

SECTION ONE

With thanks to Linda Toombs and Patsy Hollingum

1. Christmas pudding traditionally contains 13 ingredients but what do they represent?
2. What is the main ingredient of the Christmas cocktail "snowball"?
3. In Medieval times, if you were given frumenty, what would you have done with it?
 - A) Eaten it
 - B) Burnt it
 - C) Tied it in your sweetheart's hair
 - D) Worn it on your armour
4. Which monarch made the first Christmas radio broadcast?
5. In which year did the queen make her first Christmas speech?

SECTION TWO

6. In France, 6th January is an important celebration, when the tradition calls for the youngest child or a visiting guest to be "promoted" to king for the evening. What event in the Christmas story does this tradition celebrate?
7. What is another name for the Epiphany, or Epiphany Eve?
8. The Druids venerated it for its mystical properties and grew it in oak trees to give it more potency. Nowadays it is more likely to be found growing in a fruit tree. What is it, and in what sort of tree is it grown?
9. Which news reader caused a stir by dancing on the Morecambe and Wise Christmas show? Another point for the year.
10. Which well known TV cook has just published a follow up Christmas recipe book? What was the year of publication of the first one?

SECTION THREE

11. In Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol" what is the name of the deceased business partner of Ebenezer Scrooge
12. Which Booker prize winning novel by a well known Australian author starts with an incident concerning a Christmas pudding? One point for the name of the book, another for the name of the Author.
13. A well known 20th C children's author based a book on her own childhood. In it "Susan", the protagonist tells of her fear of a large oak chest in the house where she stayed as a child. This fear was based on a

Victorian poem "The Mistletoe Bough." The author also created the characters Little Rabbit, and Fuzzypeg - a hedgehog. What was the author's name, and another point for the title of her autobiographical account?

14. What was the subject of The Mistletoe Bough, and why was the child afraid?

15. Which 1996 Christmas Sitcom Special beat all previous television records - 24.3 million viewers - when the two main characters finally struck it rich, and what was it that brought them riches beyond their usual wild dreams?

SECTION FOUR

This section devised by Jim Hepburn Multiple choice section

16. What was known as NOLLA EEK BICK (spelled nollaig beag)
a) Father Christmas
b) Christmas
c) Checking the ashes after the Christmas fire!

17. What was the game known as Hurly Hackit?
a) Hurling, on ice
b) Sledging on an ox skull
c) Skating

18. What is known as UH-EECH CH-UH-YEEN-LE (spelled oidche choinnle)
a) Night of the candles
b) A fresh start to the New Year
c) A gift to the First Footer

19. What is the custom of first footing, and name one of the three items a Scotsman would take when doing so?

20. The French phrase "Homme est né" is thought to have given rise to what well-known Scottish expression?

SECTION FIVE

Christmas Carols and Songs - A potted history - with thanks to Mr Douglas McEwan

According to reference books the golden age of Christmas carols was the two hundred year period from 1350 to 1550. There were apparently more than 500 carols. One carol still popular today that dates from that period is The Holly and the Ivy.

Another feature of that era is that some of the carols were "maccaronic" Not in praise of Italian pasta, but rather that they contained words or lines in another language, and in this case English and Latin.

21. Name one that we still sing in either English or Latin - to gain 2 points we need the title in both languages.
22. The singing of Carols in Church was banned in the British Isles for a period of time. Who was the ruler who brought in this ban?
23. Name 3 carols with a regal connection in the title.

Christmas music - With the arrival in 20C of the wireless, the gramophone and the talkies the market was ready for the development of the commercialisation Christmas songs. In the film "Holiday Inn" Bing Crosby crooned "I'm dreaming of a White Christmas" and in 1947 when the song White Christmas was released it sold more than 50 million copies world wide!

24. Who wrote the song "White Christmas"?
25. How many animals and people are mentioned in the carol "Twelve Days of Christmas"?

For copyright reasons, we are unable to bring you the music section but if you contact members of the Committee, I understand they are happy to sing the songs as rendered by the original artistes.