# KQA <br> MAHAQUIZZER ANSWERS 

The 2011 edition

## DO NOT OPEN TILL THE END OF THE 90 MIN

- Small spelling variations are okay, use your judgement
- For all answers which are names of people, just surname is acceptable.

However, if surname is correct and first name(s) are given wrongly, it is to be considered incorrect

- No half points for any question
- Parts marked in RED are the operative part(s) of the answer
- If in doubt, call

Mitesh Agarwal (+91 98452 59423) | Rahul (+91 99801 65286)
Urmila (+91 99015 10064) | Rajagopal (+9198800 61309)

| 1 | Which organ- arguably required for this quiz- makes up about $2 \%$ of the body's weight but uses roughly $20 \%$ of the oxygen breathed? | Brain |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 | This plant has the ability of orienting itself such that its leaves can escape the heat of the sun. It was especially useful to travellers who were lost and was thus known as the $\qquad$ plant. Fill in the blank. | Compass |
| 3 | Ambrosia was considered the food of the gods because it made them $\qquad$ ? (Eight letter answer) | IMMORTAL (No other synonym of Immortal accepted) |
| 4 | The largest public plaza in the world derives its name neither from the colour of the bricks around it nor from the political connotation of the colour. Rather, the name came about because the word krasnaya can mean either $\qquad$ or 'beautiful'. Which square? | Red Square (in Moscow) |
| 5 | It is estimated that he would have been the richest textbook writer ever, considering there have been over 1500 editions of his work. In the sentence "I have studied my $\qquad$ " his name is used synonymously with the subject he wrote on. Who? | Euclid |
| 6 * | If all the national capitals were arranged alphabetically, Abu Dhabi would be the first and Zagreb the last. What national capital comes second alphabetically? | Abuja (capital of Nigeria is not accepted) Abidjan is not a capital city, Accra is the most common wrong answer. |
| 7 | The Project Directorate of Biological Control, Bangalore, was established in 1993 to carry out field studies on biosuppression of pests of crops and weeds. During the XI Plan it changed its name to NBAII that stands for National Bureau of Agriculturally Important $\qquad$ . Fill in the blank. | Insects |
| 8 | What is the major language of Pakistan, the lingua franca of over 45\% of the population? | Punjabi |
| 9 | The Maori legend 'Pania on the Reef' has parallels to 'The Little Mermaid'. In which city can you find the statue of Pania? (You can look it up in the atlas, not in the logarithm tables!) | Napier |
| 10 | If a classical computer has a memory made up of a sequence of bits, a quantum computer maintains a sequence of what units? Please get the spelling right. | Qubit/Qubits (DO NOT ACCEPT ANY OTHER SPELLING) |
| 11 | It is the name of the gifted protagonist with indifferent parents in a childrens' book by Roald Dahl. An Australian would identify the name with a bedroll or a bag. What name? | Matilda |
| 12 | What 'journey' have Premanand Swami, Guru Gobind Singh, Madhava Kandali, Balaram Das, Buddha Reddy, Kamban, Krishnadasa Shama, Molla and Nagachandra among others, lent their perspective to? | Ramayana (Tulsidas has the most famous take on it. Ramayana means Ram's journey). Have accepted Ram's journey |
| 13 | In the 16th century, if you had Trinidad, San Antonio, Concepcion, Victoria and Santiago under your command, with an urge to see the world, who would you be? | Magellan (they were his ships) |
| $14$ | The poet visited the Royal Menagerie at the Tower of London in order to paint some of its inmates. The fearful symmetry of one of the inhabitants so impressed him that in 1794 he wrote this burning bright poem. Name poet and poem- no part points. | William Blake's Tyger (Poet is William Blake \& Poem is Tyger). NO PART POINTS |
| 15 | On being lumped with every other female artist, she said: "We're a gender, not a genre". Name the 22 -year old 'someone like you' singer, who in February 2011 became the first living artist since the Beatles (in 1964) to have two titles simultaneously in the top five of both the U.K. singles and album charts. | Adele (Pronounced a-dell) (Albums are 21 and 19, singles are 'Rolling in the deep' and "Someone like you'. |


