

Life in the UK Test: Chapter 3, A long and illustrious history

262 questions written in our own words from the facts in the handbook "Life in the United Kingdom: A Guide for New Residents", 3rd edition. The answers and explanations are at the end. The same questions, with timed mock exams, are free at britmock.com. BritMock is an independent practice site, not affiliated with the Home Office or GOV.UK.

Early Britain

1. Roughly how long ago did the Channel finally cut Britain off from the continent for good?

- A About 6,000 years ago
- B About 4,000 years ago
- C About 2,000 years ago
- D About 10,000 years ago

2. True or false: Through much of the Stone Age, people could walk between Britain and the continent over a land bridge.

- A True
- B False

3. When did the first farmers arrive in Britain?

- A About 10,000 years ago
- B About 1,000 years ago
- C About 4,000 years ago
- D About 6,000 years ago

4. In which English county does Stonehenge stand?

- A Kent
- B Dorset
- C Suffolk
- D Wiltshire

5. Where is Skara Brae, northern Europe's best-preserved village from prehistoric times?

- A Iona
- B Dorset
- C Orkney
- D Wiltshire

6. In the Bronze Age, what were the tombs used to bury the dead called?

- A Round barrows
- B Ship burials
- C Hill forts
- D Roundhouses

7. Maiden Castle, an impressive Iron Age hill fort that can still be visited, is in which English county?

- A Kent
- B Wiltshire
- C Suffolk
- D Dorset

8. Which TWO statements describe people in Britain during the Iron Age?

Choose two answers.

- A They built Stonehenge
- B They formed the first Christian communities in Britain
- C They spoke a language from the Celtic family
- D Some lived in defended sites called hill forts

- 9. True or false: The first coins made in Britain were minted during the Bronze Age.**
A True
B False
- 10. In which year did Emperor Claudius lead the Roman invasion that succeeded in occupying most of Britain?**
A 55 BC
B AD 43
C AD 410
D AD 789
- 11. Boudicca, a tribal leader who resisted the Romans, was queen of which tribe?**
A The Picts
B The Jutes
C The Angles
D The Iceni
- 12. Which people was Hadrian's Wall, in northern England, built to keep out?**
A The Saxons
B The Picts
C The Vikings
D The Normans
- 13. Which TWO forts on Hadrian's Wall can still be seen today?**
Choose two answers.
A Vindolanda
B Maiden Castle
C Housesteads
D Skara Brae
- 14. Which TWO of these did the Romans do during their time in Britain?**
Choose two answers.
A Compiled the Domesday Book
B Founded the monastery on Iona
C Introduced new plants and animals
D Built roads and public buildings
- 15. True or false: Christian communities first formed in Britain in the 3rd and 4th centuries, during Roman rule.**
A True
B False
- 16. In which year did the Roman army leave Britain, never to come back?**
A AD 600
B AD 43
C AD 789
D AD 410
- 17. Which TWO of these tribes from northern Europe invaded Britain after the Romans left?**
Choose two answers.
A The Iceni
B The Picts
C The Angles
D The Saxons
- 18. Sutton Hoo, where an Anglo-Saxon king was buried in a ship with treasure and armour, is in which modern county?**

- A Kent
- B Dorset
- C Suffolk
- D Wiltshire

19. True or false: St Patrick, one of the missionaries from Ireland, became the patron saint of Scotland.

- A True
- B False

20. Who was the first person to hold the post of Archbishop of Canterbury?

- A St Columba
- B King Alfred the Great
- C St Patrick
- D St Augustine

21. In which year did the Vikings first come to Britain to raid coastal towns?

- A AD 1066
- B AD 600
- C AD 410
- D AD 789

22. Which king united England's Anglo-Saxon kingdoms and defeated the Vikings?

- A Kenneth MacAlpin
- B Harold
- C Cnut
- D Alfred the Great

23. Which of these statements is correct?

- A Many Vikings settled in south-west England, in the area called the Pale.
- B Many Vikings settled in northern and eastern England, in the area called the Danelaw.

24. True or false: Fear of Viking attacks led people in the north to join together under King Kenneth MacAlpin.

- A True
- B False

25. At the Battle of Hastings in 1066, William, Duke of Normandy, defeated which Saxon king?

- A Harold
- B Alfred
- C Kenneth MacAlpin
- D Cnut

26. Which TWO statements about the Norman Conquest are true?

Choose two answers.

- A William came from what is now northern Germany
- B William was the Saxon king of England before 1066
- C The Welsh slowly won back land from the Normans
- D Norman French influenced the English language

27. True or false: After 1066 the Normans invaded and conquered Scotland.

- A True
- B False

28. True or false: William's survey listing England's towns, villages, landowners and animals was called the Bayeux Tapestry.

- A True

B False

The Middle Ages

29. The Middle Ages run from the Norman Conquest up to about which year?

- A 1485
- B 1348
- C 1415
- D 1215

30. Which king introduced the Statute of Rhuddlan in 1284, which annexed Wales to the English Crown?

- A John
- B Henry V
- C Edward I
- D Richard III

31. Which TWO huge castles were built in Wales to keep English power there?

Choose two answers.

