

The Very Pointless Quiz Book

Also by Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman

The 100 Most Pointless Things in the World
The 100 Most Pointless Arguments
in the World . . . Solved!

The Very Pointless Quiz Book

Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman



CORONET

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INTRODUCTION



Merry Christmas! Or, if you've waited for the paperback version of this book to come out, goodness it's hot isn't it?

This is our third *Pointless* book, and we think it's one of our very best. We'd go so far as to say it's definitely in the top three.

Our previous books involved us trying to write lots of jokes, and then sprinkling a few *Pointless* quizzes in between, but this year our publisher had a very interesting idea.

'Why not,' she suggested, 'have far more quizzes, and far fewer jokes from you two?' We were immediately interested in this idea. We burned all the jokes we had written (including a terrific one about a volcano in Peru) and collected 100 of our favourite *Pointless* questions instead.

That is the book you find before you: 100 questions of all shapes and sizes, to test every tuck and fold of your brain. It will be perfect to prove once and for all which member of your family is the cleverest, and which is the most effective cheat.

In between the quizzes we have also taken the liberty of answering every question we've ever been asked about

Pointless. So if you want any information at all about the *Pointless* trophy, Richard's computer, why Xander is so nice to everyone and which celebrities are awful cheats, it's all in here too.

So sit back, relax, pour yourself a drink, realize you have left this book on the sideboard, get up again with a loud 'tut', go over to the sideboard, pick up the book, go back to your seat, sit back, relax, pour yourself a drink and enjoy.

Gather the family around you, switch off the TV, suggest a nice friendly game of *Pointless*, hear the tinkling laughter of children, see the adults smiling and proudly ruffling the hair of their offspring, adjudicate over a disputed answer, try to break up the ensuing fight, drive your elderly uncle to A&E and weep over another Christmas ruined by the over-competitive gene that has cursed your family.

Our thanks once again this year to our invaluable *Pointless* gang. They really are the loveliest people in television. Particular thanks to the many members of the incredible *Pointless* questions team over the years. Their job is genuinely much harder than you would think, and they continue to do it with such creative brilliance year after year. Special mentions also to John Ryan, Molly Van Den Burgh and especially, for all his hard work, the wonderful Nick Shearing.

THE RULES



If you haven't played Pointless before, all you need to know is that every time you give an answer you have to try and think of the most obscure answer possible. Every single correct answer in Pointless has been tested in advance (we give one hundred people one hundred seconds to come up with as many answers as they can in order to work out our scores). You just have to scour the dark corners of your brain to find the answers the fewest of our one hundred people knew because the highest scoring team at the end of each round is eliminated. Good luck.

CAPITAL CITIES OF EUROPE

Any capital city of any country that is either wholly or partly in Europe. We will only accept answers that are the official capital city and the country must be a member of the United Nations in its own right.

POINTLESS FACT

This was the first question asked on the very first episode of *Pointless*.

QUIZ 1

ROUND 1

AMSTERDAM	37	NICOSIA	2
ANDORRA LA VELLA	1	OSLO	39
ANKARA	1	PARIS	98
ATHENS	16	PODGORICA	0
BAKU	0	PRAGUE	27
BELGRADE	4	REYKJAVIK	4
BERLIN	62	RIGA	8
BERN	11	ROME	66
BRATISLAVA	4	SAN MARINO	0
BRUSSELS	42	SARAJEVO	0
BUCHAREST	4	SKOPJE	1
BUDAPEST	14	SOFIA	9
CHISINAU	0	STOCKHOLM	30
COPENHAGEN	36	TALLINN	7
DUBLIN	42	TBILISI	0
HELSINKI	16	THE HAGUE	10
KIEV	2	TIRANA	0
LISBON	40	VADUZ	2
LJUBLJANA	1	VALETTA	1
LONDON	93	VIENNA	14
LUXEMBOURG	0	VILNIUS	2
MADRID	65	WARSAW	16
MINSK	1	YEREVAN	0
MONACO	1	ZAGREB	3
MOSCOW	14		

POINTLESS FACT

The first answer given to this question was a pointless one (Podgorica), Xander had never heard of it (those heady days when we hadn't heard of remote European capitals, heavy elements on the Periodic Table, or tiny UN-recognized island nations in the South Pacific).

PEOPLE NAMED ALEX

We are going to show you twelve descriptions of famous people, male and female, past and present – each person is commonly known by a first name that could be shortened to 'Alex'. We would like you to tell us who they are please.

Author of 'The Beach'

Widely credited as the 'inventor' of the telephone

Beat JLS to win 'The X Factor' in 2008

Russian winner of 1970 Nobel Prize in Literature

Became leader of the Scottish National Party in 1990

18th-century poet who translated the works of Homer

QUIZ 1

ROUND 2

PART 1

ALEX GARLAND	7
ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL	85
ALEXANDRA BURKE	29
ALEXANDER SOLZHENITSYN	18
ALEX SALMOND	37
ALEXANDER POPE	4

...Continued

PEOPLE NAMED ALEX

Frontman of the Arctic Monkeys

Scottish bacteriologist who discovered penicillin

Voice of Family Guy's 'Lois Griffin'

Married Katie Price in 2010

Author of 'The No.1 Ladies Detective Agency'

Became manager of Manchester United in 1986

QUIZ 1

ROUND 2

PART 2

ALEX TURNER	5
ALEXANDER FLEMING	40
ALEX BORSTEIN	0
ALEX REID	31
ALEXANDER MCCALL SMITH	7
ALEX FERGUSON	75

BRITISH LANDMARKS

We are going to show you five anagrams of famous landmarks from the UK. We would like you to identify the landmarks.

For landmarks that traditionally have a 'the' before their names, we have excluded the 'the' from the anagram.

HONEST GENE

LOONIES FAR UP THAMES

WORST CHIEF FIVEFOLD

UP RAMPANT CHOCOLATE

LECH SONS

STONEHENGE	26
HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT	4
WHITE CLIFFS OF DOVER	2
HAMPTON COURT PALACE	0
LOCH NESS	30

DAVID BOWIE UK TOP 40 STUDIO ALBUMS

Any studio album released by David Bowie as a solo artist, prior to the beginning of April 2011. Live albums and greatest hits compilations will not be accepted, and neither will albums he released as part of a group or collaboration.

QUIZ 1

JACKPOT ROUND

ALADDIN SANE	6
BLACK TIE WHITE NOISE	0
DAVID BOWIE	4
DIAMOND DOGS	5
EARTHLING	0
HEATHEN	0
"HEROES"	9
'HOURS . . .'	0
HUNKY DORY	0
LET'S DANCE	6
LODGER	1
LOW	3
NEVER LET ME DOWN	1
OUTSIDE	1
PIN UPS	1
REALITY	1
RISE AND FALL OF ZIGGY STARDUST AND THE SPIDERS FROM MARS	18
SCARY MONSTERS (AND SUPER CREEPS)	0
SPACE ODDITY	7
STATION TO STATION	1
THE MAN WHO SOLD THE WORLD	3
TONIGHT	0
YOUNG AMERICANS	4