

Science Day Question Cards

This year we want to try out a new format for Science Day: groups of 4-5 ESO scientists - a mixture of students and faculty - will have 10 minutes to introduce themselves and their science to one another. To liven up proceedings, we will have a stack of Monopoly-style Question Cards on the table, to be used in the following manner:

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for person in group:
    person spends 30 seconds introducing themselves to group
if want_to_play_a_game=True or awkward_silence=True:
    person chooses a category
    person picks a Question Card
    person answers question on Question Card
while T<10 minutes, continue human conversation
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We want your help to come up with some **short, lighthearted, possibly-science-related** questions to keep us entertained throughout the day. Please add your ideas to the list.

The questions below are **not final!**

Science:

1. The Council awards you with 10M€ to build a new instrument. What do you build?
2. How long have you been at ESO?
3. What observing methods do you specialise in?
4. For Faculty: are you a part of any ESO committees? For students & fellows: are you organising any activities at ESO?
5. What research are you currently involved in?
6. What scientific problem does your research aim to solve?
7. Are you facing any problems in your research? What do you need to resolve them?
8. For fellows: what are your ESO duties? For staff: what is your functional role?
9. Where was your first conference?
10. What was the most interesting/best conference you went to and why was it so special?
11. Which scientific result of the past years surprised you the most?
12. Which scientific result of the past years excited you the most?
13. What scientific questions would you like to see answered in the next few years?
14. If you could start an all-new PhD thesis today, which area would you choose?
15. What are the main techniques that you use (e.g., numerical simulations, IFS...)
16. Where did you work/study before coming to ESO?
17. Where would you like to work after ESO (for students/fellows) or where would you like to work if not at ESO (for staff)?
18. Do you like doing outreach?
19. Do you like writing observing proposals?

20. What will your next paper be about?
21. Who would you like to collaborate with at ESO?
22. What seminar's format you think is missing at ESO?
23. What was your first paper about?
24. Do you think it is important to send humans to Moon/Mars?
25. Which big astrophysics/science question do you wish to be resolved before you retire?
26. What name pops up if you hear "the most important person for astronomy"?
27. What software/system do you use to keep up with newly published papers?
28. Do you prefer Linux, macOS or Windows and why?
29. What is the most frequently used software and for what purpose are you using it?
30. What do you consider as the most difficult part of your science career?

Wildcard:

1. If you were an ESO instrument, which one would you be and why?
2. Have you ever been mistaken for an astrologer?
3. What is your favourite spectral line?
4. Did you prefer dinosaurs or the Universe as a child?
5. Which space mission were you the most excited about?
6. How many times have you been in Chile?
7. What is your favourite coding language?
8. Given the opportunity, would you like to go to Mars?
9. If not astronomy, what line of work would you be in?
10. At what time of a day do you read astro-ph?
11. What first sparked your interest in astronomy?
12. What is your favourite astronomical acronym?
13. In how many countries have you lived so far?
14. What is your average daily chocolate consumption?
15. If you could, which instrument would you like to bring to ESO telescopes?
16. What is your favourite seminar at ESO?
17. The entertainment system on your 14h flight from to Santiago is malfunctioning. Who do you choose to sit next to you to pass the time?
18. Do you have a favourite astronomical object? What makes it special?
19. Being able to choose one person out of all the people that ever existed, who would you like to meet?
20. Spirals or ellipticals?
21. Stars or galaxies?
22. Do you own an amateur telescope?
23. Have you ever counted stars? How far did you reach?
24. What made you decide to pursue a career as an astronomer?
25. You are granted the ability to visit any location in the Universe instantly, survive in any conditions, and come back. Where would you go?
26. What is your favourite country?
27. Describe your best observing (or astronomical) experience.

28. What is the most enjoyable aspect of your work?
29. What is the brightest star in the night sky?
30. You are instantly transported to 17th century Cambridge and find yourself in front of Isaac Newton. What would you tell him?
31. You are given the choice between visiting Earth in a different time period or going for an interstellar voyage. Which one would you choose?
32. Do you or have you had an astronomical role model? Who was it?
33. You have to publish in a field of astronomy that you haven't worked in yet. Which one do you pick and why?
34. You can outlaw one piece of software for all astronomers in the world. Which one and why?
35. Are you more familiar with the Northern or Southern hemisphere's night sky?
36. Andromeda or Magellanic Clouds?
37. What is your favorite redshift?
38. Is there dark matter?
39. What is the RA and DEC of the Sun today?
40. What is the next trip you would like to make?
41. What do you like most at ESO?
42. What other job would you like to do, if not astronomer?
43. What do you like to do during the weekend?
44. Summer or winter?
45. Day or night?
46. What is the airspeed velocity of an unladen swallow?
47. How often have you been observing with professional telescopes for your own science?
48. Which is your favourite ESO weekly activity?
49. Why do you think ESO has been able to increase the fraction of its female staff hardly above 20%, during the last 20 years?
50. What is your favorite element and why?
51. Do you pick a conference to register depending on where it will be held? Where was the best place for you?
52. Have you ever been mistaken for an gastronomer?

Pictionary, i.e. sketch the following - not saying/writing any words - to get the others to guess:

1. A supernova explosion
2. Your favourite telescope or instrument
3. Your favourite astrophysical object
4. Your favorite astronomer
5. A pulsar
6. The Hertzsprung Russell diagram
7. The cosmic web
8. An AGN
9. A damped Lyman alpha system
10. A globular cluster

11. A Spiral galaxy
12. An Elliptical galaxy
13. The ELT
14. An AO system scheme
15. The planet X
16. A planetary nebula
17. A black hole
18. Your favorite constellation
19. ESO Garching floor plan
20. A binary star system
21. Jupiter
22. Saturn
23. The habitable zone (Goldilocks zone)
24. The Hubble space telescope
25. A radio telescope dish
26. Neutron star merger
27. Space shuttle
28. Dark matter
29. The referee of your latest paper