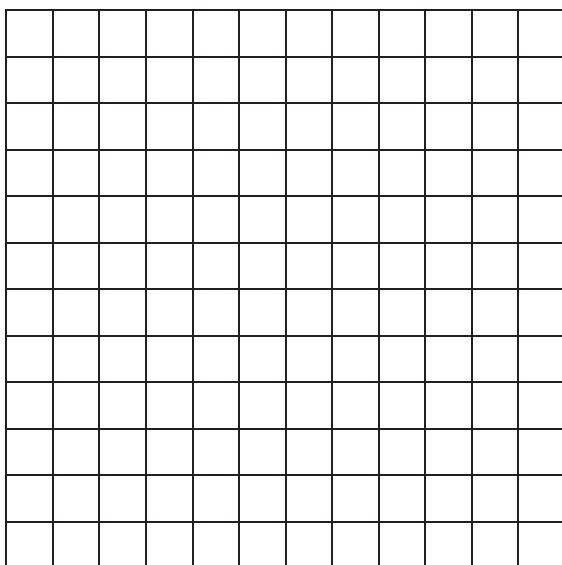


Azed No. 2,450 'Carte Blanche'



The symmetry of the bars in the completed diagram is such that it would look the same if given a quarter turn and if turned upside down. Clues are given in their correct order. Entries submitted should include bars, but numbers are unnecessary.

Name _____

Address _____

Post code _____

Across

- One given to jests, absolutely right about 'gutless press'
- Coarse groundsel requires regular weeding out
- Like moorland plants, new planted? We're not converted
- Difficulty you'll need to examine carefully? Almost
- Way of working ancestry in heraldic cross
- One managing national curriculum, moderation first and last
- Turning round, poet drops first ingredient of salad dressing
- Monkey found within borders of Sumatra, I
- Aspect of ageing to defeat technology? Not I
- Rivet's come adrift? It indicates a measure of tackiness
- VIP's not just this unknown, closeted in a period of the Liturgy
- Belonging to the Iron Age, not long past and not old (2 words)
- Dismal old Mediterranean port that's lost heart
- Legendary lover, one lute's transported
- Demon inside everybody? Look there
- Instrument of brass and gold – no, plated in tin
- Rack for drying cheese or fish
- Fair Scottish pixie in flowing water

Down

- Letter for Israel heads for Qalansawe or possibly Haifa
- Deracination achieved by gun troop I deployed
- Wry, like Wellington in charge?
- Powerful stinger? King maybe declining second
- Thanks! That's got me involved in strong massage technique
- Typical of Sturgeon's speech, mostly full-toned and burning within
- Put fresh match to old flue in Scottish coalyard?
- One in dark, left out?
- First person with rest, we hear, for one end of telescope?
- Myrtle's cousin, girl taken on by film studio that's not succeeded therein
- One popular at dinner parties who's fiddled around near court
- Companion of Virginia, loaded
- Source of oil, hot, that's infused minced ounce
- Forward surge: pack member certainly not upended
- Two sailors disposing of T bone
- Annual, second seen among tall grass, active
- Yank jacket, sleeveless, not fashionable
- Old lizard, over time always shedding tail

The Chambers Dictionary (2014) is recommended.

Azed No. 2,447 solution & notes

1	B	2	O	3	B	4	S	5	T	6	A	7	Y	8	S	9	E	10	C	11	T		
	I		I		L		T		O		P		M		I		N		N		O	12	W
12	B		L		O		O		P		E		A		N		O		O		N		E
14	L		Y		O		M		E		R		I		C		D		G		G		N
	E	16	B		D		P	17	E	18	S		K		I		R		R		E		T
19	B		E		D		I		D		E	20	O		P		S		I		N		Y
	A	21	P		U		T		I	22	D	23	S		U		B		S		E		T
24	S		O		S		A		T		I		E		T	25	S		A		R		W
	H		M		T		I		R		M		A		P		W		I		S		E
29	I		M		I		D		E		E		N	30	H		A		L		O		N
31	N		E		C		E		S		S		A		R		Y		L		O		T
32	G		L		A		M	33	S		A		D		D		L		E		R		Y

Across 10, inn in top row; 14, mer (Fr.) in anag.; 20, 'ops in; 27, anag.; OS = out-size/Ordnance Survey; 31, 3 meanings; 33, anag. incl. e.
Down 1, le bash in (l'm)bibing; 2, alternate letters; 5, a perse; 6, anag. in sit; 9, XL = 40; 16, pomme (Fr.) in bel; 26, medi(a) (rev.); 28, s(c)our.

Rules and requests

£25 in book tokens for the first three correct solutions opened.
 Solutions postmarked no later than Saturday to:
 Azed No. 2,450, The Observer, 90 York Way, London N1 9GU.