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KEEP THE CAT FREE | SINCE 1949



Ruby Lydford

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We will, to the best of our ability, tell you the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

We will keep your confidence and will only publish something you say to us if you have explicitly said that we can.

We will work to expose unfairness and discrimination in all forms that it takes at the College.

We will treat fairly any article sent to us, regardless of point of view, and do our best to work with you to prepare it for publication.

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NEWS



Imperial's *University Challenge* team, locked in. BBC

“Absolutely phenomenal”: Imperial demolishes Wadham College

Second round bout ended with Imperial scoring highest number of points so far this season.

Editor-in-Chief

MOHAMMAD MAJLISI

Imperial's *University Challenge* team has beaten Wadham College, Oxford, in the second round, qualifying for a place in the quarter finals. Scoring 345 points – the highest by any team this season – to Wadham's 25, the team were described by host Amol Rajan as “absolutely phenomenal” and “ludicrous”.

“That is a big score and it's going to scare the [sic] other people,” Rajan told the team at the end of the quiz, broadcast on Monday 13th January.

After Wadham took a quick lead in the first round, Imperial began to dominate, reaching 45 points to Wadham's five. Wadham failed to reclaim the lead in the early game after some wrong answers lost them points, whilst the Imperial team maintained a steady momentum, quickly reaching 100 points. By mid-way, Imperial was on 170 points whilst Wadham had dropped to zero points. The team, comprised of captain Spry, Stokes, Salamanca Camacho, and Elkbouby,

answering questions ranging from popular manga series to the works of jazz musician Terence Blanchard.

Of particular note was Jaime Salamanca Camacho, who answered many of the more difficult questions with ease. Similarly, Charlotte Stokes performed well, impressing Rajan with the swiftness of her answer (Thomas Hardy) to the question of the creator of the word “cliffhanger”, first introduced into the Oxford



That is a big score and it's going to scare the [sic] other people

English Dictionary in 1931.

Salamanca Comacho described his experience in the second round. He felt he was the most comfortable in this match, despite the nerves. Despite his cool demeanour, Salamanca Camacho has a fear of missing his chance, often trying to compute the various

answers that could be the solution. Overall, his performance was one he felt he could be very proud of.

Following victories in 1996, 2001, 2020, 2022, and 2024, Imperial has won the popular quiz show a record five times. Part of Imperial's success has been due to its selection process of competitors, and the Imperial Dynasty: former members of the Imperial team offer mentorship and support to current competitors.

A separate *University Challenge* committee organises quizzes open to all students for a chance to join the team. Whilst the team is often made up of students familiar with the quiz circuit, no experience is required – Salamanca Camacho joined without any prior quizzing experience.

Read our interview with this year's team online by scanning the QR code.



Imperial up 22 places in People & Planet rankings

Editor-in-Chief

MOHAMMAD MAJLISI

Imperial College has risen to 76th out of 151 higher education institutions in the 2024/25 People & Planet rankings. The College was awarded a score of 49.1%, up from 40.4% last year.

The rise is attributed to an increase in its Carbon Management, Sustainability Staff and Workers' Rights, and Engagement policies and strategies.

The increase has moved the College from

last place in the 2:2 award towards the top end of the ranking system.

Earlier in 2024, Imperial was ranked 7th globally, and 4th in Europe in the QS Global Sustainability rankings.

People & Planet's rankings have grown in importance as other ranking systems begin to rely on their findings to inform students.

The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide has started to use the scores to inform

prospective students of the sustainability of their higher education choices.



Opinion: The People & Planet rankings are better, imperfect, and working.



Oscar Mitcham, Environment Editor

Each year, universities submit data to QS for them to review and create their sustainability rankings. This year, Imperial ranked 7th. It's a nice process, but it's not remotely public. Whilst QS does share their criteria, they don't share how each university did in any granularity and they don't share data they were sent.

This is in sharp contrast to People & Planet's methodology. They create provisional rankings using publicly available information and then share these with universities so that they can appeal any mistakes or add any additional information they may have. It's a process run by volunteers who care about creating change through these rankings. Each university's score is broken down by People & Planet's criteria, and their

evidence is usually referenced.

An editorial in *Felix* #1838 discusses the problems with the People & Planet rankings. I agree about the problems, and rankings certainly aren't good ways of making decisions. However, I want to add: Imperial's People & Planet ranking should be better. The College's scores of 39% in investment and 23% in careers, for example, betray its continued partnerships with the fossil fuel and arms industries. I think we can do better than 76th overall in an ethics and environment ranking.

Imperial's score is up 10% from last year, pushing from "worst 2:2 university" to "decent 2:2 university". I want to see the changes that led to this continue. Having spoken to some of our sustainability staff, the

People & Planet rankings are a motivating factor for further action on sustainability. In this way, People & Planet are doing exactly what they wanted to do with their rankings.

SCIENCE

Nuclear: fear over fact

Science Editor
JAMES DESMET

The splitting of the atom was arguably the biggest scientific achievement of the 20th century. Nuclear fission, however, became a two-sided coin that we know all too well. Today it provides low-carbon energy in nearly limitless amounts with excellent safety statistics – while oxymoronically being the centre of the tragedies in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant disaster.

