

## QUESTIONS BY THE STAR

## First Verbal Round

1. In September 2000, Sir Simon Rattle succeeded whom as chief conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic?  
**Claudio Abbado**
2. Who was the architect for the rebuilding of the Palace of Westminster, following the fire of 1834?  
**Sir Charles Barry**
3. Which team were the runners-up in the 2015 Superbowl?  
**Seattle Seahawks**
4. Who was the first Protestant Archbishop of Canterbury?  
**Thomas Cranmer**
5. Michael Elphick and Angela Thorne starred in which sitcom in the 1980s?  
**Three Up, Two Down**
6. Give a year in the life of Henry of Navarre (Henry IV of France).  
**1553 – 1610**
7. Which Shakespeare play opens with the title character speaking the words '*In sooth, I know not why I am so sad: it wearies me; you say it wearies you.*'?  
**The Merchant of Venice**
8. Which element has the highest melting point of all the metals?  
**Tungsten**
9. As of 12 March, who is the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs?  
**Philip Hammond**
10. In which year will the UK next experience a total solar eclipse?  
**2090**
11. In Gustav Holst's suite, *The Planets*, which planet is identified as the Magician?  
**Uranus**
12. *The Mint*, an autobiographical account of service in the RAF in the 1920s, was written by which famous figure?  
**T. E. Lawrence**
13. Who preceded John Masefield as Poet Laureate?  
**Robert Bridges**
14. The Usumacinta River forms part of the border between which two Central American countries?  
**Mexico and Guatemala** see note 1
15. Which play is currently being performed at St Martin's Theatre, London?  
**The Mousetrap**
16. In which year was the Queensway Tunnel, between Liverpool and Birkenhead, opened? (allow 1 year leeway)  
**1934** (allow 1933 to 1935)

17. Which U2 song is the theme tune to the film *Gangs of New York*?  
***The Hands that Built America***
18. Which company developed the Betamax videotape format?  
**Sony**
19. Which product was advertised as having a “totally tropical taste”?  
**Lilt**
20. The former building society Cheltenham and Gloucester is now just a trading name of which UK bank?  
**Lloyds Bank**
21. Which country's coinage has 100 luma to the dram?  
**Armenia**
22. Who captained the victorious European team in the 1995 Ryder Cup?  
**Bernard Gallacher**
23. Thoresby Colliery, due to close this summer, is the last remaining coal mine in which county?  
**Nottinghamshire**
24. Which UK city is served by Horsham St Faith airport?  
**Norwich** **see note 2**
25. As of 1st March 2015, Erna Solberg is the Prime Minister of which country?  
**Norway**
26. The last hereditary title to be given to a commoner was awarded in 1990; to whom?  
**Denis Thatcher**
27. Who was shot in front of the Biograph Theatre in Chicago on 22 July 1934?  
**John Dillinger**
28. Who won Britain's only athletics track medal at the 1976 Olympics?  
**Brendan Foster**
29. According to the Laws of Cricket, after how many overs can the Captain of the bowling side request a new ball?  
**80** **see note 3**
30. Who used the pseudonym Robert Markham, for the first *James Bond* novel written after the death of Ian Fleming?  
**Kingsley Amis**

**First Written Round** **THERE IS A THEME**

31. What is the title of Bobby Vee's last top 10 hit, which reached number 3 in 1963?  
***The Night Has a Thousand Eyes***
32. Oscar Straus's operetta *The Chocolate Soldier* was based on which play by George Bernard Shaw?  
***Arms and the Man***
33. What was the alternative title of *Treasure Island* by R. L. Stevenson, before it appeared in book form?  
**The Sea Cook**

34. Announced in 1947 to provide US aid to war-ravaged Europe, what popular name was given to the European Recovery Program?

**The Marshall Plan**

35. Who was the Queen of George IV, who married him in 1795 and died in 1821?

**Caroline of Brunswick**

36. On what day of the year does the opera *Cavalleria rusticana* take place?

**Easter Sunday** (Easter Day)

37. In the *King James Bible*, which book follows *Ecclesiastes*?

**The Song of Solomon**

38. Which 1955 film, starring Bette Davis and Richard Todd, concerned the relationship between Elizabeth I and Sir Walter Raleigh?

**The Virgin Queen**

39. Which reptile has species including Cuvier's Dwarf, Black, Spectacled, Broad-snouted and Yacare?

**Caiman** (Cayman)

40. What is the name of the stretch of water that separates Madagascar from mainland Africa?

**Mozambique Channel**

**Theme is each answer contains the name of an island, or island group:**

Thousand, Man, Cook, Marshall, Caroline, Easter, Solomon, Virgin, Cayman and Channel.

