



# Megawhats 2024

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Prelims – Questions Only

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## How it works

60 questions, no List-Its

Every question is worth a point

51-60 are starred, just in case

# 1

Tiger Woods was already making waves as an amateur golfer and indications were that he would turn professional.

What is the name given to his press conference where he announced that he would quit Stanford University and become a professional golfer?

The name is based on 2 words that he started his statement with, which wouldn't be out of place in an IT quiz for example.

2

Celeb chef Ranveer Brar has a new restaurant in Dubai called 'Kashkan'. He wants to showcase the diversity of Indian food in his restaurant.

Why the name Kashkan?

3

Coca Cola releases these special bottles for a particular country and at a particular time of the year.

Which country and for when?



4

What gets its name because it can dissolve 2 royal metals - Gold and Platinum?

5

Identify this politician who turned up at a political jamboree in Bangalore in this disguise, earning him the nickname “Sardar”



# 6

Given his fame in constructing new worlds, whom, along with the famed set designer Thota Tharani, did Chandrababu Naidu seek while designing the legislative assembly in Amravati?

The person in question downplayed his role, stating he was merely translating the CM's requirements to the architects.



7

When this person came across some serious money for the first time in her life, she became a spendthrift. She purchased a silver Mercedes with a vanity license plate - "X-CZECH".

Who?

8

These soaps were introduced in 1917.  
Who was the parent company that  
introduced this?



'CHAVI' BRAND

TOILET SOAPS

*Guaranteed 100% pure  
free from animal fat.*

*Glycerine*  
*Hair Oil • Eau-de-Cologne*

9

What “Korean” brand name very familiar to Indians comes from this fashionable town in Southern France?



# 10

Donald Lau has claims to be the most read author in the United States.

He wrote for about 30 years before citing writers block and quitting in 2016.

What did Donald Lau write?



# 11

These 2 Pakistanis share a world record - most ODI runs without a century in men's and women's internationals.

Identify them as they are anagrams of each other. (Your answer should be two words that are anagrams of each other)





## 12

Stanley Burrell became the eyes and ears of the owner of Oakland A's as the owner was in Chicago. Initially Burrell was called "Pipeline" as he was the source of info to the owner, but the name did not stick.

They they realised his resemblance to Hank Aaron and called him little X, X being the nickname of Hank Aaron.

What is X? Or how do we know Stanley Burrell better?



13

What futuristic ambitious project is a portmanteau word that combines Greek for New and Arabic for Future?

# 14

SPL Sørensen is said to be the inventor of this. The Carlsberg Foundation says it refers to power. German chemists say it stands for Potenz (also power), the French say puissance (also power). Brits say it is potential, Italians say pondus (meaning quantity).

To clear the confusion Michelle Francl, a professor of Chemistry dug up Sørensen's original papers and found that it actually meant nothing. Sørensen in his experiment had marked 2 electrodes - p&q where p was the test and q was the control.

So what did Sørensen invent?



15

An upcoming biopic. Identify the character on the right being portrayed by Sebastian Stan.

Name the film which is a term associated with the character



# 16

This Nobel Prize winner got his first mobile phone in his mid-80s, stating in an interview that he barely gave out his mobile number since he *'resent[ed] being disturbed that way. Why should people be able to interrupt me like that? Because they want to get in touch?'*

He also disliked the name popularly given to his most famous discovery, saying *'For a start, I'm not a believer. Some people get confused between the science and the theology...The church in Spain has also been guilty of using that name as evidence for what they want to prove.'*

Which scientist are we talking about?

# 17

It is the only Indo-Aryan macro-language spoken exclusively outside South Asia, and according to Ethnologue, has seven very large variants different enough to be considered languages- Vlax, Balkan, Carpathian, Kalo Finnish, Sinte, Welsh -, and Baltic. Some example words in the language are shown below. Name the language.

Word	English meaning
pani	water
ladž	shame
duj	two

# 18

This 6-letter English word derives not from a faithful dog, or ship, but from a port city in Croatia. It has been used by Shakespeare in the sense of ‘a flotilla of merchant ships’.

More recently, from 1926-1974, it was the title of a UK-based short story magazine with contributions from acclaimed writers such as Ray Bradbury, Lord Dunsany, and many others.

What? (no points for the dog or ship!)