While there can be no doubt about the devastation that can be caused when things go wrong or when it is used maliciously, many people forget that nuclear power and global politics have come a

long way since the Cold War. Nevertheless, opinions are still influenced by past

“
We have simply lost count of all the coal power plant disasters

events, as evidenced by Germany decommissioning its last power plants in 2023. Much of this reaction stems from public opposition to nuclear power over safety concerns, particularly heightened by the Fukushima disaster. Yet Germany does not lie on any fault lines, and the world has since learned from Chernobyl and Fukushima, with all power plants now utilising negative void coefficients and

having safety features to contain hazardous material in the event of a natural disaster. Nuclear power’s CO₂ output of 12 grams per kilowatt-hour puts it on par with wind at 11, and it achieves this while offering reliable, constant power output, which is a major drawback of other sustainable sources such as wind and solar, given they are dependent on weather conditions. The safety concerns surrounding nuclear power are driven by a fear similar to flying, given that nuclear power has an impeccable safety record. It results in only 0.07 deaths per terawatt-hour of energy produced, compared with 32.72 deaths for coal. We have simply lost count of all the coal power plant disasters – much like a child who fears a plane crash when going on holiday but doesn’t fear the car ride there.

While it is true that the dawn of nuclear power brought profound tragedy and taught us harsh lessons, in the modern era it represents an environmentally friendly, safe, and reliable source of energy. Moreover, it holds future promise in projects such as small modular reactors, fusion, and thorium-based reactors. Nuclear power is a robust and safe source of low-carbon electricity. Let’s not allow the traumas of the past prevent the triumphs of the future.



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BOOKS

Normal People

—
For self-projection and rumination, could *Normal People* be any more ideal?

Books Writer
GEORGE PASTORS

Normal People destroyed me. I read it across the course of three days, feverishly, in an anxious state. I didn't catch my breath until I had finished. At parts, the surge of emotions the novel elicited in me made me cringe. It is a purely charged piece of literature. I am changed as a result of this book, touched in a way I haven't been by a piece of literature for a while. I attribute this to relating a little too much to some of the characters and elements, as well as the fact that it was big on my social media feeds when I was going through a really bad depressive episode.

It's amazing how expressive the novel is despite the economy of its language. The words flow quickly in a staccato fashion driving the novel forward. Each has weight, bearing down on the reader as they too experience the gravity of every interaction, every conversation held between the characters. Is it well written? That depends on your definition. In a sense it is, but upon reflection, there is a lack. The lack of speech marks isn't an issue. Maybe it works for what it's going

for – I'm half remembering *Mrs Dalloway* which didn't use them either – and it works for *Normal People*, but there is a feeling that the language and tone of the book is in need of something more. The simplicity works for a vast majority of the book, but at times the element of lack seeps through.

I found the novel to be based on a platonic ideal of androgyny. From the sparse interviews and information we

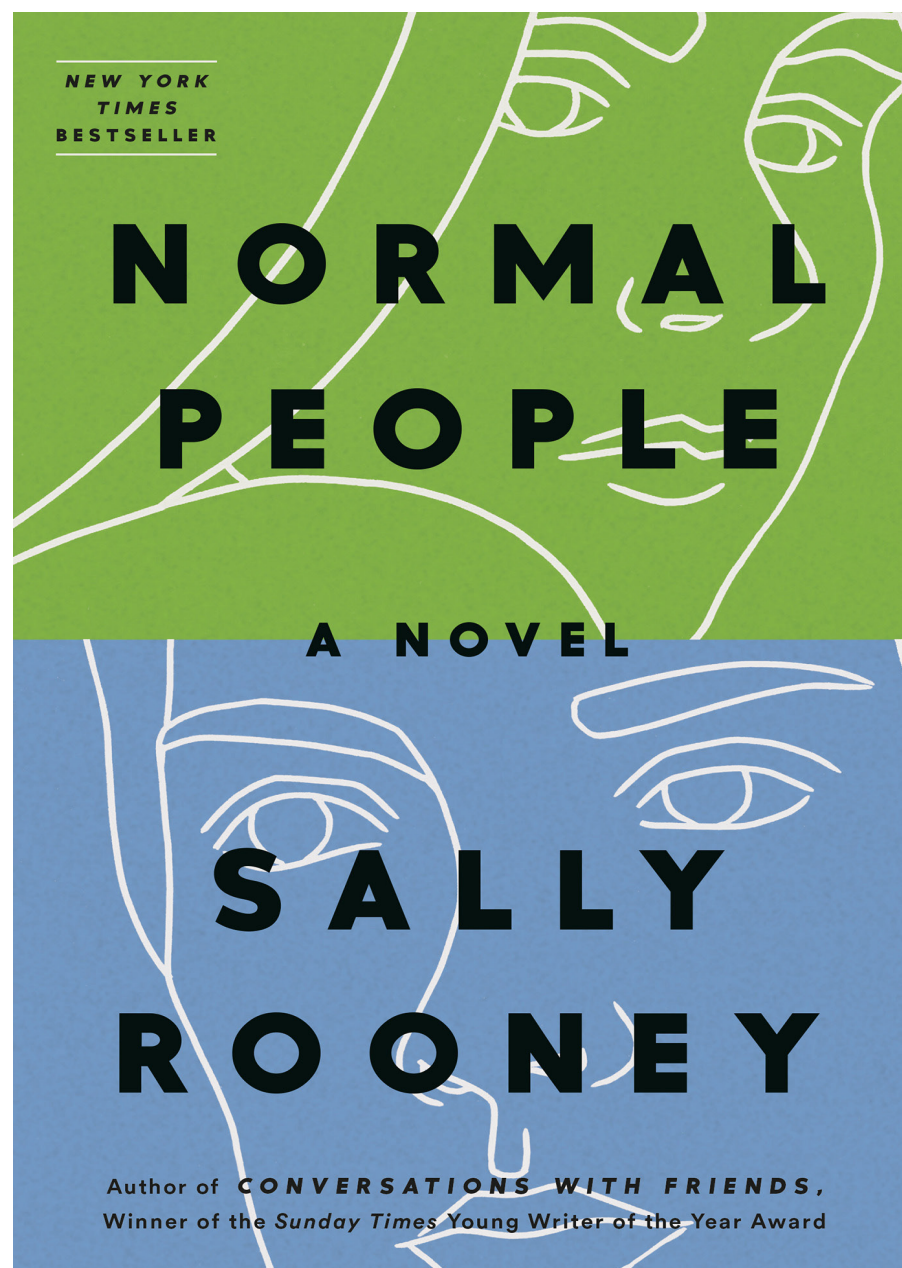
religious imagery to describe Marianne and Connell's relationship and sexual liaisons, the fact that Marianne wishes to submit to Connell, and can only offer her submission to Connell instead of her other partners, suggests devotion. The language swells to religious proportions when they are physically one (through sexual intercourse), similar to the idea of the origins of love in Plato's *Symposium*. The two protagonists mirror the story