## Second Verbal Round

41. Who wrote the novel *A Town Like Alice*?

**Nevil Shute**

42. The western end of the Kennet and Avon canal meets the River Avon in which city?

**Bath**

43. In Greek mythology, as told in Homer's *Odyssey*, who are the parents of Telemachus?

**Odysseus and Penelope**

44. Which jockey had his first Classic win in the 1974 Oaks, riding Polygamy?

**Pat Eddery**

45. Who is generally accepted as the author of the 14th century narrative poem *Piers Plowman*?

**William Langland**

46. Which waterway is crossed by the Jacques Cartier Bridge?

**St Lawrence River**

47. In *Gulliver's Travels*, what were the scientists of Balnibarbi hoping to extract from cucumbers?

**Sun beams**

48. In what sort of habitat do the algae known as cryophytes flourish?

**Snow and ice**

49. Who, in 1861, assumed the title of King of Italy, becoming the first monarch of a united Italy in modern times?

**Victor Emmanuel II**

50. The *Flaxborough Chronicles*, by Colin Watson, feature which Detective Inspector?

**Walter Purbright**

51. Name the only recipient to have won three Nobel Prizes.  
**(The International Committee of) the Red Cross** (won the Peace Prize in 1919, 1944, 1963)
52. In which art gallery would you find Botticelli's *Birth of Venus*?  
**Uffizi** (in Florence)
53. Which 1965 hit begins with the words "*How gentle is the rain that falls softly on the meadow*"?  
**A Lover's Concerto** (a hit for The Toys)
54. The Italian sauce *agliata*, eaten with pasta and fish, includes which nut in the ingredients?  
**Walnut**
55. The Spanish football team Real Sociedad is based in which city?  
**San Sebastián**
56. Who was on the throne of England when Dick Whittington first became Lord Mayor of London?  
**Richard II** (1397)
57. "*For he on honeydew hath fed, and drunk the milk of paradise*" are the last words of which poem, first published in 1816?  
**Kubla Kahn** (by Samuel Taylor Coleridge)
58. What is the most northerly capital city in South America?  
**Caracas** (or 'Santiago de León de Caracas')
59. The Welsh county of Ceredigion has two administrative centres. Aberystwyth is one; name the other.  
**Aberaeron**
60. On a BT phone line, what number do you dial to get the speaking clock?  
**123**
61. Acting and modelling apart, what is the legal minimum age at which a child can do part-time work?  
**13**
62. What is the name of Fireman Sam's fire engine?  
**Jupiter**
63. Which chess piece is known in Arabic as an elephant, in German as a runner, and in French as a jester?  
**Bishop**
64. Which former UK colony became the tenth Canadian Province in 1949?  
**Newfoundland and Labrador** (accept Newfoundland)
65. Which English poet described Oliver Cromwell, in a sonnet, as '*our chief of men*'?  
**John Milton**
66. Over what distance is the Cheltenham Gold Cup run?  
**3 miles 2 ½ furlongs**
67. Who, upon becoming Chief Secretary to the Treasury in 2002, was the first mixed-race member of the Cabinet?  
**Paul Boateng**
68. Which Savoy Opera has the subtitle *The King of Barataria*?  
**The Gondoliers**
69. The TV series *Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman* is set in which US State?  
**Colorado**

70. Who, in 1932, succeeded Arthur Henderson as Leader of the Labour Party?

**George Lansbury**

## Second Written Round

71. On 19 January 1915, which two British towns were attacked by German zeppelins?

**King's Lynn, Great Yarmouth** see note 4

72. Phobos and Deimos were the sons of which Greek deity?

**Ares** see note 5

73. Which king of England was the grandson of William the Conqueror?

**Stephen**

74. In the recent cricket World Cup, which player made a century in four successive matches?

**Kumar Sangakkara**

75. Who was originally cast as Inspector Clouseau in the first *Pink Panther* film? He pulled out shortly before filming started.

**Peter Ustinov**

76. Which English cathedral houses the tomb of King John?

**Worcester**

77. The Schick test is used to determine whether or not a person is susceptible to which disease?

**Diphtheria**

78. In the Roman army, how many cohorts were there in a legion?

**Ten** see note 6

79. Carrauntoohil is the highest peak in which Irish range?

**Macgillycuddy's Reeks**

80. Which African country's flag includes a central motif of two crossed spears behind a red, white, and black shield?

**Kenya**

## 'Extra Time' Written Round

1. What is the common name of the insect *Pulex irritans*?

**The human flea**

2. In which year did Britain abandon the gold standard?

**1931**

3. Which British science-fiction author created the concept of 'slow glass'?

**Bob Shaw**

4. The space probe Dawn, launched in 2007, is currently examining which object in the solar system?

**Ceres**

5. What is the common name of the flowering plant genus *Myosotis*?

**Forget-me-not**

6. Which American President later served as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court?

**William Howard Taft**

7. The 1926 General Strike was in support of which group of workers?

**Miners**

8. To get their deposit back, what percentage of the votes cast must a Parliamentary election candidate achieve?

**(At least) 5.00%**

9. In Norse mythology, who owned the necklace called Brísingamen?

**Freyja**

10. Who designed the Welsh Italianate village of Portmeirion?

**Clough Williams-Ellis**

### Tie-breaker

1. According to the Office of National Statistics, what was the population of Stockport in March 2011, as recorded by the census?

**283,275**

### Spares

1. What position in public life is held by Judith Weir?

**Master of the Queen's Music**

2. Which fictional character had a sword called Glamdring?

**Gandalf**

3. Give a year in the life of Alfred the Great.

**849–899**

4. Which opera singer, who died in 2010, was known as *La Stupenda*?

**Dame Joan Sutherland**

5. Birmingham's is an anchor; what symbol is used by the Assay Office of Sheffield?

**Tudor Rose**

6. At the time that they made the move from the Free Trade Hall to the Bridgewater Hall, who was the chief conductor of the Hallé Orchestra?

**Kent Nagano**

### Notes

1. Mexico is not in Central America.

2. Horsham St. Faith is the airport's historic name; its official name is Norwich International Airport (cf Manchester/Ringway).

3. In Test cricket the new ball usually isn't taken until at least 80 overs have been bowled, but this can vary: *In a match of more than one day's duration, the captain of the fielding side may demand a new ball when the number of overs, excluding any part overs, bowled with the old one is equal to or greater than the prescribed number of overs. The Governing Body responsible for the match concerned shall decide the number of overs applicable in that match. This number shall not be less than 75 overs.*

4. The town of Sheringham was also attacked during the same raid.
5. Their mother, Aphrodite, is an equally acceptable answer.
6. Although a legion **typically** comprised ten cohorts, the composition of units of the Roman army varied greatly over the years, so there are almost certainly other, equally-valid answers to this question.

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