



MindSweep 2026

ANSWERS

Part II – Music, Sciences, Social Sciences, Sports and Games

Rules for the proctor

- Do not open till the end of the 60min
- **Make sure all sheets have been collected**, and redistributed for corrections
 - **Small spelling variations are okay**, use your judgement
- For all answers which are names of people, unless mentioned otherwise, **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, no negative marking
- For any further clarifications, please email expectovenkat@gmail.com or call Venkat on +91 8050588973

1	They are usually identified by a number and letter combination. The number usually refers to the diameter, with lower numbers being thicker. The letters denote further variations. What familiar object with a 10-letter name?	Drumsticks
2	The composer Gabriela Lena Frank won this 2026 award for a piece titled Picaflora. The first ever awardee was Duke Ellington in 1965, but he was denied the prize by the advisory board which didn't agree with the jury. Which award?	The Pulitzer Prize
3	Francesco and Omobono followed in their illustrious father's footsteps. after his death in 1743. What surname , meaning toll-collector or road-keeper in Italian?	Stradivarius
4	He released his 21st studio album in 2025, titled Look Up In collaboration with T-Bone Burnett. He is listed as drumming, whistling, and doing lead vocals on the tracks. Who?	Ringo Starr
5	The Alhamra Arts Council, where this performance took place in February 1986, was then a 450-seater. The recording we have listened to is actually an encore, performed on audience request, and then recorded. What 1986 performance , originally titled <i>The Face of Your Lord</i> ?	Hum Dekhenge , by Iqbal Bano
6	Guitarist Slash said that the album X he'd want played at his funeral is a group of three piano pieces, extremely popular and iconic, by a French composer Y. Identify X OR Y.	X = Gymnopedies / Y = Erik Satie
7	They were widely known as Pakistan's first and most successful pop band to follow Nazia and Zoheb and started to gain attention during the time of President Zia Ul Haq. Later one of the band members, Salman Ahmad, left to form the band Junoon. Name this famous band which released two eponymous albums?	Vital Signs
8	The name of this 2019 album by a female American artiste refers to a painter known for idealised portraits of American life, with a swear-word thrown in between his name and surname. Name the painter.	Norman Rockwell (Album: Norman F***ing Rockwell, by Lana Del Rey)
9	This Indian musical instrument is renowned for its ability to mimic the nuances and expressive range of the human voice and consists of three hollow chambers named stomach, chest and brain. Which instrument?	Sarangi
10	The inspiration for 'The Happy Dictator' came from Gorillaz creator Damon Albarn's visit to a particular country where he learned about X who wanted everyone to, "only think happy thoughts and sleep unaffected by the doom of the world, and just keep everything upbeat" as a result of which, "he kind of banned all bad news." Name X who ruled from 1985 until his death in 2006.	Saparmyrat Nyýazow / Türkmenbaşy
11	Which 1990s band's name was inspired by a passage from C. S. Lewis's book Mere Christianity that compares a life devoted to God with a small child going to its father and asking him for _____ to buy him a birthday present?	Sixpence None the Richer
12	A viral Canadian rock duo known for complex, microtonal compositions in the style of math rock and experimental rock, and an absurdist public image, featuring oversized papier-mâché masks and black-and-white polka-dotted costumes have taken their name from the medical French term for chest pain. What do they call themselves?	Angine de Poitrine
13	Either derived from the Middle French sacquer (to pull) and bouter (to push) or from the Spanish sacar (to draw or pull) and bucha (a tube or pipe), a sackbut is an early form of which instrument , the name of which predates the term sackbut?	Trombone

