



2022

THE SOLUTIONS!

For ease of reference, this solutions document gives the original text of each puzzle, followed by the solution. For details of this year's prize-winners, please visit the solutions webpage on the RSS site, via the link below:
<https://rss.org.uk/news-publications/all-news/>

The RSS Christmas Quiz 2022 webpage is located at:
www.rss.org.uk/xmasquiz2022

Puzzle 1.

In what playful context did 1928 become 1, 1935 become 2 and 1933 become 3 (among a set of 12) – and what colour is shared by all three?

SOLUTION

Totopoly – the Waddington’s board game (see [here](#)). The names of the 12 horses in the game were all winners of the Lincolnshire Handicap during the period 1926–1937 (see [here](#)). Horse 1 is Dark Warrior (1928), horse 2 is Flamenco (1935), and horse 3 is Dorigen (1933) – and their shared colour (in the board game) is black.

Puzzle 2.

What in sport has been won by two ‘Jimmy’s in a row and by three ‘Kevin’s in a row?

SOLUTION

The Sir Tom Finney Award (as it has been known since 2014) was won by three ‘Kevin’s in a row: Kevin Phillips in 2015, Kevin Davies in 2016, and Kevin O’Connor in 2017 (see [here](#) and [here](#)). The equivalent award prior to 2014 was won by two ‘Jimmy’s in a row: Jimmy Armfield in 2008 and Jimmy Hill in 2009 (see [here](#) and the article by Kevin Phillips [here](#) where the equivalence is noted).

Although we did not award any points for alternative answers, we were impressed by the ingenuity of those solvers who argued that ‘in a row’ could be interpreted as ‘in a rowing contest’ (such as the Boat Race).

Puzzle 3.

Where musically would you find two saints at 244 and 245, and 806 to 817 split equally either side of the English Channel?

SOLUTION

In the compositions of Johann Sebastian Bach, as catalogued by the BWV system (see [here](#)): BWV 244 and 245 are respectively the St Matthew Passion and St John Passion, and BWV 806–811 and 812–817 are respectively the English Suites and French Suites.

Puzzle 4.

Solve biliterally:

- a) A literary dedicatee
- b) 180 hours of learning
- c) Extinct bird from No. 50
- d) Cleveland
- e) A Scottish one
- f) No. 46
- g) Senior Police Officer
- h) Mercury
- i) Tea, anyone?
- j) Attractive fluidity on the screen?

SOLUTION

Each of the ten items has a two-letter solution (capitalised below) that brings to mind a famous author who is known by those two initials:

- a) WH (dedicatee of Shakespeare's sonnets) – W. H. Auden
- b) AS (qualification of approximately 180 hours) – A. S. Byatt
- c) EE (extinct bird from Hawaii) – E. E. Cummings
- d) TS (postcode prefix for Cleveland) – T. S. Eliot
- e) AE (Scottish word for one) – A. E. Housman
- f) PD (palladium, i.e. element number 46) – P. D. James

- g) CS (Chief Superintendent) – C. S. Lewis
- h) HG (chemical symbol for Mercury) – H. G. Wells
- i) PG (from the famous tea, PG Tips) – P. G. Wodehouse
- j) WB (Weber, a measure of magnetic flux) – W. B. Yeats

Note that the authors are listed alphabetically by surname.

Puzzle 5.

If A is opposite C, H is opposite M, and F is opposite K, then what is opposite V, B, and S? Why do D, G, I, L, and X not appear?

(Hint: If confused, “arrange as seed”!)

SOLUTION

The specified pattern of letters can be found in a large (60m by 20m) dressage arena (see [here](#) and [here](#)). The letters D, L, X, I, G along the centre line of the arena are not physical markers (unlike those on the edges) and must be memorised, as noted at the second link above.

The hint is a simple anagram (as indicated by the word ‘confused’) – “arrange as seed” can be anagrammed to give “dressage arena”.

Puzzle 6.

What connects ‘sprog’, ‘psycho’, and ‘pistol’ that might mix up Erik and Gordon?

SOLUTION

These are the nicknames of the snooker players Mark Williams, Peter Ebdon, and Mark Allen (see [here](#)), who are all colour-blind to some extent – meaning that they might mix up (Erik the) Red and (Gordon) Brown.

Puzzle 7.