| 16 | What series of childrens' books is based on the adventures of Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III- who first appeared in the 2000 book 'Hiccup the seasick Viking'- and his pet Toothless? | How to train your dragon (have not accepted How to Tame your dragon) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 17 | The Ultimates- a group of espionage agents led by Nick Fury and including heroes like Captain America, Hawkeye, Iron Man, Thor and the Hulk- is a modern reimagining of which famous team? | The Avengers |
| 18 | I am the progeny of Juve and Diana, and my name means 'charm' in ancient Latin. My rotation is longer than my revolution. Who am I? | Venus |
| 19 | One of the characters of this novel is disappointed that she can see only a courtyard and not the River Arno from her living quarters. Which 1908 novel set at the Pensione Bertolini? | A Room with a View (by EM Forster) |
| 20 | Originating in the Prussian army in the 17th century, name the marching style with an avian reference most famously associated with the Nazis that evokes "the vision of a boot crashing down on a face". | Goose step/Goose Stepping (No Other Variation accepted) |
| 21 | First constructed by Pilton villager Bill Burroughs in 1971, the stage for what event is inspired by the pyramids of Giza and was originally made using telegraph poles and surplus sheets from the Ministry of Defence? | Glastonbury Festival |
| 22 | Name the Nobel Prize winner who wrote 'Fighting Angel' - a candid biography of her father Absalom Sydenstricker, a missionary who spent a large part of his life translating scriptures to Chinese. | PEARL S. BUCK (Surname accepted here) |
| 23 | During a diving trip off Belize, marine biologist Greg Marshall saw an approaching shark disappear into the murk with a sucker fish clinging on to it. This inspired him to invent what device that helps in observing animal behaviour without disturbing them? Specific 10 letter answer please. | Crittercam |
| 24 | The 1980 film Elephant Man was heavily favoured to win a clutch of Academy Awards. But after it drew a blank, what award was introduced the next year? | Oscar for Best Make Up (Operative part is Make Up) |
| 25 | What two words, denoting a work of art, followed by a preposition come before 'Sunflowers' by Gauguin, 'Geraniums' by Matisse, 'Chair Caning' by Picasso and 'Goldfish bowl' by Lichtenstein? | Still Life (Have not accepted any other answer- both words need to be there) |
| $\begin{gathered} 26 \\ \star \star \end{gathered}$ | Described as a combination of basketball, rugby and polo, this game originally made use of a duck in a basket before the switch to a leather ball. Identify this game that Juan Peron declared the national sport of his country. | Pato |
| 27 | Indian citizens need to obtain ILPs to visit Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland or Mizoram. What does ILP stand for? | Inner Line Permit (Have not accepted any other answer - All 3 words need to be there) |
| 28 | A two-word name associated with celebrity chef Ina Garten derives from a 1954 film starring Humphrey Bogart and Ava Gardner. The second word is the Italian for countess and was once used for a brand of cars in India. What name? | Barefoot Contessa (Have not accepted any other answer both words need to be there) |
| 29 | What eight-letter word connects a pastry made by folding a piece of dough over a filling, the loss of possession of the ball in sports like basketball and an accounting term for the amount of business carried out over a given period of time? | Turnover |
| 30 | This European civilization had a major cultural influence on Rome and is also the birthplace of the Fasces symbol of power. Which civilization that lends its name to the area of Tuscany in Italy? | Etruscan Civilization |
| 31 | Quite like a person storing woollens, what aromatic and volatile chemical does the Formosan subterranean termite mix into the materials used to insulate its 'home' to keep away its natural enemies? | Naphthalene (Naphtha is wrong \& is not accepted) |


