# MAHAQUIZZER 

## 2023

# Name <br> <br> Organization / Institution <br> <br> Organization / Institution <br> Center <br> Category 

## Open / School / College / Ladies [Select One]

## Rules

- Time allowed: $\mathbf{9 0}$ minutes
- Wait for start signal
- Questions marked with $\star / \star \star$ will resolve ties (first total stars, and if still unresolved, count of double stars)
- No negative marking
- No half marks for any question
- When the answer is a person's name a correct surname will do, unless the full name is specifically asked for
- A wrong first name but correct surname will count as a wrong answer
- Mobiles, smartphones and similar gadgets must be switched off. Usage will lead to immediate disqualification
- Any attempt at skulduggery will result in immediate disqualification
- Explanations are provided with the answers. Your scores at the end of correction will be final. If you have an issue, discuss it with your proctor. Unresolved issues need to be brought to the attention of the quiz setting team by email within 3 days. Copy the proctor on the email

TOTAL


STARS



| 32 | What American supergroup has Julien Baker, Phoebe Bridgers, and Lucy Dacus as its members? The name began as an inside joke referring to an archetype of [a] specifically male artist who has been told since birth that their every thought is not only worthwhile but brilliant. | $\square$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 33 | Commonly heard on TV shows like The Wire, $\qquad$ is a slang combining a verb that means "come to have" in its present tense and its past participle. It implies being caught or being killed in certain contexts. What is the two-word alliterative slang? | $\square$ |
| 34 | In Arthur C Clarke's novel 2010: Odyssey Two, the joint Soviet-US mission is conducted aboard a Soviet spacecraft named after which real-life Russian? He was the principal consultant in the 2017 Russian movie Spacewalker. | $\square$ |
| 35 | $\qquad$ flies, named for their predatory behavior, are a family of dipteran flies (Asilidae) that capture prey mid-flight using their agile aerial skills and stab them with their short, strong proboscis. Give their common name. | $\square$ |
| 36 | Which naval ship named after a US state capital, was sunk by Japanese torpedoes shortly after delivering atomic bomb components that were later dropped on Japan? Sam Quint in Jaws recounts his survival from this tragedy. | $\square$ |
| 37 | On submitting a story to The Atlantic Monthly in 1861, this author was rejected with the words 'You can't write' and received an unsolicited loan of $\$ 40$ instead to open a schoolhouse. Identify the author, who returned the amount nine years later after the wild success of her semi-autobiographical novel. | $\square$ |
| 38 | What word was used by the historian Ranajit Guha for the general attribute of subordination in South Asian society whether expressed in terms of class, caste, age, gender, and office or in any other way? | $\square$ |
| 39 | Designer Peter Saville collaborated for the 80th anniversary celebrations of a company by creating 80 digitally shattered versions of its reptile logo. He described the logo as only "a $\qquad$ It's not the Red Cross or the church; but someone's nickname woven in for fun." Which company? | $\square$ |
| $\begin{gathered} 40 \\ \star \end{gathered}$ | $\qquad$ skiing, named after a region in Norway, is a technique that combines elements of Alpine and Nordic skiing. It is characterised by a distinctive lunging turn, positioning the inside ski ahead of the outside one. What fills the blank? | $\square$ |
| 41 | This iconic museum building stands at the site where the founder had taken a 9,000-year lease in 1759. Here, you visit "The Ingredients Room" and "The Cooperage Room" among others. Which is this company, named after its founder and celebrating more than 260 years of success? | $\square$ |
| 42 | Elizabeth Best, Joyce Meadowcroft, Ibrahim Arif, and Ron Ritchie are all members of which group in a quartet of best-sellers by Richard Osman? | $\square$ |
| 43 | Cricket and I (1933) by Sir Learie Constantine was one of the first books written by a Caribbean author to be published in Britain. Who assisted Constantine in his efforts, three decades before his publication on the same subject? | $\square$ |
| 44 | Permanent Black, in association with Ashoka University, publishes a series of academic books. What is the name of this series, probably alluding to two creatures - one who knew one big thing, and the other who knew many things? | $\square$ |
| 45 | In June 2023, it was announced that the Public Investment Fund (PIF) of Saudi Arabia would control four clubs in Saudi Premier League. This list includes AI Ahli, AI Ittihad, AI Hilal and which other football club, in global limelight since the beginning of 2023? | $\square$ |
| 46 | When an AI $\qquad$ s , it produces false information. What is Cambridge Dictionary's word of the year 2023? | $\square$ |
| 47 | Which signature of an iconic fashion item came about when the designer noticed his assistant applying a certain shade of nail polish and used it to colour an area of the prototype he was reviewing? Specific answer needed (designer + design). | $\square$ |


