

LEAGUE MATCHES THURSDAY 20 MARCH 2025

QUESTIONS BY SMART ALEX

First Verbal Round

- Which is the only planet in the solar system that rotates on its side?
Uranus
- Sudeley Castle, once home to Catherine Parr, is in which English county?
Gloucestershire
- Igor Stravinsky died in New York but is buried in which Italian city?
Venice
- Castlebar is the county town of which Irish county?
Mayo
- Which novel published in 1869 is set in the East Lyn Valley and contains the eponymous character as well as John Ridd and Earl Brandir amongst others?
Lorna Doone
- In mathematics, the part of a logarithm before the decimal point is called the characteristic. What name is given to the part following the decimal point, values for which were listed in old-style log tables?
Mantissa
- What was the nationality of the World Chess Champion José Raúl Capablanca?
Cuban
- The M77 motorway links Glasgow with Fenwick near which Scottish town?
Kilmarnock
- Which actor played Charlie Hungerford, the former father-in-law of Jim Bergerac, in the '80s TV crime drama *Bergerac*?
Terence Alexander
- Created in nuclear-fusion reactors, neon tubes and by lightning, what is the name of the fourth state of matter?
Plasma
- Which city in California contains the headquarters of HP and was the location of the headquarters or founding location of Google, Apple and Facebook?
Palo Alto
- In which year did the Channel Tunnel open?
1994
- Which American bandleader's theme tune was *I'm Getting Sentimental Over You*?
Tommy Dorsey
- The Lexus brand is the luxury division of which car manufacturer?
Toyota
- Which creature is known as a '*mariposa*' in Spain?
Butterfly

16. With the scientific name *Papilio machaon*, what is the largest species of British butterfly?
Swallowtail
17. The Infiniti brand is the luxury division of which car manufacturer?
Nissan
18. Which American big band leader was associated and had a long-lasting hit with the tune *The Peanut Vendor*, recorded in 1948?
Stan Kenton
19. In which year did the second runway open at Manchester airport?
2001
20. Which city in California is the location for Disneyland?
Anaheim
21. If electric current, measured in amps, is multiplied by potential difference, measured in volts, the result is electrical power, measured in which unit?
Watt **see note 1**
22. Which actor played David Pearce, the husband of Amy Pearce, in the '80s TV comedy sitcom *Duty Free*?
Keith Barron
23. The M80 motorway links Glasgow with which Scottish city?
Stirling
24. The game of mahjong includes two sets of honour tiles. Name either set.
Winds or dragons
25. A *tithe* is a proportion of earnings yielded for religious purposes. Expressed as a fraction, what proportion is a tithe?
One tenth
26. Which novel published in 1817 is set around the time of the First Jacobite Rising and contains the eponymous character as well as Andrew Fairservice and Diana Vernon amongst others?
Rob Roy
27. Tullamore is the county town of which Irish county?
Offaly
28. Arnold Schoenberg is buried in Vienna but died in which American city?
Los Angeles
29. Kimbolton Castle, the final home of Catherine of Aragon, is in which English county?
Cambridgeshire
30. Which planet in the solar system has an exosphere instead of an atmosphere?
Mercury

First Written Round **There is a theme**

The theme word may be part of a longer answer and there is one sound-alike

31. Which 1987 American action film, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and set in a dystopian future, is based on a book by Stephen King?
The Running Man

32. This brother and sister were both pre-eminent in motor sport in the 1950s and '60s, he in Formula 1, she in rally-driving. What was their surname?

Moss

33. Which word can mean:
- a) the process of filling a store's shelves
 - b) a close-fitting garment covering the leg

Stocking

34. What is the name of the RU player who played for Leicester Tigers, won 66 caps for England, and represented the British Lions on three tours in 1997, 2001 and 2005? He is also remembered for pushing a referee to the ground and incurring a six-month ban.

Neil Back

35. What is the term used in ceramics to indicate a mixture of clay and water, primarily used to join leather-hard pieces of pottery together, and to decorate vessels?

Slip

36. What is the name of the process, in which tiny particles – usually silver iodide crystals – are added to clouds to trigger rain or snow?

Seeding

37. What was the best-known and longest-running publication of the Women's Liberation Movement, founded in 1972 by Rosie Boycott and Marsha Rowe?

Spare Rib

38. In a 1977 song, what is the name of a singer, who '*stands up when she plays the piano in a nightclub*'?

Pearl

39. Who was Leader of the Liberal Democrats from 2017 to 2019?

Vince Cable

40. Which British Order of Chivalry has the motto *Honi soit qui mal y pense*?

Garter

Theme is knitting or embroidery stitches

Second Verbal Round

41. What is the oldest currency still in use?

Pound Sterling

42. In which year did the following people die? Albert Finney, Karl Lagerfeld and Gordon Banks.

2019

43. Which writer (1883–1972) was a co-founder of the National Party of Scotland in 1928? He played a role in the film version of one of his novels.

Compton Mackenzie

44. With the exception of some so-called Lewis acids, which chemical element is otherwise to be found in all acids?

Hydrogen

45. The English words *honcho*, *rickshaw* and *tycoon* are loan words taken from which other language?

Japanese

46. If you heard the London Underground announcement “This train terminates at West Ruislip”, which underground line would you be on?