| $\begin{gathered} 32 \\ \star \end{gathered}$ | Which Persian instrument literally means 'little bow'? It is a precursor to both the rebab and the bowed lira of Byzantine times. | Kamancha |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 33 | Which bank, now headquartered in Calcutta, is the oldest joint stock bank in India? It was founded in 1865 by a group of Europeans in Uttar Pradesh. | Allahabad Bank (Very grudgingly, we have accepted Bank of Allahabad) |
| 34 | Which of these is not a weave of silk- habutai, chiffon, crepe de chine, gauze, organdy, tafetta? Hint: By changing two letters in the odd-manout you will get a silk weave. | Organdy (Organza is silk) |
| 35 | St. Pierre, a thriving city in the West Indies, was destroyed in 1902 by a volcano that later gave its name to the most violent class of volcanic eruptions. Name this volcano which literally means bald mountain in French. | Mont Pelee (have accepted minor spelling variations) |
| 36 | These brown-haired animals of the marmot family, common in North America, are known for being good swimmers and diggers. Because of their diligence a fictional scouting organization is named after them. Which animal? | Woodchucks (Junior Woodchucks are the Scouting organization to which Huey, Dewey, and Louie belong) |
| 37 | The international airport at Boscobel in Jamaica was recently renamed after an author. Who is the only English-language novelist to be thus honoured? | Ian Fleming |
| 38 | 1600 light projectors with a total power requirement of three million watts producing a total illumination of 3000 lux have been used every September since 2008, in a south-east Asian nation. For what event? | Singapore Grand Prix (accept Singapore Night F1, Singapore Night GP) |
| 39 | It is a form of western classical music with a small number of performers, each of whom plays only one part. What musical form that gets its name from the typical setting of a small room with an intimate atmosphere? | Chamber Music |
| 40 | The 2009 movie The Last Station, starring Christopher Plummer and Helen Mirren is about the last days of someone who died at a backwater station in Astapovo in the Lipetsk region of Russia. Who was the subject of this biopic? | Leo Tolstoy |
| 41 | Originally the Old English past participle form of 'to work', this word is part of the name of an alloy used in furniture-making. It is also part of a famous phrase that is associated with the telegraph. What word? | Wrought |
| 42 | This group of minerals believed to have magical medicinal powers is known in Hindi as abrak or abhra. The spell abracadabra is mistakenly believed to have originated from this. Which group of minerals? Short answer, please. | Mica |
| 43 | Jayaben Desai, who died in 2010 in London, is remembered for her initiative and courage during the Grunwick industrial dispute of 1976-78. Name the then Leader of the Opposition who true to character was the most notable backer of the Grunwick boss. | Margaret Thatcher |
| 44 | Histidine, tryptophan and valine are among 10 intermediates in human metabolism that can only be obtained externally. What are they collectively known as? (Specific three-word answer) | Essential Amino Acids (Just Amino Acids is wrong, Basic Amino Acids is also wrong) |
| 45 | This Roman historian, who, in his work 'Annals' gave us the lowdown on plenty of terror- as executed by Tiberius, Claudius, Nero and Agrippinaexhibited a direct writing style and not a 'subtle style', as his name would imply. Name the Roman historian or the word that derives from his name. | Tacitus or Tacit (accept Publius Cornelius Tacitus) |
| 46 | Tobias Schmidt, an engineer suggested making the critical portion of this device diagonal instead of round, supposedly for ease in execution. Which device that shares its name with an instrument used to excise tonsils and laryngeal growths? | Guillotine |


| 47 | After celebrating the new year at the Bhakra Nangal dam in 1957, Jawaharlal Nehru and a certain guest returned to Delhi by train. What toast did Nehru raise to the guest, something that turned out to to be wishful thinking five years later? | Hindi-Chini Bhai Bhai (No other variation as this was the toast raised) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 48 | Peru and Chile have had a long-standing dispute over the origins of something, which had its roots in the region around Lake Titicaca. What two-word term would be appropriate to describe this dispute, given the sensitive nature of the topic and the object in question? | Hot Potato (No other variation allowed) |
| 49 | For all its controversy, 'The Great Dictator' was not the first American anti-Nazi comedy. The short film, 'You Nazty Spy' that upstaged it by nine months featured which slapstick numerical comedy team? | The three stooges/ 3 Stooges |
| 50 | If Port Said is one end, which is the other? | Suez (2 ends of the Suez Canal)/Accept Tawfik (Suez Canal is wrong) |
| 51 | If machining holes of diameter upto 7.5 cm is defined as drilling, what rather mundane six-letter name is given to the machining of holes having a diameter greater than 7.5 cm ? | Boring (Bore is not a 6 letter word \& not accepted) |
| 52 | 'The Apple Macintosh Book' by Cary Lu and 'Exploring the IBM PC' by Peter Norton- both released in 1984 at the West Coast Computer Fairewere the first two books from the publishing wing of which technology major? | Microsoft |
| 53 | The hit 2003 martial arts film Ong-Bak was released in India under a name that made it sound like an update to a famous film released 30 years before it. Which 1973 film? | Enter the Dragon |
| 54 | At the second Wimbledon in 1878, what innovation- similar to the act of firing a missile in a high trajectory- did Frank Hadow employ to beat the net heavy game of W. Spencer Gore? | Lob/Lobbing/Lob Shot |
| 55 | The 42nd amendment to the Indian constitution reduced the powers of the Supreme Court and the High Courts. After the Janata Government came to power, which then Law Minister drafted amendments to limit its effect, and thus restored the power of the Supreme Court? Full name please. | Shanti Bhushan (No Surname please) |
| 56 | Popularized by the Irish cricket team in the 2011 World Cup, what botanical rarity may lose its status as a good luck charm because scientists in 2010 cracked the code of trait inheritance, thereby making it easy to produce? | Four-leaved clover (No other variation) |
| 57 | Elderberry Wine laced with a potent metalloid turned many people blue in which work by Joseph Kesselring? | Arsenic and Old Lace (Arsenic is greek for masculine/potent and Cyanide is from Greek for Blue) |
| 58 | Related to the hibiscus, this edible pod gives the creole dish 'gumbo' its texture and is used as a thickener in soups and stews. Its seeds have at times been used as a coffee substitute. What pod? | Okra/Ladies finger/Bhindi |
| 59 | Trivelino, bagatino, truffaldino, guazetto and zaccagnino are all types of what figure that is based on King Herla, an Anglo-Saxon god? | Harlequin |
| 60 | It lasts for approximately 24 hours in the presence of sunlight and is reduced to about 20 hours in artificial light. What two-word chronobiological term that derives from the Greek for 'about a day'? | Circadian Rhythm (accepted Circadian Cycle) |
| 61 | Charles Davies invented the sport of clock shooting, which originally had a 25 -yard circle that served as a clock. When a poultry farm was opened next door, the trap could not be set to the desired angle. This problem was solved by offering more altitude than is usually permitted in trapshooting. Which form of shooting was thus created? (Hint: The obvious answer is a trap) | Skeet Shooting (Skeet is a specific discipline in claypigeon shooting) |


