Soccer and World Cup Trivia Questions

3 rounds · 30 questions · 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

1. How many players from each team start a football match on the pitch?

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

Answer: A — 11

Worth adding: Law 3 sets each team at eleven players, one of whom must be the goalkeeper, and a match cannot continue if a team drops below seven.

2. Which country hosted and won the very first FIFA World Cup in 1930?

- A Argentina
- B Italy
- **C** **Uruguay**
- D Brazil

Answer: C — Uruguay

Worth adding: Uruguay was chosen as host to mark its centenary of independence and beat Argentina 4–2 in the final in Montevideo.

3. What is the standard duration of a football match, excluding stoppage time?

- A Two halves of 40 minutes
- B Four quarters of 20 minutes
- C Three periods of 30 minutes
- **D** **Two halves of 45 minutes**

Answer: D — Two halves of 45 minutes

Worth adding: Law 7 defines the match as two equal halves of 45 minutes, separated by a half-time interval that may not exceed 15 minutes.

4. Which nation won the World Cup final played at Wembley in 1966?

- A West Germany
- **B England**
- C Brazil
- D Portugal

Answer: B — England

Worth adding: England beat West Germany 4–2 after extra time at Wembley, with Geoff Hurst scoring a hat-trick in the final.

5. Against which team did Diego Maradona score the infamous 'Hand of God' goal at the 1986 World Cup?

- A West Germany
- B Uruguay
- **C England**
- D Belgium

Answer: C — England

Worth adding: In the 1986 quarter-final against England, Maradona punched the ball past Peter Shilton and minutes later scored the famous solo 'Goal of the Century'.

6. Pelé, winner of three World Cups in 1958, 1962 and 1970, played for which national team?

- A Spain
- **B Brazil**
- C Argentina
- D Portugal

Answer: B — Brazil

Worth adding: Pelé is Brazilian and remains the only player to have been part of three World Cup–winning squads.

7. Which club plays its home matches at Old Trafford?

- A Arsenal
- B Liverpool
- C Everton
- **D Manchester United**

Answer: D — Manchester United

Worth adding: Manchester United has played at Old Trafford, nicknamed the 'Theatre of Dreams', since 1910.

8. Which two clubs contest the match known as 'El Clásico'?

- **A Real Madrid and Barcelona**
- B Milan and Inter
- C Celtic and Rangers
- D Boca Juniors and River Plate

Answer: A — Real Madrid and Barcelona

Worth adding: El Clásico is the Spanish fixture between Real Madrid and FC Barcelona; the Milan derby is called the Derby della Madonnina and the Buenos Aires clash is the Superclásico.

9. The Bundesliga is the top professional football league of which country?

- **A** **Germany**
- B Switzerland
- C Austria
- D Netherlands

Answer: A — Germany

Worth adding: The German Bundesliga was founded in 1963 and is famous for having the highest average attendances in European club football.

10. Which country won the 1998 World Cup on home soil?

- A Croatia
- B Brazil
- C Italy
- **D** **France**

Answer: D — France

Worth adding: France beat Brazil 3–0 in the Stade de France, with Zinédine Zidane scoring twice with his head.

ROUND 2

11. The 2026 World Cup is hosted by the United States, Canada and which third country?

- A Costa Rica
- **B** **Mexico**
- C Panama
- D Jamaica

Answer: B — Mexico

Worth adding: Mexico completes the North American trio, making it the first country to host or co-host the men's World Cup three times (1970, 1986, 2026).

12. At the World Cup, which award is given to the tournament's leading goalscorer?

- A The Silver Shoe
- B The Golden Ball
- **C** **The Golden Boot**
- D The Golden Glove

Answer: C — The Golden Boot

Worth adding: The Golden Boot goes to the top scorer, while the Golden Ball honours the best player and the Golden Glove the best goalkeeper.

13. From which of these restarts can a player NOT be penalised for offside?

- A A pass from a teammate inside the opponents' half
- **B** **A throw-in**
- C A goalkeeper's throw to a teammate
- D A free kick

Answer: B — A throw-in

Worth adding: Law 11 lists three exceptions where no offside offence can occur: a throw-in, a goal kick and a corner kick.

14. How far is the penalty mark from the goal line?

- A 9 metres (10 yards)
- B 14 metres (15 yards)
- C 16.5 metres (18 yards)
- **D 11 metres (12 yards)**

Answer: D — 11 metres (12 yards)

Worth adding: The penalty spot sits 11 metres (12 yards) from the goal line, while 16.5 metres (18 yards) is the depth of the penalty area itself.

15. What are the official dimensions of a full-size goal, measured between the inside of the posts and to the underside of the crossbar?

- **A 7.32 m wide by 2.44 m high**
- B 8.00 m wide by 2.50 m high
- C 9.15 m wide by 3.00 m high
- D 6.40 m wide by 2.00 m high

Answer: A — 7.32 m wide by 2.44 m high

Worth adding: The goal is 8 yards wide and 8 feet high, which converts to 7.32 m by 2.44 m; 9.15 m is the famous 10-yard distance opponents must keep at a free kick.

