

ONLINE QUIZ LEAGUE

INTERNATIONAL CULTURE

CHALLENGE

SEASON NINE

WEEK NINE QUESTIONS

FOR TIERS 1-8

(Matches 695-726)

QUESTIONS BEGIN ON THE NEXT PAGE

Tie-break questions are found after the main quiz

Ties for EVERY position must be broken

Spares are found after the tie-break questions

Please check with the players that they are expecting the International Culture Challenge HIGHER TIER questions to ensure you are reading the correct set for your match.

ROUND ONE

PLAYER ONE

QUESTION ONE

A *hafiz* or *hafiza* is someone who has completely memorised **which major religious text?**

ANS: Quran or Koran

Danish: **Koranen**

French: **Coran**

Mandarin: **gǔlánjīng**

Norwegian: **Koranen**

Romanian: **Coran**

Swedish: **Koranen**

QUESTION TWO

The International Criminal Court (ICC) is an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal seated in The Hague, Netherlands. It was established in 2002 following a multilateral "statute" adopted at, and named after, a diplomatic conference held in **what European capital city**, on 17 July 1998?

ANS: Rome or Roma

Danish: **Rom**

German: **Rom**

Mandarin: **luómǎ**

Polish: **Rzym**

Swedish: **Rom**

QUESTION THREE

Among many examples of the literary archetype known as the “superfluous man” is the title character of **what 1859 Russian novel** who spends almost the entire novel doing nothing except talking to visiting friends or his servant, Sachar?

ANS: Oblomov

German: **Oblomow**

Mandarin: **ào bó luò mò fū**

PLAYER TWO

QUESTION ONE

Opened in 1967 to strengthen the country's irrigation system, the Mangla Dam was constructed by Pakistan in Pakistani-controlled Kashmir on **which river**, the westernmost of the five major rivers of the Punjab region?

ANS: Jhelum (accept Hydaspes, Bidaspes, Vitastā, Bihat, Vehat, Bihatab, Biyatta, Jailam, or Vyath)

Mandarin: jié hèlè mǔ hé

Polish: Dżhelam

QUESTION TWO

What word, originally coined by Auguste Comte to mean the opposite of 'egoism', is used in biology to refer to any behaviour that increases the fitness of another at the expense of decreasing one's own fitness? Kin selection and reciprocity are mechanisms by which this behaviour can evolve.

ANS: altruism

Danish: altruisme

Dutch: altruïsme

French: altruisme

German: Altruismus

Mandarin: lìtā zhǔyì

Norwegian: altruisme

Polish: altruizm

QUESTION THREE

Pinky Madam, an Americanized Indian woman who evades the law after killing a child in a hit-and-run accident, is a major character in **which best-selling 2008 novel** by Aravind Adiga?

ANS: The White Tiger

Danish: Den Hvide Tiger

Dutch: De witte tijger

French: Le Tigre blanc

German: Der weiße Tiger

Mandarin: bái lǎohǔ

Norwegian: Hvit tiger

Polish: Biały Tygrys

Romanian: Tigrul alb

Swedish: Den vita tigern

PLAYER THREE

QUESTION ONE

Which 1831 woodblock print by the Japanese ukiyo-e artist Hokusai is the first, and best known, of his series *Fugaku Sanjūrokkei* (*Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji*)?

ANS: The Great Wave off Kanagawa or Kanagawa-oki Nami Ura (accept Under the Wave off Kanagawa)

Danish: Den store bølge ud for Kanagawa or Bølgen

Dutch: Onder de golf voor de kust van Kanagawa or De grote golf

French: La Grande Vague de Kanagawa or La Vague

German: Die große Welle vor Kanagawa or Unter der Welle im Meer vor Kanagawa

Norwegian: Den store bølgen ved Kanagawa

Polish: Wielka fala w Kanagawie or Fala

Romanian: Marele val de la Kanagawa or Valul

Swedish: Under vågen utanför Kanagawa or Den stora vågen

QUESTION TWO

Home to the brands Pol Roger and Perrier-Jouet, the French town of Épernay is considered the centre of the industry making **which product**, named after the former province in northeastern France to which Épernay belonged between 1314 and 1790?