repeatedly? It does, and I believe Rooney intended it to feel, like some sort of divine – in a very Hellenistic sense of fate and intertwined strings – intervention.

The themes are universal. It's so easy to project yourself onto Marianne or Connell – Connell is extremely well written as a male character. There is a remarkability about him, something so essential that he is able to capture what it's like to be a "thoughtful young man". There is also something sympathetic about him: perhaps it's the alienation one feels with one's friends and course mates at university if one come from a background similar to his. It's hard not to place a personal element to a review of this book. It's hard to separate oneself, even if the events and the plot don't match at all.

However, it's not all good. Marianne, surprisingly, is the weaker character. She doesn't seem as developed, in part because her narrative journey has no definite end like Connell's does, and secondly because Rooney leaves her to be much more open to interpretation, and her motivations and thoughts are much less explicit, especially towards the end. I definitely had a sense she wasn't explored as much, partly because of what she is meant to be. Her background doesn't lend itself to as much interest as Connell's does, nor is it explored. We don't meet her mother as a character until much later, and the psychological reasoning that Rooney tries to suppose for her actions isn't convincing. I think by the time Marianne got to Sweden, I no longer felt as interested in her, whereas Connell remained engaging. With writing so direct, Marianne just fails to deliver in the same way Connell does. There are better written characters. Jamie, one of Marianne's university romances, is a good one – some have argued the best – because Rooney is able to get across the archetype of the privileged snotty university student.

It's an interesting book; a very good book at that. It is something that keeps one engaged throughout, especially if you happen to relate to very, very, specific events, and want to feel seen in your literature. I suppose, in that way, it is very much a millennial book.



know of the adolescent Rooney, we know she bases both Connell and Marianne on herself – Marianne is the socially aloof, wickedly sharp woman who has a background in debating, and Connell is the literature prodigy, which reflects her time in the debating scene wishing she was "liked". Although she has also said she has "no appetite for writing about herself and things that have actually happened", the ghost of Rooney remains – a common criticism of some of her novels is that her characters feel like self-inserts at times. Regardless, the use of

told by Aristophanes: that people were created with two heads, four arms, and four legs, until they were split apart. That love is what makes people whole. When Marianne and Connell are together, they feel whole, thus the book itself is made whole as the plot binds together. Even when they are separated physically, their contact over email or phone is what makes them whole and drives the plot. It is a book about love, and the messiness of it all. At times it begins to feel clichéd and not at all lifelike. How can two people meet so much after splitting apart

FOOD&TRAVEL

Sir, Stevia or Sucralose?

The rising concern of sugar in everyday food items is driving the use of artificial sweeteners, the seemingly perfect alternative.

Food & Travel Editor

CHARLOTTE PROBSTEL

First it was fat. Studies in the 1940s till 1960s correlated high-fat diets with high cholesterol and elevated chances of heart diseases. What became the alternative to fat, in low-fat yoghurts and ice creams, to continue supplying the great taste consumers demanded was free sugar. Free sugar is added sugar to a product and does not count for naturally occurring sugars. In the 1990s, free sugar became a staple, sometimes even the first ingredient, of condiments and

everyday sauces, yoghurts, drinks, white bread, granola and cereals, alternative milk, and the mass of snacks, whose global market is an estimated worth of 250 billion USD today.

In moderation, that is less than 20–30 grams depending on your body mass, composition, and sex, sugar is enjoyable and beneficial as a rewardful substance. However, it is highly addictive and turns off your appetite-control system, hence it is easy to overconsume. On top of chronic illnesses, sugar is linked to mental health conditions such as anxiety, mood changes, and decreased cognitive abilities. Additionally, sugar is sold in non-ideal quantities. As a reference, one 330ml of Coca Cola has 35g of sugar, and a Mars bar has 24g. It is almost unavoidable in most processed foods, and it accumulates during the day.

As sugar received a bad reputation, and sugar-sweetened drinks were taxed by the UK government in 2018 in an attempt to reduce obesity, the market responded once again and leveraged artificial sweeteners to reduce the costs of their product.

Artificial sweeteners are a series of synthetic calorie-free sugar substitutes, that are sweeter than sugar and frequently used in most sugar-free and low calorie food items, such as protein bars, sugar-free gums, sugar-free syrups, drinks, ice creams, jams, and jell-o.

Consumers now experience the sweet and addictive delight

of a Coke or a fruity yoghurt without worrying about a blood spike or a few hundred calories. And most fortunately, any soda can now be found with a “Zero” hanging at the end of its name.

Hence, artificial sweeteners became a key pillar to combat weight management and diabetes, by offering a sweet baking and cooking ingredient that cannot metabolise in the body, making artificial sweeteners virtually calorie free.