| 48 | The announcement of UAE minister and oil baron Sultan al-Jaber as the president of what global summit has been criticised by activists for "making a hawk oversee the chicken coop"? | $\square$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 49 | The first woman rapper inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame is also known by a name that means "an action that is slightly bad or breaks a rule but is not a crime." Give either of her two names. | $\square$ |
| $\begin{array}{\|c} 50 \\ \star \end{array}$ | First used to name Jewish zealots who used small daggers to assassinate Roman officials and sympathisers, it is still used in a similar context in Spain and Latin America. What word, which was also the title of a acclaimed Denis Villeneuve movie on the Mexican drug war? | $\square$ |
| 51 | Which London street and neighbourhood is believed to get its name from a kind of cutwork lace collar that became fashionable in the late 16th century and early 17th century, and is seen in official portraits of the Royals? | $\square$ |
| 52 | What is the name of the basaltic plateau bounded by the Jordan River and the Sea of Galilee on the west, Mount Hermon on the north, the seasonal Wadi AI-Ruqqād on the east, and the Yarmūk River on the south? | $\square$ |
| 53 | Ardishír Rustampúr of Hyderabad, Pakistan became one of the highest contributors by donating his savings to the construction of which structure in India completed in the 1980's that attracts an estimated 2.5 to 5 million visitors annually? | $\square$ |
| 54 | What ongoing series of performances in an intimate setting started in 2008, after Bob Boilen and Stephen Thompson were frustrated on not hearing the music over the crowd noise at South by Southwest (SxSW)? | $\square$ |
| 55 | Which 1978 work by Peter Matthiessen describes his travels in the Dolpo region of Nepal and encounters with mastiffs, wolves, and sheep but not the elusive titular creature itself? | $\square$ |
| 56 | During the 19th century Italian unification movement, what two-word patriotic slogan emerged, using a composer's name as an acronym to signify "Long Live Victor Emmanuel, King of Italy"? | $\square$ |
| 57 | According to the Old Farmer's Almanac, by what name do some native American tribes refer to the full moon of May that signals the arrival of spring? | $\square$ |
| 58 | Gamak Ghar, Dhuin, and Pokhar Ke Dunu Paar, three critically acclaimed Indian films of recent years, are all set in which culturally rich district of Eastern India whose name is believed to reflect its historical status as the "doorway to Bengal"? | $\square$ |
| 59 | This athlete became the first Pakistani to win a medal at the World Athletics Championships, winning the silver medal with a throw of 87.82 m in the 2023 edition held at Budapest, Hungary. Name him. | $\square$ |
| $\left.\begin{aligned} & 60 \\ & \star \star \end{aligned} \right\rvert\,$ | An international campaign by John Oliver propelled which 'puking bird' with a burntorange mullet to victory in New Zealand's bird of the century poll, beating out the kiwi with more than 10x the votes? | $\square$ |
| 61 | While researching for the screenplay of which 2010s film did writer David Seidler discover that his own uncle had sought the services of Lionel Logue, the man whose transformational intervention was the subject of the film? | $\square$ |
| 62 | JG Farrell was awarded the Man Booker Prize in 2010 for his 1970 work Troubles. Add a four-letter qualifier to describe his special Booker prize which retrospectively corrected the omission of 1970 publications as a result of a change in selection criteria from 1971. | $\square$ |
| 63 | By what collective name were the County of Edessa, the Principality of Antioch, the County of Tripoli, and the Kingdom of Jerusalem known, as they were formed by participants in a major campaign during the late 11th century? | $\square$ |