ANS: Champagne (prompt on ‘sparkling wine’)

German: Champagner

Mandarin: xiāngbīnjiǔ

Polish: Szampan

Romanian: Şampania

QUESTION THREE

Which American Marxist feminist philosopher wrote the 1981 book *Women, Race and Class* that analyses US history between the abolitionist movement and the women's liberation movement?

ANS: Angela Davis

Mandarin: ānjílā · dàiwéisī

PLAYER FOUR

QUESTION ONE

What word, the name given to the currency of several nations, derives from a large silver coin first minted in Bohemia in around 1520, and subsequently used across the Holy Roman Empire and parts of the Habsburg holdings?

ANS: dollar (prompt on ‘thaler’ or ‘daler’ or ‘tolar’)

QUESTION TWO

The occurrence of constructive interference when the path difference between scattered X-rays is equal to an integer multiple of the wavelength is an expression of **which eponymous law** underpinning X-ray crystallography, formulated by a father and son who shared the 1915 Nobel Prize in Physics?

ANS: Bragg's law (accept **Wulff–Bragg**'s condition or **Laue–Bragg** interference)

Mandarin: **bùlāgé dìnglù**

The word for ‘law’ differs from language to language but the important is the same is all European languages.

QUESTION THREE

Known for its extreme placidity, which has seen the species achieve internet celebrity, **which semi-aquatic South American mammal** is the world's largest rodent?

ANS: greater capybara (accept **Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris**)

Danish: **kapivar** or **kapibara** or **flodsvin**

Dutch: **capibara** or **waterzwijn**

French: also accept **cabiaï**

German: also accept **Wasserschwein** or
Kapybär

Mandarin: **shuí tún**

Norwegian: **flodsvin** or **kapivar** or
kapybara

Polish: **kapibara** wielka

Romanian: **capibara** or **porc de apă**

Swedish: **kapybara** or **vattensvin**

ROUND TWO

PLAYER ONE

QUESTION ONE

Which medieval kingdom – which spanned the African parts of the Red Sea, Yemen, and northern Ethiopia – was conquered in 960 CE when it was invaded by a Jewish queen named Gudit from the Simien Mountains? This kingdom took its name from the city that served as its capital for most of its history.

ANS: Kingdom of Aksum or Aksumite Empire or Axum

French: **Aksoum**

Mandarin: **ākèṣū mǔ** wángguó

QUESTION TWO

This major Punjabi river was assigned to India by the historic Indus Water Treaty of 1960 and the Rajasthan Canal project diverted its waters into previously unirrigated areas of India. **Which river** that runs along the border between Pakistan and India in Punjab is home to the manmade Ropar wetland?

ANS: Sutlej or Satluj or Satadru

Mandarin: **sàtè láijié hé**

Polish: **Satledź**

QUESTION THREE

Although, contrary to popular myth, he did not discover the Champagne method, this French Benedictine monk did make important improvements to the quality of sparkling wine production. This is **which man**, who died in 1715?

ANS: Dom Pérignon

Mandarin: **táng péi lǐ nóng**

PLAYER TWO

QUESTION ONE

The 'Paganini' section of **which composer**'s 1835 piano piece *Carnaval* contains an early example of extended piano technique when the performer silently depresses a chord related to the overtone series of previous chords, and then depresses the sustain pedal to produce the sound of sympathetically vibrating strings? Chopin described *Carnaval* as 'not real music at all' but is the dedicatee of another of this composer's solo piano pieces, *Kreisleriana*.

ANS: Robert Schumann

Mandarin: luóbótè · <u>shūmàn</u>	
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QUESTION TWO

What name is used for the 114 chapters that make up the Quran? These chapters may be further divided into verses or *ayat*.

ANS: surah or suwar

French: <u>sourate</u>	Mandarin: <u>sūlā</u>
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German: Sure

QUESTION THREE

One PhD student of Sir William Henry Bragg was **which Irish X-ray crystallographer** who was the first to demonstrate the planar hexagonal structure of the benzene ring using X-ray diffraction methods on hexamethylbenzene? She was one of the first two women, alongside biochemist Margory Stephenson, to be elected a fellow of the Royal Society and she gives her name to a particularly hard allotrope of carbon – also known as hexagonal diamond – that is found only in meteorite debris.