16. How many Laws of the Game govern association football?

- A 21
- B 15
- **C 17**
- D 12

Answer: C — 17

Worth adding: There are 17 Laws, running from Law 1 (The Field of Play) to Law 17 (The Corner Kick).

17. At which World Cup was the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system used for the first time?

- A 2014 in Brazil
- **B 2018 in Russia**
- C 2010 in South Africa
- D 2022 in Qatar

Answer: B — 2018 in Russia

Worth adding: VAR debuted at the 2018 tournament in Russia, four years after goal-line technology had made its World Cup debut in Brazil.

18. How many national teams take part in the expanded 2026 World Cup finals?

- A 64
- B 40
- C 32
- **D 48**

Answer: D — 48

Worth adding: FIFA expanded the finals from 32 to 48 teams for 2026, increasing the tournament to 104 matches.

19. Which country won back-to-back World Cups in 1934 and 1938?

- **A** **Italy**
- B Austria
- C Hungary
- D Uruguay

Answer: A — Italy

Worth adding: Italy, coached by Vittorio Pozzo, won at home in 1934 and again in France in 1938, making Pozzo the only coach with two World Cup titles.

20. The 2002 World Cup was the first held in Asia and the first with two host nations. Which countries co-hosted it?

- A China and Japan
- B Japan and Thailand
- **C** **South Korea and Japan**
- D South Korea and China

Answer: C — South Korea and Japan

Worth adding: South Korea and Japan shared the 2002 tournament, where South Korea became the first Asian team to reach a World Cup semi-final.

ROUND 3

21. Which German lifted the World Cup as captain in 1974 and then won it again as his country's coach in 1990?

- **A** **Franz Beckenbauer**
- B Helmut Schön
- C Gerd Müller
- D Lothar Matthäus

Answer: A — Franz Beckenbauer

Worth adding: Franz Beckenbauer, 'Der Kaiser', captained West Germany to victory in 1974 and managed the team to the title in 1990.

22. The 1994 final was the first World Cup final decided by a penalty shootout. Who won it?

- A Germany
- **B** **Brazil**
- C Italy
- D Sweden

Answer: B — Brazil

Worth adding: Brazil beat Italy 3–2 on penalties after a 0–0 draw at the Rose Bowl, with Roberto Baggio skying the decisive kick.

23. Which team won the original Jules Rimet Trophy outright in 1970 by claiming a third world title?

- A West Germany
- B Uruguay
- **C Brazil**
- D Italy

Answer: C — Brazil

Worth adding: Brazil's third triumph in 1970 let it keep the Jules Rimet Trophy permanently, so a new FIFA World Cup Trophy was introduced for 1974.

24. Who scored a hat-trick for England in the 1966 World Cup final?

- A Bobby Charlton
- B Martin Peters
- C Jimmy Greaves
- **D Geoff Hurst**

Answer: D — Geoff Hurst

Worth adding: Geoff Hurst scored three of England's four goals against West Germany, including the still-debated shot that bounced down off the crossbar; the only other hat-trick in a men's final came from Kylian Mbappé in 2022.

25. Which stadium became the first to host two men's World Cup finals?

- A Wembley Stadium, London
- B Stadio Olimpico, Rome
- C Maracanã, Rio de Janeiro
- **D Estadio Azteca, Mexico City**

Answer: D — Estadio Azteca, Mexico City

Worth adding: The Estadio Azteca staged the finals of both 1970 and 1986, and in 2026 it hosted World Cup matches for a third tournament.

26. In the 1950 'Maracanazo', which team shocked Brazil in front of a huge Rio crowd to take the title?

- **A Uruguay**
- B Sweden
- C Argentina
- D Spain

Answer: A — Uruguay

Worth adding: Uruguay won the decisive final-round match 2–1 at the Maracanã, where Brazil only needed a draw to be crowned champions.

27. Who won the first UEFA European Championship, held in 1960?

- A Italy
- **B The Soviet Union**
- C Spain
- D Yugoslavia

Answer: B — The Soviet Union

Worth adding: The Soviet Union, with legendary goalkeeper Lev Yashin, beat Yugoslavia 2–1 after extra time in the 1960 final in Paris.

28. Which was the first African nation to reach a World Cup quarter-final, doing so in 1990?

- A Senegal
- B Nigeria
- **C Cameroon**
- D Morocco

Answer: C — Cameroon

Worth adding: Cameroon, inspired by veteran striker Roger Milla, beat holders Argentina in the opening match and lost to England in the quarter-finals.

29. Which body is responsible for writing and amending the Laws of the Game?

- A The Court of Arbitration for Sport
- **B The International Football Association Board (IFAB)**
- C FIFA's Executive Committee
- D UEFA

Answer: B — The International Football Association Board (IFAB)

Worth adding: IFAB, founded in 1886, consists of the four British associations plus FIFA, and any law change needs a three-quarters majority of its votes.

30. According to Law 2, what circumference must a size 5 match ball have?

- A Between 58 cm and 60 cm
- B Between 63 cm and 65 cm
- C Between 73 cm and 75 cm
- **D Between 68 cm and 70 cm**

Answer: D — Between 68 cm and 70 cm

Worth adding: A size 5 ball must measure 68–70 cm around and weigh 410–450 grams at the start of the match.