NFL and Super Bowl Trivia Questions

3 rounds · 31 question · about 45 min

How to run it

1. Print one host sheet for yourself and one team answer sheet per team. The host sheet has the key on it — keep it face down.
2. Three to five people per team, mixed if you can: a casual fan and a superfan remember different things.
3. Read each question twice, then give about thirty seconds.
4. Teams swap sheets at the end of each round and mark each other while you read the answers. One point for each correct answer.
5. The line under each answer on the host sheet is there to be read out once the answer is in.

ROUND 1 — Rules, Scoring & Terminology

1. How many points is a touchdown worth?

- A 8 points
- B 7 points
- **C 6 points**
- D 3 points

Answer: C — 6 points

Worth adding: A touchdown itself counts 6 points; the familiar 7 only comes after a successful extra-point kick is added.

2. How many points does a successful field goal score?

- A 1 point
- B 2 points
- C 4 points
- **D 3 points**

Answer: D — 3 points

Worth adding: A field goal is worth 3 points, and teams usually try one when a drive stalls short of the end zone.

3. How many players from each team are on the field at the same time?

- **A 11**
- B 9
- C 10
- D 12

Answer: A — 11

Worth adding: American football uses 11 per side; having a 12th man on the field draws a 'too many men' penalty.

4. How many downs does an offense have to gain 10 yards and earn a new set of downs?

- A Three
- **B Four**
- C Six
- D Five

Answer: B — Four

Worth adding: The offense gets four downs, which is why teams usually punt or kick on fourth down if they haven't made the 10 yards.

5. How long is one quarter in an NFL game?

- A 20 minutes
- **B 15 minutes**
- C 10 minutes
- D 12 minutes

Answer: B — 15 minutes

Worth adding: Four 15-minute quarters add up to 60 minutes of game clock, though stoppages stretch a broadcast past three hours.

6. Which player snaps the ball to start a play from scrimmage?

- A The tight end
- B The strong safety
- **C The center**
- D The fullback

Answer: C — The center

Worth adding: The center lines up in the middle of the offensive line and hands or shoots the ball back between his legs to begin every play.

7. In football slang, what is a 'pick six'?

- **A An interception returned for a touchdown**
- B A six-yard completion on third down
- C A punt downed inside the six-yard line
- D A sixth-round draft pick

Answer: A — An interception returned for a touchdown

Worth adding: 'Pick' is slang for an interception and 'six' refers to the six points of the touchdown scored on the return.

8. How many points is a safety worth, and who scores it?

- A 1 point, scored by the kicking team
- B 2 points, scored by the offense
- C 3 points, scored by the defending team
- **D 2 points, scored by the defending team**

Answer: D — 2 points, scored by the defending team

Worth adding: A safety gives the defense 2 points when the ball carrier is tackled in his own end zone, and that team also receives the ball on a free kick.

9. How deep is each end zone on an NFL field?

- A 5 yards
- B 15 yards
- **C 10 yards**
- D 20 yards

Answer: C — 10 yards

Worth adding: Each end zone is 10 yards deep, which is why the full field measures 120 yards from back line to back line.

ROUND 2 — Franchises, Legends & Famous Moments

10. Which NFL team is nicknamed 'America's Team'?

- A Chicago Bears
- **B Dallas Cowboys**
- C New York Giants
- D Pittsburgh Steelers

Answer: B — Dallas Cowboys

Worth adding: The nickname came from the title of the Cowboys' 1978 NFL Films season highlight reel and stuck forever.

11. Lambeau Field is the home stadium of which franchise?

- **A Green Bay Packers**
- B Minnesota Vikings
- C Buffalo Bills
- D Detroit Lions

Answer: A — Green Bay Packers

Worth adding: The stadium is named after Curly Lambeau, the Packers' co-founder and first head coach.

12. How many teams make up the NFL as of 2026?

- A 34
- B 30
- C 28
- **D 32**

Answer: D — 32

Worth adding: The league has had 32 clubs since the Houston Texans joined in 2002, split into two conferences of four divisions each.

13. Where is the Pro Football Hall of Fame located?

- A Springfield, Massachusetts
- B Cooperstown, New York
- C Indianapolis, Indiana
- **D Canton, Ohio**

Answer: D — Canton, Ohio

Worth adding: Canton was chosen because the NFL's forerunner, the American Professional Football Association, was founded there in 1920.

14. Which team completed a perfect undefeated season in 1972, including a Super Bowl win?

- **A** **Miami Dolphins**
- B Minnesota Vikings
- C Dallas Cowboys
- D Oakland Raiders

Answer: A — Miami Dolphins

Worth adding: Don Shula's Dolphins finished 17-0 by beating Washington in Super Bowl VII, still the only perfect season in the Super Bowl era.

15. Which quarterback famously 'guaranteed' victory before Super Bowl III in January 1969 and delivered?

- A Johnny Unitas
- **B** **Joe Namath**
- C Bart Starr
- D Len Dawson

Answer: B — Joe Namath

Worth adding: Namath's New York Jets beat the heavily favored Baltimore Colts 16-7, proving the AFL could compete with the NFL.

16. Which running back made the 'Immaculate Reception' for the Pittsburgh Steelers in the 1972 playoffs?

- A John Riggins
- B Earl Campbell
- **C** **Franco Harris**
- D Rocky Bleier

Answer: C — Franco Harris

Worth adding: Harris scooped up a deflected pass inches off the turf and ran it in to beat the Raiders, a play often voted the greatest in NFL history.

