Devised by Dr Tim Paulden (RSS Quizmaster)

Entries will be accepted until 21:00 GMT on 31 January 2022

For full rules, solving tips, and details of prizes, please visit the quiz webpage via the link below:
https://rss.org.uk/news-publications/all-news/
Puzzle 1: EVENLY MIXED  [14 points]

Identify the eight items below, each of which contains a deliberate error. What special name connects them, and which words appearing in #2/#7/#8 are often regarded as the origin of the name (loosely speaking, in the case of #7)?

Finally, continuing the theme of #2, which four of the individuals (taken in order) reveal another much-loved ground-dwelling creature with a distinctive morning cry?

1. “D_2 W_4 B_5 P_6 H_4 A_1 G_4 T_4 D_4 B_2 B_8 W_4 C_{11} A_3 P_6 O_8 A_3 A_3 T_3 M_{11} G_8 T_4 C_7 U_2 L_4”

2. “A_1 L_6 B_4 T_4 M_2 T_4 Y_3 L_4 M_2 I_2 I_1 B_7 T_4 Y_3 D_2”

3. “A_3 I_2 E_7 B_3 L_4 R_5 S_5”

4. “W_8 M_7 I_1 T_3 A_3 T_3 P_7 O_2 M_2 O_3 H_4 W_4 A_3 N_7 E_4”

5. “I_1 D_{10} O_2 W_4 Y_3 S_3 B_3 I_1 W_4 D_6 T_2 T_3 D_5 Y_4 H_4 T_2 S_3 I_2”

6. “I_1 L_4 T_3 S_7 O_2 D_7 V_{10}”

7. “N_6 C_3 L_4 I_2 T_3 P_4 O_2 T_3 F_6 W_7 A_3 S_9 O_2 A_1 N_3”

8. “A_5 A_3 I_2 I_2 T_5 W_3 H_4 A_1 D_4 A_3 R_4 I_5 L_4 W_3 A_3 B_4 A_4 T_2 D_4 W_4 T_3 I_{10} Y_3 O_2 O_5 L_4”
Puzzle 2: ICSAR [7 points]

Explain the diagram below:

(3)(6)(4)(5)(6)(6)(4)  ●●●○○○
(3)(6)(6)(5)(4)(6)(6)  ●●●●●●●

Puzzle 3: LAWFULLY RELATED [7 points]

The twelve items listed below fall naturally into two groups of six – how, and what’s the connection to the title?

BAT
ECHO
PO
SAILBOAT
FEARLESS
CHRISTMAS
ARSENAL
EDDY
HATE
JUSTICE
DUSTY
OWL
Puzzle 4: BEAT IT  [4 points]

Identify the next two elements of the sequence represented below:

…, B, S, M, C, Q, S, ...

Puzzle 5: GREAT WHITE (2021)  [5 points]

Identify the collection of numbers shown below. (The two hidden numbers represent England.)

3, 6, 9, 12, 18, 23, 42, 44, 49, 52, 56, ■, 67, 71, 76, 80, 81, 82, ■, 88
Puzzle 6: USELESS RULES  [20 points]

• Actress who played Betty in a festively titled comedy film (based on a play named after a beverage), and who has the same first name as someone in an earlier puzzle

• Alternative album released in 2008 that was livestreamed in January 2021, with the recording being released under another name (often used to describe those whose power is superficial)

• Celebrated footballer with a body part located at ///those.bitters.landed

• Children’s author whose 1957 book features a green creature who steals Christmas gifts and decorations

• Engineer who won a prestigious award in the 1950s, a few years after Kermit and Orville

• European country where a special ‘Christmas juice’ dominates December’s soft-drink sales
• Former Le Mans coach who represented France in Switzerland, a few days before turning 24
• German city whose mayor has the same surname and first initial as a famous mathematician
• K-pop song with nearly 1.8 billion views on YouTube, from a group whose name combines (0,0,0) and (255,192,203)
• Mid-80s computer game whose inlay card features a rhyme of ten lines ending with the following words: take, make, dare, lair, will, fill, fast, past, slow, go
• Mythical apprentice rumoured to have broken a textile apparatus in the late 18th century
• Norwegian ice hockey defender who executed a stick-breaking tackle in May 2021
• Pop song whose video features the singer drawing a heart on a steamed-up mirror, touching a light-blue phone, and standing on the surface of a swimming pool
• Three-syllable song title that links Lennon, Duffy, and Milburn
• Title shared by a Canadian mockumentary and an episode of Star Trek: Discovery
• UK city whose high street features an 8ft bronze statue of a cartoon character (plus his sidekick)
• Widely derided film starring JT (RF), GA (RS), and BA (IB)

Who’s left over – and how are they connected to Bethlehem?
Puzzle 7: HOT N COLD (35)  [9 points]

Identify the following from their title appearances…

- …in 690 only (though a related term appears in 8, 30, and 168)
- …in 509 (but not in 219, 294, 472, 539, or 621)
- …in 54, 283, and 467
- …in 10, 76, 82, 132, 140–151, and dozens of others
- …in 556 (but not in 215, 216, 504, or 598)
- …in 163, 400, and 504 (but written here in the singular)
- …in 110

Where would you find all seven together, in the order above?
Puzzle 8: BAYES OPTIMIZATION  [9 points]

Explain the figure shown below:

Continuing the theme, what ten-letter word is revealed by the instances below – and how is this word relevant to an even greater achievement recorded in August 2021?

03/14, 04/19, 11/18, 03/89, 05/13, 08/16, 11/08, 11/13, 11/92, 09/20
Puzzle 9: CHRISTMAS RESTUFFING  [12 points]

The list of items below has become all mixed up – can you fix it?

For full credit, you should identify each of the three hidden items along with its associated number – one point will be awarded for each. One of the hidden items features somewhere in an earlier puzzle, one has a particular form that projects a festive message, and one will provide plenty of entertainment on Christmas Day.

ARTHUR MELVILLE [-68]
BEN RIPLEY [-46/-30]
CHRIS ABBOTT [-66]
EDITH SELIG [-26]
GLYPHOPSYCHE [-23]
HAO GE [-54]
HOCH [-13]
LOONEY TUNES CARTOONS [-47]
MELVIN RADER [-60]
MOHAMMAD WAHEED [-18]

MURDER BAY [-28]
OKAY YOKUSLU [-38]
POLJOT [-4]

ROBERT PAPE [-35]

SHOTTON SNOWFIELD [-20]
SMILETS DYNASTY [-31]
TOBICO MARSH [-24]
Puzzle 10: PUZZLE OF THE CENTURY? [6 points]

Identify the century-old puzzle that was personified using a 5-letter adjective and 4-letter female name, and later found to have over 370,000 solutions – rather more than the two known to the inventor.

How are the numbers \{72, 106, 132, 146, 166, 168, 192, 194\} connected to the puzzle, and in what sense are the numbers \{26, 7, 1, 14, 8, 19, 5, 35, 31, 26, 4, 10\} irrelevant?

Puzzle 11: CLOSE ENCOUNTERS [7 points]

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Total available points: 100