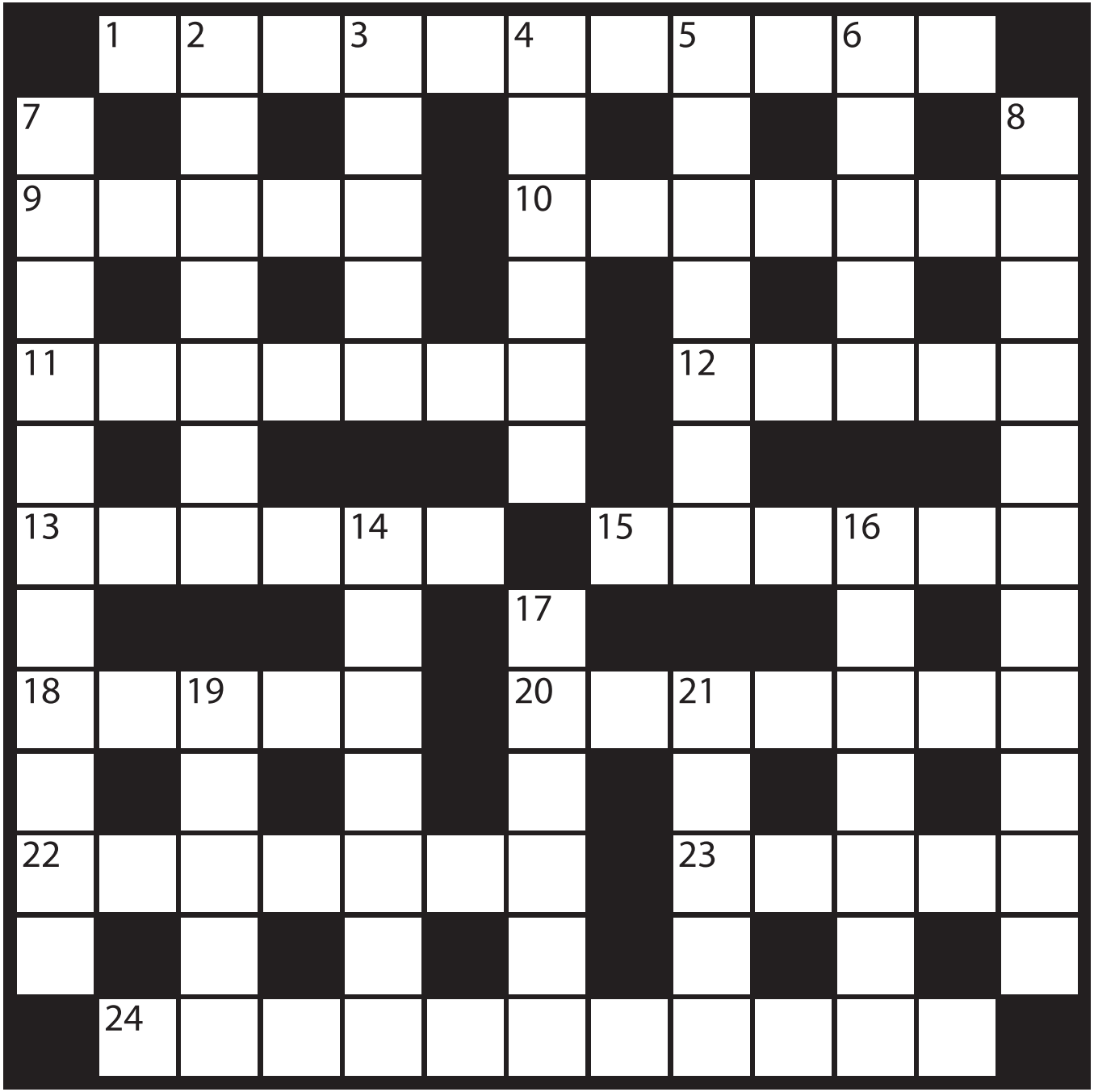
ACROSS

1 Papal state within Rome (7,4)
9 ___ Asimov, author of the 1950 book *I, Robot* (5)
10 Pillars (7)
11 Action inflating one's self-importance (3,4)
12 Moisten during roasting (5)
13 Prime of life (6)
15 Praises (6)
18 Extinct birds (5)
20 Epistle (7)
22 Below freezing (3-4)
23 Live (5)
24 Reject or throw out (4,3,4)

DOWN

2 Parallel (7)
3 Provoke (5)
4 Take as true (6)
5 Public telephone (4,3)
6 Big books (5)
7 Fail (4,3,4)
8 Valuations (11)
14 Bare, harsh (7)
16 Roots (7)
17 Slow dance (6)
19 Small Gulf state (5)
21 Ewe or ram (5)