# 19

The X style of dress is defined by the stylist Ella Shippey as

*“Quite simply, the X dress is defined by its hemline, which sits comfortably between a [BLANK1] and a [BLANK2] dress. It ends just above the ankle, slightly lower than mid-calf, offering both function and fun.”*

According to Harper’s Bazaar, the look

*“first caught our attention back in 2019, as brands including Givenchy, Alexander McQueen and Marc Jacobs embraced the trend.”*

What trend - a portmanteau of BLANK1 and BLANK2?

## 20

This 10-letter English word derives ultimately (via Late Latin) from a Proto-Indo-European root meaning 'to collect, to gather'.

It is also the common English translation for the German Kurfürstentum, which has been applied at various times to Saxony, Bavaria, Hanover and the Palatinate (Pfalz) referring to their part in selecting the Holy Roman Emperor.

What word?

## 21

\_\_\_\_\_ is generally considered to be his middle name, but his baptismal records say that his middle name was “Theophilus”. The earliest biographers used the German equivalent - "Gottlieb". It is possible that \_\_\_\_\_ originated from his playful habit of signing himself in letters in mock Latin.

FITB (all blanks are same)

## 22

These two cities are called by the same name in Italian - which leads to much confusion. In 2008, there was an incident where a lady drove to the wrong city from Italy to pick up her niece, only to realise that she needed to go to another city 500 miles away.

To differentiate between the two, the larger city is called \_\_\_\_\_ di Baviera while the smaller one is called Principato di \_\_\_\_\_.

Fill in the blank.



## 23

Philip Fabricius was a 17th- century Bohemian officer. As a result of surviving a particular incident, he was ennobled by the Holy Roman Emperor and given the title of Baron von Hohenfall (literally, “Baron of High Fall”).

**Which incident**, which was the second or third one of its kind to take place in a certain city?

## 24

This country in the southern Caucasian region has had a tradition of making something for many centuries. Proof for this was found by the appropriately named Gadachrili Gora Regional Archaeological Project Expedition. They found residue in pottery jars dating back to a neolithic settlement dated around 6,000-5,800 BC.

Which country, and what were they one of the earliest makers of?

25

Who is credited with introducing the term "nerve center" to the English language in his 1915 novel, 'Something New' and "zing" in his 1919 novel, 'Damsel in Distress'?

## 26

Pokkali is a GI-tagged rice variety that grows in Alappuzha, Thrissur, Kottayam, and Ernakulam districts in Kerala. The taste that sets this rice variety apart is because of where it grows. Similar varieties are also grown in the Sundarbans, and coastal China. What is it that gives Pokkali rice its unique taste?

27

The Guardian in an article, on the the return of Kevin Spacey to acting couple of years ago coined a new phrase “The \_\_\_\_\_”

The blanked out phrase is defined as “the phenomenon whereby famous men once rendered unemployable in showbusiness due to a #MeToo campaign, but with no actual criminal conviction, sidle back into the limelight”

Fill in the blank with an antonym of what probably (rightly) cost these men their jobs.

## 28

What homonym or similar word connects these two?

A. A Turkish double knot unique as it is tied between two warp strands and is therefore more durable.

B. An ancient Greek myth, where an Oracle predicted that the city of Phrygia chose the man with an ox cart as its new ruler. The Man with the ox cart (who later became the king) tied his oxen to the postern as an offering to Zeus, leading to another prophecy from the Oracle.

29

If all you saw were Instagram reels of something from this 2024 movie and purchased the soundtrack, you will be disappointed. The song Karinkaliyalle, composed by Shaiju Avaran, was a 2022 song.

It briefly went viral in Kerala back then, which is how it wound its way, not as part of the soundtrack, but as part of a “reel” the protagonist of this 2024 movie makes. What 2024 movie are we talking about?

30

It was a 3 year project for Shri Paramani Jewels, and they eventually hand crafted over 10,000 items mostly in gold, and weighing over 300 kg all in all.

Where on Netflix would you have recently seen all these artefacts?



# 31

George Antheil, whose name quizzers tend to be familiar with as the co-inventor of Frequency Modulation along with Hedy Lamarr, was also an accomplished composer of classical music.

His piece Ballet Mecanique is usually performed on stage with electric fans forming part of the instrumentation. As per Antheil's score however, what should have been the instrument, not something that can easily be used on indoor stages?