| 62 | Born Amir Abdullah Khan $\qquad$ , this military figure earned his nickname fighting against the Japanese Army in Burma. His book 'The betrayal of East Pakistan' was probably an attempt to ward off criticism for the act he is best known for. Name him. | Tiger Niazi/Niazi is also ok |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 63 | Viagra was invented and designed here; new drugs will not be made in this city as Pfizer is closing down its plant. Which historic city, that gave the greatest use for sliced bread? | Sandwich |
| 64 | Fill the blank in this British pub song by G.H.MacDermott \& G.W.Hunt: <br> We don't want to fight <br> But by $\qquad$ if we do... We've got the ships, we've got the men, And got the money too! | Jingo |
| 65 | Which actor, once known for his work on the sitcom Cheers is called 'Pixar's good luck charm', because he has voiced a character in every one of their feature-length films so far? | John Ratzenberger (Surname is accepted) |
| 66 | This influential 1960s band carries a two-part name. The first part is an animal of type bovid, and the second part is the most common brand of firearm used in the American Civil War. Which band? | Buffalo Springfield |
| 67 | In the middle ages, the accounts of churches and other public institutions would be read out loud to the public so that any interested person could listen and verify the accounts. What practice or profession gets its name from this habit of listening to the accounts being read out loud? | Auditing/Audit (Accepted Auditor) |
| 68 | When asked by his future wife what his middle name was, he replied, "It's Strange". His wife: "I know, but what is it?" Name this whiz kid, associated with names such as Ford and the World Bank. | Robert Strange McNamara (surname is accepted) |
| $\begin{gathered} 69 \\ \star \star \end{gathered}$ | An appetizer made of thinly sliced raw meat or fish, it is named after a Venetian painter best known for his cycle of nine paintings: The Legend of Saint Ursula. Which dish, that can be served as part of a salad or an antipasto? | Carpaccio (the painter is Vittore Carpaccio) |
| 70 $\star$ * | Which town close to the only former French colony on the west coast of India, boasts of India's oldest cricket club? It was formed because the then Colonel Wellesley was posted there. | Talassery/ Tellichery |
| 71 | On its own, it is the only nonmetallic element that is liquid at room temperature. A compound form of this element also means a cliched saying or a tiresome person. Which element? | Bromine (Bromide not accepted as it is not an element) |
| 72 | The great earthquake and subsequent tsunami of 1755 destroyed the city of Lisbon. This is said to have inspired which pessimistic novel with the constant ironic refrain 'all is for the best in this, the best of all possible worlds'? | Candide |
| 73 | The author originally set out to write a travel book about the cities of Cairo, Smyrna, Constantinople, Beirut, Aleppo, Damascus and Medina. When this plan did not come to fruition, he instead used the evocative title of the original for his autobiography. Name the book. | Seven Pillars of Wisdom: A Triumph (by TE Lawrence Accept Seven Pillars of Wisdom) |
| 74 | Which festival has etymological roots in one or more of these: Dulla Bhatti, a highway robber whose resistance forced Akbar to shift his capital from Delhi to Lahore for nearly 20 years; the wife of Sant Kabir; Holika's sister; the thick iron tawa used for baking chapatti? | Lohri |
| 75 | As high school students, Joyce Carol Oates, Sylvia Plath and Robert Redford won their writing award and Andy Warhol won his art award. Which appropriately-named company- that launched a child literacy campaign as part of its 90th anniversary- could claim to have discovered these talents in school? | Scholastic |


