the sixteenth century onwards, which Italian city became famous for the making of musical instruments by families such as the Guarneri, Amati and Stradivari?

Cremona

67. Lizzie Deignan, Pfeiffer Georgi and Tom Pidcock are British professional athletes in which sport? (A single-word answer is enough)

Cycling

68. At 1038 metres, Carrauntoohil is the highest peak in the Republic of Ireland. In which county is it situated?

County Kerry

69. Who is the outgoing Musical Director of the Hallé Orchestra? He will be conducting his final concert at the Bridgewater Hall in early June.

Sir Mark Elder

70. Following the death of Henry VIII, who became Catherine Parr's fourth husband?

Thomas Seymour

Second Written Round There is a theme

71. What was the only number one single by Dave Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mick and Tich?

The Legend of Xanadu [see note 2](#)

72. Jaime Sommers was the title character in which late 70s TV series?

The Bionic Woman

73. Which substance, an explosive also used in the treatment of angina, was synthesised in 1847 by Italian chemist Ascanio Sobrero?

Nitroglycerin

74. The Hawker Siddeley Nimrod was a military plane based on which commercial jet aircraft?

De Havilland Comet

75. Which family of snakes include the varieties Gabon, Pit, Arabian Horned and Common European?

Viperidae, or vipers

76. Which extinct prehistoric mammal was also known as the Smilodon?

Sabre-tooth tiger

77. What words are written around the milled edge of the £2 coin?

Standing on the shoulders of giants

78. In Greek mythology who were the two children of Zeus and Leto?

Apollo and Artemis

79. Who presents the weekend breakfast show on GB News, with co-host Stephen Dixon?

Anne Diamond

80. Which musical, derived from a novel by Gaston Leroux, includes the characters Viscount Raoul de Chagny and Christine Daaé?

Phantom of the Opera

The theme is names of some of the Gladiator participants in the TV show

(Legend, Bionic, Nitro, Comet, Viper, Sabre, Giant, Apollo, Diamond, Phantom)

Additional Written Round (for use in the event of a tie)

81. What was the name of Rory Storm's backing group, which Ringo Starr left to join the Beatles?
The Hurricanes
82. Who composed the operas *Norma* (1831) and *I Puritani* (1835)?
Vincenzo Bellini
83. In which country is Lake Volta?
Ghana
84. Who was the first westerner to visit Mecca, and see Lake Tanganyika? He also translated *The Arabian Nights* into English.
Richard Burton
85. Where are the compilers of the British version of *Monopoly*[™] said to have had lunch while researching locations in London?
The Angel, Islington
86. The term *bandana*, for a cloth square tied on the head or round the neck, comes from which (non-European) language?
Hindi
87. Put these buildings in chronological order of the start of construction: Conway Castle, Machu Picchu, Taj Mahal, Tower of London.
Tower of London (1078); Conway Castle (1283); Machu Picchu (1420, or 1450); Taj Mahal (1631)
88. During the Watergate scandal in the early 1970s, for which newspaper did the journalists Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward work?
Washington Post
89. Which is the brightest star in the constellation Taurus?
Aldebaran
90. Elected by his peers in 2021, who is the Lord Speaker of the House of Lords?
Lord McFall (of Alcluith)

Tie-breakers (nearest-the-bull)

1. John F. Kennedy's time in the White House is often referred to as 'the Thousand Days'. How many days was it actually, if you include the days of both his inauguration and assassination?
1037 (20 Jan 1961 to 22 Nov 1963)
2. How many votes did Rishi Sunak get to win his Richmond constituency election in 2019?
36,693

Spares

1. Rupert Soames was recently appointed as president of which organisation in the UK?
The CBI (Confederation of British Industry)
2. What is the second-longest river that's entirely in England?
The Trent

3. Which football ground is shown in L. S. Lowry's painting *Going to the Match*?

Burnden Park

4. Beaujolais wines are predominantly made from which grape variety?

Gamay

5. Into which sea does the Italian River Po run?

Adriatic

6. Which writer's plays include *Benefactors*, *Noises Off*, and *Copenhagen*?

Michael Frayn

Notes

1. An even more accurate answer is 'helical'.

2. More precisely it was their only **UK** number one – they had other chart-toppers around the world.