ANS: Kathleen Lonsdale

Mandarin: Kāisèlín· <u>Lǎngsīdàìěr</u>	
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PLAYER THREE

QUESTION ONE

Which city, Panama's second largest, lies at the Atlantic end of the Panama Canal and has been the site of a namesake free trade zone since 1948?

ANS: Colón

Mandarin: kēlóng

QUESTION TWO

What unit of currency, used in ancient Mesopotamia, originally denoted a small unit of weight of around 11 grams? The same name is shared by a currency that was adopted by a UN member state in 1980, when it replaced the previous currency, known as the pound.

ANS: shekel or sheqel (accept 'new shekel'')

Dutch: sjekel

French: sicel

Mandarin: xiè kèr

Polish: szekel

Swedish: sikel

QUESTION THREE

What EU country announced its withdrawal from the ICC in April 2025, in conjunction with a visit from the Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu, who is currently sought under an ICC arrest warrant? Unless retracted, the withdrawal will become effective in April 2026, coinciding with the country's parliamentary elections.

ANS: Hungary

Danish: Ungarn

Dutch: Hongarije

French: Hongrie

German: Ungarn

Mandarin: xiōngyáli

Norwegian: Ungarn

Polish: Węgry

Romanian: Ungaria

Swedish: Ungern

PLAYER FOUR

QUESTION ONE

Another example of a “superfluous man” is the Byron-like figure, Pechorin, the protagonist of **what 1840 Russian novel?** Though he claims to “despise women to avoid loving them”, he appears to legitimately care for an old lover, Vera.

ANS: A Hero of Our Time or Gerój nášego vrémeni

Danish: Vor Tids Helt

Dutch: Een held van onze tijd

French: Un héros de notre temps

German: Ein Held unserer Zeit

Mandarin: dāngdài yīngxióng

Norwegian: Vår tids helt

Polish: Bohater naszych czasów

Romanian: Un erou al timpului nostru

Swedish: Vår tids hjälte

QUESTION TWO

Which biologist gives his name to a 'rule' that explains how kin selection can lead to altruistic behaviour, in which $rB > C$ [r b is greater than C] where r is the coefficient of relatedness, B is the benefit of an altruistic act to the recipient, and C is the cost of the act to the performer? It can be summarised by a joke made by J. B. S. Haldane which states that he would willingly die for at least two of his brothers or at least eight of his cousins.

ANS: W. D. Hamilton

Mandarin: wēilián · tángnà · hàn míěrdùn

QUESTION THREE

The daughter of TimTam, Pinky befriends Ness at Thomas Allan Stockham's plantation in **which acclaimed 2016 novel** by the Ghanaian-American author Yaa Gyasi?

ANS: Homegoing

Dutch: Weg naar huis

French: No Home

German: Heimkehren

Mandarin: guī qù lái xī

Polish: Droga do domu

ROUND THREE

PLAYER ONE

QUESTION ONE

What was the name of the first silver coin struck by the Roman Empire? The word for "money" in a number of Romance languages ultimately derives from the name of this coin, valued at 10 assēs.

ANS: denarius (or denarii)

French: denier

German: Denar

Mandarin: dì nà lǐ wūsī

Polish: denar

Romanian: denar

QUESTION TWO

George Crumb's *Makrokosmos* is an avant-garde work that includes extended piano techniques such as plucking the strings, using objects like plectrums and thimbles, and whistling. *Makrokosmos* was a response to **which European composer**'s *Mikrokosmosz* (*Mikrokosmos*), a collection of 153 piano pieces, written between 1926 and 1939, some of which use extended techniques such as silent pressing?

ANS: Béla Bartók or Bartók Béla

Mandarin: bātuōkè · bèilā

QUESTION THREE

Hokusai's *Fugaku Sanjūrokkei* (*Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji*) greatly influenced **which artist**'s *Meisho Edo Hyakkei* (*One Hundred Famous Views of Edo*) which, despite its title, consists of 119 ukiyo-e prints?

ANS: Utagawa Hiroshige or Andō Hiroshige

Mandarin: gē chuān guǎng zhòng

PLAYER TWO

QUESTION ONE

Angela Davis studied at the university in **which European city** where Max Horkheimer led the Institut für Sozialforschung (Institute for Social Research)?

