

KNOCKOUT MATCHES THURSDAY 23 JANUARY 2025

QUESTIONS BY ALEXANDRA AND SMART ALEX

First Verbal Round

1. The Avro Lancaster, Hawker Hurricane, de Havilland Mosquito and Supermarine Spitfire were all powered by which Rolls Royce V-12 engine?

Merlin

2. Liverpool musician Ian Broudie has been lead singer of which band since 1989?

The Lightning Seeds

3. Arguably the best-known waterfall in the Lake District, Aira Force overlooks which lake?

Ullswater

4. How many *cables* are there in a nautical mile?

Ten

5. With ten wins, which British Rugby League team holds the record for the number of Super League titles?

St Helens

6. Which British tennis player won the Wimbledon Men's Doubles in 2024, with his partner Harri Heliövaara?

Henry Patten

7. Which is the largest and most populous city on the Japanese island Hokkaido?

Sapporo

8. Heaton Lane beneath the Stockport viaduct now has a 'bus gate', which restricts use to buses, taxis and bicycles only. How much is the penalty charge, if paid within 21 days, for use by a non-authorized vehicle?

£30

9. In ancient Rome a *glirarium* was used to raise and fatten which animal for the dinner table?

Dormouse

10. Which former MP will assume office this month as Chancellor of Oxford University?

William Hague (Baron Hague of Richmond)

11. Pep Guardiola played professional club football in three countries other than Spain. Name any two of them.

Any two from: **Italy, Qatar, Mexico**

12. Name the year in which the following events happened:

Manchester United were crowned English League Champions for the first time in the club's history

Herbert Asquith succeeded Henry Campbell-Bannerman as UK prime Minister.

The first edition was published of Robert Baden-Powell's *Scouting for Boys* handbook.

1908

13. Which studio album by U2 includes the singles *Even Better Than the Real Thing*, *Mysterious Ways*, *The Fly* and *One*?

Achtung Baby

14. Sir Michael Caine became known for his "*not a lot of people know that*" catchphrase without ever saying it in public. Which British comedian was responsible for this, by relating an anecdote about Caine during a 1972 episode of the *Parkinson* chat show?

Peter Sellers

15. Which mammal –an endangered, legally protected species in the UK– has the scientific name *Arvicola amphibius*?
Water vole
16. Which country currently holds the presidency of the Council of the European Union?
Poland
17. The 2006 BBC television play *Fantabulosa!* starring Michael Sheen is a biopic of which British comic actor?
Kenneth Williams
18. At their first ever meeting in *A Study in Scarlet*, Sherlock Holmes deduced that John Watson had recently returned from military service in which country?
Afghanistan
19. According to John Betjeman in *A Subaltern's Love Song*, who was 'Furnish'd and burnish'd by Aldershot sun'?
Joan Hunter Dunn (or 'Miss J. Hunter Dunn')
20. *Epicaricacy* is a rarely used English word. Which German word is normally used in its place?
Schadenfreude (taking pleasure in the misfortune of others)
21. Which emperor ruled Rome from 177 to 192 AD, succeeding his father Marcus Aurelius? He has been played on screen by Christopher Plummer in *The Fall of the Roman Empire*, and Joaquin Phoenix in *Gladiator*.
(Lucius Aelius Aurelius) **Commodus**
22. The three oldest colleges of Oxford University were founded in the thirteenth century. Name any two of them.
Any two from: **Balliol, Merton, University College**
23. Which cartoon strip is the best-known work of American cartoonist Scott Adams?
Dilbert
24. Which marine animal is also known as the cachalot? Two-word answer required.
Sperm whale
25. What is the everyday name for the medical condition *paresthesia*?
Pins and needles
26. Denpasar is the capital and largest city of which island?
Bali
27. Fifteen-a-side Rugby Union was last played at the Olympic Games in 1924. Which country won gold?
USA
28. In which northern Spanish city's cathedral could you visit the tomb of El Cid?
Burgos
29. The anthem *Zadok the Priest* was written for the coronation of which British monarch?
George II
30. For the soundtrack of which 1973 film did Bob Dylan write the song *Knockin' on Heaven's Door*?
Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid

First Written Round **There is a theme**

Full names needed for the link; two answers contained in the word; one very slightly different spelling

31. As used as a post-nominal qualification, for what do the letters FRCVS stand?
Fellow of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons

32. For which 1957 film did Joanne Woodward win an Academy Award for Best Actress? She played a woman with dissociative identity disorder, more commonly known as multiple/split personalities.