17. Who caught 'The Catch' from Joe Montana in the January 1982 NFC Championship Game?

- A Freddie Solomon
- B John Taylor
- **C** **Dwight Clark**
- D Jerry Rice

Answer: C — Dwight Clark

Worth adding: Clark's leaping grab in the back of the end zone beat Dallas and launched the 49ers' 1980s dynasty, years before Jerry Rice arrived.

18. Which team upset the previously undefeated New England Patriots in the February 2008 Super Bowl (XLII)?

- **A** **New York Giants**
- B Philadelphia Eagles
- C Arizona Cardinals
- D Baltimore Ravens

Answer: A — New York Giants

Worth adding: The Giants won 17-14, aided by David Tyree's 'Helmet Catch', ending New England's bid for a 19-0 season.

ROUND 3 — The Super Bowl, Halftime & the Draft

19. The Super Bowl trophy is named after which legendary head coach?

- A Tom Landry
- **B Vince Lombardi**
- C George Halas
- D Paul Brown

Answer: B — Vince Lombardi

Worth adding: The trophy was renamed for Lombardi in 1970 after the Packers coach, who had won the first two Super Bowls, died that year.

20. Which team won the first Super Bowl, played in January 1967?

- A Baltimore Colts
- B Cleveland Browns
- C Kansas City Chiefs
- **D Green Bay Packers**

Answer: D — Green Bay Packers

Worth adding: Green Bay beat Kansas City 35-10 at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, with Bart Starr named the game's MVP.

21. Which superstar performed the Super Bowl halftime show in January 1993, the show that turned halftime into a global pop event?

- **A Michael Jackson**
- B Madonna
- C Diana Ross
- D Phil Collins

Answer: A — Michael Jackson

Worth adding: TV ratings rose during Michael Jackson's Super Bowl XXVII show, and the NFL has booked A-list headliners for halftime ever since.

22. Which two performers were at the center of the 2004 Super Bowl halftime 'wardrobe malfunction'?

- A Beyoncé and Bruno Mars
- B Shakira and Jennifer Lopez
- C Britney Spears and Madonna
- **D Janet Jackson and Justin Timberlake**

Answer: D — Janet Jackson and Justin Timberlake

Worth adding: The incident at Super Bowl XXXVIII led to broadcast delays and years of safer, rock-heavy halftime bookings.

23. With which overall pick did the New England Patriots select Tom Brady in the 2000 NFL Draft?

A 99th overall
B 32nd overall
C 199th overall
D 1st overall

Answer: C — 199th overall

Worth adding: Brady was the 199th pick in the sixth round and the seventh quarterback taken, making him the ultimate draft-day bargain.

24. How many rounds does the modern NFL Draft have (format in place since 1994)?

A 10
B 7
C 5
D 12

Answer: B — 7

Worth adding: The draft was trimmed to seven rounds in 1994; earlier drafts ran as long as 30 rounds.

25. Which artist played the 2007 Super Bowl halftime show in pouring rain, performing 'Purple Rain'?

A Bruce Springsteen
B Tom Petty
C Prince
D U2

Answer: C — Prince

Worth adding: Prince's rain-soaked Super Bowl XLI set in Miami is widely ranked the greatest halftime performance ever, with the weather adding to the moment.

26. In NFL Draft tradition, who is 'Mr. Irrelevant'?

A The last player selected in the entire draft
B The lowest-rated player invited to the Combine
C A player who never plays a snap in his rookie year
D The first undrafted free agent signed

Answer: A — The last player selected in the entire draft

Worth adding: Since 1976 the final pick has been celebrated with a party week in Newport Beach, California, and the tongue-in-cheek Lowsman Trophy.

27. The Lamar Hunt Trophy is awarded to the champion of which conference?

A Neither — it goes to the league MVP
B The NFC
C Neither — it goes to the Super Bowl MVP
D The AFC

Answer: D — The AFC

Worth adding: It honours Chiefs founder Lamar Hunt, the driving force behind the AFL, while the NFC champion receives the George Halas Trophy.

28. According to NFL history, what inspired the name 'Super Bowl'?

- A The Rose Bowl stadium's nickname
- **B A children's toy called the Super Ball**
- C A nickname given by television network CBS
- D A newspaper headline after the 1970 merger

Answer: B — A children's toy called the Super Ball

Worth adding: Lamar Hunt coined the term after watching his children play with a Super Ball, and the informal nickname quickly became official.

29. How far apart are the uprights on an NFL goalpost?

- **A 18 feet 6 inches**
- B 28 feet
- C 14 feet 6 inches
- D 23 feet 4 inches

Answer: A — 18 feet 6 inches

Worth adding: NFL uprights stand 18 feet 6 inches apart above a crossbar 10 feet high; high-school goalposts are wider, at 23 feet 4 inches.

30. What was unique about the television broadcast of the first Super Bowl in 1967?

- A It was the first sports event shown in colour
- **B It was broadcast simultaneously by two networks, CBS and NBC**
- C It was shown only on local Los Angeles television
- D It was broadcast on radio only outside California

Answer: B — It was broadcast simultaneously by two networks, CBS and NBC

Worth adding: Because CBS held NFL rights and NBC held AFL rights, both networks aired the game — the only Super Bowl ever simulcast by two US networks.

31. Which Super Bowl broke with tradition by using an Arabic numeral instead of a Roman numeral in its official name?

- A Super Bowl 40 (2006)
- B Super Bowl 55 (2021)
- **C Super Bowl 50 (2016)**
- D Super Bowl 45 (2011)

Answer: C — Super Bowl 50 (2016)

Worth adding: The NFL felt the Roman numeral 'L' looked weak in logos, so the 2016 game was branded Super Bowl 50 before numerals returned with LI.