

English General Knowledge

1. This year marks the anniversary of the Good Friday agreement. What was the agreement?

- a. A defining agreement of the Northern Ireland peace process.
- b. An agreement on whether Good Friday should be a bank holiday or not.
- c. An agreement granting Irish independence from the UK.
- d. A document admitting fault in the Bloody Sunday massacre.

2. In Britain, the Chancellor of the Exchequer is one of the most important members of the government. Which of the following best describes his or her role?

- a. The head of the government (as opposed to the head of state).
- b. The officer in charge of communication between the two houses of parliament.
- c. The minister in charge of fiscal and monetary policy.
- d. None of the above

3. What is the motto that appears on the British coat of arms?

- a. Rule Britannia
- b. For Queen and Country
- c. Dieu et mon droit
- d. God save the Queen

4. The Falklands war occurred between Britain and which country?

- a. Argentina
- b. Scotland
- c. Falkland
- d. Bosnia

5. The "-gate" suffix is heard a lot in the media, the origin comes from the Watergate scandal that unseated the US president Nixon. What was the scandal about?

- a. Improper use of public funds destined to construct a dam and the president's attempt to cover it up.
- b. An attempt by the president to bug political opponent's offices
- c. The government's role in the coup in Chile that propelled Pinochet to power.
- d. Improper sexual relations between the president and a White House secretary.

6. What does the phrase "going Dutch" refer to?

- a. Each person should pay their way at a restaurant.
- b. A child skipping school.
- c. Quitting a job without notice.
- d. Going overboard in your support for a football team.

7. What does GDP stand for?

- a. Grand Democratic Production
- b. Good Domestic Produce
- c. General Divestment Portfolio
- d. Gross Domestic Product

8. Which of the following statements are true? Gibraltar,

- a. Belongs to Spain.
- b. Is a British Overseas Territory.
- c. Is a member of the European Union.
- d. Is an island.

9. Which of the following statements are true? Abraham Lincoln (several answers possible)

- a. Was one of the first Republicans
- b. Was one of the first Democrats
- c. Was assassinated
- d. Is one of the faces on Mount Rushmore

10. Used in conversation, the phrase "zero sum game":

- a. Refers to politicians who intentionally push things to the limit.
- b. Is a reference to failed tax policy.
- c. Is a game where you use a combination of words and numbers to achieve a score of exactly zero.
- d. Means that if there are winners, there must be losers.

11. Which of the following countries was the first to grant women the right to vote in 1893

- a. New Zealand
- b. Israel
- c. France
- d. Sweden

12. The two leading mobile phone operating systems are iOS (Apple) and Android (Google), what are their respective global market shares in terms of usage?

- a. 18% (iOS) / 82 % (Android)
- b. 49% (iOS) / 51 % (Android)
- c. 73% (iOS) / 27 % (Android)
- d. 93% (iOS) / 7 % (Android)

13. Following America's most recent mass shootings in a Florida high-school in February 2017, President Trump reacted by:

- a. Passing a bill that modified the Second Amendment of the US Constitution on the "right of the people to keep and bear arms"
- b. Tweeting that the student survivors portrayed in the media were not actually students, but actors paid by the anti-gun lobby
- c. Saying that he could have done a better job than the police officer who was too scared to intervene
- d. signing an executive order granting primary and secondary school teachers the right to carry a low-calibre firearm in the classroom

14. Chose the answer that best completes the sentence: “The Westminster parliamentary system...

- a. ...was devised in 1901 following the death of Queen Victoria to give more power to elected members of the Parliament of the United Kingdom.
- b. ...has influenced many forms of government around the world (eg. Australia and Pakistan)
- c. ...is only in effect in the United Kingdom and is named after Lord Westminster who devised the system
- d. ...is still used in all former British colonies and is seen as one of the great gifts of British colonization

15. Which of the following is considered as the world’s largest economy in terms of GDP?

- a. The United states of America
- b. China
- c. The European Union
- d. Japan

16. Which of the following major events occurred at the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics? (several answers possible)

- a. The Russian Olympic Team was banned from competing by the IOC which felt that Russian military intervention in Syria went against the Olympic principle of ‘Peace Amongst Nations’
- b. the first steps towards peace in the Korean peninsula were taken when both North and South Korea attended the opening ceremony under the flag of Korean Unification
- c. US President Donald Trump attended the opening ceremony but refused to applaud North Korean athletes as they entered the stadium
- d. 168 Russian athletes competed despite the official IOC ban on the Russian delegation

17. Which of the following countries has the largest proven crude oil reserves

- a. Venezuela
- b. Norway
- c. The United Arab Emirates
- d. Brazil

18. In which of the following sentences is the word 'oversight' used correctly (several answers possible) :

- a. Sound fiscal policy requires effective government oversight.
- b. The Eiffel Tower is one of Paris' greatest oversights.
- c. Forgetting to confirm the restaurant reservation for their wedding anniversary was a major oversight.
- d. Prison guards in watch-towers have more oversight than prison guards on the ground.

19. In 1991, Aung San Suu Kyi was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for "...her non-violent struggle for democracy and human rights." In recent years, she has been accused of ...?

- a. having colluded with the Myanmar Junta during her 15 years of house arrest
- b. failing to take action against the oppression of the Rohingya people in Myanmar
- c. embezzling the Nobel Prize money (\$1.3 million) instead of using it to further peace
- d. no longer upholding the Nobel principles and has thus had her Prize revoked

20. To be added to the UNESCO World Heritage list, the proposal must... (several answers possible)

- a. ... be of significant cultural importance
- b. ... have considerable economic potential
- c. ... be recognised by all 193 sovereign states of the UN
- d. ... contain areas of exceptional natural beauty