

# Mark Easton's Boxing Day Family Puzzler 2010

*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** There has been much fury at the government's plans to introduce higher tuition fees for university students in England. What would be the weekly repayment for a graduate earning £500 a week?

**2** The Royal Opera House saw its grant from the Arts Council slashed this year as part of the government's Spending Review. How much money will it get next year?

**3** Figures released this year compare the average annual mileage of cars today with that of 1995. Back then it was 9,700 a year. What is it now?

**4** Manchester City midfielder Yaya Toure became the highest paid Premier League footballer ever when he signed from Barcelona this year. How much was his five-year deal worth?

**5** It has been suggested that more people vote in the X Factor than at Parliamentary elections. It is not true. How many more votes were cast in the 2010 general election than in the 2010 X Factor series?

**6** Peter Colat, a Swiss freediver, smashed the world record for holding his breath underwater this year. How long did he manage to stay submerged?

**7** Bosnian cobblers made special shoes made of goat skin as a Christmas present for the Chilean miners who were rescued in October after spending 69 days deep underground. In feet, how deep were they?

**8** Susan Boyle's debut album I Dreamed A Dream smashed the Arctic Monkeys' UK record for the most albums sold in the first week. How many did she sell?

**9** Figures out this year show that only 1% of 16-24 year-olds in Britain have never used the internet. What proportion of over 65-year-olds have never logged on?

**10** How many Polish-born people are now resident in the UK, according to the latest official figures?

**11** How much did Prince Charles receive from the National Offender Management Service this summer in rent for Dartmoor prison?

**12** In 2000, the UK had the third-highest graduation rate among OECD countries with 37% of young people getting a degree compared with an average of 28%. The latest figures show the average is now 38%. What proportion of British young people currently graduate?

**13** How much do the Russians say they will spend building new football grounds for the 2018 World Cup (in US dollars)?

**14** In Greece, just 6% of children are born outside wedlock. What, according to the latest statistics, is the figure for the UK?

**15** The latest unemployment figures show that the jobless rate for people aged 16-24 (including students) is 17.6%. What is the figure for people aged over 50?

**16** The noise of a standard alarm clock is about 80 decibels, the level at which sustained exposure can cause hearing loss. A chainsaw is 100 decibels. A jet plane taking off is 120 decibels. The sound of the 2010 World Cup, the vuvuzela, was recorded as producing what level of noise at close proximity?

**17** According to the Grocer magazine, by what percentage did sales of rhubarb increase in March as a consequence of Delia Smith's recipe for rhubarb and ginger brulee?

**18** According to new official survey data, out of 1,000 British adults, how many say they are gay or bisexual?

**19** At Wimbledon this year, the American 23rd seed John Isner eventually beat the French qualifier Nicolas Mahut in the longest match in tennis history. The fifth set finished 70-68. Played over three days, how many minutes did they play?

**20** Melissa Thompson, a 27-year-old from Salford, broke the world record for the fastest text message ever this year. Using a touchscreen keyboard, she wrote the phrase: "The razor-toothed piranhas of the genera Serrasalmus and Pygocentrus are the most ferocious freshwater fish in the world. In reality they seldom attack a human". How long did it take her?

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

**1** £8.65

**2** £26,342,464 (a fall of £2,094,527)

**3** 8,420 miles

**4** £55.6 million

**5** 14,205,619 more (29,653,638 in the election and 15,448,019 on X Factor)

**6** 19 minutes 21 seconds

**7** 2,300 feet

**8** 411,820

**9** 60%

**10** 515,000 (in 2003 it was 75,000)

**11** £667,134

**12** 35% (the UK is now 17th, behind Iceland, Portugal and Ireland)

**13** \$3.82bn

**14** 45% (in 1971 it was 10%)

**15** 4.6%

**16** 127 decibels

**17** 2,000%

**18** 15

**19** 665 minutes

**20** 25.94 seconds