Sports Trivia Questions and Answers

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 — Warm-Up (Easy)

1. How many players from each team are on the field at the kick-off of a soccer (association football) match?

A 10
B 11
C 12
D 9

Answer: B — 11

Worth adding: A team fields ten outfield players plus a goalkeeper, and a match must be abandoned if a side drops below seven players.

2. In soccer, which card does a referee show to send a player off the field?

A Red card
B Yellow card
C Black card
D Blue card

Answer: A — Red card

Worth adding: Red means dismissal and the team must play on short-handed; the colour-card system was introduced at the 1970 World Cup after referee Ken Aston was inspired by traffic lights.

3. In American football, how many points is a touchdown worth before any conversion attempt?

A 8
B 3
C 7
D 6

Answer: D — 6

Worth adding: A touchdown is six points, and the extra point or two-point conversion that follows is scored separately.

4. In the NBA, how many points is a field goal scored from behind the three-point arc?

- A 4
- B 2
- **C 3**
- D 5

Answer: C — 3

Worth adding: It is worth three points; the NBA only adopted the three-point line for the 1979–80 season, long after the rest of the scoring system was settled.

5. In baseball, how many strikes does it take to strike out a batter?

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

Answer: B — Three

Worth adding: Three strikes retire the batter, while four balls earn a walk to first base.

6. In tennis, what word is used for a score of zero?

- A Nil
- B Blank
- **C Love**
- D Duck

Answer: C — Love

Worth adding: "Love" is widely believed to come from the French l'œuf (the egg), because a zero looks like an egg.

7. In golf, what is the term for completing a hole in one stroke under par?

- A Albatross
- B Eagle
- C Bogey
- **D Birdie**

Answer: D — Birdie

Worth adding: One under is a birdie, two under is an eagle and three under is an albatross — the bird names get bigger as the score gets better.

8. How many interlocking rings appear on the Olympic flag?

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

Answer: A — Five

Worth adding: The five rings, designed by Pierre de Coubertin in 1913, represent the five inhabited continents united by Olympism.

9. In Formula 1, which flag is waved to signal the end of a race?

A Red flag
B Yellow flag
C Blue flag
D Chequered flag

Answer: D — Chequered flag

Worth adding: The black-and-white chequered flag marks the finish, while red stops a session and yellow warns of danger on track.

10. In boxing, how high does the referee count before declaring a knockout?

A To 10
B To 8
C To 15
D To 12

Answer: A — To 10

Worth adding: If a fighter cannot continue by the count of ten, the bout ends in a knockout (KO); a fighter who beats the count can carry on.

11. In ice hockey, what does a player achieve with a "hat trick"?

A Three penalties in one period
B Three goals in one game
C Three assists in one game
D Three shutouts in a row

Answer: B — Three goals in one game

Worth adding: Three goals by one player is a hat trick, and fans traditionally throw their hats onto the ice to celebrate it.

12. How many players are there in a cricket team on the field?

A 13
B 9
C 11
D 10

Answer: C — 11

Worth adding: Cricket is played eleven-a-side, which is why a batting innings normally ends when the tenth wicket falls and no partner is left.

ROUND 2 — Getting Serious (Medium)

13. Which country hosted and won the FIFA World Cup in 1966?

A West Germany
B Brazil
C England
D Italy

Answer: C — England

Worth adding: England beat West Germany 4–2 after extra time at Wembley; Geoff Hurst's hat-trick was the first in a World Cup final, matched only by Kylian Mbappé in 2022.

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

- **A** **Green Bay Packers**
- B Baltimore Colts
- C Kansas City Chiefs
- D New York Jets

Answer: A — Green Bay Packers

Worth adding: Vince Lombardi's Packers beat the Kansas City Chiefs 35–10 in a game then officially called the AFL–NFL World Championship Game.

15. What is the name of the trophy presented to the winners of the Super Bowl?

- A The Halas Trophy
- B The Commissioner's Cup
- C The Rozelle Trophy
- **D** **The Vince Lombardi Trophy**

Answer: D — The Vince Lombardi Trophy

Worth adding: It was renamed in 1970 in memory of Green Bay coach Vince Lombardi, and the sterling-silver trophy is made by Tiffany & Co.

16. Which player scored 100 points in a single NBA game in 1962?

- A Oscar Robertson
- **B** **Wilt Chamberlain**
- C Elgin Baylor
- D Bill Russell

Answer: B — Wilt Chamberlain

Worth adding: Chamberlain did it for the Philadelphia Warriors against the New York Knicks in Hershey, Pennsylvania — a game that was never televised.

17. Which baseball stadium was nicknamed "The House That Ruth Built"?

- A Ebbets Field
- **B** **Yankee Stadium**
- C Wrigley Field
- D Fenway Park

Answer: B — Yankee Stadium

Worth adding: The nickname honours Babe Ruth, whose drawing power funded the original Yankee Stadium that opened in 1923.