Artificial sweeteners are also powerfully sweet, and are commonly defined by their sweetness relative to that of sucrose, normal table sugar. The lowest of them all, Aspartame is only 200x sweeter than sucrose, meaning that it takes 1/200 of the same weight of Aspartame to create a sweetness comparable to that of sucrose. Acesulfame potassium (Ace-K), Saccharin and Sucralose are as sweet or a little sweeter as they are 200, 300–400 and 600 times sweeter than sucrose, respectively. The strongest sweeteners are Neotame and Advantame, with a sweetness of 7,000 and 20,000 times that of sucrose. Hence, even though artificial sweeteners are more expensive than sugar, the necessary amount is significantly less.

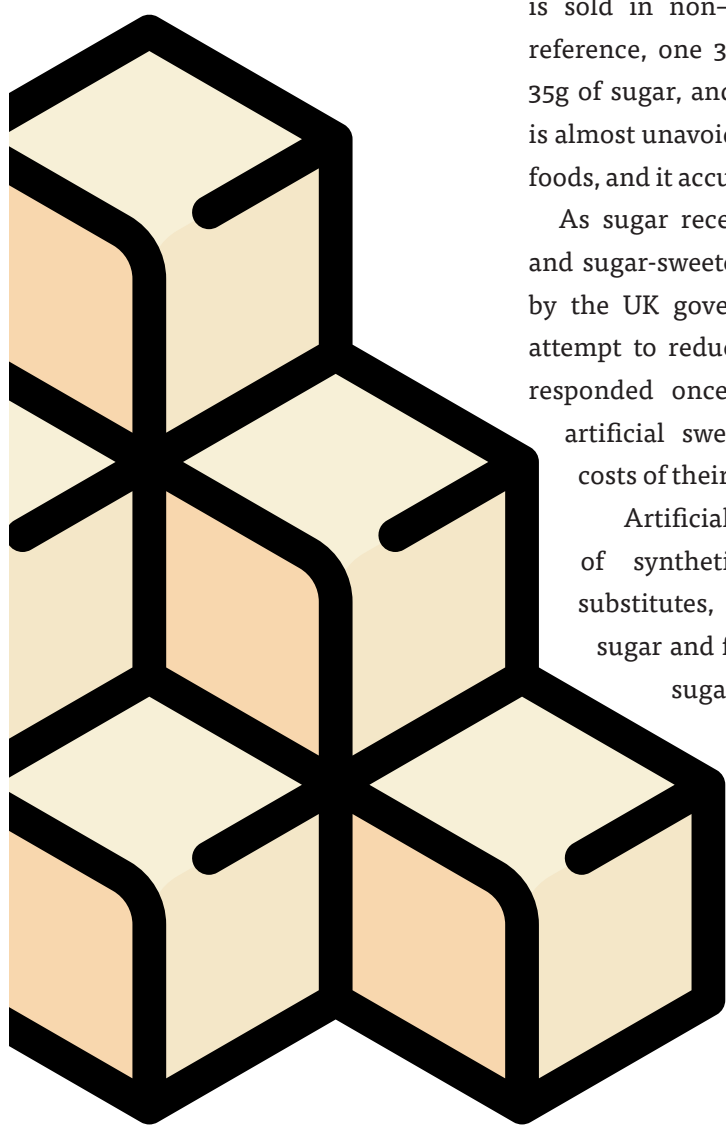
A different method to compare artificial sweeteners to sugar is given by their Glycemic Index (GI) which indicates how quickly a food raises a person's blood sugar. Maltose and Dextrose lead the table with 105 and 100 respectively and should therefore be avoided. White sugar has a GI of 65, honey at 58. Fructose sits at a GI of 23 and all artificial sweeteners have a GI of 0. Erythritol has a GI of 1.

FDA and the EU have approved Saccharin, Aspartame, Acesulfame

(Ace-K), Sucralone, Advantame, and Neotame as safe to consume under the assumption of moderated and normal consumption. While the research in the health impact of artificial sweeteners is still growing, recent studies claim that Saccharin, Sucralose, Aspartame and Ace-K alter the gut microbiome by varying the pH or impacting the gut bacteria. However, as everyone's microbiome differs, this will vary from person to person. Products with artificial sweeteners are known to cause bloating and discomfort, stomach pain and diarrhea. This is not surprising, as many low-sugar candy and protein bars inform the consumer that overconsumption can lead to laxative effects. A consistently high consumption, roughly 2 diet sodas a day, of artificial sweeteners is not recommended by the Mayo Clinic, however more research is required.

All artificial sweeteners are synthetic and while most non-nutritive sweeteners (NNS) are as well, the latter can also be natural. Stevia and monk-fruit, common ingredients used in sugarless baking recipes or promoted by sports influencers have shown to be less aggressive on the gut and better digested. Natural NNS's are still in need of research, as large scale randomised trials are missing in order to reach a conclusive decision on NNS and their place in our diet.

Nowadays, artificial sweeteners replaced sugar as the key flavour factor for sweet snacks marketed as “low” or “no” sugar. Some snacks will clarify “no artificial sweeteners” on the front label, however the best practice is to read the label for artificial sweeteners and one or two of the 75 different names for sugar.



BUSINESS

Investors increasingly lack confidence in the UK

The deeper implications of last week's gilt sell-off and the pound's decline

Business Editor
ALIA FRIEDMAN

UK government borrowing costs surged last week, with the 10-year gilt yield climbing to 4.9%, marking a 16-year high; stocks tied to the UK's economic performance fell as well. Despite rising yields and cheaper markets, the pound fell to its one-year low against the dollar. In tandem, rising yields and a weakening currency are a signal of potential capital flight and serve as a warning from investors about the UK's long-term economic outlook.

Although yields rose globally across financial markets, the magnitude of the punishment dealt to the UK was particularly unusual. Although an encouraging inflation report published this week helped ease pressure on the UK bond market, the question remains: why were UK assets particularly soured on by global investors? For instance, while the yield on the 30-year US Treasury bond remains below its early 2000s peaks, UK yields increased approximately 5.80% last week, compared to 3.75% in the US.

