**SCALE, Las Vegas, 24 May: Q&A**

1. **Welcome - Did you enjoy the coronation?**

isn’t it incredible that the first question is about the royal family? does it perhaps show that beneath it all there is a tiny glimmering of regret for the events of 1776…. does it not show that there is a merit in the division

it was a primeval event – amazing to see the way the curtains were drawn around him and he was disrobed and anointed with chrism

1. **Little known fact - you were actually born in the US - what can you tell us about those early years…?**

parents were students – that’s why I am called Boris but became too expensive to keep up

1. **First call after university was journalism - what was it about the world of reporting on events and authority that attracted you?**

actually I became a management consultant but I couldn’t stay awake… all the president’s men and scoop

they found a castle that had been built by Edward 2

journalism is crucial – imagine if there was a free press in Russia

that’s why he invaded

that’s what we are fighting for

Evan Gershkovich, wall street journal reporter – has been imprisoned in Russia for 57 days now.

1. **So - what was the shift that led you into British politics? And what advice you would give to a wannabe political leader starting that journey?**

I was constantly tearing things down and wanted the chance to build and do things

it was like a mid-life crisis

advice to wannabes: never never never never never give in

1. **How did the Mayor of London opportunity arise?**

I think it was desperation -- no one thought the conservatives could win in London and they had asked just about everyone else

1. **How would you summarize your multiple terms looking after one of the world's greatest cities?**

we cut the murder rate by 50 per cent and crime by 20 per cent

we doubled cycling

we built record numbers of homes

we had a fantastic Olympic games

London became the most visited city on earth

the population went up from 8 to 9 m

average life expectancy went up by 1.5 years for men and 1 year for women

London had none of the poorest boroughs by the end

1. **Theresa may resigns, you are elevated to leader and PM. How was that? Did the task line up with your expectations?**

won the biggest majority for 40 years, biggest share of the vote since 1979

and that was after almost ten years of tory government

but I had many enemies

1. **The war in Ukraine continues. We’ve seen many predictions fall by the wayside - from your perspective- what happens next?**
2. **As Prime Minister, you had to deal with many Geo political situations… When it comes to the Middle East, Iran often seems to be at the center of several stories… Is there a way that world leaders can create a durable peace in the region - does Iran ever truly come to that table?**
3. **There is a concerted western push to Decouple from China and many predictions from experts on both sides… What are your insights on the relationship between the west and China going forward after Covid, and with so many harsh words having been exchanged?**
4. **You were a strong advocate for Brexit - it put you on the national stage. Was it the right decision?**

it was a fantastic thing to do

it’s about freedom

we were told there was going to be huge numbers of people laid off work

- mhra – free trade deals

1. **What was behind the vote result then and how do you think it will shape Britain into the future?**

It was about wanting change… people’s incomes hadn’t increased since the crash of 2008

they wanted national independence

they wanted control

but we need to make it work – need to level up across the UK and cut taxes

need a big invest here sign in the UK

genomics –

AI

finance

1. **In terms of economic conditions, Europe seems to be having a tougher time than the US right now… How do you see the Europe journey especially in light of Brexit…?**
2. **You met many world leaders. Any interesting observations?**

Putin – surprisingly small and speaks good English

Merkel – very funny with a very cool academic husband

Macron - likes dogs

1. **During your tenure as Prime Minister, what do you believe was your most significant achievement, and what impact has it had on the United Kingdom?**

biggest constitutional change for 50 years – totally different destiny

fastest vaccine roll-out

helped to shape the world response to ukraine

1. **How do you think your government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic shaped the UK's trajectory during the crisis, and what lessons can be learned for future public health emergencies?**

we had one of the most obese and diverse populations

we are a liberal democracy

but we ended up way down the table for excess deaths – below Germany for instance

and we had a very fast vaccine roll-out

1. **Covid changed everything - in terms of the response, the lockdowns, the vaccination program, the PR. Anything you would have done differently?**

you had to lock down when the moment was right – it was incredibly difficult

it plainly made a huge difference to the R

I think try to do things together – UK we had public health done differently across the four nations

get better early warning systems

have a vaccine manufacturing capability

1. **Trust in experts, trust in politics all declining – how would you explain? Is it a bad thing?**
2. **Climate change is a pressing global issue, and the UK has made commitments to reduce emissions and transition to greener energy sources. What role do you see the UK playing in the global effort to combat climate change?**

I chaired cop 26 – the teetering apogee

people are being driven to cleaner solutions

we need to make electric cars

1. **As the UK seeks to forge new relationships in trade and diplomacy, what are the key opportunities and challenges that the country faces on the international stage?**

China – we

us – going to be with us for a long time

1. **What next for Boris Johnson?**

books