

The '56 Quiz

OK, so it's 1956, and you're 11 again – but what can you remember of that year apart from starting your secondary school? No prizes – but the winner can buy me a drink afterwards!

1. What wartime measure was re-introduced in 1956? Petrol rationing
2. And what was the event that caused it? The Suez Crisis
3. Who was ERNIE? Electronic Random Number Indicator Equipment
4. What did he do in 1956? In November the computer started selecting the winning Premium Bond numbers.
5. What happened to the Queen Mother's horse, Devon Loch, in the Grand National in March? Was leading by a length and a half and then collapsed 55 yards from the finish for no reason
6. Who was the rider, who later became even better known as an author? Dick Francis
7. Which country won the Eurovision Song Contest? Switzerland
8. Where did Britain come in the Song Contest? It didn't – we weren't in it!
9. Peter Twiss broke which world speed record this year? The air speed record
10. How fast did he go? 1,132 mph in a Fairey Delta 2
11. What was the previous record? 310mph
12. Which famous drinks companies started massive advertising campaigns this year? Pepsi & Coke
13. A certain tube of square boiled sweets were introduced this year – what were they called? Spangles
14. Roughly how much did a Ford Zephyr cost? £900
15. What appeared on the roads for the first time this year? Yellow lines
16. Jim Laker set a world record for the most wickets taken in a test match. How many did he take? 19
17. Christopher Cockerill invented something this year – what was it? Hovercraft
18. Bette Nesmith Graham, related to Mike Nesmith of the Monkees, invented a product this year. What was it called, and what did it become known as? "Mistake out", later known as Tippex
19. What computer product was first used this year? Hard disk
20. Skiffle burst on the pop scene this year. Who recorded the first skiffle record to make the hit parade in January? Lonnie Donnegan
21. What was it called? Rock Island Line
22. By the end of January all records in the British top 10 were from one country – which one? America
23. Which young singer became the first British rock 'n' roll star this year? Tommy Steele

24. What was his first record? Rock with the Caveman
25. In September many cinemas banned a certain film because of the riots it caused. What was the film?
Rock Around the Clock
26. A TV critic described a rock singer as “unspeakable, untalented and vulgar”. Who? Elvis Presley
27. London’s double decker buses changed – what was the new model? Routemaster
28. What phrase was born this year by Pepsodent? You’ll wonder where the yellow went
29. Who married in Monte Carlo this year? Grace Kelly and Prince Rainier
30. Which country was invaded by Russia to put down an anti-communist rebellion? Hungary
31. Who was re-elected as President of the United States? Dwight D Eisenhower
32. Who did Arthur Miller marry this year? Marilyn Monroe
33. What new method of communication with America came into being? The first transatlantic telephone cable
34. A successful commercial TV related product was introduced this year – what was it? Video recorder
35. Which salacious book was published this year? Peyton Place
36. Clairol introduced the “Does she or doesn’t she?” ad campaign – but who knew for sure? Her hairdresser
37. A Danish product made its first foreign sales this year – what product? Lego
38. Where were the Winter Olympics held this year (country, and if possible, the town)? Italy, Cortina d’Ampezzo
39. What was the unique achievement in Alpine skiing? Anton Sailer won all three events
40. What media history was made at the Winter Olympics? The first to be televised
41. Which country (and town) hosted the Olympics this year? Melbourne, Australia
42. Due to strict quarantine laws the equestrian events weren’t held there. Where were they held?
Stockholm
43. How many nations took part? 72
44. A new rule relating to weight lifting was introduced at these Olympics. What? In the event of a tie, the lightest weight lifter was deemed to be the winner – this enabled the US to beat Argentina.
45. A UK toy manufacturer started by making model cars – which one? Corgi Toys
46. Who won the European Cup ? Real Madrid
47. Which two teams met in the FA Cup – and who won? Manchester City beat Birmingham
48. The British Grand Prix took place at Silverstone - who won? Fangio
49. The first of a major sailing event took place this year – which one? The Tall Ships Race

50. Which British film set in wartime made the screens this year, starring Kenneth Moore? Reach for the Sky
51. Another film introduced us to the term “robot” this year – what was it? Forbidden Planet
52. Another wartime film, set at sea, was also released this year – which one? Battle of the River Plate
53. British troops were sent to quell the fighting between Turks and Greeks – where? Cyprus
54. What Act was introduced to remove the “pea soup” fogs? The Clean Air Act
55. New shops appeared in the UK. What was special about them? Self service
56. And now a trick question. In the course of this quiz, the company that makes the most tyres in the world was mentioned – which one is it? Lego