A straightforward explanation might point to the high levels of debt sustained by the UK government, amounting to almost 100% of GDP. However, similar levels of indebtedness are observed in other developed economies – such as France, where the debt-to-GDP ratio is 110.6% – without triggering comparably negative market reactions. A more nuanced explanation lies in the perceived lack of confidence in the UK government's abil-



Tower Bridge Boudewijn Huijgens

ity to establish policy stability.

One factor eroding investor confidence in the UK is the Autumn budget, which, despite its goal of stabilizing the economy, has struggled to reassure the market. The budget detailed the UK government's plan to decrease its debt and contained tax increases totaling £40 billion. A significant portion of these increases stemmed from a 1.2 percentage point rise in employers' National Insurance (NI) contributions, as well as decreasing the threshold for employer NI payments from £9,100 to £5,000.

While the measures sought to address fiscal deficits and fund essential public services, critics pointed out that the budget allowed for limited fiscal flexibility, with the third-smallest headroom in UK history. In hindsight, their concerns appear well-founded, as the constrained financial leeway has heightened apprehension about the government's ability to manage with rising bond yields without resorting to further tax hikes or spending cuts.

Additionally, the Autumn budget was predicated on expectations of economic growth to ensure financial sustainability. Economic growth was expected to drive higher tax revenues and reduce the relative burden of government debt. Instead, the expected growth hasn't (yet) materialised, and the debt remains. The latest economic data from the Office for National Statistics reported sclerotic GDP growth between July and September. In contrast, in the US during the third quarter of 2024, the growth rate slightly accelerated to 3.1%, with no end in sight.

The challenge is further compounded by the UK's heavy reliance on foreign buyers of gilts due to its high debt levels. Should the UK fail to provide attractive investment options, it risks losing investors to alternative markets like the US, or facing permanently higher costs to service its debt. Both options would further strain the already burdened public finances. Additionally, the UK faces the challenge of incoming President Trump's

threatened tariffs; however, the acuity of this threat remains uncertain.

Amid concerns of stagflation and fiscal wish-casting, the UK's economic trajectory appears increasingly precarious. The Labour government, once hoped as the promised deliverer from fiscal mismanagement, continues to face rising borrowing costs, a faltering pound, and stagnant growth. A state of affairs not limited to any particular UK government coalition. Unfortunately, the recent bond market sell-off reveals markets are not only pricing in current economic difficulties but also expressing skepticism about the government's ability to manage its budgetary challenges and self-imposed rules.

The UK dreamed of growth. Instead, it is combating nightmares of stagflation. While this recent market turbulence might not be the most auspicious beginning to 2025, let's hope that all's well that ends well. We still have an entire year to go.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Ordinary defeat

Make more mistakes and you'll live a happier life

Photography Editor
ROLANDO CHARLES

Ordinary defeat” makes me think of the small battles in life we lose every day: doom-scrolling for an hour, tripping on the stairs in front of your date, cleaning up the leftover soup after it exploded in the microwave, realising there’s a second page in this week’s problem sheet you didn’t know about – or, for Antoine, falling clumsily into the sea. The latter is cleverly shown in this very lively silhouette shot, where the starburst reflections on the surface of the sea add a beautiful layer of complexity to the essentially black-and-white composition. I commend Antoine for capturing an exciting moment, surely by looking through his camera and waiting for something to happen, which usually requires a great deal of patience and a steady hand. *The fall no one noticed* shows an instant that only two people will remember: the discombobulated diver practising his falling, and the photographer practising his art.

Practice makes perfect. Or at least, that’s what we’re told. There’s no case where practice doesn’t involve repeatedly making mistakes, some more and some less serious than others. How can an activity riddled with imperfections lead to achieving perfection? Philosophically, this is an interesting question with many possible answers, one of which I’ll present as follows: for A to cause B, then A must contain the attributes passed onto B. Then, for imperfection to lead to perfection, imperfection must have some sort of intrinsic perfection. “Yes, yes, but enough of this nonsense, what about photography?” you may think to yourself. I think there’s a useful takeaway from this argument that the process of becoming a better photographer starts with a photo, and a bad one at that, and little by little, shot after shot leads to a good picture, then a great one, and then...

In summary, every time you make a mistake you are defeated by life and by the world around you. Yet every day you keep losing those small battles until, at some point, you start winning. The diver starts to fall gracefully towards the sea, and the photographer begins to wield their camera masterfully. So then ordinary defeat is nothing much more than future success. A great motto, and quite possibly one of the next themes for this section.



The fall no one noticed Antoine Robinet

Scan the QR code to submit for the next theme ‘Game theory’:





ST. TERM TWO
EVENTS

Beat the Blues

AIR DRY FOAM CLAY SESSION
×
20TH & 21ST JANUARY
Metric | 19:00 – 21:00



ST. TERM TWO
EVENTS

Beat the Blues

CHINESE CALLIGRAPHY
×
27TH & 28TH JANUARY
Metric | 19:00 – 21:00



ST. TERM TWO
EVENTS

2025

CHINESE
NEW YEAR
MAHJONG 101 X
MAHJONG SOCIETY
×
29TH JANUARY
Metric | 12:00 – 17:00



ST. TERM TWO
EVENTS

ACC: WHEN I GROW UP

29 JANUARY 2025
Beit Takeover | 21:00 – 02:00

TERM TWO EVENTS



SCAN ME

CATNIP



NegaFelix in Egypt

ARIES	TAURUS	GEMINI	CANCER	LEO	VIRGO
This week you decide to practise working remotely by watching your lectures from the comfort of your bed.	This week you have a farewell party for Embargo’s nights at Embargo’s.	This week you beg your rich friends’ dads to buy TikTok so Elon Musk and Mr Beast don’t.	This week you decide 2026 will be the year you finally become an academic weapon.	This week your learn your lecturer’s recordings made it on Rolling Stone top albums of the 21st century before your favourite artist.	This week you purchase an organisation journal as a new way to procrastinate.
LIBRA	SCORPIO	SAGITTARIUS	CAPRICORN	AQUARIUS	PISCES
This week you get an offer for an internship on Love Island Series 12.	This week you celebrate the end of exams by starting to revise.	This week you adopt a feral Lime bike and ride him into your lecture hall.	This week you did what? I can’t believe you did that.	This week you celebrate the potential TikTok ban in the US as a removal of unfunny people.	This week you message your ex to say happy birthday (Toxic by Britney Spears turned 21).

UNION & SOCIETIES

Announcements

January

No Events


February

15TH
Saturday

Cheerleading Competition
IC Cheerleading

In the Legacy Cheerleading Competition, our level 2 and level 3 team will be competing against other university cheerleading teams!

Time: 09:00 – 15:00
Where: OVO Wembley Arena, London
Tickets: £26

TICKETS


March

1ST
Saturday

Cheerleading Showcase
IC Cheerleading

A series of cool dance classes taught by our dance team + random play dance with prizes!

Time: 18:00 – 22:00
Where: King's College London Guy's Campus
Tickets: Early bird tickets at £8


INSTAGRAM

2ND
Sunday

Major Event
IC Singapore

Our annual musical with a live orchestra, singing and acting. This is a story of Elizabeth Choy, one of Singapore's World War II heroes.

Time: 18:30 – 22:15
Where: Great Hall
Tickets: Tickets not yet released


INSTAGRAM

15TH
Saturday

Cheerleading Nationals
IC Cheerleading

Imperial Cheer's level 2 and level 3 team will be competing against other universities!

Time: 09:00 – 15:00
Where: Resorts World Arena, Birmingham
Tickets: £26

TICKETS

Submit your event here



Scan the QR code and fill out the form by 21st January 2025



and view all the events here

PUZZLES

Puzzles Editor
IVIN JOSE

Across

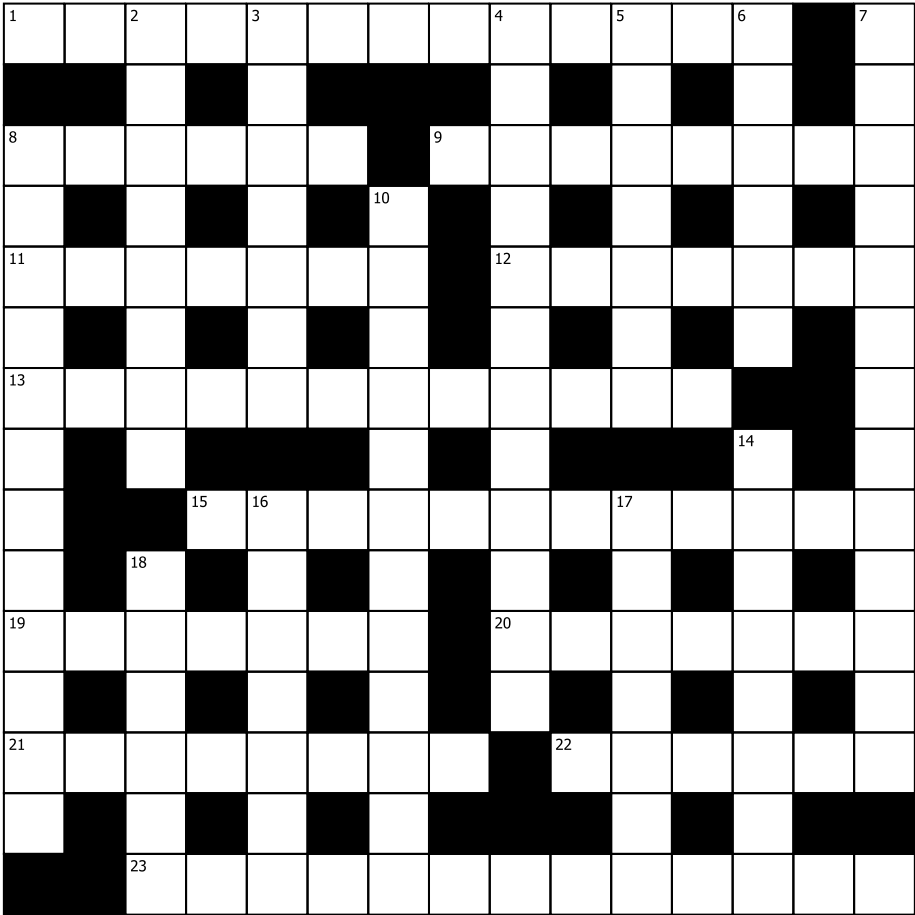
1. Novel about growth of ancient empire after dropping in heartless billionaires. [13]
8. Early environmentalists pored over carbon half-life since millennia. [6]
9. Freeloader ran chaotically into debacle, with Germany left behind. [8]
11. Saying you are in favour of an action. [7]
12. Small kids eat a mushy pea from their drink holders. [7]
13. Polly trades a penny for a cake, starts but teeters due to stomach troubles. [12]
15. Church from alternate universe, supports at its core anticivism, troubled and bigoted. [12]
19. Entrap heart of Swede, after being in unfinished Volvo. [7]
20. A short garden ornament is confused with trendy Italian dish. [7]
21. Scandinavian people are using encoded Morse with the English after last interruption. [8]
22. Girl surrounds Arkansas with fighting technique. [6]
23. Final drink leads to a single dedicated to the freeway. [3,3,3,4]

