MEGAN MORAN QUIZZES

General knowledge quiz

30 questions in 3 rounds. Read each question out and give teams a moment to write their answers. The host's answer sheet (with a fact to share for each answer) and a team answer sheet to print for every table come after the questions.

Round 1: Easy

1. Who painted the Mona Lisa?
2. What is the capital city of Japan?
3. How many days are there in a leap year?
4. What is the tallest animal on Earth?
5. In the Toy Story films, what is the name of the cowboy doll?
6. What is the official language of Brazil?
7. Which chemical element, the lightest of them all, has the symbol H?
8. Which nut gives the chocolate spread Nutella its distinctive flavor?
9. Europe and the United States compete for the Ryder Cup in which sport?
10. In the UK, the first Harry Potter book is "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone." Which word replaces "Philosopher's" in the US title?

Round 2: Medium

11. What is a baby swan called?
12. What is the largest internal organ in the human body?
13. Which scientist, famous for the equation $E = mc^2$, won the 1921 Nobel Prize in Physics?
14. Which pop artist became famous for his 1962 paintings of Campbell's Soup cans?
15. In which sport do competitors use a foil, an épée or a saber?
16. Which Venetian merchant traveled to the court of Kublai Khan and produced one of the most famous travel books of the Middle Ages?
17. Which sea lies between Italy and the Balkan Peninsula?
18. The orchestral showpiece "Ride of the Valkyries" comes from an opera by which German composer?
19. Which Charles Dickens novel features the orphan Pip and the jilted bride Miss Havisham?
20. Which paper-thin pastry is layered with chopped nuts and syrup to make baklava?

Round 3: Hard

21. Which mammal has the longest known pregnancy?

22. In ten-pin bowling, what is the name for three strikes in a row?
23. Which Dutch artist painted "Girl with a Pearl Earring"?
24. In the 1941 film Citizen Kane, "Rosebud," Kane's dying word, turns out to be what?
25. What is the name of the boundary around a black hole beyond which nothing, not even light, can escape?
26. What is the name of the deepest known point in Earth's oceans?
27. What is the name of the "&" symbol, which began as a joined-up form of the Latin word "et"?
28. Which country's national anthem, the "Marcha Real," has no official lyrics?
29. Which small U-shaped bone in the neck is the only bone in the human body that doesn't connect to another bone?
30. Which 1494 treaty, named after a Spanish town, divided newly found lands outside Europe between Spain and Portugal?

Answer sheet

For the host. The facts in gray are extras to read out after each answer.

Round 1: Easy

1. **Leonardo da Vinci (accept Leonardo or da Vinci)**
   The painting was stolen from the Louvre in 1911 by Vincenzo Peruggia and wasn't recovered until 1913.
2. **Tokyo**
   Until 1868 the city was called Edo; its new name means "eastern capital."
3. **366**
   Century years only get a leap day if they divide by 400, so 2000 had a February 29 but 1900 did not.
4. **Giraffe**
   Despite that enormous neck, a giraffe has just seven neck vertebrae, the same number as a human.
5. **Woody (accept Sheriff Woody)**
   Tom Hanks has voiced Woody in the Toy Story feature films since the first one in 1995.
6. **Portuguese**
   Brazil is the world's largest Portuguese-speaking country, home to far more Portuguese speakers than Portugal itself.
7. **Hydrogen**
   It is the most plentiful element in the universe, and it is colorless, odorless and tasteless.
8. **Hazelnut (accept hazelnuts)**
   It grew out of a hazelnut paste Pietro Ferrero made in Piedmont in 1946, when cocoa was scarce after World War II; the Nutella name arrived in 1964.
9. **Golf**
   The trophy is named after Samuel Ryder, an English seed merchant, and the first official Ryder Cup was played in 1927.
10. **Sorcerer's (Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone)**
    The US publisher feared "philosopher" sounded too obscure; J.K. Rowling suggested "Sorcerer's" and later said she regretted the change.

Round 2: Medium

11. **Cygnet**
    An adult male swan is called a cob, and an adult female is called a pen.
12. **Liver**
    It weighs about 3 to 5 pounds (1.4 to 2.3 kg) and is one of the only organs that can regenerate itself.
13. **Albert Einstein (accept Einstein)**
    The prize was awarded for his explanation of the photoelectric effect, not for his theory of relativity.
14. **Andy Warhol (accept Warhol)**
    The series has 32 canvases, one for each soup variety Campbell's sold at the time, and was his first solo Pop art show, at the Ferus Gallery in Los Angeles.
15. **Fencing**
    Fencing has been part of every modern Summer Olympics since 1896, and the saber is the only weapon contested at every one.
16. **Marco Polo**
    He dictated the book while a prisoner of war, to a fellow captive, the writer Rustichello of Pisa.
17. **Adriatic Sea (accept Adriatic)**
    It is about 500 miles (800 km) long and joins the Ionian Sea through the Strait of Otranto.

18. **Richard Wagner (accept Wagner)**
It opens Act III of Die Walküre, part of Wagner's epic four-opera Ring cycle.

19. **Great Expectations**
Miss Havisham still wears her wedding dress, and the clocks in her house are stopped at twenty minutes to nine.

20. **Filo (accept phyllo)**
Its name comes from the Greek word for "leaf."

Round 3: Hard

21. **Elephant**
African elephants carry their calves for up to about 22 months; the long wait is thought to give the calf's large, highly developed brain time to form before birth.

22. **A turkey**
Four strikes in a row is sometimes nicknamed a "hambone."

23. **Johannes Vermeer (accept Vermeer)**
Nobody knows who the girl was: the painting is a "tronie," a study of an imaginary figure rather than a portrait, and it hangs in the Mauritshuis in The Hague.

24. **His childhood sled (accept sledge)**
One of the surviving Rosebud sleds from the film sold at auction in 2025 for $14.75 million.

25. **Event horizon**
In 2019 the Event Horizon Telescope released the first image of a black hole, showing a glowing ring around the one at the center of galaxy M87.

26. **Challenger Deep (accept Mariana Trench)**
Lying in the Mariana Trench in the Pacific, it is about 10,935 meters (35,876 feet) deep.

27. **Ampersand**
When the alphabet was recited, & came last, said as "and per se and" ("& by itself is 'and'"), and that phrase was slurred into "ampersand."

28. **Spain**
It traces back to a bugle call published in 1761 and is one of only four wordless national anthems.

29. **Hyoid (accept hyoid bone)**
Held in place by muscles and ligaments, it helps you speak, swallow and breathe, and its name comes from the Greek for U-shaped.

30. **Treaty of Tordesillas**
It moved the pope's 1493 dividing line much farther west, to 370 leagues west of the Cape Verde islands, and Pope Julius II formally approved it in 1506.

Team answer sheet

Print one for each team. 30 questions.

Team name _____

Round 1: Easy

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
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6. _____
7. _____
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10. _____

Score _____ / 10

Round 2: Medium

11. _____
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20. _____

Score _____ / 10

Round 3: Hard

21. _____
22. _____
23. _____
24. _____
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26. _____
27. _____
28. _____
29. _____
30. _____

Score _____ / 10

Total score _____ / 30