32

Based on The Southern Vampire Mysteries series by Charlaine Harris, which TV series gets its title from the ironic name used for a synthetic bodily fluid that is a key plot point in the series?

33

The helmets that will be used by the Denver Broncos NFL team in the 2024 season will all have the number 5280 on them.

What is the significance of this number?

# 34

While there were nearly a dozen at some point, only three remain now.

No. 1, which is gin based;

No. 3 which is brandy based;

No. 6, which is vodka based.

What am I talking about? No. 1 sells a lot in London every summer thanks to an annual event.

35

Who in 1799 was appointed as Britain's ambassador to the Ottoman Empire?

His claim to fame (infamy?) can be correlated to the fact that Athens was part of the Ottoman Empire back then.

## 36

They could have been named Engisians or Gibraltarians given that they were discovered in Engis in Belgium, and in Gibraltar, a short while after they were first discovered in a limestone quarry near Dusseldorf in 1856.

What am I talking about?

# 37

Ramie Targoff's new book profiles four 17th Century women;

- Mary Sidney who produced a noteworthy translation of the Book of Psalms,
- Elizabeth Cary who wrote the play *The Tragedy of Mariam*,
- Aemilie Lanyer who published a collection of poems called *Deus Salve Rex Judaeorum*,
- Anne Clifford whose diary was a bestseller.

What is the name of this book, referring to a concept first written about by Virginia Woolf, an idea that probably is familiar to fans of new wave music too?

38

Two photos of Koya tribals from Andhra playing a traditional instrument called permakore. On the right, we see an eco-friendly variant made from bamboo. On the left is the traditional version – what is it?





39

This establishment in London, with now four other branches elsewhere, was originally meant to be called the National War Museum. Thanks to pressure from India and other dominions, what did the word “National” get replaced by in 1917?

## 40

In most parts of the world, the size of a room is measured by square feet, or square meters. In Japan however, it is measured by the number of what artefact can be laid in the room? This six-lettered Japanese word also turns up in the world of cinema to describe a certain angle made famous by Yasujiro Ozu.

# 41

Kolamaavu Kokila is a cult Tamil hit movie from 2018 starring the superstar Nayantara as the titular character of Kokila. “Kolamaavu” literally refers to the white powder used to draw rangoli (aka kolam in Tamil), but in the context of this black comedy set in the world of crime, what other white powder does the kolamaavu of the title refer to?

42



This portrait by Franz Winterhalter was a surprise 24th birthday gift given by the subject of the painting to her husband. Name both the subject and her husband.

43

Morgan, Lewis, and Bockius LLP are a Philadelphia based law firm who have been around since 1873.

Which organisation paid them a huge sum of money in 2000, and why?

44

Which 1937 movie did Joseph Goebbels (not surprisingly) declare as “Cinematic Public Enemy Number One”?