Down

2. Lounges around with doughnuts with perfect central radius, forgetting shortage during pandemic. [3,5]
3. Oblivious United Nations listen and vote yes! [7]
4. High voice caught in rib on peak of Venetian crossing. [6,6]
5. Command fellow on romantic rendezvous. [7]
6. To enjoy with cheese, sneeze must be cut short within a nanosecond. [6]
7. Let too many people sign up; I observe scrub with bewilderment. [13]
8. Requirements call for mixed pie as context. [12]
10. Utter your love to total absence of warmth. [8,4]
14. Disconnected significant other accommodates two cats, facing off. [8]
16. Ancient Greek Hades lead endless nutty efforts. [7]
17. Same as deceased, causing one to withdraw. [7]
18. Exaggerate about part of undercover deeds, surrounded by surprised faces. [6]

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Submitted by Ester K. Mirra (10 pts.)



GROUPING GRIDS

Submitted by William West & Vittoria Dessi

Mouth	Delta	Moet	Golf
Ali	Source	Tango	Much
Banks	Charleston	Waltz	Meander
Bed	Foxtrot	Salsa	Ceilidh

Medium (4 pts.)

1.					Connections
2.					
3.					
4.					

How-to:

For fans of *Only Connect*! The sixteen clues in each of these puzzles can be placed into four groups of four, each with a connecting feature. To solve the puzzle, write these groups and their connections below! An example can be seen in last week's solutions.

Mouse	Knows	Big	Pizza
Heal	Porcupine	Third	Capybara
Hare	Tow	Speaker	Water
Monitor	Controller	Rat	Hamster

Hard (5 pts.)

1.					Connections
2.					
3.					
4.					

CRYPTOGRAM

Clue: Fetching Mirage (anagram, 3 words)

How-to:

A cryptogram is solved by cracking the cypher in which an encoded phrase is written. The first few letter correspondences are given to you, and your job is to use your linguistic and logical skills, as well as your quotes knowledge, to work out the secret message. Bonus point for giving where the quote comes from!

Z A C Z H S L D Z F F , O Z N W K O G N K

E F G N N D Q G A E D V D I N K D O K S F D

O S Q F C Z Q S T A C V S T H D W Z T I D

N K D E Q D Z N D I N I D W Q D N I Z Q D

Z F O Z V I K G C C D A G A N K D J S I N

T A F G B D F V X F Z W D I . N K S I D O K S

C S A ' N H D F G D L D G A J Z E G W

O G F F A D L D Q M G A C G N .

(3 pts.)

Anagram: _____

(1 pt.)

Quote from: _____

(1 pt.)

LEADERBOARD

Pos.	Puzzlers	Points (Last week)	
1.	Team GuineaPig	357	357
2.	The Menu	288	288
3.	Team Experial	208	208
4.	Tactless Tony	116	116
5.	Team Jasmine&Hursh	33	33
6.	Team Doors Doors	32	32
7.	Team CIVE	30	30
8.	Team L&B	20	20

Send a picture of your solved puzzles to puzzles.felix@ic.ac.uk by Thursday to get yourself or your team on the leaderboard! Partially completed Puzzles can still get you points!

Send them in by Tuesday if you want to see your points for this week in next week's issue.

COMIC

Submitted by Tengyu Zhao



Puzzles Editor's Note

Dearest Puzzlers,

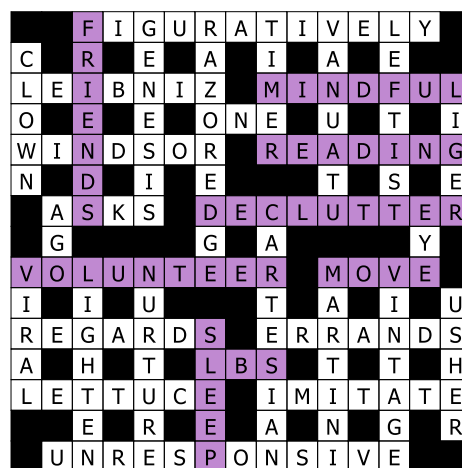
Coursework deadlines are unfortunately around every corner, so I hope you'll forgive your humble Puzzles Editor for the absence of the Regular Crossword this week. But never fear, we still have plenty of puzzles to give your mind a break from all the work.

I'd like to give a huge thanks to Ester K Mirra for the Cryptic Crossword, William and Vittoria for the Connections, and Tengyu for the Comic.

That leaves me with nothing more to say, other than have a fantastic week of crossing, connecting, code-cracking, comic-consuming, and competing!

- Ivin

Previous Puzzles' solutions



Regular



Cryptic

Rice	Pasta	Milk	Bread	Kitchen Staples
Antipasto	Beet	Pigment	Coward	Starting with an animal
Slothful	Dormant	Stagnant	Sluggish	Meaning lethargic
Tired	Broth	Dry	Idle	Bone -

Medium grouping grid

Wardrobe	Caspian	Treader	Nephew	Last word of Narnia books
North	Red	Dead	Tasman	___ Sea
Above	Skyward	High	Over	Up
Army	Bullet	Leafcutter	Fire	Ants

Hard grouping grid

“At midnight when they all cheered Happy New Year, he took her into his arms and kissed her. Others were watching them. Maybe they were just curious to observe the chemistry between two people who could not leave one another alone.”

Anagram: Ann Marie = Marianne

Quote from: Normal People from Sally Rooney

Cryptogram

SPORT

FA Cup 3rd Round Recap

Sport Writer

LILA HARRISON

With the 3rd round of the FA Cup drawing to a close, Sport Writer Lila recaps the results and gives her opinions on the teams' performances.

