

40 Hard history quiz questions and answers

History · Hard

1. Which year is commonly associated with the start of World War I?

- A) 1912
- B) 1914
- C) 1916
- D) 1918

2. The Magna Carta was originally issued in which century?

- A) 11th
- B) 12th
- C) 13th
- D) 14th

3. Which empire built roads including the Via Appia?

- A) Greek
- B) Roman
- C) Persian
- D) Ottoman

4. The 'Black Death' in Europe peaked during which century?

- A) 12th
- B) 13th
- C) 14th
- D) 15th

5. Which city was formerly known as Constantinople?

- A) Rome
- B) Istanbul
- C) Athens
- D) Cairo

6. The Renaissance began in which country?

- A) France
- B) Italy
- C) England
- D) Spain

7. Which war ended with the Treaty of Versailles?

- A) World War I
- B) World War II
- C) Crimean War
- D) Napoleonic Wars

8. Who led an empire that stretched from Macedonia into India?

- A) Julius Caesar
- B) Alexander the Great
- C) Hannibal
- D) Cyrus the Great

9. The storming of the Bastille is linked to which revolution?

- A) American
- B) French
- C) Russian
- D) Industrial

10. Which civilization developed cuneiform writing?

- A) Sumerians
- B) Romans
- C) Aztecs
- D) Vikings

11. Which dynasty built much of the Great Wall as known today?

- A) Han
- B) Ming
- C) Tang
- D) Qing

12. The 'Iron Curtain' is most associated with which period?

- A) Cold War
- B) Renaissance
- C) Great Depression
- D) Age of Discovery

13. Which event is often cited as the start of the Protestant Reformation (1517)?

- A) 95 Theses
- B) Council of Trent
- C) Edict of Nantes
- D) Peace of Augsburg

14. The ancient city of Carthage was located in modern-day...

- A) Italy
- B) Tunisia
- C) Greece
- D) Portugal

15. Which conflict is known as the 'War Between the States'?

- A) US Civil War
- B) Franco-Prussian War
- C) Crimean War
- D) Boer War

16. Who is credited with unifying Mongol tribes into an empire?

- A) Kublai Khan
- B) Genghis Khan
- C) Attila
- D) Tamerlane

17. Which ancient wonder was located in Alexandria?

- A) Colossus of Rhodes
- B) Lighthouse of Alexandria
- C) Temple of Artemis
- D) Hanging Gardens

18. Which year did the Berlin Wall fall?

- A) 1987
- B) 1989
- C) 1991
- D) 1993

19. Who was the British Prime Minister for much of World War II?

- A) Clement Attlee
- B) Winston Churchill
- C) Neville Chamberlain
- D) Harold Wilson

20. Which language dominated Western Roman administration?

- A) Greek
- B) Latin
- C) Hebrew
- D) Arabic

21. In which year was the Battle of Hastings?

- A) 1016
- B) 1066
- C) 1086

D) 1106

22. Which English king had six wives?

- A) Henry VII
- B) Henry VIII
- C) Edward VI
- D) Richard III

23. Who was the first person to walk on the Moon?

- A) Buzz Aldrin
- B) Neil Armstrong
- C) Yuri Gagarin
- D) Michael Collins

24. In which year did the Great Fire of London break out?

- A) 1566
- B) 1616
- C) 1666
- D) 1766

25. Who was the first woman to become British Prime Minister?

- A) Theresa May
- B) Margaret Thatcher
- C) Barbara Castle
- D) Shirley Williams

26. Which Roman emperor ordered a wall built across northern Britain in AD 122?

- A) Claudius
- B) Hadrian
- C) Antoninus Pius
- D) Nero

27. What was the name of the ship that carried the Pilgrims to America in 1620?

- A) The Endeavour
- B) The Mayflower
- C) The Santa Maria
- D) The Golden Hind

28. Which monarch was on the English throne when the Spanish Armada was defeated in 1588?

- A) Mary I
- B) Elizabeth I
- C) Anne
- D) James I

29. Whose assassination in Sarajevo in 1914 triggered the First World War?

- A) Kaiser Wilhelm II
- B) Archduke Franz Ferdinand
- C) Tsar Nicholas II
- D) Otto von Bismarck

30. In which year did the Second World War end?

- A) 1944
- B) 1945
- C) 1946
- D) 1947

31. Who was the first Emperor of Rome?

- A) Julius Caesar
- B) Augustus
- C) Nero
- D) Caligula

32. Which Tudor queen was known as 'Bloody Mary'?

- A) Mary I
- B) Mary, Queen of Scots
- C) Elizabeth I
- D) Catherine of Aragon

33. The Wars of the Roses were fought between the House of York and which other house?

- A) Tudor
- B) Lancaster
- C) Stuart
- D) Windsor

34. In which year did Nelson Mandela become President of South Africa?

- A) 1990
- B) 1994
- C) 1998
- D) 2000

35. Which country gave the Statue of Liberty to the United States?

- A) Britain
- B) France
- C) Spain
- D) The Netherlands

36. Which Gunpowder Plot conspirator was caught guarding the explosives beneath Parliament in 1605?

- A) Robert Catesby
- B) Guy Fawkes
- C) Thomas Percy
- D) Titus Oates

37. Whose tomb did Howard Carter discover in the Valley of the Kings in 1922?

- A) Ramesses II
- B) Tutankhamun
- C) Khufu
- D) Akhenaten

38. In which year did the Soviet Union launch Sputnik 1, the first artificial satellite?

- A) 1949
- B) 1957
- C) 1961
- D) 1969

39. Which British nurse became known as 'the Lady with the Lamp'?

- A) Mary Seacole
- B) Florence Nightingale
- C) Edith Cavell
- D) Elizabeth Fry

40. What was the codename for the Allied invasion of Normandy in June 1944?

- A) Operation Market Garden
- B) Operation Overlord
- C) Operation Barbarossa
- D) Operation Sea Lion

Answers

1. 1914
2. 13th
3. Roman
4. 14th
5. Istanbul
6. Italy
7. World War I
8. Alexander the Great
9. French
10. Sumerians
11. Ming
12. Cold War
13. 95 Theses
14. Tunisia
15. US Civil War
16. Genghis Khan
17. Lighthouse of Alexandria
18. 1989
19. Winston Churchill
20. Latin
21. 1066
22. Henry VIII
23. Neil Armstrong
24. 1666
25. Margaret Thatcher
26. Hadrian
27. The Mayflower
28. Elizabeth I
29. Archduke Franz Ferdinand
30. 1945
31. Augustus
32. Mary I
33. Lancaster
34. 1994
35. France
36. Guy Fawkes
37. Tutankhamun
38. 1957
39. Florence Nightingale
40. Operation Overlord