

60 Hard Trivia Questions for Adults

Bar-trivia difficulty across history, science, geography and film. Full answer key included.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Round 1 — History (Hard)

1. Which treaty formally ended World War I?

2. Who was the last Tsar of Russia?

3. In what year did the Berlin Wall go up?

4. Which battle is considered the turning point of the American Civil War in 1863?

5. Who was the Byzantine Empire's capital named after?

6. Which country did Napoleon Bonaparte exile to after his first defeat, before Waterloo?

7. What was the name of the peace agreement that ended the Vietnam War in 1973?

8. Who was the first female Prime Minister of the United Kingdom?

9. Which empire was ruled by Suleiman the Magnificent at its height?

10. What year did the Soviet Union officially dissolve?

Round 2 — Science (Hard)

11. What is the atomic number of carbon?

12. Which scientist proposed the laws of planetary motion before Newton?

13. What is the name of the process by which plants convert light into chemical energy?

14. Which particle has a negative electric charge?

15. What is the speed of light in a vacuum, approximately?

16. Which blood type is considered the universal donor?

17. What is the name of the theory that describes the universe expanding from a single point?

18. Which element has the chemical symbol 'Fe'?

19. What is the term for an organism that can survive on both land and water?

20. Which gas is most responsible for the greenhouse effect on Earth?

Round 3 — Geography (Hard)

21. Which African country was formerly known as Abyssinia?

22. What is the capital of New Zealand?

23. Which strait separates Europe and Africa at their closest point?

24. What is the only country that borders both France and Spain?

25. Which US state has the longest coastline?

26. What is the deepest point in the world's oceans called?

27. Which country has the most time zones?

28. What is the capital of Kazakhstan?

29. Which sea lies between Italy and the Balkan Peninsula?

30. What is the only continent with land in all four hemispheres?

Round 4 — Movies, TV & Music (Hard)

31. Who directed 'Pulp Fiction'?

32. Which actor has won the most Academy Awards for Best Actor?

33. What was the first feature-length animated film ever released?

34. Which composer wrote the opera 'The Magic Flute'?

35. Which band's final studio album was 'Abbey Road'?

36. Who composed the score for 'Star Wars'?

37. Which Shakespeare play was the basis for the musical 'West Side Story'?

38. What was the top-grossing film worldwide in 1994?

39. Which artist painted 'Guernica'?

40. Who directed the 1960 film 'Psycho'?

Round 5 — Sports (Hard)

41. Which country hosted the first modern Olympic Games in 1896?

42. Who holds the record for most Grand Slam singles titles in men's tennis (as of 2024)?

43. In cricket, how many runs is a 'century'?

44. Which horse race is held annually at Churchill Downs?

45. What is the maximum break possible in a single frame of snooker?

46. Which country won the first-ever FIFA World Cup in 1930?

47. In Formula 1, how many points does a race winner currently earn?

48. Which NBA team drafted Michael Jordan in 1984?

49. What is the term for three consecutive strikes in bowling?

50. Which country has won the most Rugby World Cups?

Round 6 — Mixed Finale (Hard)

51. What is the only planet in our solar system that rotates on its side?

52. Which country has the most UNESCO World Heritage Sites?

53. What is the term for a word that reads the same forwards and backwards?

54. Who was the first person to walk on the Moon?

55. Which currency was replaced by the euro in most of the EU in 2002?

56. What is the collective noun for a group of crows?

57. Which two elements combine to form table salt?

58. What is the longest bone in the human body?

59. Which language family does English belong to?

60. What is the name of the galaxy that contains our solar system?

Answer Key

Round 1 — History (Hard)

1. Which treaty formally ended World War I? - The Treaty of Versailles (1919).
2. Who was the last Tsar of Russia? - Nicholas II.
3. In what year did the Berlin Wall go up? - 1961 (it fell in 1989).
4. Which battle is considered the turning point of the American Civil War in 1863? - The Battle of Gettysburg.
5. Who was the Byzantine Empire's capital named after? - Constantine the Great (Constantinople).
6. Which country did Napoleon Bonaparte exile to after his first defeat, before Waterloo? - Elba.
7. What was the name of the peace agreement that ended the Vietnam War in 1973? - The Paris Peace Accords.
8. Who was the first female Prime Minister of the United Kingdom? - Margaret Thatcher.
9. Which empire was ruled by Suleiman the Magnificent at its height? - The Ottoman Empire.
10. What year did the Soviet Union officially dissolve? - 1991.