Central

47. The Gewiss Stadium (also known as Stadio Atleti Azzurri d'Italia) is the home of which Italian football team?

Atalanta

48. With the atomic number 53, which is the heaviest element commonly needed by living organisms? A deficiency of it causes goitre due to enlargement of the thyroid.

Iodine

49. Two items together cost £1.50, and the more expensive item costs £1 more than the cheaper item. How much does each item cost?

£1.25 and 25p

50. In the 2024 Summer Olympics, which sport took place in an overseas collectivity?

Surfing (in Tahiti, part of the collectivity of French Polynesia)

51. Which 1971 hit contains the lyrics '*I don't want to lose her, help me build a mountain from a little pile of clay*'?

She's a Lady (Tom Jones)

52. Which jawless freshwater fish has three species in Britain, two of which, when adult, being external parasites of other fish?

Lamprey

53. Portobello Road in London is named after the battle of Portobello in 1739. In which modern-day central American country was the battle fought?

Panama

54. The *kyat* is the official currency of which country?

Myanmar (also accept 'Burma')

55. In which month is the Hunter's moon?

October

56. In which month is the Wolf moon?

January

57. The *rupiah* is the official currency of which country?

Indonesia

58. Maida Vale in London is named after the battle of Maida fought in 1806. In which European country was the battle fought?

Italy

59. Blackwater fever is a serious complication of which tropical infectious disease?

Malaria

60. Which 1971 hit contains the lyrics '*In a tree by the brook, there's a songbird who sings, Sometimes all of our thoughts are misgiven*'?

Stairway to Heaven (Led Zeppelin) **see note 2**

61. In the 2024 Summer Olympics, who became the only swimmer to win gold in both the 200m butterfly and the 200m breaststroke? The feat was achieved on the same day.

Léon Marchand

62. Two items together cost £1.20, and the more expensive item costs twice as much as the cheaper item. How much does each item cost?

80p and 40p

63. What are the names of the two isotopes of hydrogen?

Protium and deuterium see note 3

64. The Bluenergy Stadium (also known as Stadio Friuli) is the home of which Italian football team?

Udinese

65. If you heard the London Underground announcement "This train terminates at Morden", which underground line would you be on?

Northern

66. Name the only country currently to have an official language that is a revived language, i.e., one that once had no surviving native speakers.

Israel (Hebrew)

67. Used to form certain paints, what name is given to a mixture of two non-blending liquids, where one liquid is dispersed within the other as small globules?

Emulsion

68. Which writer (1867–1931) briefly ran the Ministry of information in World War I and died of typhoid having drunk a glass of tap water in France?

Arnold Bennett

69. In which year did the following people die? Victoria Wood, Alan Rickman and Muhammad Ali.

2016

70. The largest ever denomination of bank note, worth one hundred trillion dollars, was issued by which country?

Zimbabwe

Second Written Round There is a theme - some of the answers contain sound-alikes
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71. Which annual team sporting competition was founded in 1900, by the future United State Secretary of War (from 1925 to 1929)?

Davis Cup

72. Which instrument is named after the administrator of NASA from 1961 to 1968, during the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo programs?

James Webb Telescope

73. Who was captain of the men's England cricket team between 1999 and 2003?

Nasser Hussain

74. Which novel, published in 1812, is about a family of immigrants whose ship goes off course en route to Port Jackson, Australia? A live-action Disney film version was released in 1960 starring John Mills.

The Swiss Family Robinson

75. Which sports journalist and broadcaster was a professional footballer who made 144 appearances for England and finished her career with Chelsea, where she captained the club to an FA Women's Cup title in 2018?

Karen Carney see note 4

76. Which battle of the Wars of the Roses took place on Easter Sunday 1471 in Hertfordshire?

Barnet

77. Which Australian created the cartoon strip *The Wonderful World of Barry McKenzie* for *Private Eye*, and appeared in *Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie* as Charlie, a rich former lover of Patsy?

Barry Humphries

78. In the 1980s, who was chairman of the British Steel Corporation and of the National Coal Board?

Ian MacGregor

79. What three-word slogan for fresh cream cakes was created by Salman Rushdie?

Naughty but Nice

80. Who founded a large chain of clothes shops that made a quarter of the British military uniforms during World War 2 and a third of demobilization clothing? (Full name required)

Montague Burton

Theme is past and present presenters of Radio 4's *Today* programme

Spares

1. Which country has the most pyramids?

Sudan

2. Name the two main presenters of the *Today* podcast.

Nick Robinson and **Amol Rajan**

3. Who is remembered as "the Brides in the Bath Killer"?

George Joseph Smith

Notes

1. This seems to be a rather convoluted way of asking which SI unit is used to measure electrical power.
2. Led Zeppelin famously had an aversion to releasing singles, so the song was not a hit in 1971 as it was only ever released as a promotional single and did not go on general sale. It didn't appear in the UK singles chart until 2007, when it reached number 37 through downloads.
3. There are **three** naturally occurring isotopes of hydrogen: protium (^1H), deuterium (^2H) and tritium (^3H).
4. Carney captained Chelsea to win the FA Women's Super League in 2018, rather than the Cup.