14	On the Carol Burnett show in 1976, they introduced themselves as thus: The Oldest _____, the Swingingest _____, the Dancingest _____, the Skinniest _____, and the Cutest _____. What group?	Jackson 5
15	Sahara: EDM & Hip-Hop/ Yuma: House & Techno/ Sonora: Punk & Latin Alt/ Mojave: Indie & Alt-Rock/ Gobi: Global & Eclectic. Where would you find these venue names?	Coachella
16	This musician is returning to this responsibility in 2026 with a number titled ____ meaning "Come on!" or "Let's go!" featuring Burna Boy. The last time she did this was in 2010, and the result was a massive hit. Who? OR what is she doing again in 2026?	Shakira/creating the Fifa world cup anthem
17	Michael Jackson's "Liberian Girl" features an African singer saying a few words in an African language. Name the language , that is a major language of the coast opposite where Liberia is located.	Swahili (Also accept Kiswahili)
18	Ted Turner's father's line of business is the blanked-out word in this Ogden Nash poem "I think that I shall never see/ A _____ lovely as a tree", What word, that also stands for a music record chart in the US?	Billboard
19	In February 2026 music director Anirudh Ravichander announced the launch of his own music label. What is the music label , that is also the surname of the Portuguese Viceroy of Goa (1509-1515), who gave his Christian name to a mango varietal?	Albuquerque (Records)
20	His crop of curly red hair, inherited from his father, earned this composer the nickname il Prete Rosso, the Red Priest. He wrote more than 500 concertos, including ~230 for violin, and for his most famous work, he is believed to have written poetry across its fragments, which include instructions such as "The barking dog," "Languor caused by the heat," and "the drunkards have fallen asleep." Which composer?	Antonio Vivaldi

1	Helena Teede is an endocrinologist whose work has resulted in a recent rechristening which reflects the fact that the key impacts are on insulin resistance and on the androgens. What was rechristened thus? Alternatively, give the new name.	PCOS or Polyendocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome / PMOS
2	In 1999, the UN General Assembly voted to celebrate World Space Week annually from 4 October to 10 October. These two dates were chosen to acknowledge two separate events that occurred within ten years of each other. If the second event goes back to 1967, give us any one event.	Launch of Sputnik (1957) or Signing of Outer Space treaty (1967)
3	This disease is named after its most visible effects. Sufferers have skin which seems to peel or form bumps--and so the Greek word for scale is now in use. What disease?	Leprosy
4	Literally 'daughter of the wind' in Greek, this 7-letter word is applied to a common flowering plant because it begins to appear in the windy season in the West. A sea creature is named on account of its similarity to this genus. What name is this?	Anemone
5	He was one of the members of a team commissioned by royal order to investigate Mesmer and his claims. That declared him a fraud. Other members included Lavoisier and Benjamin Franklin. This early enthusiast for Edward Jenner's vaccinations was also an opponent of prolonged suffering, but this eventually led him to oppose capital punishment. Who?	Dr. Louis Guillotine
6	One of the biggest winners in the AI boom is a tiny island called Anguilla that made \$132 million last year without building a single model. How?	It owns the domain name ".ai"
7	Laws that endangered his Jewish wife Laura Capon and his children led to his plan of not returning to his home country following his trip to Stockholm to collect his Nobel prize in 1938. Which famous scientist?	Enrico Fermi
8	Gabriel's Horn is a geometric figure that has a finite volume but an infinite surface. It is often referred to by an alternative alliterative name " ____'s Trumpet " referring to a famous scientist who proposed this shape. FITB with a name who is also associated with other physical discoveries.	Torricelli
9	Which word comes from the Latin 'to milk out' with the fat (butter) in milk being the classic example of it?	Emulsion
10	One of a category of lifting devices used by stonemasons to lift large stones into place with a crane, chain block, or winch, the name _____ may come from the Latin word for "to levitate" or "lift". Other sources, however, speculate that the term may derive from a personal name. What is it?	Lewis
11	Used to treat mild itching and minor skin conditions, what medication made from a combination of powdered zinc oxide and 0.5% ferric oxide gets its name from the historic name for an ore of zinc?	Calamine lotion
12	When about 3000 UN troops died from hemorrhagic fever during the Korean war, a team of scientists were sent to study what caused it. They isolated the agent in 1978 when they came across the vector, a striped field mouse, near the _____ river and thus named it after the river. What river? Or how else are we familiar with the name right now?	Hantan River/Hantavirus
13	When Germans began using poison gas in WWI, Allied scientists experimented with materials that could trap poison gases. They discovered that the remnant of a common ingredient, when burnt, created a dense porous structure, which trapped the gas molecules before they reached the lungs. What food item? The resulting product is a popular ingredient in the cosmetic industry.	Coconut Shells/ Activated Charcoal