| 76 | Inclusion of which 'rich port' could result in a change to the 1959 Executive Order by Eisenhower that gives the current nine-row horizontal and eleven-row vertical arrangement? | Puerto Rico |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 77 | August 15 in the Catholic tradition commemorates the departure of the Virgin Mary into Heaven. A South American capital city is so named because it was founded on this day in 1537. Name the commemoration. | ASSUMPTION (of Mary). <br> (Accepted <br> Ascension/Ascuncion) |
| 78 | This lake is surrounded by three European countries - Germany, Switzerland and Austria. The locals call it the Swabian Sea, which is odd since it is not a sea, nor are there any Swabians living on its shore! Which lake that gets its modern name from a university on its shores? | Lake Constance or Konstanz |
| 79 | With a presence in over 90 countries including India, this unofficial umbrella organization puts services associated with global commerce under one roof, a kind of supermarket that provides networking access between corporations and governments. Name this organization most famous for its erstwhile home (reminiscent of a Tolkien book). | World Trade Center <br> Association (accept World Trade Centers) |
| 80 | The common name of this substance is a misnomer because it is actually the powder chloro-benzylidene malono-nitrile dispersed through an agent. How do we know this substance that induces irritation in the lachrymal glands? | Tear Gas |
| 81 | Anti-clerical chess is a variant of chess played on a 6 by 6 square board. Other than the missing pawns, who are the other missing chessmen? | Bishops or Camels (Accept either) |
| 82 | The primary meaning of this Arabic word is the action of extracting honey from beehives. A secondary meaning is 'consultation and deliberation'. In many Middle Eastern nations it is a system of governance by a council of elders. What word? | Shura |
| 83 | His portrait adorns many government buildings across the world. He was perhaps the first to lay out streets in straight lines, at right angles to each other. It is believed that the concept of 'an eye for an eye' originates from his principles. Which 'kinsman who turned out to be a healer'? | Hammurabi (means kinsman who turned out to be a healer in Amorite). |
| 84 | Which Greek king who founded the city of Thebes has a chemical element and a cosmetic substance containing zinc carbonate named after him? | CADMUS (Kadmos is accepted, Cadmium is not accepted) |
| 85 | The process where the curd is drained of whey by cutting it into small pieces is known by what name? It refers to the variety of cheese originating from a Somerset village that is made using this method. | Cheddaring (Cheddar is ok) |
| 86 | Besides the Queen of England and Elizabeth Fry, the only other woman to appear on British banknotes got this privilege thanks to her contributions in the fields of statistics, medical tourism and to a profession that was once a prerequisite to being an air-hostess. Name her. | Florence Nightingale |
| 87 | In the following passage, fill in the name of a book subtitled 'An Episode of the American Civil War':- At times he regarded the wounded soldiers in an envious way. He conceived persons with torn bodies to be peculiarly happy. He wished that he, too, had a wound, a $\qquad$ $\qquad$ . | RED BADGE OF COURAGE (No other variation is acceptable) |
| $\begin{aligned} & 88 \\ & \star \star \end{aligned}$ | Its technically correct name is the Liber Chronicarum, after a phrase in the introduction to the Latin edition. However, it is more commonly known by the name of the Bavarian city to which the author belonged. Which 1493 woodcut masterpiece? | The Nuremberg Chronicle |


| 89 | In contrast to the Salk vaccine, this polio vaccine is taken orally, and contains a live virus which is killed in the gut itself before it can enter the bloodstream. Hence it is considered to be a more effective solution. What? | Sabin Vaccine |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 90 | Karsten $\qquad$ , a Norwegian-American aeronautical engineer, designed golf clubs under the PING brand name and made it one of the world's biggest brands in golf equipment. What is his surname? | Solheim/Solheim Cup (Cannot accept women's equivalent of the Ryder Cup) |
| 91 | During Operation Bluestar, Brahma Chellaney hid in Amritsar and sent the first non-governmental reports of events as they occurred. As a result he became the first journalist in independent India to be charged with $\qquad$ ? (8 letter answer) | Sedition |
| 92 | The author postulates that the title could have been a metaphor for "...an organic entity, full of juice and sweetness and agreeable odour, being turned into an automaton." Which fruity title? | Clockwork Orange |
| 93 | The 16th century battle of Talikota that was the swan song of the Vijaynagar empire is sometimes known as the Battle of $\qquad$ $\qquad$ , after the two villages between which the fight took place. Fill in the blanks. | Rukkusa Tangdi (accept Ruckusa Tangdi and minor spelling variations) |
| 94 | It is used in judicial caning in some Asian countries; scientists recently developed a way of turning its wood into a substitute for human bone. Which six-letter member of the palm family that is a climbing vine. | Rattan |
| 95 | Compared to its South American counterpart, this African country's name is a misnomer. Both supposedly get their name from their geographical location. Name the African country. | Equatorial GUINEA (Ecuador is S.American) |
| 96 | Originally a male name, it became a popular female name after the publication of an 1849 novel by a famous sister. This popularity is mistakenly attributed to a latter-day celebrity. What name, also part of a serious movie quote? | Shirley (the movie quote is Shirley you must be joking from Airplane!) |
| 97 | What five-letter word means a small mound or hillock, the best-known of which is located at Dealey Plaza in Downtown Dallas? | Knoll |
| 98 | He changed the spelling of his surname in order to conform to the usual practices of German pronunciation. Name this German philosopher famed for his three Critiques and for answering the question: "What is Enlightenment?"? | Immanuel Kant |
| 99 | Eustache de Saint-Pierre, Jean d'Aire, Jacques de Wiessant, Pierre de Wiessant, Jean de Fiennes and Andrieu d'Andres in various states of despair are collectively immortalised as what? | Burghers of Calais |
| 100 | Derived from the Latin for 'fruit tree', what name is given to the leftover of fruit such as grapes and olives, obtained after pressing for juice or oil? | Pomace |
| 101 | Which absurdist play, often compared to Animal Farm and Albert Camus' The Plague, was written as a criticism of the French collaboration with the Nazis during World War II? It features people turning into green-colored- as opposed to gray- animals mentioned in the title. | Rhinoceros |
| 102 | This South African sought to address important issues in three areas: the Internet, clean energy and space. In 1999, he started off by cofounding X.com. Name this entrepreneur. | Elon Musk |
| 103 | A ballet pose in which one leg is extended behind the dancer's body with unbent knee shares its name with a common motif in art characterized by highly detailed ornamentation. They both refer to the region of their believed origins. What word? | Arabesque |