The Three Faces of Eve

33. Which game show has been presented on ITV1 by Stephen Mulhern since November 2023? It was originally broadcast on Channel 4 from 2005 to 2016 with a different presenter.

Deal or No Deal

34. Which 1980 song by The Jam, the second of their four UK number one singles, bears a striking similarity to *Taxman* by The Beatles?

Start!

35. At the 2024 UK general election former Green Party leader Siân Berry succeeded Caroline Lucas as MP for which south-coast constituency? A two-word answer is required.

Brighton Pavilion

36. Which English football team was unbeaten for 42 league matches from November 1977 to December 1978? This was an English top-flight record until surpassed by Arsenal's 49-game streak in 2004.

Nottingham Forest

37. Which British boxer, known as the Bournemouth Bombshell, was World Light Heavyweight champion from 1948 to 1950? After boxing he pursued a career in entertainment, including a couple of appearances in *Carry On* films.

Freddie Mills

38. Which 1993 BBC TV series starring John Thaw and Lindsay Duncan was based on a 1989 best-selling memoir of the same name by British author Peter Mayle?

A Year in Provence

39. What was the title of Vera Brittain's 1933 memoir, which covers the period of her life from 1900 to 1925?

Testament of Youth

40. What is the English name of the Danish island that is home to around 40% of the country's population, and the capital Copenhagen?

Zealand

The theme is each answer contains a word that can follow 'new' to make a phrase or name

[New College \(Oxford\)](#), [New Faces](#), [New Deal](#), [new start](#), [New Brighton](#), [New Forest](#), [New Mills](#), [New Year](#), [New Testament](#), [New Zealand](#)

Second Verbal Round

41. Who painted the *Arnolfini Portrait*, also known as the *Arnolfini Marriage*?

Jan van Eyck

42. Which US state is named after the wife of Charles I?

Maryland

43. Which long-running ITV series was once described as "Agatha Christie on speed"?

Midsomer Murders

44. The Carnation Revolution was a military coup of 1974 in which country?

Portugal

45. Boasting the highest Tudor gatehouse in Britain, standing at 80 feet, Layer Marney Tower is a country house in which county?

Essex

46. Who is the BBC News Europe editor?

Katya Adler

47. In 2024 a zoo in Thailand welcomed a new addition. Pictures of the new-born named Moo Deng, which is Thai for “bouncy pork”, made news across the world. What kind of animal is Moo Deng?

Pigmy Hippo (both words required)

48. *Strictly Come Dancing* celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2024. Who was the first celebrity to lift the Glitterball in 2004?

Natasha Kaplinsky

49. What was the name of the charity founded in 1996 by Camilla Batmanghelidjh to support disadvantaged children, which collapsed in 2015?

Kid's Company

50. In the summer of 43AD the Emperor Claudius launched an invasion of Britain. The leader of the Britons' resistance was defeated, captured and taken to Rome. The Senate were so impressed by his bravery that he was allowed to live in peace there. Who was the leader of the resistance to the Romans?

Caractacus (or Caratacus)

51. What is the name of the Labour MP who introduced the Assisted Dying Bill in October 2024?

Kim Leadbeater

52. In a celebrated work of fiction, of which character are Bob and Emily the parents, and Martha, Belinda, and Peter the siblings?

Tiny Tim (Cratchit)

53. Which country has the most islands?

Sweden (267,570)

54. As of January 2025, which is the best-selling book series of the 21st century?

Harry Potter

55. How many keys does a grand piano have?

88

56. What is the name of Pixar's first feature-length movie, released in 1995?

Toy Story

57. Without which bones are babies born? They are actually made of cartilage at birth, then harden into bone between the ages of 2 to 6.