14	Drag is the key force at the centre of this activity. The turn, which usually takes about 15-35 milliseconds, is caused by the massive amounts of aerodynamic resistance on one side. The moment the turn occurs the object slows down thanks to the same drag, which also serves to keep the object within a certain boundary. What are we talking about?	Shuttle
15	In May 2026 the Andhra Pradesh government launched a conservation survey of the shimmering Peacock tarantula, also known as the Gooty sapphire tarantula. In 1899 this tarantula was identified as a new species and given the name Poecilotheria _____. Fill in the blank with the name of an American band founded in 1981- the band name starts with its music genre.	Metallica
16	In the second half of 2026, Pittsburgh-based Astrobotic plans to land a suite of cargo from both NASA and the European Space Agency at the lunar south pole's Nobile Crater. Which legendary creature- that is both "king of the beasts" and "king of the birds"- is this lunar lander named after?	Griffin
17	Shekar Dattatri's 12-minute film of 2001 'Mindless Mining...', about a rapacious iron ore mining project in the middle of a rainforest national park in south India, helped convince decision makers to order operations to be stopped. Which national park?	Kudremukh
18	In an essay for the magazine <i>UnHerd</i> , Richard Dawkins wrote about being impressed by conversations with Anthropic's chatbot, wondering whether such an apparently thoughtful machine could truly be unconscious. In response, the media and readers online jokingly coined what punny phrase?	Claude Delusion
19	The first evidence of this exists in the form of an advertisement in <i>The Times</i> , published in 1825. The ad introduced the first ever series hosted by John Millington on Natural Philosophy. Other hosts to have hosted this include William and Lawrence Bragg, Sir David Attenborough, Carl Sagan and Dame Nancy Rothwell. What is being talked about?	Royal Institute Christmas Lectures
20	<i>Valonia ventricosa</i> is also known as bubble algae, and sea grape, and it looks like how it sounds -- a large tennis ball sized green bubble-shaped organism. What record in the living world does this creature hold?	Largest single cell organism

1	These buildings often reflect local realities: in Santiago, Chile, it resembles a set of sails, while the one in Colombia looks like a cocoa seed. The one in India has a similar local connection. Whatever these variations might be, they all return to number nine as a structuring principle in various forms--entrances, ponds and such. Which specific group of buildings?	Bahai Temples/Bahai Houses of Worship/Bahai Houses of Friendship
2	The Tamizh word for a Christian priest and the Japanese term for a Christian missionary-- <i>bateren</i> --owe their origins to a similar interaction with a foreign language. Give us either the word OR the foreign language.	Padre , the Portuguese word for priest from where we get both paathiriyar and bateren.
3	This 5-letter word comes from the Greek word for 'pasture'. French philosopher Gilles Deleuze borrows this term to depict a form of intellectual freedom built on borrowing eclectically from different sources. What term did Deleuze use thus?	Nomad/Nomadism
4	This historian's 2017 biography of a key Indian historical figure, subtitled The Man and the Myth, makes the argument that casting him as bigot serves key political purposes in the present. Identify the historian, OR name the subject , also the protagonist of a tragedy by his contemporary, John Dryden.	Audrey Truschke/ Aurangzeb
5	Banarisdas was a Shrimal Jain merchant who wrote an account in 1641 of the values, practices and experiences of a medieval mercantile community during Mughal rule. He was 55 years old at that time and his account was titled " Ardhakathanaka " translated as Half a Tale. Which Jain belief led to the name of the book?	The Jain belief of 110 being the ideal human lifespan . The author was 55.
6	Eleanor Crosses are a series of twelve 13th-century memorial monuments erected by King Edward I to honor his beloved wife, Eleanor of Castile, who died in 1290. They marked the nightly resting places of her body during its funeral procession from Harby to Westminster Abbey. Which was the last resting place before Westminster Abbey, named after the Old English word for " bend in the river "?	Charing Cross
7	When two of King Dilipa's widows have union, one gets pregnant and gives birth to X. However, the baby is deformed until he encounters the sage Ashtavakra, who transforms him into a beautiful, strong child. Who is X , well known for a famous penance/labour?	Bhagirath
8	_____ Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community by Robert D. Putnam argues that American civic and social life has declined since the 1960s, evidenced by less participation in organizations, fewer friends, and weaker community ties, all symbolized by people _____ in leagues less often. Fill in the blank with a once-common American pastime.	Bowling
9	With his title "The Ape and the _____ Master: Cultural Reflections by a Primatologist", author Frans de Waal presents an analogy between how behaviors are learned and passed down in primate societies and the cultural process of how _____-making skills are passed down from master to apprentice. Fill in the blank.	Sushi
10	A cave in the Bashelaksky Range of the Altai Mountains in Siberia, Russia, named after an Old Believer hermit, Dyonisiy who inhabited it in the 18th century, also gave its name to something in the world of paleoanthropology. What?	Denisovans or Denisova hominins
11	What five letter acronym is used to refer to the opposition by residents to proposed real estate development and infrastructure developments in their local area, with the connotation that such residents are only opposing the development because it is close to them and that they would tolerate or even support it if it were built farther away?	NIMBY (Not in my backyard)

