

SUMMER QUIZ 2026

ANSWERS

1	Safety sign on ships	Plimsoll line , a mark on a ship's side which disappears under water when the ship is overloaded. Named after 19th-century MP Samuel Plimsoll.
2	In three World Cup-winning teams	Pele , celebrated Brazilian footballer, in winning teams of 1958, 1962 and 1970
3.	Tax levied on everyone	Poll tax , last attempted in this country by Margaret Thatcher in 1990, with unfortunate results for her.
4	The Seven Sisters	Pleiades , star cluster in the constellation of Taurus
5	Mild epilepsy	Petit mal (small sickness), clinical term. Also accepted parietal epilepsy .
6	Contained all the world's evils	Pandora's box , entrusted by the gods in Greek mythology to Pandora, the first woman, who, against orders, opened the box and let them all out.
7	Lots of lions; a deadly sin?	Pride , collective noun for a group of lions.
8	Baked in Derbyshire town but not the tart	Bakewell Pudding : not quite the same as the Bakewell Tart but the authentic local speciality. There is also a Buxton pudding .
9	One-time Spanish king of England	Philip II , who briefly held this position on account of his marriage to Queen Mary I. Only half if he comes without his regnal number.
10	Snake expeller	St Patrick , who according to legend expelled the snakes from Ireland.
11	Eloped by sea with wise bird	The Pussycat , the wise bird being of course the owl (see Edward Lear's poem)
12	It proves it's you on line	PIN number or Password .
13	Home of orphan-loving buccaneers	Penzance ; in Gilbert and Sullivan's <i>Pirates of Penzance</i> , the pirates never attack ships manned by orphans – which of course they all are once word gets about.
14	Indivisible figures	Prime numbers , numbers divisible only by 1.
15	Aristocrat validates scientific research?	Peer review ; research articles need to be read and approved by scientists of similar status to the authors. For the full mark I wanted both words, but half also to <i>peer group</i> .
16	Shakespearean imp used in ice hockey	Puck , in <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> ; the puck in ice hockey is the thing that gets hit.
17	Finances the papacy	Peter's pence .
18	Gives MPs legal immunity	Parliamentary privilege ; they can't be sued for libel for things they say in Parliament.
19	Infernal attire?	Prada ; cf, <i>The Devil wears Prada</i> . A cheeky half mark to <i>hot pants</i> .
20	Dark home of fictional bear	Peru ; Paddington Bear hails from Darkest Peru.
21	Franco-Spanish Napoleonic war	Peninsular War .
22	46's last published work	Persuasion , Jane Austen's last novel.
23	Study of language	Philology . Only half to <i>phonetics</i> or <i>phonology</i> , which relates solely to sound production, i.e. just a branch of philology.
24	Dickensian character, seed, sign of rank	Pip , in <i>Great Expectations</i> . In army uniforms, an officer's rank is indicated by the pips on his epaulettes.
25	First Greek marathon runner	Pheidippides , the messenger supposed by legend to have carried the news of the Greeks' victory at the battle of Marathon to Athens, and collapsed dead after delivering his message.
26	Identifies God with nature	Pantheist .
27	Did 54 shine light beam through this handbag owner?	Miss Prism , character in Wilde's <i>Importance of being Ernest</i> ; her handbag is crucial to the play's denouement. Isaac Newton's experiments with light involved shining a beam through a prism (see clue 54).
28	Spring flower, Gladstone's successor	Archibald Primrose (Lord Rosebery) , Liberal politician who was briefly Prime Minister after Gladstone retired in 1894.
29	94, doom of Nagasaki	Plutonium , element no 94, was used in the atom bomb that devastated Nagasaki in 1945.
30	Collects rocks on Mars	Perseverance , NASA Martian rover vehicle collecting rocks to be brought back to Earth (they hope) in some future mission. Half for <i>Phoenix lander</i> , an early probe on Mars which did not have this specific mission.
31	A dot and a dance	Polka .
32	Lusitanian warrior, dangerous at sea	Portuguese man o'war , a particularly venomous type of jellyfish. Half for <i>Punicus</i> and <i>Variatus of Portugal</i> , who led the Lusitanians against the Roman invaders, but I can't find that they did it at sea.
33	Attempted by aviators on Shrove Tuesday?	Pancake landing , emergency landing in which the aircraft's undercarriage is not lowered.
34	Cabins preferred by travellers to India?	POSH (Port Out, Starboard Home) , abbreviation supposedly used by the P & O shipping company when booking the best accommodation for VIPs, who would thus avoid the extreme heat on their side of the ship.