| $\begin{gathered} 80 \\ \star \end{gathered}$ | Many famous Jain and Hindu temples in Western India, such as the Jain temple at Dilwara, were built in Maru-Gurjara architecture style in the 11th to 13th centuries. What other name is this style known by, after the name of a ruling dynasty of that region? | $\square$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 81 | Which Italian-born French designer hosted Bombay's first ever fashion show at the Taj Mahal Palace hotel's ballroom in the 1960s? | $\square$ |
| 82 | Who is the only UK prime minister with a PhD degree? The thesis was titled The Labour Party and Political Change in Scotland, 1918-1929. | $\square$ |
| 83 | What is the Hebrew word for "seven", which also signifies the Jewish mourning tradition that starts right after the burial and lasts for a week? The word might remind you of a god from another religion. | $\square$ |
| 84 | About a year ago, a young girl wrote to Cumberland police in Rhode Island asking for a DNA test on food scraps-a partially eaten cookie and carrot. The police amusingly forwarded the remains to the state's Department of Health-Forensic Sciences Unit. The girl sought evidence regarding what? | $\square$ |
| 85 | What twelve-letter name is given to a political formation that emerged in the Indian subcontinent during the 6th century BCE? Various texts of the time usually enumerate sixteen of these units. | $\square$ |
| 86 | An Al-generated female singer-songwriter, whose developers believe "Artificial Neural Networks Accelerate Innovative New Developments, Igniting A New Age", recently created her first song. What name (first name + last name), with a nod to a US state, does she go by? | $\square$ |
| 87 | Instituted in 2022 to honour humanitarian work by a champion footballer, Sadio Mane and Vinicius Jr have won which award, named after a former captain and football icon who also possessed a degree in medicine? | $\square$ |
| 88 | The name of which Swiss city can be prefixed to annual art fairs that are held at Hong Kong, Miami Beach, and Paris? | $\square$ |
| 89 | Who was the first honorary fellow of the Sahitya Akademi? This African poet-politician, the first president of his country, was also a member of the Academie Francaise till his death in 2001. | $\square$ |
| $\begin{gathered} 90 \\ \star \star \end{gathered}$ | What is the main title used by the heir apparent to the throne of Spain? It is more well known via a series of annual prizes awarded to individuals, entities or organisations from around the world for achievements in the sciences, humanities, and public affairs. | $\square$ |
| 91 | What two-word name connects Alicia Keys's autobiographical musical of 2023, a British culinary reality show whose American version is currently in its 22nd season and a neighbourhood of Manhattan that is home to the Actors Studio Drama School? | $\square$ |
| 92 | Using what new iPhone feature can users share contacts and videos very fast by tapping the phones together? This feature, which generated security apprehensions, is derived from a term for a boastful tendency to associate oneself with famous people. | $\square$ |
| 93 | According to a popular myth, large volumes of incorrectly addressed mail made embassy officials of which two European nations in Washington DC meet once a month for the express purpose of exchanging letters? | $\square$ |
| 94 | Published in 2023, what is the one-word title of the memoir by Ronnie O' Sullivan covering triumphs, mistakes and the lessons learnt during his Snooker career? The same word is also the title of the autobiography of an Indian Olympic medalist and multiple world champion pugilist. | $\square$ |
| 95 | The International Telecommunication Union has added only one symbol to the official Morse character set in the 21st century. What world-widely used symbol? | $\square$ |