ANS: Frankfurt am Main

French: Francfort

Mandarin: měi yīn hépàn fǎlánkèfú

QUESTION TWO

The final ruler of Aksum before Gudit's invasion was Dil Na'od. He was the holder of **what title**, derived from the Ge'ez for 'to reign', that was used by kings in a number of Ethiopian polities?

ANS: Negus of Aksum (do not accept 'Atse' or 'Negusa Nagast')

QUESTION THREE

Superfluous man and noble Dmitrii Nikolevich Rudin is the central figure of *Rudin*, the first full-length novel published by **what author**? This author had written one of the earliest depictions of a superfluous man six years earlier, in a novella centring on the terminally ill Tchulkaturin.

ANS: Ivan Turgenev

Dutch: Ivan Toergenjev

French: Ivan Tourgueniev

German: Iwan Turgenew

Mandarin: yīwàn · túgénièfū

Polish: Iwan Turgieniew

Romanian: Ivan Turgheniev

Swedish: Ivan Turgenjev

PLAYER THREE

QUESTION ONE

What term, meaning 'in the name of God', is repeated before each *surah* except the ninth, At-Tawbah? *Tasmiyah* refers to the act of saying this term, which is also recited before certain religious practices and daily activities.

ANS: bismillah or bi-smi llāh or basmala

Mandarin: tài sī mǐ

QUESTION TWO

Kin selection explains the co-operative behaviour of eusocial insects. Insects in the order Hymenoptera (bees, wasps, ants) use **which sex-determination system** in which males hatch from unfertilised eggs containing only genetic information from their mother, and females hatch from fertilised eggs, containing genetic information from both parents? This means that the workers in a colony are more closely related to their sisters than to their own offspring.

ANS: haplodiploidy (accept arrhenotoky)

Danish: haplodiploidi

Dutch: haplodiploïdie

French: haplodiploïde

German: Haplodiploidie

Mandarin: rǎnsètī bēi xìng xìngbié juédìng
xìtōng

Norwegian: haplodiploidi

Polish: haplodiploidalność

Romanian: haplodiploidie

Swedish: haplodiploidi

QUESTION THREE

Despite their size, adult capybaras still have plenty of predators. One such predator is **which mammal**, the largest cat species in the Americas? It shares much of its southern range with another predator of the capybara, the cougar or puma, from which it can be distinguished by its larger size and the rosettes on its fur.

ANS: jaguar

Danish: accept jaguaren

Mandarin: měizhōubào

Norwegian: accept jaguaren

Swedish: accept jaguaren

PLAYER FOUR

QUESTION ONE

Madame de Pompadour was among the best customers of **which French wine merchant**, who served the royal court at Versailles during the 1730s and who became the first winemaker in Champagne to exclusively produce sparkling wine? Best known for its Dom Pérignon label, the Champagne house he created is now owned by LVMH and his surname provides one of the letters in the name of that company.

ANS: Claude **Moët**

QUESTION TWO

Which Malaysian city, one of the country's most populous, is the country's largest special economic zone despite gaining city status only in 1994? Often abbreviated 'JB', it shares the world's busiest international border crossing with Singapore.

ANS: **Johor Bahru**

Mandarin: **xīnshān**

QUESTION THREE

In 2005, the ICC issued its first arrest warrants. These targeted Joseph Kony, Vincent Otti, and three other leaders of the Lord's Resistance Army, a Christian extremist organization founded to work against President Yoweri Museveni and towards the establishment of a Christian state in **what African country**?

ANS: **Uganda**

French: **Ouganda**

Mandarin: **wūgāndá**

ROUND FOUR

PLAYER ONE

QUESTION ONE

Another Irish protege of William Henry Bragg was **which biochemist and polymath** nicknamed "Sage", also important for his logistics work on the WW2 Operation Overlord? His scientific work with his PhD student, Dorothy Hodgkin, on the X-ray diffraction of wet crystals of pepsin, demonstrating an ordered X-ray diffraction pattern, laid the foundations of modern protein crystallography.

ANS: John D. **Bernal**

Mandarin: yuēhàn · **bēiěrnà**

QUESTION TWO

The headstrong Pinky is the sister of the protagonist, Sampath, in **which Indian author's** 1998 novel *Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard*? This woman's only other novel is the acclaimed 2006 book *The Inheritance of Loss*.

