

Section A: Mixed Bag: 1 mark per question.

1. Where has Hope replaced Dippy? (*Hintze Hall of the Natural History Museum. The cast of a diplodocus skeleton known as 'Dippy' has been replaced by a blue whale skeleton. The latter has been named 'Hope'.*)
2. Which is the only Gilbert and Sullivan opera with no spoken dialogue? (*Trial by Jury*)
3. The Long Man of Wilmington is one of only two ancient chalk figures in the UK depicting a human figure. Which is the other? (*The Cerne Giant, near Cerne Abbas in Dorset*)
4. Where did the wrong red envelope cause confusion in February 2017? (*At the Oscars, when Warren Beatty was given the wrong envelope and announced the wrong Best Picture.*)
5. The German name for this musical instrument is 'zink'. What is it called in English? (*Cornett/Cornetto; 'cornet' won't do, as this is a completely different instrument so I couldn't accept that misspelling.*)
6. Which UK institution has the motto 'Nullius in verba'? (*The Royal Society; usually translated as 'take nobody's word for it'.*)
7. Which operatic character is the long-lost son of Bartolo and Marcellina? (*Figaro in Mozart's opera, 'Marriage of Figaro'*)
8. What was discovered as the result of an anonymous letter to Lord Monteagle early in the 17th century? (*Barrels of gunpowder in the cellars of the Houses of Parliament – the so-called 'Monteagle Letter' resulted in the foiling of the Gunpowder Plot of 1605.*)
9. In which fictional school, whose creator died in 2017, did Class 2B include Toots, Smiffy and Plug? (*Bash Street – created by Leo Baxendale for The Beano*)
10. Which British monarch had a name suggesting his main adviser might have been a small mythical being? (*Alfred the Great – aelf = 'elf' + 'rede = advised*)
11. Which is the only narrator of a Canterbury Tale not to have been one of the original pilgrims who set out from the Tabard Inn? (*The Canon's Yeoman*)
12. Which instrument plays the initial solo in Rossini's 'William Tell' overture? (*Cello; the famous bit which starts with the trumpets comes later.*)
13. Which country's national airline is named after a mythical bird? (*Indonesia – Garuda*)
14. An old dial telephone is permanently exhibited at the church of St. Stephen Walbrook, London. What does it commemorate? (*The founding of the Samaritans in 1953 by the Rev. Chad Varah; it was the original telephone he used at the church.*)
15. What is generally believed to have been the cause of death of the brother of Edward IV and Richard III in 1478? (*Drowning – allegedly in a butt of malmsey – George Duke of Clarence*)
16. The title of D. H. Lawrence's novel 'The Plumed Serpent' is a reference to which ancient Mexican deity? (*The serpent-god Quetzalcoatl*)
17. Which composer, organist and choirmaster of Chichester Cathedral was repeatedly disciplined for drunkenness and bad behaviour, including urinating on the Dean from the organ loft during Evensong? (*Thomas Weelkes*)
18. What is the easternmost station on the new Elizabeth Line? (*Shenfield*)

19. Which fictional character is named after the author of a guide to the birds of the Caribbean? (*James Bond*)
20. Celia Birtwell, the textile designer, appears in a painting by David Hockney with her then husband and their pet. What was the pet's name? (*The painting is Mr & Mrs Clark and Percy, though Celia Birtwell says that the cat in the painting is actually their other cat Blanche – so either answer will do, and brownie points to those who mentioned both*)

Section B: Where am I? 1 mark per question.

Below are cryptic clues to the names of places in England. Identify them. The clues may refer to the whole name or different elements in the name. Two examples are given below:

Advice for retiring apiarist with just one queen left? = Selby

Heavy crockery suggests an addition. = Bolton

1. Where a Beatrix Potter character might sleep. (*Peterborough*)*
2. Seaside atmosphere. (*Saltaire*)
3. The answer to a question about restoring some historic country cottages. (*Thatcham*)
4. The monarch of entrances. (*Dorking*)
5. Evidence of an unappetising meal. (*Nuneaton*)
6. Easily eradicated by good-quality soap or washing powder. (*Staines*)
7. How to stop your carpets from being stolen? (*Matlock*)
8. A mirror for Poe's bird. (*Ravenglass*)
9. Go on – say something! (*Speke*)
10. Brightly-coloured Porsche. (*Redcar*)

**Mousehole is pronounced Mow (rhymes with 'how') zal – so nice try, but won't do.*

Petersfield – good idea, but rabbits don't normally sleep above ground.

Section C: Connections Round. There are 3 marks for each question – 1 for naming the connection and 2 for explaining all elements.