| 104 | $\qquad$ Nguyen Dan, literally meaning 'Feast of the First Morning' marks the beginning of spring, and is the first day of the Lunar New Year in a certain country. It is also associated with a famous head-to-head that occurred more than 40 years ago. What action? | Tet Offensive |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & 105 \\ & \star \star \end{aligned}$ | Which John Keats poem is based on the myth of a shepherd beloved to the moon goddess Selene? The poem is famous for its starting line "A thing of beauty is a joy forever". | Endymion |
| 106 | What object connects the Swiss company Longines to Wikileaks, and is sometimes synonymous with attractiveness? | Hourglass |
| $\begin{aligned} & 107 \\ & \star \star \end{aligned}$ | If mortals wash away their sins in the River Ganga, where does Gangain the guise of a black cow- wash away those sins? | Narmada |
| 108 | Possibly the inspiration for the Utopian paradise in James Hilton's Lost Horizon, and sharing the first and last syllables with it, name the mythical kingdom from Tibetan Buddhism, also viewed as a land of malevolent power. | Shambala |
| 109 | This six letter word was originally used by Aristotle to describe the tendency of some elements to rise with the help of air and fire, contrasting it with the concept of gravity. Its modern use is more figurative. What word? | Levity |
| 110 | Supposedly deriving the first part of its name from a city in France that was a site of major medieval fairs and not from the ancient city of Greece, what is the unit approximately equal to 31 grams commonly used to weigh precious metals? | Troy Ounce (ToZ/ozT)/Cannot accept Troy Weights is overall class \& has several weights under it. Also just Troy is wrong. |
| 111 | If experimentation with living organisms is referred to as in-vivo, and that for petri dishes is in-vitro, what is the corresponding term for experimentation with computers called? | in-silico |
| 112 | It is a thin smooth layer covering a rough surface to make an object appear to be of higher quality. It is now also used in the sense of "mere outward show of good quality". What is the good word? | Veneer |
| 113 | In India, Mughal, Deccani, Pahari and Rajasthani royal courts produced the most notable traditions of what artistic form that is said to get its name not from the size but from the colour of the pigment used? | Miniature Paintings (Minium is red lead) |
| $114$ | This word meaning 'to soak' derives from the Lincolnshire dialect. It was originally applied in the UK to someone who drank more than a certain amount of alcohol. It was later used in a slightly different context by psychiatrists to describe problems such as bulimia. What word? | Binge (as in Binge Drinking/Eating) |
| $115$ | This Guyanese novelist's most famous work was based on his experiences in the East End of London. Another of his novels was about his exploits as an 'Honorary White' seeking a visa to visit apartheid era South Africa. Which author? | ER Braithwaite (Edward Ricardo Braithwaite) |
| $\begin{aligned} & 116 \\ & \star \star \end{aligned}$ | What word derives from the first four letters of the Ethiopian Ge'ez script? Some of the best examples include Devanagari, Khmer and all the prominent Dravidian languages. | Abugida |
| 117 | What film did Hrishikesh Mukherjee make to get out of a bout of depression caused by his 1977 flop Alaap? The name has become a consistently successful movie franchise in the 2000s with three releases so far. One word, please. | Golmaal |
| 118 | Thysanolaena Maxima (tiger grass) helps retain soil moisture and also prevents soil erosion and landslides in the fragile eco-systems of the North-East. What everyday item used all over India is made of this grass post-harvest? | Brooms (accept Jhadoo) |


