



## Questions

*All the solutions are numbers; each player/team should write down their guess and the closest answer for each question receives one point. Good luck and Merry Christmas!*

- 1** The most sought after invitation this year was to the wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton. Of the 1,900 lucky people who got a ticket to Westminster Abbey, how many were also invited to the reception at Buckingham Palace?
- 2** What percentage of Englishwomen over 75 can boast having any of their own teeth, according to NHS statistics this year?
- 3** In the heady boom years of 2006-8, the value of the average British household's possessions (contents, cars etc) was £39,100. According to new official figures, what was the average value in the years 2008-10?
- 4** Downton Abbey has received four nominations for Golden Globe awards as the world goes mad for the upstairs-downstairs world of early 20th Century England. As of 22 December, how many people kept up to date with the latest news by following @DowntonAbbey on Twitter?
- 5** In 2007, the Children in Need appeal raised a record £19m. With Britain tightening its belts, how much did the charity manage to raise this year?
- 6** The singer Amy Winehouse, who died this year, once told the Gloucestershire Echo: "I'm not really that scary. I'm only little." How tall was she?
- 7** The first official well-being statistics published this year asked people how they rated their life satisfaction 0-10. Overall, Britain scored 7.4, but that figure hides some important differences. Teenagers said their life satisfaction was 7.8. What was the answer given by people in their late thirties?
- 8** England's test cricketers rose to number one in the world after thrashing India this summer.

How many more runs did England score than India?

**9** Figures out this year show that the life expectancy of a woman living in Kensington and Chelsea is 89.8 years. How long can a man living in central Glasgow expect to live?

**10** The riots that exploded in some of England's inner cities in August were initially blamed on juvenile gangs. Figures later showed only 13% of those prosecuted for riot offences were involved in gangs and just 26% were juveniles. Of those 10-17-year-olds, what proportion had special educational needs?

**11** The craze for illuminating your house with Christmas decorations has been taken to new heights this month with the news that David and Janean Richards from Canberra have set a new world record. How many lights are on their Australian home?

**12** Royal wedding fever engulfed Britain in the Spring. According to the Local Government Association, how many road closures for street parties were requested?

**13** The Great British Bake-Off competition on BBC Two saw more than five million people tune in to watch Jo Wheatley wow the judges with, among other offerings, her signature mille-feuille. The pastry for that dish contained 240g of unsalted butter. How many grams of plain flour were used?

**14** In July, the News of the World bade farewell to its readers after 168 years with the words "Thank You & Goodbye". At its peak in 1951, the newspaper's huge circulation translated as one copy sold for how many people in the UK population?

**15** Comedian David Walliams swam 140 miles of the Thames in just eight days to raise money for the Sport Relief charity. He endured a serious stomach upset and severe exhaustion - as well as finding time to rescue a drowning Labrador. How much did his swim raise?

**16** In 1969, Richard Burton spent \$37,000 on a necklace for Elizabeth Taylor that featured a pearl once owned by Mary Tudor. How much (in dollars) did the piece fetch at auction this year?

**17** The world said goodbye this year to Steve Jobs, the genius behind Apple computers. Forbes magazine estimated his personal wealth at \$8.3bn. How much was his annual salary as CEO of Apple Inc?

**18** Teacher Gary Weddle finally removed his 15-inch beard this year having pledged, shortly after the 9/11 tragedy, not to shave until Osama bin Laden had been captured or killed. How many days' growth did he cut off?

**19** Figures published by the NHS in England earlier this month reveal the highest obesity rate since records began. What percentage of Englishmen are described as clinically overweight or obese?

**20** British singers have helped smash the Christmas carolling world record this month. Staged by a Christian radio station and with choirs in venues across the UK and in Geneva, Switzerland, how many people joined together in a rousing chorus of Hark The Herald Angels Sing?

*from Mark Easton, the BBC's home editor* [bbc.co.uk/markeaston](http://bbc.co.uk/markeaston)

# Mark Easton's Boxing Day Family Puzzler 2011

## Answers

*The answers are below; make sure that each player/team has written their guesses down before revealing them.*

**1** 650

**2** 63%

**3** £40,900

**4** 28,400

**5** £26,332,334 (a record)

**6** 5ft 2in

**7** 7.0 (that mid-life crisis makes people 11% gloomier, it seems)

**8** 765

**9** 71.6 years

**10** 66%

**11** 331,038

**12** 5,500

**13** 325

**14** 6

**15** £1,194,258

**16** \$11,800,000

**17** \$1

**18** 3,454

**19** 68% (58% women)

**20** 17,117

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