If the scores are literally

Ireland 4 Canada 1

Egypt 1 Turkey 1

Chile 2 South Africa 2

Germany 9 Norway 3

then what is the score in Poland vs Spain?

SOLUTION

The numbers in the puzzle are simply the number of Nobel laureates in Literature from each country (as hinted at by the word ‘literally’). The score in Poland vs Spain is therefore 6 – 6 (as given by the ‘Nobel laureates by country’ section of the page [here](#)).

Puzzle 8.

Which two are missing from the following list?

- A happy family
- Silver
- A columnist & editor
- An old grave
- 1775 – 1836

SOLUTION

The items in the puzzle specify five of the seven SI base units: Mole (one of the Happy Families in the famous card game); Second (which receives a silver medal); Kelvin (MacKenzie); Kilogram (formerly known as the ‘grave’ until 1795); Ampere (whose life spanned the given years).

The remaining two SI base units – Metre and Candela – are therefore missing from the list.

Puzzle 9.

What connects Hannibal, Paris, Moses, Priam, Caractacus, and Cicero?

SOLUTION

The six names in the puzzle are all horses who previously won the Epsom Derby (in the years 1804, 1806, 1822, 1830, 1862, and 1905 respectively – see [here](#)).

Note that Puzzles 1, 5, and 9 all share an equestrian theme – this explains the italicised hint at the start of the quiz that “three of the puzzles (whose numbers form an arithmetic progression) all share a related theme”.

Puzzle 10.

Identify and unscramble the following to generate an alphabetical one-word list:

- a) A mermaid
- b) Hurry
- c) Most frightening
- d) Won all but the 4th in 1956
- e) Impressive and large
- f) George's prey
- g) Repast
- h) Angry muppet
- i) Swedish haunts

- j) Alone
- k) Twosomes
- l) Strongly desire

SOLUTION

In this puzzle, each of the twelve answers can be anagrammed to give a one-word capital city (with these cities appearing alphabetically in the resulting list):

- a) sea girl = ALGIERS
- b) hasten = ATHENS
- c) scariest = CASTRIES
- d) Hoad [won three out of four tennis Grand Slams] = DOHA
- e) stonking = KINGSTON
- f) mole [George Smiley's prey] = LOME
- g) meal = MALE
- h) Animal = MANILA
- i) saunas = NASSAU
- j) solo = OSLO
- k) pairs = PARIS
- l) yearn = YAREN

Puzzle 11.

“Eternally spot” the source that connects all the following...

- Two fat ladies eating cheese
- The universal solution being coffee
- All the cards coming from Mother

- So many trombones at the fountain
- A cat sandwiched between misfortune and laughter on board

SOLUTION

This puzzle concerns the La Smorfia “Naples Lottery” (an anagram of “eternally spot”), in which an individual’s dreams are analysed and converted into lottery numbers to play (see [here](#)).

Using the conversion table shown at the link above, the five strange situations described in the puzzle can then be understood as follows:

- 88 (‘two fat ladies’ in bingo) is the number for Cheese;
- 42 (the ‘universal solution’ – see also Puzzle 16) is the number for Coffee;
- 52 (all the cards in a deck) is the number for Mother;
- 76 (as per the song ‘76 Trombones’) is the number for Fountain;
- 3 (the number for Cat) is sandwiched on a dartboard between the numbers for Misfortune (17) and Laughter (19).

Puzzle 12.

What ‘part’ originates from each of the following?

- a) Heavy
- b) Stench
- c) Goblin
- d) Violet
- e) Smell
- f) Flint

SOLUTION

The names of the chemical elements shown below were originally derived from the words given in the puzzle (see [here](#)):

- a) Barium ('heavy')
- b) Bromine ('stench')
- c) Cobalt ('goblin')
- d) Iodine ('violet')
- e) Osmium ('smell')
- f) Silicon ('flint')

The word 'part' in the puzzle is simply a synonym for 'element'.

Puzzle 13.