| 119 | In English it is associated with obsolescence, idiocy and the notability of its absence. In French however, it is inexplicably associated with sleep. What? | Dodo |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 120 | Below the Palais Garnier in Paris is a subterranean lake. The lake and other elements, including the crash of a chandelier that killed one person in 1896, inspired Gaston Leroux to write what Gothic masterpiece? | Phantom of the Opera |
| 121 | The Economist has three columns named after trees - Buttonwood for Finance and Banyan for Asia. What multipurpose tree is the Africa column named after? | Baobab (minor spelling variation is accepted) |
| 122 | The Martin Scorsese documentary 'My Voyage to Italy' pays homage in its title to which pioneering movie director, best known for his work in the genres of neo-realism and docudrama? | Roberto ROSSELINI |
| $\underset{\star}{123}$ | What NASA program consists of the Hubble Space Telescope, Compton Gamma Ray Observatory, Chandra X-ray Observatory and Spitzer Space Telescope, each of which examines a region of the electromagnetic spectrum? (Two-word answer) | Great Observatories |
| $\begin{aligned} & 124 \\ & \star \star \end{aligned}$ | The title of Kazuo Ishiguro's novel 'An Artist of the Floating World' is a reference to which Japanese art form, associated with artists such as Hokusai and Hiroshige? | UKIYO-E |
| 125 | In the Mahabharata, where does the 18-day war between Bhishma and Parashurama occur? This war arose when Parashurama tried to convince Bhishma to marry the Kashi Princess Amba. | Kurukshetra |
| 126 | Rumour has it that this website founded by Barbara and David Mikkelson, takes its name from a family in a trilogy by William Faulkner. Which website that is the de facto mythbuster of the internet? | Snopes or Snopes.com |
| 127 | What landlocked area consisting of 72 villages was liberated in 1954, and has Vapi as its nearest railway station? | Dadra and Nagar Haveli (Just Dadra or Just Nagar Haveli cannot be accepted) |
| $128$ | The lead characters have the same first names, but the 2008 film is not yet another sequel to the 1934 film. The 2008 pair was trying to find a missing best friend and a favourite band's secret show while the 1934 pair was investigating a thin friend's disappearance and his possible involvement in a murder. Give the first names of the couple. | Nick and Nora(h) (2008 film: Nick and Norah's infinite playlist; 1934: The thin man |
| 129 | This Latin term is commonly used in improvisational theatre or in any other situation that calls for an unscripted performance. Which term that means 'at one's pleasure'? | Ad Lib/Ad Libbing/ Ad libitum |
| 130 | A god of war in Hindu mythology, one of his names comes from the fact that as an infant he was fostered by a group similar to the Pleiades from Greek myth. Give the specific name. | Karthikeya/Karthik/Karthikeyan |
| 131 | Each winter, a shallow layer of standing water floods the surface. Later, the water slowly evaporates while winds smooth the surface into a vast, nearly perfect plain. Name the area, whose potential was first recognized in connection with a bicycle race from New York to San Francisco. | The Bonneville Salt Flats (have accepted Utah Salt Falts, Just Salt Flats is not accepted) |
| 132 | What single word can be added to the following: Secretary, Rolltop, Shtender, Moore, Credenza, Telephone, Typewriter, Butler, Davenport and Bargueño? | Desk/Desks (Types of Desk) (Have not accepted Tables) |
| $\begin{gathered} 133 \\ \star \end{gathered}$ | Literally meaning 'wing-footed', what term is applied to the group of animals consisting of walruses, sea lions and seals? | Pinniped |
| $\begin{gathered} 134 \\ \star \star \end{gathered}$ | Give one word to connect the world's largest antique market, a 2008 Ruth Rendell novel, a dark meaty mushroom and a 15-year old independent film festival that has been a launch pad for directors such as Guy Ritchie. | Portobello |