1. Two ovoids interlocking at right-angles within a larger ovoid; the flag-bearing companion of a fictional lachrymose chelonian; a winged arrow; distilled MDMA?
(*Badges/emblems of different car makes: Toyota; Vauxhall - a gryphon – companion of the Mock Turtle in 'Alice in Wonderland'; Skoda; 'Spirit of Ecstasy' = Rolls-Royce.*)
2. A lock of hair; a pile; divine radiance around St. Cecilia or one of her counterparts; a layer in the wrong gender for geology or archaeology. (*Names of types of clouds in Latin – cirrus; cumulus; nimbus; stratus – masculine, with that ending, but the geological term – stratum - is neuter, and 'strata' is the plural.*)
3. The owner of Tailbiter and defeater of Rich Gold-Guardian; Cush's father, in some sources; one incarnation of Anthony Aloysius Hancock; a practitioner of the art of coarse acting? (*Ham - J.R.R. Tolkein's 'Farmer Giles of Ham', in which Farmer Giles acquires a sword called Caudimordax = Tailbiter and defeats a dragon called Chrysophylax Dives = Rich Gold-Guardian; Noah's son Ham, whose children included*

Cush – see Book of Genesis; ‘Hancock’s Half Hour’ episode ‘The Radio Ham’; a ham actor.)

4. Matchstick men (x5); semi-fictional biography of Nero’s predecessor (x2); a reverse tortoise; Ziggy Stardust. *(All created by people who refused to accept honours from the Queen – L.S. Lowry (refused 5 times); Robert Graves, author of ‘I, Claudius’ and ‘Claudius the God’, loosely based on the works of Suetonius and Tacitus (refused twice); Roald Dahl, author of ‘Esio Trot’; David Bowie)*

 5. Characteristic of a white cat which often indicates deafness; potentially hazardous solutions – probably a last resort; first line of a Shakespeare song; the beaver reintroduced to the UK or the ne-ne to Hawaii?
(Titles of novels by Thomas Hardy – A Pair of Blue Eyes; Desperate Remedies – nothing like the unrelated film with the same title; Under the Greenwood Tree – from Shakespeare’s ‘As You Like It’; The Return of the Native – both are native species reintroduced to the countries from which they became extinct or nearly extinct.)*
- *White cats with two blue eyes are almost invariably deaf; those with orange eyes usually have no hearing problems, and those with one eye of each colour are usually not deaf – which is why it’s ‘A **Pair** of blue eyes’*
6. A wildfowl species introduced into the UK; Sir Humphrey Appleby or a colleague; a 20th century ballet; expertise in an Asian language suggested by a Ruth Rendell novel. *(Mandarin – brightly coloured duck introduced into the UK; Whitehall ‘Mandarin’; Bartok’s The Miraculous Mandarin; The Speaker of Mandarin.)*

 7. Nobody being sought by a large game fish; not the ruler of Monaco, despite the name; Mr Poliakov homophonically relaxing at night; Smiles on a Summer Night – musically. *(Clowns – Marlin the clown fish and his son Nemo in ‘Finding Nemo’ – ‘nemo’ is Latin for ‘nobody’ and a marlin is a large game fish; Joseph Grimaldi alias Joey the Clown – the Grimaldi family rule Monaco; Nicolai Poliakov performed in Bertram Mills’ Circus & elsewhere as Coco [sounds like ‘cocoa’] the Clown; adapted by Sondheim as ‘A Little Night Music’, whose best-known musical number is ‘Send in the Clowns’ – and brownie points to those who pointed out that the title is ‘Smiles **of** a summer night’ despite the regular misprints in reference texts.)*

 8. A singer whose name suggests darkness and strong winds; Zephyrus; a violin favourite; possibly a work by Exekias? *(Odes by Keats and Shelley to/on..... Nightingale; West Wind – Zephyrus in Greek; Skylark – Vaughan-Williams’ ‘The Lark Ascending’ has been voted UK’s ‘official’ favourite piece of classical music; Greek vase = Grecian Urn – Exekias was one of the most famous Athenian black-figure potters/ painters)*

9. Despite the sound, nothing indecent involved; not to be found among the Wee Frees; gregarious corvid as an alternative to English Heritage property; a medieval green person. (*Chess pieces – pawn [sounds like 'porn'], bishop, rook/castle, [Sir Gawain and the Green] knight.*)

10. A British landscape painter; somewhere on the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan; Mrs. Dankworth; just be sensible. (*Titles in the 'Carry On' film franchise - Constable; Up the Khyber; Cleo [Laine]; Don't Lose Your Head*)