Round 2 — Science (Hard)

11. What is the atomic number of carbon? - Six.
12. Which scientist proposed the laws of planetary motion before Newton? - Johannes Kepler.
13. What is the name of the process by which plants convert light into chemical energy? - Photosynthesis.
14. Which particle has a negative electric charge? - The electron.
15. What is the speed of light in a vacuum, approximately? - About 300,000 kilometres per second (186,000 miles per second).
16. Which blood type is considered the universal donor? - O negative.
17. What is the name of the theory that describes the universe expanding from a single point? - The Big Bang theory.
18. Which element has the chemical symbol 'Fe'? - Iron (from Latin ferrum).
19. What is the term for an organism that can survive on both land and water? - Amphibian.
20. Which gas is most responsible for the greenhouse effect on Earth? - Carbon dioxide (though water vapour contributes the most by volume; CO2 is the primary human-driven factor).

Round 3 — Geography (Hard)

21. Which African country was formerly known as Abyssinia? - Ethiopia.
22. What is the capital of New Zealand? - Wellington (not Auckland).
23. Which strait separates Europe and Africa at their closest point? - The Strait of Gibraltar.
24. What is the only country that borders both France and Spain? - Andorra.

25. Which US state has the longest coastline? - Alaska.
26. What is the deepest point in the world's oceans called? - The Challenger Deep, in the Mariana Trench.
27. Which country has the most time zones? - France (due to its overseas territories) — 12 time zones.
28. What is the capital of Kazakhstan? - Astana (officially renamed from Nur-Sultan back to Astana in 2022).
29. Which sea lies between Italy and the Balkan Peninsula? - The Adriatic Sea.
30. What is the only continent with land in all four hemispheres? - Africa.

Round 4 — Movies, TV & Music (Hard)

31. Who directed 'Pulp Fiction'? - Quentin Tarantino.
32. Which actor has won the most Academy Awards for Best Actor? - Daniel Day-Lewis, with three.
33. What was the first feature-length animated film ever released? - Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (1937).
34. Which composer wrote the opera 'The Magic Flute'? - Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.
35. Which band's final studio album was 'Abbey Road'? - The Beatles (their last recorded, though 'Let It Be' was released after).
36. Who composed the score for 'Star Wars'? - John Williams.
37. Which Shakespeare play was the basis for the musical 'West Side Story'? - Romeo and Juliet.
38. What was the top-grossing film worldwide in 1994? - The Lion King.
39. Which artist painted 'Guernica'? - Pablo Picasso.
40. Who directed the 1960 film 'Psycho'? - Alfred Hitchcock.

Round 5 — Sports (Hard)

41. Which country hosted the first modern Olympic Games in 1896? - Greece.
42. Who holds the record for most Grand Slam singles titles in men's tennis (as of 2024)? - Novak Djokovic.
43. In cricket, how many runs is a 'century'? - 100 runs by a single batter in an innings.
44. Which horse race is held annually at Churchill Downs? - The Kentucky Derby.
45. What is the maximum break possible in a single frame of snooker? - 147 points.
46. Which country won the first-ever FIFA World Cup in 1930? - Uruguay.
47. In Formula 1, how many points does a race winner currently earn? - 25 points.
48. Which NBA team drafted Michael Jordan in 1984? - The Chicago Bulls.

49. What is the term for three consecutive strikes in bowling? - A turkey.
50. Which country has won the most Rugby World Cups? - South Africa (four titles as of 2023).

Round 6 — Mixed Finale (Hard)

51. What is the only planet in our solar system that rotates on its side? - Uranus.
52. Which country has the most UNESCO World Heritage Sites? - Italy.
53. What is the term for a word that reads the same forwards and backwards? - A palindrome.
54. Who was the first person to walk on the Moon? - Neil Armstrong.
55. Which currency was replaced by the euro in most of the EU in 2002? - Various national currencies — for example the Deutsche Mark in Germany and the French Franc in France.
56. What is the collective noun for a group of crows? - A murder.
57. Which two elements combine to form table salt? - Sodium and chlorine.
58. What is the longest bone in the human body? - The femur (thighbone).
59. Which language family does English belong to? - Germanic (part of the broader Indo-European family).
60. What is the name of the galaxy that contains our solar system? - The Milky Way.