Place the 18 names below into four groups of four, for the purposes of sharing joy (two are red herrings that do not fit):

Charles Babbage, Mary Beard, Pierre de Coubertin, Elizabeth David, Alex Ferguson, E M Forster, Orlando Gibbons, Anthony Hopkins, Andrew Jackson, Viscount Melbourne, Henri Matisse, Henry Miller, Giulio Monteverdi, Isaac Newton, Kim Philby, Helena Rubinstein, Anwar Sadat, Mao Zedong

SOLUTION

Four groups of four can be created based on the birthdays of these famous individuals (as hinted at by the first sentence), which are all joyful days: Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day. The four groups are shown below:

Christmas Day – Orlando Gibbons, Isaac Newton, Helena Rubinstein, Anwar Sadat

Boxing Day – Charles Babbage, Elizabeth David, Henry Miller, Mao Zedong

New Year's Eve – Alex Ferguson, Anthony Hopkins, Henri Matisse, Giulio Monteverdi

New Year's Day – Mary Beard, Pierre de Coubertin, E M Forster, Kim Philby

Andrew Jackson and Viscount Melbourne (both born on the distinctly less joyful Ides of March) are the two red herrings.

Puzzle 14.

Explain musically:

1907 – 1979

1908 – 1992

1899 – 1980

1889 – 1945

1950 –

1919 – 1987

.....

.....

.....

1927 – 2015

1911 – 1991

1926 – 1992 + 1898 – 1977

1888 – 1972

SOLUTION

The year-ranges in the puzzle represent the lifespans of some of the famous people mentioned in “The Intro and the Outro” by the Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band (see [here](#) and [here](#)), who are ostensibly performing as guest musicians. The first six rows above refer to John Wayne (xylophone), Robert Morley (guitar), Billy Butlin (spoons), Adolf Hitler (vibes, “looking very relaxed”), Princess Anne (sousaphone), and Liberace (clarinet). The final four rows, following the lines of dots, refer

to Val Doonican (“as himself”), Max Jaffa (“very appealing”), Zebra Kid and Horace Batchelor (percussion), and J Arthur Rank (gong).

Puzzle 15.

Geographically, if $I = U = 1$ and $E = 5$, how many is A ?

SOLUTION

The given numbers indicate how many country names contain just one of the five vowels (A, E, I, O, U), for different choices of this vowel. Thus, $I = 1$ because Fiji is the only country name whose sole vowel is I; $U = 1$ because Cyprus is the only country name whose sole vowel is U; and $E = 5$ because Egypt, Greece, Seychelles, Sweden, and Yemen are the only country names whose sole vowel is E. It follows that $A = 13$, with the 13 countries in question being as follows: Bahamas, Canada, Chad, Ghana, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Malta, Myanmar, Panama, Qatar, and Rwanda.

Several entrants offered an alternative solution based on how many country names in Africa start with each letter: Ivory Coast is the only I; Uganda is the only U; Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, and Ethiopia are the five Es; thus, $A = 2$, in respect of Algeria and Angola. This alternative solution was awarded 4 points out of 5, on the basis that Ivory Coast is more commonly known as Côte d’Ivoire. However, this deduction had no bearing on the placings or the list of prize-winners.

Puzzle 16.

Musically, what widespread solution connects...

- The memory of a dear place;
- As the hart pants after the waterbrooks;
- A woman’s love and life;
- A Danish threesome of 1863;

- A play by two Irish poets?

SOLUTION

All five musical pieces clued in the puzzle are connected by the number 42 – a ‘widespread solution’ in the sense that it is the ‘Answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, The Universe, and Everything’ in *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams. The musical pieces are respectively:

- Tchaikovsky – *Souvenir d’un lieu cher*, Op 42
- Mendelssohn – *Psalm 42*
- Schumann – *Frauenliebe und -leben*, Op 42
- Gade – *Piano trio*, Op 42
- Elgar – *Incidental music and funeral march from Grania and Diarmid* (George Moore and W. B. Yeats), Op 42

Puzzle 17.

What number might often have been seen after the following?

- A lover’s car
- A little chef
- A reflection
- A sport
- Francisco’s place
- Topaz time
- 1732 – 1809
- The man who killed the Prince of cats
- Dernier en Paris!

SOLUTION

The nine clues refer to the following letters of the NATO alphabet: Alfa (via Alfa Romeo), Charlie (the Little Chef mascot), Echo, Golf, Lima (founded by Francisco Pizarro), November (the month corresponding to topaz), Papa (the nickname of the composer Joseph Haydn), Romeo (with Tybalt being the “Prince of cats” in Reynard the Fox), and Tango.