Sheffield United 0-1 Cardiff City: A narrow victory for the Blades at Bramall Lane, the empty seats does raise a question of the want of replays from teams outside the Premier League.

Everton 2-0 Peterborough United: A managerless Everton progressed with a comfortable win over Peterborough, with Moyes joining shortly after.

Fulham 4-1 Watford: Fulham advanced with a convincing victory against Watford at Craven Cottage. Marco Silva is a brilliant coach, developing an exciting team that plays combative, technical football. I recommend going to a match if you live in the Fulham area.

Wycombe Wanderers 2-0 Portsmouth: Wycombe continue their impressive cup run by defeating a team in the league above them.

Aston Villa 2-1 West Ham United: Aston Villa edged past West Ham in a closely contested match to secure their place in the next stage. Morgan Rogers is becoming a noticable player this season!



Left: Liverpool centre forward, Jayden Danns, scoring the third against Accrington Stanley, setting up a 4th round fixture against Plymouth Argyle. Middle: James McAtee, who seured a hattrick for Manchester City in their win against Salford City. They will face Leyton Orient in the next round of the cup. Right: Manchester United's Joshua Zirkzee scoring the winning penalty against Arsenal. United will next take on Leicester. FMT, CC by 4.0.



Birmingham City 2-1 Lincoln City: Birmingham City extended their unbeaten run this season against the Imps.

Bristol City 1-2 Wolverhampton Wanderers: Routine win for Wolves, with bright left Back Ait-Nouri scoring a lovely, cushioned header.

Middlesbrough 0-1 Blackburn Rovers: Blackburn secured a narrow win at the Riverside Stadium, advancing to the fourth round.

Liverpool 4-0 Accrington Stanley: Liverpool dominated Accrington Stanley at Anfield. A lovely goal from the possibly Madrid-bound Alexander-Arnold. Jota, new signee Chiesa, and young gun Danns also found the net. A no show for Darwin Nunez – who is probably off in the summer at this rate.

Leicester City 6-2 Queens Park Rangers: Leicester showcased their attacking prowess with a high-scoring victory over QPR. James Justin scored a brace, and even Wout Faes got in on the action. (I think he is the worst defender in the league. Sorry.)

Bournemouth 5-1 West Bromwich Albion: Bournemouth delivered an impressive performance to dispatch West Brom and advance. There was another brilliant display from Semenyo, a winger of high interest to Arsenal.

Brentford 0-1 Plymouth Argyle: Possibly the result of the round, Plymouth pulled off a significant upset. Sitting bottom of the championship, Argyle's Morgan Whittaker scored a long-range effort in the 82nd minute, beating a great PL side at home – who rarely lose there.

Chelsea 5-0 Morecambe: Chelsea

cruised past Morecambe with a dominant display at Stamford Bridge. Ugh. They've drawn Brighton at the Amex, thankfully.

Exeter City 3-1 Oxford United: Exeter secured a well-deserved victory over Oxford. I'm sure a few of you Oxford rejects enjoy that.

Norwich City 0-4 Brighton & Hove Albion: Brighton delivered a commanding performance to eliminate Norwich at Carrow Road. Solly March returned to the score sheet. Favourite, and star, Joao Pedro has unfortunately picked up an injury as a result.

Nottingham Forest 2-0 Luton Town: Nottingham advanced with a solid win against Luton. Nuno is a brilliant coach. He is my best bet for MOTS.

Reading 1-3 Burnley (AET): Burnley triumphed over Reading in extra time to secure their place in the next round.

Sunderland 1-2 Stoke City (AET): Stoke edged past Sunderland in extra time to advance in the competition. Arteta has been inspired by this team as of late.

Leeds United 1-0 Harrogate Town: Leeds United narrowly defeated Harrogate Town, with the only goal from Manchester United academy graduate Largie Ramazani.

Manchester City 8-0 Salford City: Manchester City showcased their dominance with a comprehensive victory over Salford City. There was a hattrick from James McAtee and a sympathy penalty for Jack Grealish, who scored for the first time in over a year.

Coventry City 1-1 Sheffield Wednesday (Coventry win 4-3 on penalties): Coventry emerged victorious in a penalty shootout against Sheffield Wednesday.

Hull City 1-1 Doncaster Rovers (Doncaster win 5-4 on penalties): Doncaster advanced after a tense penalty shootout victory over Hull City. Louis Tomlinson must've enjoyed this.

Tamworth 0-3 Tottenham Hotspur (AET): Tottenham overcame a resilient Tamworth side, scoring three goals in extra time to progress. A classic Spurs ordeal – to beat Liverpool at home only to struggle away to a side in the National League.

Arsenal 1-1 Manchester United (Manchester United win 5-3 on penalties):

United's back up goalkeeper, Altay Bayındır, made some heroic saves – including a penalty in normal time too. Arteta has got his side knocked out of essentially two cup competitions in one week. With Jesus now injured, they should make some moves in the market.

Crystal Palace 1-0 Stockport County: Crystal Palace secured a narrow win over Stockport to advance to the next round. The Catnip editor isn't happy about this.

Ipswich Town 3-0 Bristol Rovers: Ipswich Town delivered a convincing performance to defeat Bristol Rovers. City loanee and defensive midfielder, Kalvin Phillips, returned to the scoresheet.

With all the extra time and the option of bigger sides subbing on first team players within this time, it does beg the question of why the FA insists on having it. With the scrap of replays, the best thing for the lower sides in this competition is to scrap ET and go to penalties. It protects football players from not overexerting, meaning that lower sides are more likely to progress, and ensures more chances of penalties – everyone loves penalties.