ANS: Kiran **Desai** (accept 'Desai' alone but do not accept her mother, Anita Desai)

Mandarin: jī lán · **désài**

QUESTION THREE

Which Iranian island in Hormozgan province was designated a free trade zone in 1992, allowing foreign ownership, zero-percent tax rates, and more relaxed visa requirements? The Iranian government have sought to develop this island as a tourist destination to rival Dubai and Qatar.

ANS: **Kish** (do not accept 'Qeshm')

German: **Kisch**

Mandarin: **jīshén**

Polish: **Kisz**

PLAYER TWO

QUESTION ONE

In November 2024, the ICC issued an arrest warrant for **which former head** of the Palestinian Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades five months after he was presumed assassinated in an Israeli airstrike? The warrant was cancelled in February 2025, after his death had been confirmed.

ANS: Mohammed Deif

Mandarin: mùhānmòdé · dàifū

Polish: Muhammad Dajf

QUESTION TWO

Hiroshige is often considered the last great master of *ukiyo-e*. Along with his *Meisho Edo Hyakkei* (*One Hundred Famous Views of Edo*), he is perhaps best known for his work [BLANK] *Gojūsan-tsugi* (*The Fifty-Three stations of the [BLANK]*). **Which word**, the name of a historic road that connected Kyoto with Edo (Tokyo), fills the blank?

ANS: Tōkaidō

Mandarin: dōnghǎidào

QUESTION THREE

Another predator of capybaras is **which relatively small crocodilian** of the family Alligatoridae, found in the swamps, lakes, and mangrove rivers of South and Central America?

ANS: caiman

Danish: kaiman

Dutch: kaaiman

German: Kaiman

Mandarin: kǎi mén è

Norwegian: kaiman

Polish: kajman

Swedish: kaiman

PLAYER THREE

QUESTION ONE

Which river joins the Indus at the point at which the Hindu Kush, the Himalayas, and the Karakoram all meet? A namesake city on this river gives its name to a region that, itself, co-names an administrative territory of northern Kashmir, administered by Pakistan but subject to a dispute with India.

ANS: Gilgit (accept Gupis or Ghizer)

Mandarin: <u>jíér jí tè hé</u>	
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QUESTION TWO

Many works centring on superfluous men, including *Rudin*, were published in **what Russian literary magazine**? Both Ivan Turgenev and Ivan Goncharov were hired to work on this magazine by its editor, Nikolay Nekrasov.

ANS: Sovremennik (accept The Contemporary)

Danish: accept <u>Den Samtidige</u>	Mandarin: accept <u>xiàndàirén</u>
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French: <u>Le Contemporain</u>	Polish: accept <u>Współcześnik</u>
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German: accept <u>Der Zeitgenosse</u>	
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QUESTION THREE

It is unclear exactly how long Gudit and her dynasty reigned after defeating Aksum, but she is sometimes said to have been followed by Mara Takla Haymanot, the founder of **which dynasty**? This dynasty, which takes its name from the Ge'ez name of the Agaw people, controlled much of Ethiopia and Eritrea from 1137–1270 and saw the construction of the famous rock-hewn churches during the reign of Gebre Meskel Lalibela.

ANS: Zagwe dynasty

French: <u>Zagwés</u>	Polish: <u>Zague</u>
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Mandarin: <u>zhā gé wéi</u> wángcháo	
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PLAYER FOUR

QUESTION ONE

Angela Davis's doctoral advisor at the University of Frankfurt was **which German-born philosopher** who wrote the English-language works *Eros and Civilization* and *One-Dimensional Man*?

ANS: Herbert Marcuse

Mandarin: hèbótè · mǎěrkùsāi

QUESTION TWO

What is the name for the canonical reports of the sayings and the deeds of the Prophet Muhammad? These texts are widely considered the second most important source for Islamic norms and guidance, or *Sunnah*, after the Quran.

ANS: hadith

Mandarin: shèngxùn

Polish: hadis

Romanian: hadis

QUESTION THREE

In his piece *Szabadban* (*Out of Doors*), Bartók used 'tone clusters', chords containing at least three adjacent tones, typically played by depressing keys with the flat of the hand or the forearm. **Which American composer** instructs the performer to use a 14¾ inch-long wooden strip to play tone clusters in 'Hawthorne', the second movement of his Piano Sonata No. 2, known as the *Concord Sonata*?

