

40 Hard general knowledge quiz questions and answers

Hard General Knowledge · Hard

1. Which element has the chemical symbol K?

- A) Potassium
- B) Krypton
- C) Calcium
- D) Phosphorus

2. Which is the only letter that does not appear in the name of any US state?

- A) J
- B) X
- C) Q
- D) Z

3. Which planet rotates on its side, with an axial tilt of about 98 degrees?

- A) Neptune
- B) Uranus
- C) Saturn
- D) Venus

4. Who painted 'The Hay Wain'?

- A) J. M. W. Turner
- B) Thomas Gainsborough
- C) George Stubbs
- D) John Constable

5. In which year was the Battle of Waterloo?

- A) 1805
- B) 1815
- C) 1812
- D) 1821

6. What is the square root of 169?

- A) 12
- B) 14
- C) 17
- D) 13

7. What is the longest bone in the human body?

- A) Tibia
- B) Humerus
- C) Fibula
- D) Femur

8. Which language has the most native speakers in the world?

- A) English
- B) Mandarin Chinese
- C) Spanish
- D) Hindi

9. Who wrote 'One Hundred Years of Solitude'?

- A) Jorge Luis Borges
- B) Isabel Allende
- C) Gabriel García Márquez
- D) Mario Vargas Llosa

10. What is the capital of Brazil?

- A) Rio de Janeiro
- B) São Paulo

- C) Brasília
- D) Salvador

11. What is the smallest prime number?

- A) 1
- B) 3
- C) 2
- D) 0

12. In the equation $E = mc^2$, what does the c stand for?

- A) Charge
- B) Constant of gravity
- C) Circumference
- D) The speed of light

13. Which artist cut off part of his own ear in 1888?

- A) Paul Gauguin
- B) Vincent van Gogh
- C) Claude Monet
- D) Édouard Manet

14. Which brothers made the first powered aeroplane flight, in 1903?

- A) The Wright brothers
- B) The Montgolfier brothers
- C) The Lumière brothers
- D) The Grimm brothers

15. How many sides does a dodecagon have?

- A) 10
- B) 12
- C) 11
- D) 20

16. Which composer wrote the 'Moonlight' Sonata?

- A) Beethoven
- B) Mozart
- C) Chopin
- D) Schubert

17. What is a group of owls called?

- A) A murder
- B) A charm
- C) A congress
- D) A parliament

18. In which country is the temple complex of Angkor Wat?

- A) Thailand
- B) Cambodia
- C) Vietnam
- D) Laos

19. In which Shakespeare play does the line 'To be, or not to be' appear?

- A) Macbeth
- B) Hamlet
- C) King Lear
- D) Othello

20. What is the most common blood group in the UK?

- A) A positive
- B) O negative
- C) O positive
- D) B positive

21. Which naturalist set out the theory of evolution by natural selection in 'On the Origin of

Species'?

- A) Charles Darwin
- B) Alfred Russel Wallace
- C) Gregor Mendel
- D) Jean-Baptiste Lamarck

22. What is the name of the galaxy that contains our solar system?

- A) Andromeda
- B) Triangulum
- C) The Milky Way
- D) The Large Magellanic Cloud

23. Which author created the detective Sherlock Holmes?

- A) Agatha Christie
- B) Wilkie Collins
- C) G. K. Chesterton
- D) Arthur Conan Doyle

24. What is the currency of India?

- A) The rupiah
- B) The taka
- C) The rupee
- D) The ringgit

25. Who was the Greek god of the sea?

- A) Hermes
- B) Poseidon
- C) Apollo
- D) Hades

26. Which Roman town was buried by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79?

- A) Ostia
- B) Paestum
- C) Syracuse
- D) Pompeii

27. How many bits are there in a byte?

- A) 4
- B) 10
- C) 8
- D) 16

28. What is the longest river in Africa?

- A) The Nile
- B) The Congo
- C) The Niger
- D) The Zambezi

29. Which novel begins 'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times'?

- A) Great Expectations
- B) A Tale of Two Cities
- C) Bleak House
- D) Oliver Twist

30. In a web address, what does 'www' stand for?

- A) World Wide Web
- B) World Web Website
- C) Wide Web World
- D) World Wide Webpage

31. Who was granted the first US patent for the telephone, in 1876?

- A) Thomas Edison
- B) Nikola Tesla
- C) Guglielmo Marconi

D) Alexander Graham Bell

32. In which city is Antoni Gaudí's basilica, the Sagrada Família?

- A) Madrid
- B) Seville
- C) Barcelona
- D) Valencia

33. What is the chemical symbol for silver?

- A) Si
- B) Sv
- C) Au
- D) Ag

34. Titan is the largest moon of which planet?

- A) Jupiter
- B) Uranus
- C) Saturn
- D) Neptune

35. What is the largest moon of Jupiter?

- A) Ganymede
- B) Io
- C) Europa
- D) Callisto

36. Whose portrait is on the US one-dollar bill?

- A) George Washington
- B) Abraham Lincoln
- C) Thomas Jefferson
- D) Benjamin Franklin

37. How many strings does a standard concert pedal harp have?

- A) 36
- B) 47
- C) 40
- D) 52

38. What is a word or phrase that reads the same backwards as forwards called?

- A) An anagram
- B) An acronym
- C) A palindrome
- D) A homophone

39. Who painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel?

- A) Raphael
- B) Leonardo da Vinci
- C) Michelangelo
- D) Botticelli

40. What is 50 in Roman numerals?

- A) C
- B) L
- C) D
- D) X

Answers

1. Potassium
2. Q
3. Uranus
4. John Constable
5. 1815
6. 13
7. Femur
8. Mandarin Chinese
9. Gabriel García Márquez
10. Brasília
11. 2
12. The speed of light
13. Vincent van Gogh
14. The Wright brothers
15. 12
16. Beethoven
17. A parliament
18. Cambodia
19. Hamlet
20. O positive
21. Charles Darwin
22. The Milky Way
23. Arthur Conan Doyle
24. The rupee
25. Poseidon
26. Pompeii
27. 8
28. The Nile
29. A Tale of Two Cities
30. World Wide Web
31. Alexander Graham Bell
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