45

Green - unripe

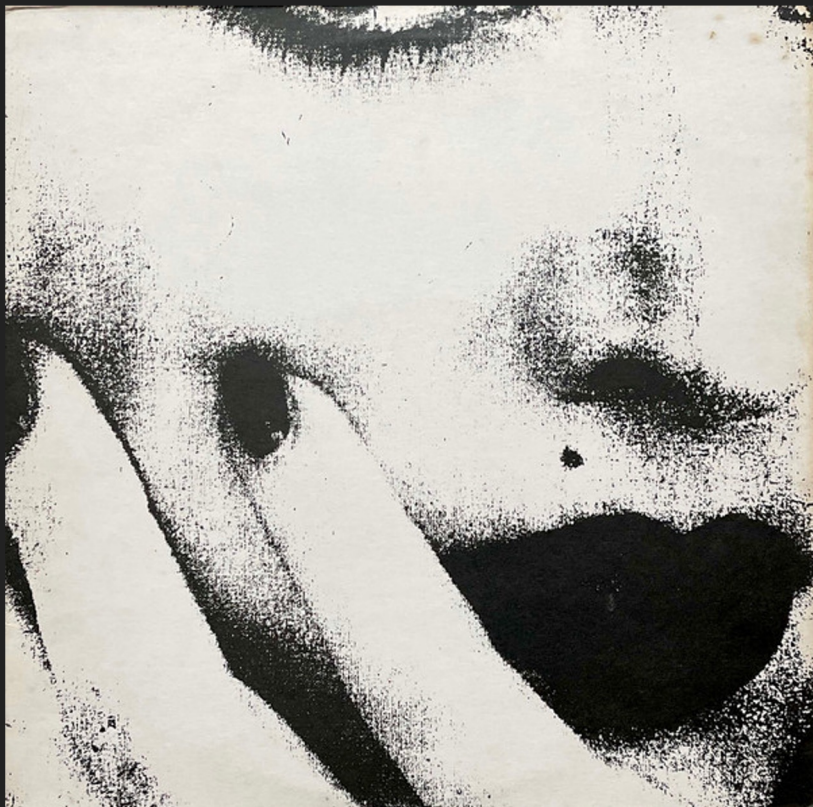
Red - ripe/overripe

Black - fully mature

White - black with the casing rubbed off

What am I talking about?

46



The Whitey Album is a release by Ciccone Youth (a side project of Sonic Youth)

Both the name of the side project, as well as the album art is a reference to whom?



47

This 4-letter word that now refers to any nasty, dirty, sticky liquid was originally a registered trademark for a brand of self emulsifying colloidal detergent that found its most common use in degreasing motorbike parts – and eventually began to be applied to the dirty greasy residue instead. What word?

## 48

What now fairly common medical procedure did not find a place in the Oxford English Dictionary for many decades, because when the OED was being compiled, the Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford University at that time did not think this procedure was of any significance given the organ involved.

What word that eventually made its way to the OED after Edward VII's coronation had to be postponed because he had to undergo this procedure? Alternatively, you can also name the medical condition that requires this procedure.

49

The Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA) is the central bank of Maldives. What appropriately features on their logo?

This was for many centuries one of the chief export of Maldives, and was used as a monetary unit in many countries.

# 50

In 1890, a publishing house called Bangalore Spectrum published a play named 'The Deformed Transformed' written by a physician who was researching in Bangalore at that point in time.

The play hardly sold any copies, and was performed just once – but the playwright had more success with his scientific career, eventually winning a Nobel Prize even. Who wrote the play?

51\*

Literally French for “great puppet”, it was the name of a theater that opened in 1897 in Paris specialising in horror, and has since passed into the English language as a phrase meaning something that is macabre in nature.

What am I talking about?

52\*

Yuksom from 1642 to 1670

Rabdentse from 1670 to 1793

Tumlong from 1793 to 1894

What was it from 1894 to 1975? And in a sense, after that too?

53\*

Akhnoor Dagger is a narrow strip of land in the Pakistan state of Punjab that as the name suggests stabs forth towards Akhnoor in India's Jammu & Kashmir.

What is the more common name for this region, inspired by the world of fauna, and more commonly used for a narrow strip in the eastern part of India?

54\*

This two word phrase, now often used in politics to refer to radical sections of a political party, originally referred to a sort of a haircut.

It made its way into politics thanks to Teddy Roosevelt, though he used it originally to refer to cubists and impressionists who were making what he thought were radical art.

What phrase?



55\*

First time around The Four Seasons in Maui saw a 5x increase in bookings

Second time around The Four Seasons in Sicily saw a similar spike

Many places in Thailand are currently seeing spikes based on speculation of where it will be set the third time around

What am I talking about?

56\*

The Forgotten Realms was the setting for the successful novels *Pool of Radiance* and *Eye of the Beholder* by RA Salvatore. It also has featured as a setting in the hit *Baldur's Gate* series of video games.

However, the Forgotten Realms started life as a campaign setting in what universe first thought up by Gary Gygax?

57\*



Identify the painter of these two paintings, both of which were the main reason why many conspiracy theories believe he probably was a certain criminal whose identity is still unknown.



58\*



What densely populated location that isn't around any more is the inspiration for the setting for the critically acclaimed video game, Stray?

59\*

What sport/pastime was the invention of Charles Gaines, otherwise most famous for writing Pumping Iron, the movie version of which launched Arnold Schwarzenegger's career?

The early versions of the pastime used modifications of equipment that were originally intended to mark sheep with specific colours for purpose of identification.

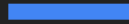
60\*

What now commonplace technique in horror movies was first used in the 1942 movie *Cat People* (some say *Citizen Kane* did it first, but that is debatable like most things with that movie) in the form of a bus that suddenly enters the frame with a loud noise?

Because *Cat People* was produced by Val Lewton, for many years this technique was also called a 'Lewton Bus'.



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Prelims