ANS: Charles Ives

Mandarin: chálīsī · ài wǔ shì

ROUND FIVE

PLAYER ONE

QUESTION ONE

In a 1967 paper, W. D. Hamilton coined the term ‘unbeatable strategy’ while describing the effectiveness of 1:1 sex-ratios. John Maynard Smith mathematically formalised the idea of an unbeatable strategy into **what concept**, which refers a phenotype that, once in place, cannot be replaced or invaded by any other phenotype?

ANS: evolutionarily stable strategy or ESS

Danish: **evolutionært stabil strategi**

Dutch: **evolutionair stabiele strategie**

French: **stratégie évolutivement stable**

German: **evolutionär stabile Strategie**

Mandarin: **jīn huà wěndìng duìcè**

Norwegian: **evolusjonært stabil strategi**

Polish: **strategia stabilna ewolucyjne**

Romanian: **strategie stabilă evoluționistă**

Swedish: **evolutionärt stabil strategi**

QUESTION TWO

Between 1967 and 1968, Angela Davis attended a series of seminars given at Frankfurt by **which German philosopher** to discuss his book *Negative Dialektik* (*Negative Dialectics*)? This man's other works include *Dialektik der Aufklärung* (*Dialectic of Enlightenment*), which he co-wrote with Max Horkheimer.

ANS: Theodor W. Adorno

Mandarin: dí àoduō · **āduōnuò**

QUESTION THREE

Another predator of adult capybaras is **which semi-aquatic South American snake** of the genus *Eunectes*, particularly its 'green' species, which is the world's heaviest snake?

ANS: anaconda (accept **water boa** but prompt on 'boa' and do not accept 'boa constrictor')

Mandarin: **shuǐ rán shǔ** or **sēnrán**

Swedish: **anakondor**

PLAYER TWO

QUESTION ONE

Which Chinese city, a special economic zone (SEZ) along the Pearl River Delta in Guangdong province, is now the country's third largest city despite having a population of only 30,000 in 1980? It was chosen as the first SEZ due to its proximity to Hong Kong, which helped it attract foreign investment.

ANS: Shenzhen

QUESTION TWO

The first vintage Champagne was created in 1810 by **which Frenchwoman**, who took on her husband's wine business when she was widowed in 1805 at the age of 27? Also the inventor of the first known blended rosé Champagne, she gives her name to the prestigious Champagne house that she created.

ANS: Madame Clicquot Ponsardin or Widow **Clicquot** or Veuve **Clicquot** (accept Barbe-Nicole **Ponsardin**)

Mandarin: bā bù -nīkēér· kè lìkē - péng
sàér dān

QUESTION THREE

What coin, minted almost entirely from gold, was used widely across medieval Europe for trade purposes after being introduced in Venice in 1284? The coin's name derives from one of the noble titles held by Roger II of Sicily, who had introduced a similar coin the previous century.

ANS: ducat

Mandarin: dá kète

PLAYER THREE

QUESTION ONE

Inspired by his discussions with John Bernal during a posting to Southeast Asia during WW2, **which biochemist and crystallographer** worked closely with one of Lawrence Bragg's PhD students, Max Perutz, sharing a 1962 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for their X-ray crystallographically determined structures of the oxygen carrying macromolecules haemoglobin and myoglobin?

ANS: John Kendrew

Mandarin: yuēhàn · kěn délǔ

QUESTION TWO

The 17-year-old sociopath Pinkie Brown is the central character in **which 1938 English novel?**

ANS: Brighton Rock

French: Rocher de Brighton

German: also accept Am Abgrund des Lebens

Mandarin: bùlái dùn yìngtáng

Polish: W Brighton

Swedish: also accept Lagt kort ligger

QUESTION THREE

One of Charles Ives' biggest supporters was Henry Cowell, who used many extended techniques and is credited with inspiring **which other American composer** to develop the 'prepared piano', which involves putting different objects along the piano strings before performing? Pieces this composer wrote for the prepared piano include *Bacchanale* and *Totem Ancestor*.

ANS: John Cage

Mandarin: yuēhàn · kǎi jí

PLAYER FOUR

QUESTION ONE

Aksum had established itself as a major regional power in 520 during the reign of Kaleb when it invaded **which Yemeni kingdom** at the behest of the Byzantine King Justin I in order to end the persecution of Christians? This kingdom was centred around Zafar in the Yemeni highlands.

