

(1) An octal number system uses what as a base number: 0, 1 or 8?

Eight.

(2) From 1937 until his death in 1989, the Irish playwright Samuel Beckett spent most of his time in and around which European capital city?

Paris.

(3) Ben E. King was a former member of which group: The Commodores, The Platters or The Drifters?

The Drifters.

(4) What international cricket team is called the 'Black Caps'?

New Zealand.

(5) Who was the first Federal German Chancellor to have been raised in the former East Germany: Angela Merkel, Helmut Kohl or Gerhard Schröder?

Angela Merkel.

(6) In which decade did Arthur Scargill become leader of the NUM?

1980s. (1982-2002)

(7) In the United States what is measured by Nielsen ratings: TV audiences, airport usage or obesity levels?

TV audiences.

(8) A pilgrim to Mecca should walk round the Kabba shrine how many times?

Seven.

(9) The guitarist with what fictional band has the real-life title Baron Haden-Guest: Bad News, The Rutles or Spinal Tap?

Spinal Tap.

(10) Who was the first woman to be made Home Secretary?

Jacqui Smith.

(11) Which of these is NOT a knot: sheepshank, dogshank or horseshank?

Horseshank.

(12) The Tudor Rose emblem was created after what famous English battle?

Battle of Bosworth Field.

(13) How many of the 50 US states did Ronald Regan win in the 1984 US Presidential Elections: 29, 39 or 49?

49.

(14) Following the downgrading of Pluto to a dwarf planet, which planet is now furthest away from Earth?

Neptune.

(15) What does the medieval word 'coney-garth' mean: chicken-coop, cowshed or rabbit-warren?

Rabbit-warren.

(16) The actress Lilly Langtree was the mistress of which future British king?

Edward VII.

(17) Which of these peaks does NOT have a name that translates into English as 'white mountain': Mauna Kea, Matterhorn or Mont Blanc?

Matterhorn.

(18) The name of which famous Italian opera house in Milan, translates into English as 'the staircase' or 'stairway'?

La Scala.

(19) Which battle is the subject of J.M.W Turner's largest painting and his only royal commission: Blenheim, Trafalgar or Waterloo?

Trafalgar.

(20) Name the eleven post-war UK prime ministers with the shortest surnames, post-war is from VE Day 1945 to present?

May, Eden, Blair, Brown, Heath, Major, Truss, Attlee, Wilson, Johnson & Cameron.

- (21) Which novel has an opening line that refers to the 'clocks striking thirteen'?
- Nineteen Eight Four.**
- (22) What is the name of the Israeli intelligence agency that has a Hebrew name meaning 'institute'?
- Mossad.**
- (23) The shortest British horse-races are run over how many furlongs?
- Five.**
- (24) Which comic book heroine was an Amazonian princess?
- Wonder Woman.**
- (25) What imperial measurement of length did Henry I decree should be the distance from the King's nose to the tip of his outstretched thumb?
- Yard.**
- (26) The lowest value US coin in circulation is worth how many cents?
- One.**
- (27) 'My Word is my Bond' published in 2008 is the autobiography of which actor?
- Roger Moore.**
- (28) The late Queen's (Elizabeth II) actual birthday was in what month?
- April.**
- (29) How many US states have a coastline on the Gulf of Mexico?
- Five.**
- (30) What is the name of the Royal Navy cruiser moored on the Thames near Tower Bridge, which is now a museum ship open to the public?
- HMS Belfast.**

(31) Opened in 1935, a bridge crossing the Hudson River is named after which Washington Irving character: Ichabod Crane, Rip Van Winkle or Headless Horseman?

Rip Van Winkle.

(32) Nephology is the study of what metrological phenomena?

Clouds. (From the Greek 'Nepfos' meaning cloud)

(33) An interrogative sentence should end with what punctuation mark: quotation mark, exclamation mark or question mark?

Question mark.

(34) Which river flows through the Iron Gate Gorge that forms part of the border between Serbia and Romania?

Danube.

(35) In a traditional Italian meal, which of these elements is eaten last: secondo, dolce or contorno?

Dolce.

(36) 1986 was what anniversary of the Doomsday Book?

900th.

(37) Hungarian replaced what as the official language of Hungary in 1844: German, Russian or Latin?

Latin.

(38) In October 2015, England became the first host nation of the Rugby World Cup ever to be knocked out at the group stage, after losing matches to Australia and who else?

Wales.

(39) Which 'EastEnders' dog was NOT seen in the first ever episode: Roly, Frieda or Willy?

Frieda.

(40) In an alphabetical list of US states, name the first ten states that end with the letter 'A'?

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana & Minnesota.