| 96 | What two-word term, a play on a name for colonial rule in India, was coined by C Rajagopalachari to deride the strict government control of the economy ostensibly intended to protect Indian industries? | $\square$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 97 | Horses feature two tough, hairless skin patches on each leg: the $X$ on the inner thigh and the $Y$ behind and above the hoof. These are vestiges of two of their ancestors' five toes. Named for their appearance, X is also a hard brown nut, while Y is also a fungal disease of rye. Name either X or Y. | $\square$ |
| 98 | The components of what instrument are mainly a sealed chamber filled with gas, which can then be ionised by high energy particles, and an output display unit? These also have a speaker which emits a click every time an ion pair is created. | $\square$ |
| 99 | Djesse is a collection of four music albums by $\qquad$ The title, pronounced with a silent $D$, is a reference to his own initials. All four albums have been nominated for Grammy Awards. Which musician released Djesse? | $\square$ |
| $\begin{gathered} 100 \\ \star \end{gathered}$ | What eponymous measure did Carl Linnaeus "reverse" when its Swedish inventor died in 1744? | $\square$ |
| 101 | $\qquad$ is a 2023 Nat Geo documentary exploring the quest of John Chau, who met his end at the hands of the Indigenous people of the extremely isolated North Sentinel Island. The documentary shares its title with an Oscar-nominated 1986 movie. Fill in the blanks. | $\square$ |
| 102 | Sir Henry Wickham is considered to be the first person to successfully smuggle what economically valuable items out of Brazil in the 19th century? This act has been labelled as bio-piracy in some quarters. | $\square$ |
| 103 | At the Miss Universe 2022 pageant, Miss Thailand Anna Sueangam-iam wore an upcycled dress made of aluminium pull tabs of soda cans interwoven with Swarovski crystals - a tribute to her underprivileged childhood and her parents' profession. What profession? | $\square$ |
| 104 | From the moment of his birth in 1935 in Jerusalem, he inherited conflicting identities, as a midwife chanted over him in Arabic and Hebrew. He was raised in an affluent Episcopalian family. His father, having lived in America and valuing fair skin, named him after the Prince of Wales, a name he disliked. Who are we talking about? | $\square$ |
| 105 | This entrepreneur is known to obsessively admire Augustus Caesar. He even styles his haircut similarly and has named his daughter August. His wife once joked that three people went on their honeymoon to Rome: the entrepreneur, Augustus, and herself. Who is this? | $\square$ |
| 106 | The Nepal government is attempting to add six more names to which widely accepted list of fourteen entities? Yalung Khang and Lhotse Shar are two of the proposed additions. As on October 2023, the activity's governing body UIAA has resisted this effort. | $\square$ |
| 107 | Which dubious "professional" services did India's national football team's head coach Igor Stimac seek in 2022 during the process of team selection? They cost the AIFF around Rs 10-15 lakh. | $\square$ |
| 108 | What is the name of the stone coffin that is often seen above ground, adorned with sculptures or paintings of the person inside? It comes from a Greek word meaning "flesheating". | $\square$ |
| 109 | Today Gwadar Port is a key element of the greater China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Which nearby kingdom did Pakistan pay Rs 5.5 billion to acquire territories of Gwadar in 1958? | $\square$ |
| $\begin{gathered} 110 \\ \star \end{gathered}$ | Formulation of the Taniyama-Shimura conjecture on elliptical curves in the 1950s, coupled with the proof of its applicability to a long-standing problem by Ken Ribet in 1990, led to which famous breakthrough five years later? | $\square$ |
| 111 | Mohiniyattam performer Vijayalakshmi's dream project came to life in 2005, when she played Odette, her mother Bharathi Shivaji portrayed the queen, and Mayurbhanj Chhau exponent Santhosh Nair played the prince. Which popular ballet were they presenting? | $\square$ |
| 112 | Philip Roth's 2004 novel The Plot Against America narrates alternative history set during World War II. As per this book, which American, known for his antisemitic views, defeats Franklin D Roosevelt in the 1940s presidential election? | $\square$ |