12	This rhyming phrase originates from the 1970 Japanese phrase 'Bukimi no tani'. It was coined by Masahiro Mori to describe the sudden dip in human comfort when robots look almost human. What phrase? (7, 6) The first word describes an unsettling feeling especially popular in the 19th century.	Uncanny Valley
13	This common activity is forbidden amongst the women of the Himba tribe in Namibia. Instead, they primarily use otjize, a mixture of butterfat, red ochre, and herbs, to keep themselves protected, this also gives their skin and hair a distinctive red shade throughout their lives. What activity? That they only perform once, usually on their wedding day.	Bathing
14	Originally, Kip, a centipede was in the running to be the logo of this organisation. It was somewhat lauded for portraying the collaborative spirit of the organisation but was finally rejected because it would give people the creeps. On the 25th Anniversary of the org, they announced Kip would be back as the official logo as an April Fool's prank. What organisation?	Wikipedia
15	In England of the 1850s it became common practice to place a small piece of cloth on the backs of chairs and sofas, to protect upholstery from the popular hair conditioner _____ oil. This piece of cloth is still known as an anti _____. What word fills in both blanks- it is the name of a port city that is now the capital of the Indonesian province of South Sulawesi.	Macassar (accept homophones)
16	In the Channel Islands of Jersey and Guernsey the King of England is still informally known as the duke of which coastal region in Northern France?	Normandy
17	In carpentry and metal work this word means a small patch or plug fitted into a surface to repair damage with minimum change in appearance. In nautical usage it means a length of rope added to extend another line. When capitalised it is the male demonym of a European country. What 8-letter lower-case word?	dutchman
18	International relations theorist Graham Allison who came up with this two-word phrase in 2010, identified 16 times in history that a rising power threatened to displace a ruling one. According to his tally, which is subjective, 12 of the 16 rivalries ended in conflict. What in-the-news phrase is this?	Thucydides Trap
19	The ___ page test is a quick and fun measure of a book's quality, whose creation is attributed to Marshall McLuhan, the communications theorist who came up with "the medium is the message". He recommends that book browsers turn to page ___ of any book and read it. If they like that page, they buy and read the book. What number fills the blank?	69
20	He "attends" every council meeting of the University College London and is always recorded as 'present but not voting', except when the council is split on a motion. On those rare occasions he gets a vote, and always votes in favour of the motion, due to his "mischievous personality". Who?	Jeremy Bentham (the spiritual founder of UCL)