ANS: Himyar or Himyarite

Mandarin: xī mùyè

Norwegian: Himjar

Polish: Himjar

QUESTION TWO

Hyakumonogatari (*One Hundred Stories of Demons and Spirits*) is a work by **which ukiyo-e artist**, perhaps best known for his *bijin ōkubi-e*, that is depictions of the heads of beautiful women? The French Impressionists held this man in as high regard as Hokusai and Hiroshige, and his use of colour and compositional style was enormously influential on the work of Mary Cassatt.

ANS: Kitagawa Utamaro

Mandarin: Xǐduōchuān Gēmó

QUESTION THREE

The Baglihar Dam, which has been operational since 2008, lies on **which Punjabi river** that flows through Indian-held Kashmir before reaching Pakistan? Pakistan has objected to the dam claiming it violates the 1960 Indus Water Treaty.

ANS: Chenab or Chandrabhaga

TIEBREAKER ONE

QUESTION ONE

Created in 1893, *Skrik (The Scream)* is the masterpiece of **which Norwegian painter?**

ANS: Edvard **Munch**

Mandarin: àidéhuá · **méngkè**

QUESTION TWO

Henri Moissan was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1906 for his work in isolating **which yellowish-brown gaseous element** from its compounds?

ANS: **fluorine** or F

Danish: **fluor**

Dutch: **fluor**

French: **fluor**

German: **Fluor**

Mandarin: **Fú**

Norwegian: **fluor**

Polish: **fluor**

Romanian: **fluor**

Swedish: **fluor**

QUESTION THREE

Premiering in Prague in 1921, **which science-fiction play** by the Czech author Karel Čapek is best remembered today for having introduced and popularized the word 'robot'?

ANS: **R.U.R.**: Rossumovi Univerzální Roboti or **R.U.R.**: Rossum's Universal Robots (accept **Rossum's Universal Robots** if offered)

Mandarin: **luō suō de wànnéng gōngrén**

TIEBREAKER TWO

QUESTION ONE

In 2004, Indulis Emsis became the first head of government to represent a Green party when he was elected Prime Minister of **which country?**

ANS: Latvia

Danish: Letland

Dutch: Letland

French: Lettonie

German: Lettland

Mandarin: 拉脱维亚

Polish: Łotwa

Romanian: Letonia

Swedish: Lettland

QUESTION TWO

Located off Tunisia's Gulf of Gabès and supposedly Odysseus's island of the Lotus-Eaters, **what is the name of the largest island** off the North African coast?

ANS: Djerba (accept Jarbah, Jirba, Meninge, or Meninx)

QUESTION THREE

Many Inca villages would keep an oddly shaped example of **which foodstuff** in order to worship the deity Axomamma, who is the Incan goddess of that foodstuff?

ANS: potato

Danish: kartoffel

Dutch: aardappel

French: pomme de terre

German: Kartoffel

Mandarin: 土豆

Norwegian: potet

Polish: ziemniak

Romanian: cartof

Swedish: potatis

TIEBREAKER THREE

NEAREST THE BULL

Europe's tallest statue is *The Motherland Calls* in Volgograd, which was inspired by the Hellenic masterpiece, *Winged Victory of Samothrace* (or the *Niké of Samothrace*). If you stacked the two sculptures on top of one another (including plinths) **how tall** would the resulting statue be to the nearest metre?

ANS: 93

SPARES

SPARE ONE

Which orange-yellow-brown pigment, produced in the liver by the breakdown of haemoglobin, is responsible for the colour of bile and jaundiced skin?

ANS: bilirubin or BR

Dutch: bilirubine

French: bilirubine

Mandarin: dǎnhóngsù

Polish: bilirubina

Romanian: bilirubină

SPARE TWO

Also the Royal House of Norway until 1905, **which house** has reigned over Sweden since 1818?

ANS: Bernadotte

Mandarin: bèiěrnà duōtè

SPARE THREE

Located in the Canadian Arctic Archipelago, and sharing its name with an English county, **which is the world's largest uninhabited island?**

ANS: Devon Island

Mandarin: déwén dǎo