| 129 | The first-ever appearance of a video game character giant balloon at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade was in 1993. It took a troublesome turn when strong winds propelled the balloon into a lamppost causing it to puncture. Which spiny character did it feature? | $\square$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{gathered} 130 \\ \star \end{gathered}$ | A feature / bug of this ubiquitous software has led to typos in nearly a third of scientific papers concerning genes, necessitating the renaming of nearly 27 gene names to avoid such problems. Which software, whose maker finally fixed the issue in October 2023? | $\square$ |
| 131 | Zoroastrianism's principal act of worship, Yasna, consists of reciting seventeen Avestan hymns, believed to have been composed by the prophet Zarathushtra. What is the collective name for these? It might remind us of ancient Buddhist texts recited in a poetic metre. | $\square$ |
| 132 | What generic name for an often inferior, illicit alcoholic drink derives from a corruption of "Xootsnoowú", the Tlingit name for the Admiralty Island in Alaska, USA? | $\square$ |
| 133 | In the absence of the identity of the actual suspect, what name did the FBI use for a dreaded individual because their primary targets were universities and airlines in the USA? | $\square$ |
| 134 | What is the hyphenated Arabic word for "healing", also the name of the largest medical complex and central hospital in Gaza Strip that has faced devastating Israeli airstrikes during the ongoing conflict? | $\square$ |
| $\left\|\begin{array}{c} 135 \\ \star \star \end{array}\right\|$ | Give the name of the indigenous religion of a certain group of the Tani and Tibeto-Burman tribes in Northeast India. The name literally means "Sun-Moon", referring to female and male energy. A train has this name, and so does the main airport of the area, the only airport in India named after celestial bodies. | $\square$ |
| 136 | In May 2022, numerous wedding chapels in Las Vegas unexpectedly received a cease-and-desist letter from Authentic Brands Group asking them to stop whose impersonations? | $\square$ |
| 137 | As a tribute to this person who was associated with the phrase 'billions and billions', a fictitious unit has been defined to denote a large number. It is technically at least four billion (two billion plus two billion) of anything. Who? | $\square$ |
| 138 | Mondelez plans to shift its production to a nearby country in 2024. Owing to the 2017 "Swissness" law mandating specific criteria for using symbols, which famous Swiss symbol seen on a particular product will no longer be displayed on its packaging? | $\square$ |
| 139 | In Baseball, what term is used to describe a home run with players on first base, second base and third base? It results in four runs being scored. The same term is used to describe different achievements in Tennis and Golf. | $\square$ |
| $\begin{gathered} 140 \\ \star \end{gathered}$ | Barbara Stoler Miller's 1977 work, Love Song of the Dark Lord: $\qquad$ is a translation of which 12th century work from India? Goethe used to love this work of erotic poetry and describes it as "extremely varied motives by which an extremely simple subject is made endless". | $\square$ |
| 141 | A hungry customer once asked restaurateur Fernand Lachance to put cheese curds and finger chips together in a paper bag because he was in a hurry, to which Lachance replied, "Ça va faire une maudite $\qquad$ !" Which dish, believed to have gotten its name from a Quebecois slang for a "mess"? | $\square$ |
| 142 | "Masterji" is a collaborative work by Dayanita Singh and Mark Morris. The installation consists of photos of a Bollywood personality, taken during the 1990s, set to music. Who is the subject of this series of photos? Full name required. | $\square$ |
| 143 | A rivalry with which author led the 19th century US politician and author Thomas Dunn English to create a character called Marmaduke Hammerhead, a dishonest and alcoholic critic who has written a poem called The Black Crow? | $\square$ |
| 144 | Which UNESCO World Heritage Site showcases the Mayadevi temple, a pillar edict, and a Pushkarini tank, which going by archaeological evidence, can be attributed to the Buddhist emperor Ashoka? | $\square$ |


| 145 | With the 2024 Olympics scheduled for the last week of July, which annual event will not <br> have its finale in Paris for the first time in its history, instead finishing at Nice? |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 146 | Several attendees of a recent Bored Ape NFT event in Hong Kong were affected by laser <br> stage lights and diagnosed with photokeratitis, an eye condition caused by unprotected <br> exposure to UV radiation. What six-letter profession fills in the blank in the common <br> name of this condition - " 's eye"? | $\square$ |
| 147 | What nine-letter word fills the blank in this list of entrances one encounters while visiting <br> a UNESCO World Heritage Site - Yongdingmen, Zhengyangmen, Daqingmen, |  |
| 148 | This creature's spongy skull bones and long tongue bone wrapped around its brain are <br> theorised to stop it from getting brain damage and have inspired the design of black boxes <br> and football helmets. What creature named after its very characteristic action? | $\square$ |
| 149 | Gulzar revealed in an interview that one of the possible filming locations for the song Kajra <br> Re from the 2005 movie Bunty aur Babli was a highway dhaba, which inspired him to write | $\square$ |
| lyrics based on creative lines that one might encounter at such a setting. What was the |  |  |
| inspiration? |  |  |$\quad$| $\square$ |
| :--- |
| 150 |
| The Kannada version of the play The Dreams of <br> staged for the first time in the precincts of the Daria Daulat, the summer palace of the ruler <br> who is the subject of the play. Which ruler? |

This quiz was set by
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$\boxtimes$

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