

# Azed No. 2,453 Plain

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## Across

- 1 Peter, initially Simon, a symbol suggesting strength? (4)
- 4 Factor causing mental pressure and some distress, ordinarily (8)
- 11 Torturer's instrument causing confusion, reversal of volition, and damaged skin (10)
- 12 Sabbath relaxation, socially acceptable in lax rev (4)
- 13 Highland search trapping adult falcon (5)
- 14 Questionable reading (hasty perhaps), an oath, not dialectal (9)
- 15 Layer of e.g. bridge foundation, mass one encased in teak maybe (6)
- 16 Fried meat dish, last piece dropped in large tub (4)
- 18 Balloon: one rotates up in the air (8)
- 22 Obstacles to troop movement, see, as of old including snare (8)
- 24 A bit of a chanteuse, performing turn? I'm still active (4)
- 26 Party member, Communist (not English) returning, concealed decay (6, 2 words)
- 27 From church one hears chapels where mass is sung (9)
- 28 Old, I'll get help reversing fungal stages (5)
- 29 Dogs bringing up rear in Scottish hunt (4)
- 30 Former generation under regent mostly maltreated (10)
- 31 Ranks, first off, catching steamer departures (8)
- 32 Investigator about end of trail disappeared (4)

## Down

- 1 Watch muscle, getting into condition (8)
- 2 Like jet engine, an article after breaking barrier mostly (12)
- 3 Terribly restless members of the wind section (7)
- 4 Public notice is put up – jokes following if page is missing (6, 2 words)
- 5 Woman in old dress causing old-fashioned look (5)
- 6 Old Norwegian manuscript turning up, penned by 'Karl', I translated (7)
- 7 The old follow European directions (a full set) (5)
- 8 One accompanying king in blue, dirty and unattractive (6)
- 9 Too much publicity proves roué deviously circling former partner (12)
- 10 Best on the pitch from international club? No thanks (4)
- 17 Once dressed in suit I've changed I twice discarded colour (8)
- 19 Start of trouble with damaged Sierra causing delays (7)
- 20 Scots miser, one copper brought in, sheepish creature (7)
- 21 Made rapid progress in English, regarding part of tongue (6)
- 23 Damage to these? Road test may reveal that (6)
- 25 Dogs or deer (but *not* hens?) (5)
- 26 It often accompanies steak, one served in feast? (5)
- 27 Manage local exchange (4)

**The Chambers Dictionary (2014) is recommended.**

# Azed No. 2,450 solution & notes

Q	U	I	P	S	T	E	R	R	U	D	E
O	P	R	H	E	A	T	H	E	N	R	Y
P	R	O	B	P	P	M	O	L	I	N	E
H	O	N	C	H	O	I	T	U	T	R	P
T	O	I	L	E	T	S	I	M	P	A	I
O	T	C	A	N	E	S	C	E	N	C	E
V	I	S	C	O	M	E	T	E	R	O	C
A	N	Y	O	N	E	L	A	T	E	N	E
R	E	J	H	F	N	T	R	I	S	T	E
I	S	E	U	L	T	R	S	D	E	E	V
C	O	R	N	O	P	E	A	N	D	U	E
H	A	K	E	W	E	E	L	F	A	R	T

**Across** 7, alternate letters; 11, prob(e); 13, NC in ho x 2; 15, T. (S.) Eliot (rev.); 16, imp in S, a + I, & lit.; 23, y in a None; 26, Tri(e)ste; 30, or nope in can.  
**Down** 3, ref. the 'Iron Duke'; 4, S(t)ephen (King), US novelist; 6, hot in ric(h); ref. Nicola Sturgeon, Scottish politician; 7, lum in ree; 8, un(l)it; 9, i.e. 'I peace'; 12, miss + El(s)tree; 15, to VA rich; 21, tar + sal(T); 25, jerk(in); 27, eve(r) + t.

### Rules and requests

£25 in book tokens for the first three correct solutions opened.  
 Solutions postmarked no later than Saturday to:  
 Azed No. 2,453, The Observer, 90 York Way, London N1 9GU.