Q1: The origins of which Olympic sport, first introduced in 1988 and dominated by the Chinese, came from an English after dinner party activity at the end of the 19th century, when everyday objects replaced the equipment used today?
A1: Table tennis (with books often used for the bats and usually also the net)

Q2: Which gymnastics event is this?
A2: Vault

Q3: Who is this boxer, who would go on to win more than $300 million in his career?
A3: Oscar de la Hoya (winning a gold medal at the 1992 Olympics)

Q4: Who celebrated his 2014 Wimbledon victory by marrying me the following week?
A4: Novak Djokovic (who married Jelena Ristic)

Q5: The company represented by this brand, holds the world record as having the longest unbroken sporting sponsorship in history from 1902 till today, of which event?
A5: Wimbledon ('Slazenger')

Q6: Which club has won a record 20 top-flight English football league titles?
A6: Manchester United (the last being in 2012–13 - next best are Liverpool with 18)

Q7: This ESPN ad features which famous sportsman?
A7: Rickie Fowler

Q8: Which golf course is known as the "Home Of Golf"?
A8: St Andrews (in Scotland)

Q9: The actress featuring here, was set to represent Mexico in what sport at the 1980 Olympics, until her Dad stepped in and vetoed it?
A9: Gymnastics (it's Salma Hayek)

Q10: P!nk was "raising her glass" to us here when: 2008, 2009 or 2010?
A10: 2010 (LA Lakers won the NBA, Graeme McDowell the US Open and San Francisco Giants the World Series)

Ponderous Puzzle Clue 2: (9 BONUS POINTS)
I am a semi-presidential democratic republic where executive functions are shared between the President and the Prime Minister. My government is based here at Victoria Palace. I remained neutral for the first two years of World War I, and the first year of World War II. My rapidly growing tourism sector is a significant contributor to my economy.
Q1: What is the nationality of this chef?
A1: Swedish (The chef from the Muppets)

Q2: Musk, roe, sambar and sika are all types of what animal?
A2: Deer

Q3: What do I like "shaken not stirred"?
A3: Martinis (James Bond)

Q4: Italian for "bitter", is Amaro an Italian candy, liqueur or pizza seasoning?
A4: Liqueur (commonly drunk as an after-dinner digestif)

Q5: Watermelons are indigenous to which continent, the world's second-largest?
A5: Africa

Q6: What is the name of this baked French dessert?
A6: Clafouti (Custard and cherry baked pie)

Q7: What is this cocktail called, named after the most populous island of the USA?
A7: Long Island Iced Tea

Q8: What color are the flowers on this plant?
A8: Yellow (fennel plant)

Q9: What is the name of this knife, used for intricate work?
A9: Paring knife

Q10: From what animal is the meat in a Spanish chorizo sausage taken: Cow, Duck or Pig?
A10: Pig (it's a pork sausage)

Ponderous Puzzle Clue 3: (8 BONUS POINTS)

My national holiday, Union Day, occurs on 1 December. I joined NATO in 2004. Arad is my twelfth largest city. This is George Emil Palade, one of my famous scientists, who received the Nobel Prize. The spelling of my name was somewhat confused until around 1975, when it was changed to how you know it today. This is my national anthem. (Quiz host info: was previously 'Rumânia')
ODD ONE OUT

Q1: Whose name is a mononym, that is not their real given name: A, B or C?
A1: A (Moby - born Richard Hall)

Q2: Which is not a port in France: Dunkerque, Oostende or Calais?
A2: Oostende (Belgium)

Q3: Which cartoon character was not voiced by Mel Blanc: A, B or C?
A3: A (Atom Ant - voiced by Howard Morris)

Q4: Which bone is not in the arm: ulna, humerus or hyoid?
A4: Hyoid (it's in the neck)

Q5: Which country does not share a border with Zimbabwe: Kenya, Mozambique or South Africa?
A5: Kenya

Q6: Which actor survived in the film The Departed: Jack Nicholson, Leonardo DiCaprio, Mark Wahlberg or Matt Damon?
A6: Mark Wahlberg

Q7: Which film was not released in 1984: An Officer and a Gentleman, Revenge of the Nerds or The Karate Kid?
A7: An Officer and a Gentleman (1982)

Q8: Cannelloni, linguine or manicotti?
A8: Linguine (cannelloni and manicotti are cylindrical & stuffed, linguine is spaghetti-like)

Q9: Who did not voice a character in this film: Billy Crystal, Tom Hanks or Tim Allen?
A9: Billy Crystal ('Toy Story' from 1995)

Q10: Which photo is not taken in the USA: A, B or C?
A10: C (Canary Wharf in London)

Ponderous Puzzle Clue 4: (6 BONUS POINTS)
My population is the seventh largest in the European Union. At 8,346 feet, my highest mountain is Moldoveanu Peak. My cities include Iaşi and Constanţa. The Danube river empties out here. I was an ally of Nazi Germany during World War II. Although I have no state religion, over 80% of my constituents identified as Christian at the 2011 census.
Q1: Named after a precious stone, who is this band, from 1957 and 2004 respectively?
A1: *The Diamonds* (singing ‘Little Darlin’)

Q2: A Dead Head was a name given to fans of which band, featuring here?
A2: *Grateful Dead* (singing ‘Touch of Grey’)

Q3: Featuring here, what term is used to describe the lowest female voice type?
A3: *Contralto* (‘Erbarme Dich accept’ by Eula Beal)

Q4: Who was the lead singer of this band?
A4: *Debbie Harry* (‘Rapture’ by Blondie)