35	Caused Kublai Khan's abandonment	A person from Porlock; Coleridge purportedly left his great poem <i>Kublai Khan</i> unfinished because the drug-induced dream inspiring it was interrupted by a calling tradesman from the nearest Somerset town.
36	Hot ionised gas	Plasma.
37	Tasty new local road	Pork Pie Way, name given to the recently completed Melton by-pass.
38	Battling seaside couple	Punch and Judy
39	Grail knight and pure fool	Percival, Parsifal (German) or Perceval (French). In Arthurian legend, Sir Percival is one of the three knights virtuous enough to be able to complete the quest for the Holy Grail. I(n Wagner's opera he is the 'pure fool' whose innocence and simplicity are his key characteristics.
40	Someone else can mark this, I'm...	Passing the buck was what I had in mind, but this was a piece of fun and I accepted almost anything. With the same meaning, you could have passing it on , or you could take it to mean exhaustion (past caring, pooped, past it) recusing on grounds of possible bias (prejudiced, partial) or not in the mood (preoccupied, procrastination). I might also suggest <i>off to the pub</i> or one or two ruder ideas that I won't quote.

41	Incandescent Scottish policeman?	Robert Burns , famous Scottish poet. Robert (Bobby) is an allusion to Sir Robert Peel, who founded the police force.
42	Centenarian in local nature reserve	Sir David Attenborough.
43	Set Newman's dream; enigmatic?	Sir Edward Elgar , composer of <i>The Dream of Gerontius</i> and the <i>Enigma Variations</i> .
44	Foot complaint on pilgrimage	John Bunyan , seventeenth-century Nonconformist preacher and author of <i>The Pilgrim's Progress</i> .
45	Seventeenth-century thinker and twentieth-century painter	Francis Bacon. Half for <i>Thomas Hobbes</i> and <i>Philip Hobbs</i> , but the names are not quite identical.
46	Sounds as if she's from Texas? Plainly not.	Jane Austin. Not spelled the same way as Austin, Texas.
47.	Pain in the neck won Nobel Prize for medicine	Francis Crick , discoverer with James Watson of DNA. <i>John Vane</i> , who won a Nobel Prize for his work on aspirin, gets half, but I can't see that he was a pain in the neck.
48	Found art in an unmade bed	Tracy Emin , whose most notorious art work is <i>My Bed</i> .
49	From Zanzibar or an inner planet?	Freddie Mercury , lead singer of Queen.
50	Vanished in Harrogate	Agatha Christie , who hid incognito in a Harrogate hotel at a critical moment of her life.
51	Not the north entrance to the stadium	Gareth Southgate
52	German winds up English musical scene	George Frederick Handel , German musician who spent most of his career in England. Half for the composer <i>Edward German</i> , but do you really think I'd set anything that obvious?
53	Antiseptic justifying God's ways?	John Milton , whose poem <i>Paradise Lost</i> aims to 'justify the ways of God to man'. Milton is of course a brand of antiseptic.
54	Hebrew patriarch, amphibian on apple watcher	Isaac Newton (Newt-on), who discovered gravity watching the behaviour of a falling apple.
55	Singer accommodates alcoholic beverages	Amy Winehouse
56	Did Liz see actor and go for it – twice?	Richard Burton , who notoriously married Elizabeth Taylor twice – though perhaps that is not quite the same thing as going for a Burton. I accepted either partner, but I really wanted the groom.
57	Small bird, big cathedral	Sir Christopher Wren , designer of St Paul's.
58	Computer pioneer appreciates Nottingham craft	Ada Lovelace , daughter of Lord Byron, celebrated mathematician.
59	Could Sherlock run as fast as her?	Dame Kelly Holmes , holder of two Olympic golds.
60	Welshman advocating angry departure	Dylan Thomas ; 'Do not go gentle into that goodnight. Rage, rage against the dying of the light' – his poem on the death of his father. Half for <i>Tom Jones</i> ; the lyrics of 'Delilah' just about fit.