| 135 | What was the birthplace (and surname) of medieval Persian poet Saadi, the author of Bostan and Gulistan? The place name is linked by an urban legend to a dark-skinned fruit. | Shiraz |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 136 | The world's only remaining sovereign Grand Duchy, name this country whose entire capital city is a World Heritage Site. | Luxembourg |
| 137 | Alexander MacKenzie hoped to reach the Pacific Ocean when he went down the river, but instead he reached the Arctic Ocean. So the river named after him is also called the 'River $\qquad$ '. (14 letter word). | Disappointment |
| 138 | What is the Oxford University body- a term evocative of gowns and mortar boards- whose only remaining powers are to elect the Chancellor and appoint the Professor of Poetry? | Convocation (Have accepted Board of Convocation) |
| 139 | This 20th century period led to the passing of the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act in the US and also to the abandonment of the gold standard worldwide. What is the two-word term for this period reportedly coined by the economist Lionel Robbins? | Great Depression |
| 140 | He is best known for making India's first Technicolor film, Jhansi ki Rani in 1953 as well as a biopic that was the first Hindi film to win the President's Medal. Which pioneer, who launched a film studio in 1936 with a lion in its logo? | Sohrab Modi |
| 141 | In 1968, Robert Rosenthal described what is sometimes known as the observer-expectancy effect. The basic postulate is that the teacher's expectations of a student significantly affect the student's performance. After which Cypriot sculptor is this hypothesis named? | Pygmalion |
| 142 | Name the 'one' that connects the most commonly used variables to Lleyton Hewitt, Caroline Wozniacki, Lee Chong Wei and Petya Nedelcheva. | YONEX (Connects X and Y!) <br> And all are brand ambassadors |
| 143 | This small town is a pilgrimage site for Vaishnavites as it is the birthplace of Sri Ramanujacharya. Now an industrial hub, it is best known for events from May 1991. Name the place. | Sriperumbudur |
| $\stackrel{144}{\star}$ | Huge stingrays, dolphins and other freshwater creatures are being threatened by the planned construction of an 820 m barrier on which river that derives part of its name from a great Indian river? | Mekong (Kong is from Ganga) |
| 145 | A word for a plaintive piece of writing is named after the Biblical prophet who predicted the Fall of Jerusalem and the Captivity of the Israelites in Babylon. Which prophet? | Jeremiah (have accepted Jeremy) |
| 146 | What is the Latin word for 'cultivated', which is the species name of various crops like rice, oats, hemp and lettuce? | Sativa / sativus / sativum |
| 147 | Indonesia is its largest producer; name the heart-unfriendly plant oil, which along with arguably the most heart-friendly oil gave a soap its name? | Palm Oil (Have accepted Palm) |
| 148 | What style of multiple-family dwelling, whose name derives from a word meaning anklet, is the setting of a movie by Sai Paranjpye and some short stories by Manto? | Chawl |
| $\stackrel{149}{\star}$ | What two word phrase that describes neither a bowling coach nor a vertiginous healer connects Nick Naylor from 'Thank You For Smoking', Conrad Brean from 'Wag the Dog' and Peter Mandelson and Alastair Campbell of the Blair government? | Spin Doctor |
| 150 | The noise created when an electric guitar picks up sound from a speaker connected to an amplifier and regenerates it back through the amplifier, is also the shortest word in the English language that contains the letters- $\mathrm{a}, \mathrm{b}, \mathrm{c}, \mathrm{d}, \mathrm{e}$ and f . What? | Feedback |

This quiz was set by Urmila Lakshmanan, Rajagopal P.S., Rahul Suhas Kottalgi,
Vivek Karthikeyan, Gautam Shenoy and Mitesh Agarwal, of the Karnataka Quiz Association.

Ochintya Sharma and Ashwan Lewis of KQA played the guinea pigs.

To contact KQA, email kqaquizzes@gmail.com www.kqaquizzes.org/mahaquizzer Follow Our Twitter Handle @kqaquizzes

To send feedback on this year's edition of Mahaquizzer, email MahaquizzerFeedback@gmail.com

## MahaQuizzer is held in association with

- QFI-Chennai
- K-Circle \& Hyderabad Quiz Club
- The Boat Club Quiz Club, Pune
- The Bombay Quiz Club
- Kutub Quizzers, New Delhi
- Trivia Bytes Creations, Guwahati
- Grey Cells, Kerala
- Coimbatore Quiz Circle
- Sunday Evening Quiz Club, Goa
- IIT Delhi Quiz Club
and supported by
- Bishop Cottons Boys School, Bangalore
- Orissa Engineering College, Bhubaneswar;
- PSG Institute of Management, Coimbatore
- PS Senior Secondary School, Chennai
- Goa College of Pharmacy, Panaji
- Landmark Bookstore, Hyderabad
- Landmark Bookstore, Mumbai
- SDM Institute for Management Development, Mysore
- Jubilee Mission Medical College, Thrissur
- Govt. Engineering College, Thiruvananthapuram
- Cotton College Union Society, Guwahati
- College of Engineering, Pune
- IBS, Kolkata
- Redact Media (Prizes in Panaji)
- Priyo Sakhi, Dibyajyoti Ozah, Dipankar Koushik, Dhanjit Medhi (Prizes in Guwahati)
- Kamal Rathi and Dr. Jitamitra Mishra (Prizes in Bhubabeswar)