Kneecaps [see note 1](#)

58. After initially pulling out, which singer has confirmed that he will in fact be headlining Glastonbury in 2025?

Neil Young

59. What is the grammatical term used to define a word that modifies or strengthens an adjective? Examples are **very** exciting, **too** small, **exceptionally** good.

Adverb

60. The iPhone was first released in the USA. In which year did this occur?

2007

61. What is the shortcut for the paste function on computers running the Windows operating system?

Control (Ctrl) and V

62. Who was the late Jimmy Carter's vice president during his term as president?

Walter Mondale

63. El Escorial Palace was built during the reign of which Spanish monarch?

Philip II

64. Which group of elements name in Greek means 'salt maker' or 'salt former'?

The Halogens

65. Ben More is the highest mountain and only Munro on which Hebridean island, which has a population of about 3000?

Mull

66. Which Oscar-winning film's plot is based on the exploits of an Iraq War Explosive Ordnance Disposal team?

The Hurt Locker

67. The 2026 Winter Olympics will be held in two cities. Name one of them.

Cortina d'Ampezzo or Milan (accept Cortina) **see pedantic note 2**

68. Which wellington boot manufacturer's fashionable products are particularly associated with the Glastonbury Festival?

Hunter (Boot Limited)

69. Which internationally renowned conductor and British citizen was born György Stern in 1912?

Sir George Solti

70. A fundamental part of the hydrogen bomb, hydrogen has a single radioactive isotope sometimes called hydrogen-3. What is its more usual name?

Tritium

Second Written Round

There is a theme. Unless otherwise stated, BOTH names are required. There is one sound-alike.

71. Which nineteenth-century novelist wrote *Under the Greenwood Tree* and *The Return of the Native*?

Thomas Hardy

72. In 2024 the world of Rugby Union lost a Wales and British Lions great. He retired early in 1972 at the age of 27, citing media attention and expectations as a reason. He recalled in particular a promotion at a bank, when an employee on meeting him curtsied. Who was this legendary fly-half?

Barry John

73. What name is given to the bottle that holds six litres or eight standard bottles of champagne?

Methuselah

74. Which Bavarian-born businessman settled in America, and made his fortune by making hard-wearing work clothes out of surplus tent material, and strengthening the seams with rivets?

Levi Strauss

75. This Birmingham-born poet and activist, of Caribbean origin, was appointed Professor of Poetry and Creative Writing at Brunel University in 2011. He died at the age of 65 in 2023. Who was he?

Benjamin Zephaniah

76. This Edinburgh-based family of cartographers founded their company around 1846. They produced maps for commercial, academic and travel use. Although the firm merged with Collins in 1989, the name of the family survives as the trade name of HarperCollins cartographic databases based in Glasgow. What is their name?

Bartholomew

77. Which Conservative MP, having lost his seat in the July 2024 general election, signed with the Discovery channel, to record a reality series about his family life?

Jacob Rees-Mogg

78. Which *Gavin & Stacey* actress read the Shipping Forecast on Radio 4 on New Year's Day, to mark its centenary?

Ruth Jones

79. According to the hit song by Elton John, who is "...leaving tonight on a plane, I can see the red tail lights heading for Spain..."?

Daniel

80. This 1952 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Herman Wouk was made into a 1954 film starring Humphrey Bogart. What was it called?

The Caine Mutiny

Spares

1. Who directed the 2000 film *Gladiator* and its 2024 sequel?

Ridley Scott

2. The town of Avarua on the island of Rarotonga is the capital of which Pacific island nation?

The Cook Islands

3. What was the three-word stage name of the American singer who had top ten UK hits in 1961 with *(I Don't Know Why) But I Do* and *You Always Hurt the One You Love*?

Clarence 'Frogman' Henry

4. In physics and mathematics, a geometric vector always has which two properties?

Magnitude and direction (also accept size and direction etc)

5. Of what would you be afraid if you suffered from the surprisingly common condition of *coulrophobia*?

Clowns

Notes

1. The anatomical name *patella* (or *patellae*) is also an acceptable answer.

2. Cortina d'Ampezzo is a town rather than a city.