Q5: This is the first piano concerto of which composer?
A5: *(Pyotr Ilyich) Tchaikovsky* (‘Piano Concerto No 1’)

Q6: What is the name of this band?
A6: *Canned Heat* (singing ‘On The Road Again’)

Q7: Who composed this theme?
A7: *Henry Mancini* (Pink Panther theme)

Q8: Court documents show that Abel Tesfaye pleaded "no contest" in a Las Vegas court recently after punching a cop in January. By what name is he better known?
A8: *The Weeknd* (‘Elastic Heart’ by Sia, The Weeknd, Diplo)

Q9: My highest charting hit in 1990 was called Wicked what?
A9: *Wicked Game* (‘Easy’ by Chris Isaak)

Q10: Is this album called Blonde On Blonde, Empire Burlesque or Infidels?
A10: *Infidels* (‘Jokerman’ by Bob Dylan)

**Ponderous Puzzle Clue 5: (5 BONUS POINTS)**
The eastern and southern Carpathian Mountains run through my centre and I have a stretch of coastline along the Black Sea. The largest country in southeast Europe, my communist regime was overthrown in late 1989. My flag consists of three equal vertical strips.
POT LUCK

Q1: Which country has changed the law to allow couples to have two children instead of one?
A1: China

Q2: Which bone is highlighted in red?
A2: Sternum

Q3: This is a painting by which 20th century French artist?
A3: Henri Matisse (it's called 'The Dance')

Q4: What name is given to metals that are resistant to corrosion or oxidation, examples of which include gold, silver, osmium, platinum, palladium and rhodium?
A4: Noble metals

Q5: What name is given to the den in which I live in the wild?
A5: Holt (it's an otter)

Q6: The arrow is pointing to which country?
A6: India (32 km north-west of Sri Lanka)

Q7: Which king who ruled from 768 to 814, is thought of as the founding father of both France and Germany?
A7: Charlemagne

Q8: Taurus, Virgo and what other make up the three Earth signs in astrology?
A8: Capricorn

Q9: Before her death in 2009, Millvina Dean was the last survivor of which tragedy?
A9: The sinking of the RMS Titanic (her full name was Elizabeth Gladys Millvina Dean)

Q10: Which country is farthest from contiguous USA: Argentina, China or Spain?
A10: China

Ponderous Puzzle Clue 6: (4 BONUS POINTS)
I border Hungary, Serbia, Ukraine, Moldova and Bulgaria. I was formed by merging Moldavia and Wallachia in 1859. I played at the 2015 Rugby World Cup, but as has always been the case, never made it out of pool play. This is my flag.
7

PLANES, TRAINS AND AUTOMOBILES

The Hogwarts Express is a magical train that services Platform 9¾ at which London train station?

Q1:                        
A1: King's Cross           (in the 'Harry Potter' book series)

Q2: What is the make and model of this vehicle, which was discontinued in 2013?

A2: Volkswagen Kombi

Q3: Which airline began life in 1946, named after the ancient name for China?

A3: Cathay Pacific

Q4: First introduced in 1970, Boeing have made around 1,500 models of which plane, that held the passenger capacity record for 37 years, before the introduction of the A380?

A4: 747

Q5: The completion of a bridge of the Amur River in 1916, saw the opening of which famous railway?

A5: Trans-Siberian Railway

Q6: This is the logo for what?

A6: Citroën

Q7: This was the fore-runner to which current airline?

A7: British Airways        (BOAC - British Overseas Airways Corporation)

Q8: This is the TV theme to which show?

A8: Thomas The Tank Engine

Q9: Which surname links these men?

A9: Andretti              (NASCAR motor racing - together, Mario, Michael and Marco make up three generations of NASCAR drivers)

Q10: Was the term "horsepower" first coined by Henry Ford, George Stevenson or James Watt?

A10: James Watt            (in 1782 while working in the performance of steam engines)

Ponderous Puzzle Clue 7: (2 BONUS POINTS)
TV & CINEMA

Q1: This is a clip from which film?
A1: Burnt

Q2: Which TV show is co-hosted by this duo?
A2: MythBusters (Adam Savage and Jamie Hyneman)

Q3: Whose dreams were almost shattered last year, when she was revealed to be 35 not 29?
A3: Rebel Wilson

Q4: This is a clip from which film, that caused controversy as it was the first to feature an explicit sex scene?
A4: Don't Look Now

Q5: What is this TV character's occupation?
A5: Mailman (Cliff Clavin on 'Cheers')

Q6: This is the only James Bond movie ever, where the famous spy genre catchphrase "Nobody ever leaves the KGB" is heard. What is the film called?
A6: A View To A Kill (the phrase was said by General Gogol)

Q7: This is the voice of which TV character?
A7: Papa Smurf

Q8: The films The War of the Roses, Romancing the Stone and Jewel of the Nile all contained which three thespians?
A8: Danny de Vito, Michael Douglas, Kathleen Turner

Q9: Who has been announced as the host of this year's Oscars, his second appearance after his debut in 2005?
A9: Chris Rock

Q10: Was this film released in 1982, 1984 or 1986?
A10: 1982 ('Rambo - 'First Blood')

Ponderous Puzzle Clue 8: (1 BONUS POINT)
My capital and largest city is Bucharest. Perhaps my most famous sportsperson is gymnast Nadia Comaneci. My name derives from the Latin meaning "citizen of Rome".

PONDEROUS PUZZLE ANSWER: Romania

TIE-BREAK - (NEAREST ANSWER WINS) - How many days after his Mom and Dad got married, was England's Prince George born? ANSWER: 815
(They married on 29 April 2011, Prince George was born on 22 July 2013)