18. Which tennis Grand Slam tournament is played on clay courts?

- A Wimbledon
- B The Australian Open
- C The US Open
- **D** **The French Open (Roland-Garros)**

Answer: D — The French Open (Roland-Garros)

Worth adding: Roland-Garros is the only Grand Slam on crushed-brick clay, a slow surface that rewards heavy topspin and long rallies.

19. Which golf major championship is played at the same course every year, Augusta National?

- **A** **The Masters**
- B The Open Championship
- C The PGA Championship
- D The US Open

Answer: A — The Masters

Worth adding: The Masters has been staged at Augusta National in Georgia since 1934, and its winner receives the famous green jacket.

20. In which city were the first modern Olympic Games held in 1896?

- A Rome
- B Paris
- **C** **Athens**
- D London

Answer: C — Athens

Worth adding: Athens was chosen to honour the ancient Games, and events were held in the marble Panathenaic Stadium.

21. Which Formula 1 Grand Prix is run on a street circuit through Monte Carlo?

- **A** **The Monaco Grand Prix**
- B The Belgian Grand Prix
- C The Spanish Grand Prix
- D The Italian Grand Prix

Answer: A — The Monaco Grand Prix

Worth adding: Monaco's narrow streets, tunnel and harbour chicane have hosted racing since 1929, making overtaking famously difficult.

22. Which legendary boxer was born Cassius Clay and changed his name in 1964?

- A Sugar Ray Leonard
- **B** **Muhammad Ali**
- C George Foreman
- D Joe Frazier

Answer: B — Muhammad Ali

Worth adding: He took the name Muhammad Ali shortly after beating Sonny Liston for the heavyweight title in February 1964.

23. Which trophy is awarded to the champion team of the NHL play-offs?

- A The Art Ross Trophy
- B The Presidents' Trophy
- C The Hart Trophy
- **D** **The Stanley Cup**

Answer: D — The Stanley Cup

Worth adding: Donated by Lord Stanley of Preston in 1892, it is the oldest trophy competed for by professional athletes in North America and is engraved with winners' names.

24. Who became the first man to run a mile in under four minutes, in 1954?

- A Herb Elliott
- B Emil Zátopek
- **C Roger Bannister**
- D John Landy

Answer: C — Roger Bannister

Worth adding: Bannister ran 3:59.4 at Iffley Road, Oxford, on 6 May 1954 — and his record lasted only 46 days before John Landy broke it.

ROUND 3 — For the Experts (Hard)

25. Which country won the very first FIFA World Cup in 1930?

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

Answer: B — Uruguay

Worth adding: Hosts Uruguay beat Argentina 4–2 in Montevideo, which is why their shirts carry four stars including two Olympic titles.

26. Which team won the first championship of the Basketball Association of America (the league that became the NBA) in 1947?

- A Boston Celtics
- B New York Knicks
- C Minneapolis Lakers
- **D Philadelphia Warriors**

Answer: D — Philadelphia Warriors

Worth adding: The Philadelphia Warriors, led by scoring champion Joe Fulks, beat the Chicago Stags in the 1947 BAA Finals.

27. Who completed the "Golden Slam" in 1988 by winning all four tennis Grand Slams plus Olympic gold in the same calendar year?

- A Chris Evert
- B Monica Seles
- **C Steffi Graf**
- D Martina Navratilova

Answer: C — Steffi Graf

Worth adding: Graf swept the four majors and then won gold in Seoul, a feat no other singles player has achieved in one year.

28. According to cricket tradition, what are the "ashes" inside the tiny Ashes urn?

- **A** **A burnt cricket bail**
- B A burnt cricket ball
- C Ash from a burnt scorecard
- D Ash from a burnt pavilion flag

Answer: A — A burnt cricket bail

Worth adding: The urn is said to hold the ashes of a burnt bail, presented to England captain Ivo Bligh in 1882–83 after a mock obituary for English cricket.

29. Who won the first Formula 1 World Drivers' Championship in 1950?

- A Juan Manuel Fangio
- B Stirling Moss
- C Alberto Ascari
- **D** **Giuseppe Farina**

Answer: D — Giuseppe Farina

Worth adding: Italy's Giuseppe "Nino" Farina took the inaugural title driving an Alfa Romeo, edging team-mate Fangio.

30. The Olympic motto "Citius, Altius, Fortius" translates from Latin as which of the following?

- **A** **Faster, Higher, Stronger**
- B Swifter, Bolder, Greater
- C Stronger, Braver, Prouder
- D Longer, Harder, Better

Answer: A — Faster, Higher, Stronger

Worth adding: Coined by Father Henri Didon and adopted by Coubertin, the motto gained a fourth word, "Communiter" (Together), in 2021.