These nine letters (A, C, E, G, L, N, P, R, T) appear at the start of the original Snellen chart for eyesight testing (see [here](#)) – so the number that ‘might often have been seen’ after them is the number 5.

Puzzle 18.

What financially connects a rate, a contest, a playwright, a month, an island capital, an English county, a liquid measure, a fish, and a gospel?

SOLUTION

The nine clues describe the surnames of various people who have held the post of Chief Cashier at the Bank of England (see [here](#)), listed in chronological order: Thomas SPEED, Daniel RACE, William MILLER, Frank MAY, Cyril MAHON, David SOMERSET, Malcolm GILL, Chris SALMON, and Sarah JOHN.

Puzzle 19. (‘Bill of rights’)

Give the items below a close read, then divide them into groups of 7, 6, 5, 4, and 3 – noting that the largest group is different in kind from the others:

able, all, amid, ark, art, each, gust, hello, ions, ire, less, lies, line, nice, one, ream, rise, sage, stale, sure, swell, tapes, tin, toes, wood

(Which member of the 7-group links back to the 6-group via a ‘great’ event in August 1971?)

SOLUTION

This puzzle features five literary figures called William/Will (as per the puzzle name) – one being a playwright (the largest group) and the other four being authors – with the items given in the puzzle being the last letters in the titles of selected works. (These last letters can be regarded as being the “right-hand” portion of each title, as per the reference to “rights” in the puzzle name, or how the titles are “closing”, as per the instruction to “give the items below a close read”).

The works in question are listed below, with the relevant letters underlined. For instance, the seven items in the largest group (corresponding to plays by William Shakespeare) are ‘hello’, ‘line’, ‘nice’, ‘ream’, ‘stale’, ‘sure’, and ‘swell’ – and similarly for the other groups.

7-group [William Shakespeare]: Othello / Cymbeline / The Merchant of Venice / A Midsummer Night’s Dream / The Winter’s Tale / Measure for Measureure / All’s Well that Ends Well

6-group [William Golding]: Free Fall / The Pyramid / The Spire / Lord of the Flies / Rites of Passage / Pincher Martin

5-group [William Boyd]: Any Human Heart / Brazzaville Beach / New Confessionsons / Restless / Waiting for Sunrise

4-group [Will Self]: Shark / Phone / Great Apes / Walking to Hollywood

3-group: William Faulkner: A Fable / Light in August / Mosquitoes

Finally, ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’ (from the 7-group) can be linked back to William Golding (author of the 6-group), who experienced a ‘great dream’ in the morning of 19 August 1971 (see [here](#)).

Puzzle 20.

Finally, identify the following who left us in 2022 (that being the only connection):

a) Lost to Elton’s cousin

- b) X to begin with
- c) $5 + 2 + 9 + 6 + 8 = 30$
- d) Last bomb down
- e) A pair who stopped 'taking' and 'keeping' on the same day
- f) Bye Sonny!
- g) Alex's Mediterranean investment
- h) Early success in Fort Worth, Bucharest, and Leeds
- i) A life under the waves
- j) Missed a historic achievement by 46 days

SOLUTION

- a) Billy Bingham (who played for Luton in the 1959 FA Cup Final, and lost to a Nottingham Forest side which included Elton John's cousin, Roy Dwight – famously, Dwight not only scored the opening goal for Forest, but also broke his leg)
- b) Bamber Gascoigne ("starter for ten")
- c) Lester Piggott (with the numbers representing his Classic wins)
- d) George Leonard 'Johnny' Johnson (the last Dambuster)
- e) Shane Warne and Rod Marsh (famous for taking wickets and wicketkeeping)
- f) James Caan (who portrayed Sonny Corleone in The Godfather)
- g) Rock of Gibraltar (racehorse owned by Sir Alex Ferguson and Sue Magnier)
- h) Radu Lupu (virtuoso pianist who won competitions in the given locations between 1966-1969)
- i) Wolfgang Peterson (director of Das Boot)
- j) John Landy (ran the second sub-four-minute mile on 21 June 1954 – just 46 days after Roger Bannister)

The RSS Christmas Quiz 2022 was devised by Richard Job, and edited by the RSS Quizmaster, Dr Tim Paulden. Many thanks to all those who participated in this year's competition.
