We ask a celebrity a set of devilishly probing questions – and only accept THE definitive answer. This week: political broadcaster Andrew Neil

The prized possession you value above all others... My iPad Pro. I’m always on the move and use it for everything: email, music, booking flights. It does everything – except make a cup of tea.

The biggest regret you wish you could amend... Falling out with people for no good reason. Losing friendships is so unnecessary and pride can get in the way of putting things right.

The temptation you wish you could resist... Being too quick to say what I think. I’ve made enemies that way – biting my tongue would be more diplomatic.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... Adam Smith’s The Wealth Of Nations. I read it at university and it was heavy-going in parts, but its radical edge gave me a new view on the world.

The figure from history for whom you’d most like to buy a pie and a pint... George Washington. I’d ask him about the War of Independence and if he thought it was avoidable.

The poem that touches your soul... I’m moved by Edward Elgar – his music is poetry. It makes me feel very British.

The piece of wisdom you’d pass on to a child... Don’t make too many plans. Trust your instincts and be ready to seize opportunities.

The event that altered the course of your life and character... Becoming editor of The Sunday Times at 34. I’d never worked on a national newspaper before and it took me from the obscurity of The Economist to the frontline.

The university you would attend knowing you could get away with anything... I’d steal the House of Commons Mace and put it on my dining table so I could have a good argument across it with any guests.

The general you would vote for if you had the chance... Arthur. It reminds me of fantastic times living in New York between 1978-82.

The person who has influenced you most... Alastair Burnet. He gave me my first job in journalism at 24 and was my mentor at The Economist. He was my editor at The Economist. He was my mentor and someone I aspired to be. I read the eulogy at his funeral.

The order of service at your funeral... A burst of Elgar, Fire And Rain by James Taylor. It’s such a beautiful song that takes me back to the 70s and makes me feel wistful.

The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it... I’d start at dawn white-water rafting with my wife Susan down the Grand Canyon in Colorado. Then we’d have eggs and bacon cooked over a fire on the riverbank. After that we’d go scuba-diving in the Maldives, followed by lunch in the vineyards at Hunter Valley, Australia. We’d have fish with a local chardonnay. Back to the Maldives for afternoon tea with cucumber sandwiches on a sand bar in the middle of the Indian Ocean. In the evening we’d take our four dogs for a walk in the forest near our home in the South of France before dinner at the Colombe d’Or restaurant in Saint-Paul de Vence. I’d have steak with a bottle of Calon-Ségur red wine. The day would end on the terrace at home with a Jameson whiskey and a Montecristo No.2 cigar.

The happiest moment you will cherish forever... When I married Susan on 8 August 2015. Many people said it would never happen, including me! But it seemed the natural thing to do.

The saddest time that shook your world... The death of my brother Jim in 2009 from pancreatic cancer. He was only 70. We’d been so close and he was the best big brother you could hope for.

The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it... I’d steal the House of Commons Mace and put it on my dining table so I could have a good argument across it with any guests.

The song that means most to you... That jazz-loving sleuthing vicar is back in Grantchester. Then why not try original star Robin Ellis’s healthy Mediterranean recipes?

The film you can watch time and time again... Arthu...