1	The French built an almost cathedral like structure in the town of Austerlitz with a capacity of 50cubic metres. What 19th century problem were they trying to solve by 2024?	Diverting stormwater/wastewater from the River Seine to help hold Olympic events like swimming in the Seine
2	It might sound royal in origin, but this sporting term of 7 letters actually has its origins in a Venetian dialect word meaning contest or competition. It continues to be used today as an umbrella term for a set of races. The word is also used for an annual Harvard-Yale face-off. What 7-letter word?	Regatta
3	This is India's largest Ramsar site and spreads across three districts. It seems to take its name from neem being a once dominant species in the local ecosystem. Name this Ramsar site , which has hosted an annual championship since 1952?	Vembanad Lake , home to Nehru Boat Race
4	News reports from Zimbabwe spoke of several newborn children being given the name Three Medals after the 2004 Olympics. Some people went back to this story after a 2025 elevation made Olympic history in a different way. Who connects these two events, separated by about two decades?	Kirsty Coventry . Current IOC chief, who won Zimbabwe's first ever Olympic medals with a GSB in swimming categories at Athens in 2004.
5	Cherie Devaux made history this year for being the first female trainer to win a certain sporting event. Which event?	Kentucky Derby
6	Following his long stint with Adidas, Ivan Lendl signed a partnership with this Japanese sports company in 1990, wearing their athletic wear and using a customized "Ivan Lendl" Type-R racket. Name the company.	Mizuno
7	The last few instances used Jabulani, Brazuca, Telstar , and Al Rihla . What is being used in the latest edition?	Trionda (Names of Soccer World Cup balls)
8	Who won the Women's Candidates Tournament 2026 to earn the right to challenge Ju Wenjun, the reigning five-time Women's World Chess Champion for the title of Women's World Chess Champion?	Vaishali Rameshbabu
9	Identify this ancient Egyptian board game _____ that consists of ten or more pawns on a 30-square playing board. The name means "passing" and is a homophone of a term used for an assembly or council that itself comes from a word for "elder man".	Senet/Senat
10	According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the etymology of which children's game comes from two words with the latter word being used in the sense of "an incised line or scratch"?	Hopscotch
11	Jump In! is a 2007 sports comedy-drama that revolves around a young boxer training to win the Golden Glove, until his friend asks him to substitute for a team member in a _____ tournament which unlocks his passion for the new activity. What activity , despite its name is unlikely to have any connection with a particular group of people?	Double Dutch

12	Variously described as a "short passing style in which the ball is worked carefully through various channels, "and a "nonsensical phrase that has come to mean short passing, patience and possession above all else", what two word phrase was popularized by Spanish football broadcaster Andrés Montes to describe Spain's precise, elegant passing style: "Estamos tocando ___ - ___ - ___"?	Tiki-taka
13	What rare feat would you have achieved in a certain sport if you 'Robin Hooded'?	Split an arrow
14	The British tournament for this sport dates back to Good Friday in 1588. It was apparently started when two men decided to fight for the hand of a milk maiden named Joan. After a series of sporting events had left them at a 6-6 draw, Joan decided this sport would be the tie-breaker. Another theory for this choice is attributed to it being considered a Lenten sport. What are we talking about?	Marbles
15	E.I. is an extreme sport invented by Phil Shaw in 1997. When Shaw, nicknamed 'Steam', returned home after a long day at his Knitwear factory, he realised he had a lot of chores to do, but his heart was set on rock climbing so he combined the two activities. Just expand EI or give a description.	Extreme Ironing
16	What sporting equipment gets nicknamed "Cheese" on account of its appearance?	Curling stones
17	Forward Sports, a company that has produced FIFA World Cup balls for Adidas since 2014, is based in which city , the birthplace of Bollywood actors Rajendra Kumar and AK Hangal and the poet Muhammad Iqbal?	Sialkot
18	Sabastian Sawe's new world record of 1:59:30 in the London Marathon 2026, was almost a full hour less than the winner's timing at London 1908 Olympic Games - the first race at which the now-standard marathon distance of 42.195km was run. It was not until 2007 that an athlete ran within five minutes of Sawe's new record, when the "Emperor of distance running" crossed the line in 2:04:26 at the Berlin Marathon. Name the "Emperor" .	Haile Gebrselassie (Do not accept Haile Selassie)
19	This country has won a total of 31 summer Olympics medals, including a gold medal each in judo and boxing at Beijing 2008. Which country introduced yak polo in the early 2000s as a tourist attraction?	Mongolia
20	What is the subtitle of Prime Video's 2026 documentary about the 14-time All-Star, Olympic Gold Medalist, and NBA Champion Jerry West?	<i>The Logo</i>