

Weekly Quiz - Answers

1. What famous painting was targeted in a soup-throwing protest at London's National Gallery?

a. Sunflowers by Vincent Van Gogh - Activists from Just Stop Oil threw soup over two of Vincent van Gogh's Sunflowers paintings at the National Gallery in London. This protest comes shortly after two other activists were jailed for a similar act targeting one of these iconic artworks in October 2022. The paintings were removed for examination but were found to be undamaged.
2. What is the name of the powerful storm that has caused widespread devastation across the Southeastern states of America?

c. Helene - Hurricane Helene, one of the largest and most powerful storms to hit Florida's Big Bend, has caused widespread devastation across the Southeastern US, including Florida, Georgia, and the Carolinas. The storm has resulted in dozens of deaths, millions without power, and billions of dollars in damage.
3. What proportion of children around the world are affected by short-sightedness or myopia, according to a recent study?

a. One in three - The British Journal of Ophthalmology suggests that one in three children worldwide is now short-sighted or unable to see things in the distance clearly. The study indicates that the rate of myopia has tripled since 1990, with the increase being particularly significant after the Covid pandemic. Children should spend at least two hours outside every day, particularly between the age of seven and nine, to reduce their chances of being short-sighted, say UK eye experts.
4. Which country is building a nuclear power plant on the edge of the Gobi desert?

a. China - China is planning to build the world's first-ever nuclear power station that uses molten salt as the fuel carrier and coolant, and thorium as a fuel source. Molten salt reactors are considered safer than traditional water-cooled reactors, but face challenges such as the corrosion caused by the superheated radioactive salts and issues with waste disposal. The waste will be stored underground in the Gobi desert.
5. Which football club had to cancel a match after a sinkhole damaged their pitch?

a. AFC Wimbledon - Heavy rain caused a sinkhole to appear on the pitch at AFC Wimbledon's Plough Lane stadium, forcing the club to cancel their League Two match against Accrington Stanley. The sinkhole also led to the relocation of a Carabao Cup match against Newcastle United to St. James' Park, with fundraising efforts surpassing £100,000 to help repair the damage.
6. Nepali woman Phunjo Lama became the fastest woman to climb Mt Everest recently. How long did she take?

a. 14 hours and 31 minutes - Phunjo Lama held the record previously, but lost it to a climber from Hong Kong in 2021. The feat takes most climbers several days. Five climbers have died in the past week attempting the climb and three more are missing.
7. The Prime Minister of Canada is facing a series of challenges to his leadership in parliament. Who is this Prime Minister of Canada?

a. Justin Trudeau - Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau recently survived a no-confidence vote in parliament, which was initiated by the opposition leader. Despite Trudeau's plummeting approval ratings, the motion was defeated, allowing his minority government to stay in power.
8. In October King Charles and Queen Camilla will conduct a royal visit to Australia and which Pacific Island?

c. Samoa - The Royals will visit Australia and Samoa from 18-26th October and attend at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2024. They will not be visiting New Zealand on this tour.
9. The national army is engaged in a major offensive in Khartoum. In which country is Khartoum the capital city?

c. Sudan - The army has launched a significant attack against the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF). Sudan has been embroiled in a civil war since the army and the RSF began a vicious struggle for power in April 2023, leading to what the UN has called one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.
10. In which city is considered to be the 'capital' of the European Union?

b. Brussels, Belgium - Brussels is considered the de facto capital of the European Union, having a long history of hosting a number of principal EU institutions within its European Quarter.
11. In which sport are Britain's INEOS Britannia and Italy's Luna Rossa competing for the Louis Vuitton Cup?

c. Sailing - The event is being held in the waters off the Spanish city of Barcelona. The winner of the Louis Vuitton Cup will take on Team New Zealand for the America's Cup.
12. Switzerland is offering cash prizes for ideas on how to remove what from their lakes?

c. Military weapons - For years the Swiss military used the lakes as dumping grounds for old munition. In Lake Lucerne alone there are an estimated 3,300 tonnes of munition. Now, the Swiss defence department is offering 50,000 francs (NZ\$95,000) in prize money for the best idea to get it out.
13. According to the Home Office, how many migrants have illegally crossed the English Channel into Britain this year?

b. Approximately 25,000 - The Home Office reported that 24,335 migrants have crossed the English Channel into Britain in 2024. Despite efforts by the government to stop these crossings, the numbers have continued to rise, with the highest daily total being 882 on 18 June.
14. In which country has the government deliberately reduced the value of its currency by 40%?

c. Zimbabwe - Zimbabwe's central bank recently devalued its gold-backed currency, the Zig, by over 40% against the US dollar. The Zig, which stands for Zimbabwe Gold, was launched over six months ago and is the country's sixth currency in 25 years. However, there is much greater demand for the US dollar, which is also legal tender in the country.
15. What is the most common language spoken in the city of Milan?

c. Italian - Milan is a major city and industrial centre in the north of Italy.

VISUAL ANSWERS

1. **c. Smith** - Dame Maggie Smith, best known for her roles in the Harry Potter films and Downton Abbey, has been remembered as "a true legend" of acting following her death at the age of 89. Tributes have been paid by the King and prime minister, as well as numerous co-stars from her long career.

2. **b. Puffin** - The latest Puffin survey showed that their population has increased by 15% since 2019, despite fears that bird flu could have significantly reduced their numbers. The Farne Islands now host about 50,000 breeding pairs.

3. **Thames** - Promoted as London's river marathon, about 2,000 people in around 270 boats progressed under 28 of London's bridges during the Great River Race, passing historical landmarks as they went.

4. South Africa

5. **Banksy** - One of London's recent animal-themed Banksy artworks, vandalised shortly after being discovered, has been restored and will now be protected by an "anti-graffiti solution". The work - of two elephants poking their heads out of blocked-out windows - was painted on the side of a house in Chelsea, before it was defaced with white stripes.