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INTRODUCTION

Do you find that your brain power is not what it used to be? Is your IQ battery running low? Do you even struggle to answer the 'either/or' competition questions on daytime TV, do you call your partner 'darling' only because you forgot their real name years ago, and do you get so confused with words that you think a thesaurus became extinct along with the rest of the dinosaurs? Worse still, do you keep having to change your pet's name because you can never remember your online banking password? You now have the only dog in the street that is called 1234.

Thankfully, help is at hand. Experts (where would we be without them?) have devised a series of ideas designed to restore our minds to their tack-like sharpness. They say stress can reduce brain power and they recommend positive thinking as a way of combating it. So from now on, don't tell your partner, 'I think I've lost my car keys.' Think positive. Say, 'I'm sure I've lost my car keys.' They tell us we should stimulate our brain by trying something different, such as learning a musical instrument or taking a new route to work, which is all very well until you have to phone your boss and explain that the reason you are late is

because you have been lost in the backstreets for the last two hours or have been trapped overnight in a tuba. Above all, they urge us to make sure we get regular sleep and exercise. Never has there been a better time to take up sleepwalking.

These experts also encourage us to read more books, but not just any book, *this* book. For here you will find a vast range of questions on such diverse subjects as maths, history, science and nature, the arts, food and drink, geography, words and sport that have been hand-picked to test your intellect (or lack of it). Furthermore, each section is tailored to your specific capabilities - whether you feel you still have more faculties than Harvard, or you think you may be starting to lose your marbles, or you fear you may be so far gone that your only future is likely to be an appearance on reality TV. To sum up, there are questions for those who think they know the capital of Andorra, there are questions for those who think they used to own a sweater made of Andorra, and there are questions for those who think they may once have known where Andorra is but can't remember where they put it.

So that you can measure your brain power (or lack of it), all of the answers will be in one place at the back of the book

WHERE YOU CAN FIND THEM.



HISTORY

1. Whose fate was decided by a Diet of Worms?

- a) John Calvin
- b) Martin Luther
- c) Christopher Robin

2. In medieval France, what was a woman who had committed adultery sometimes required to do by way of punishment?

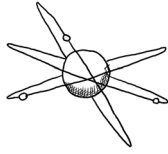
- a) Have all her teeth extracted in the town square
- b) Stand outside the town hall and dance non-stop for twelve hours while dressed as a badger
- c) Chase a chicken through the streets naked

3. The nursery rhyme 'Ring a Ring o' Roses' refers to which historical event?

- a) The Wars of the Roses
- b) The Black Death
- c) The execution of Marie Antoinette

4. What trait distinguished Queen Mary, consort of King George V of Great Britain?

- a) She was a nymphomaniac
- b) She was a kleptomaniac
- c) She had three funnels



SCIENCE AND NATURE

1. To deter predators, what is the caterpillar of the king page swallowtail butterfly disguised as?

- a) A snake's head
- b) Bird droppings
- c) Vladimir Putin



2. A German Shepherd dog was arrested in the Spanish city of Seville for doing what?

- a) Persistently fouling the pavement
- b) Snatching handbags from shoppers
- c) Biting the mayor on his backside

3. True or false? A newly discovered species of praying mantis has been named after Lindsay Lohan.

4. What part of the human body is the philtrum?

- a) The groove between the base of your nose and your upper lip
- b) The piece of skin at the back of your ear lobe
- c) The area of the brain that helps you to remember people's names ... or not



MATHS

1. George phoned an insurance company call centre at 10.04 a.m. and thirty-five minutes later he was still waiting in a queue while an automated voice on the other end told him how important his call was to them. His favourite TV programme starts at 10.50 a.m., so, given that it takes him two minutes to get downstairs and settled in front of the TV, how long will it be before George slams down the phone and tells the insurance company where it can stick its special premium for valued customers?

2. How many is threescore and ten?

3. On 23 March George faithfully promised his wife that he would replace the bolt on the bathroom door.

First, he mislaid his screwdriver, then the screws and, lastly, the new bolt, with the result that he finally fitted it on 19 May. How many days did his wife have to wait for him to complete a job, which, as she so eloquently put it, 'a trained monkey could have done in fifteen minutes'?





FOOD AND DRINK

1. What is the chief ingredient of the Inuit dish *kiviak*?

- a) Walrus flipper
- b) Auk
- c) Seal

2. The consumption of which banned drink was liable to result in execution in seventeenth-century Turkey?

- a) Beer
- b) Wine
- c) Coffee

3. True or false? In the United States, you are four times more likely to be killed by a vending machine than a shark.



4. In 1937, what became the first frozen food to go on sale in Britain?

- a) Green beans
- b) Garden peas
- c) Asparagus

5. From which country does Leffe beer originate?



SPORT

1. Which sport's world championships are staged annually at Fenny Bentley in Derbyshire?

- a) Shin kicking
- b) Gnat swatting
- c) Toe wrestling

2. Which American golfer was once described by commentator David Feherty as having 'a swing like a man trying to kill a snake in a phone booth'?

- a) Bubba Watson
- b) Tom Kite
- c) Jim Furyk



3. Wrigley Field is a baseball stadium in which American city?

4. True or false? Competing in the 1979 European Figure Skating Championships, Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean received perfect scores of 6.0 (apart from a 5.8 from the East German judge) despite falling through the ice at one point in their routine.

5. The Swaythling Cup is associated with which sport?

- a) Lacrosse
- b) Table tennis
- c) Tiddlywinks



GEOGRAPHY

1. In which county does the River Thames rise?

- a) Oxfordshire
- b) Gloucestershire
- c) Donegal

2. A Hoosier is a native of which American state?

3. Where would you find Table Mountain?

- a) Cape Town
- b) Rio de Janeiro
- c) IKEA winter sale

4. True or false? The highest point in the Maldives is less than eight feet above sea level.

5. Which sea is located off the east coast of Canada?

- a) Setter Sea
- b) Beagle Sea
- c) Labrador Sea



WORDS

1. What is turophobia a fear of?

- a) Clowns
- b) Cheese
- c) Stick insects



2. What is the name for the dot over a lower-case 'i' or 'j'?

- a) Wattle
- b) Mottle
- c) Tittle

3. True or false? The phrase 'hair of the dog' originates from the medieval belief that the best way to treat a bite from a rabid dog was to place a hair from the same dog across the wound.

4. George is prone to the occasional thorough cough. Does this mean that he?

- a) Coughs and breaks wind at the same time
- b) Coughs so violently that his dentures fall out
- c) Coughs while he is eating, thereby spraying morsels far and wide

5. What word links cauliflower and lobe?