- A Windsor
- B Caernarvon
- C Edinburgh
- D Conwy

32. Who led the Scots to victory over the English at Bannockburn in 1314?

- A Robert the Bruce
- B John Barbour
- C Kenneth MacAlpin
- D Henry Tudor

33. By 1200 the English controlled the Pale, an area of Ireland. Which city was it around?

- A Canterbury
- B York
- C Dublin
- D Edinburgh

34. Many knights joined the Crusades. What were European Christians fighting to control in these wars?

- A The Holy Land
- B Normandy
- C Wales
- D The Pale

35. True or false: The Hundred Years War between England and France lasted exactly 100 years.

- A True
- B False

36. Which king led the heavily outnumbered English army that beat the French at Agincourt in 1415?

- A Richard III
- B Edward I
- C Henry VII
- D Henry V

37. What was the system of land ownership used by the Normans called?

- A Feudalism
- B Precedence

- C Codification
- D Common law

38. True or false: Under feudalism, serfs were free to leave their lord's land whenever they wished.

- A True
- B False

39. In which year did the Black Death come to Britain?

- A 1348
- B 1284
- C 1455
- D 1314

40. About what share of England's population died in the Black Death?

- A One quarter
- B One third
- C One tenth
- D One half

41. Which TWO changes followed the Black Death?

Choose two answers.

- A New social classes appeared, including the gentry
- B People left the towns to live in the countryside
- C Workers were scarce and peasants asked for higher wages
- D Far more cereal crops had to be grown

42. True or false: Because the Black Death caused many deaths in the Pale, the part of Ireland under English control shrank for a time.

- A True
- B False

43. Which king was forced by his noblemen in 1215 to agree to the Magna Carta?

- A Henry V
- B John
- C Edward I
- D Richard III

44. True or false: The Magna Carta set out the principle that the king, too, had to obey the law.

- A True
- B False

45. Which TWO groups had seats in the House of Lords of the medieval English Parliament?

Choose two answers.

- A Wealthy people from towns
- B Bishops
- C Great landowners
- D Knights

46. True or false: Like the English Parliament, the medieval Scottish Parliament had two Houses.

- A True
- B False

47. How did judges in medieval England develop 'common law'?

- A By asking the House of Lords to vote
- B By taking orders from the king
- C By following earlier decisions and tradition

D By writing every law down in a code

48. True or false: In medieval Scotland, the legal system developed so that laws were codified, or written down.

- A True
- B False

49. Which TWO of these modern English words come from Anglo-Saxon?

Choose two answers.

- A Apple
- B Cow
- C Park
- D Beauty

50. True or false: By 1400, official documents in England were still written only in Norman French.

- A True
- B False

51. Who wrote The Canterbury Tales, poems in English about pilgrims telling stories on their way to Canterbury?

- A St Augustine
- B John Barbour
- C Geoffrey Chaucer
- D William Caxton

52. What is William Caxton known for?

- A He wrote The Bruce, a poem about Bannockburn
- B He was the first to print books on a press in England
- C He built Lincoln Cathedral
- D He led the Scots at Bannockburn

53. John Barbour wrote The Bruce in the Scots language. Which event is it about?

- A The Battle of Bosworth Field
- B The Battle of Bannockburn
- C The Battle of Hastings
- D The Battle of Agincourt

54. Which building is a famous example of medieval stained glass telling stories of the Bible and Christian saints?

- A Edinburgh Castle
- B York Minster
- C Windsor Castle
- D Conwy Castle

55. Which product became a very important English export in the Middle Ages?

- A Gold
- B Wool
- C Iron
- D Glass

56. Which TWO correctly match skilled workers who came to medieval England with the country they came from?

Choose two answers.

- A Engineers from Germany
- B Canal builders from Italy
- C Glass manufacturers from Holland
- D Weavers from France

57. In which year did the Wars of the Roses begin?

- A 1485
- B 1415
- C 1455
- D 1348

58. Which of these statements is correct?

- A Lancaster's symbol was a white rose and York's symbol was a red rose.
- B Lancaster's symbol was a red rose and York's symbol was a white rose.

59. Which king died at Bosworth Field in 1485?

- A Edward I
- B Henry VII
- C Henry V
- D Richard III

60. Which TWO statements about Henry VII are true?

Choose two answers.

- A He was killed at the Battle of Bosworth Field
- B He was the first Tudor king
- C He married Elizabeth of York
- D He led the York side

The Tudors and Stuarts

61. After winning the Wars of the Roses, what did Henry VII do to keep his throne safe?

- A Broke away from the Church of Rome to rule the Church
- B Built up central government and cut the power of the nobles
- C Handed more land and power to the great noble families
- D Spent the monarchy's savings on long wars abroad

62. Which wife of Henry VIII was a Spanish princess?

- A Anne of Cleves
- B Catherine of Aragon
- C Jane Seymour
- D Catherine Parr

63. Which of Henry VIII's wives was the mother of Elizabeth?

- A Anne Boleyn
- B Catherine of Aragon
- C Catherine Howard
- D Jane Seymour

64. Why did Henry VIII set up the Church of England?

- A The Pope wanted to crown a Spanish king
- B He wanted church services held only in Latin
- C Parliament ordered him to leave the Catholic Church
- D The Pope would not approve his divorce

65. What was the Reformation?

- A A Europe-wide movement against the Pope's authority
- B A plan to bring England back to Catholicism
- C A reform of the legal system in Wales
- D A rebellion of Irish chieftains against English law

66. In whose reign did the Act for the Government of Wales formally join Wales to England?

- A Henry VII

- B Henry VIII
- C James I
- D Edward VI

67. In which monarch's reign was the Book of Common Prayer written for the Church of England?

- A Edward VI
- B Elizabeth I
- C Henry VII
- D Mary I

68. Why did Queen Mary, Henry VIII's daughter, become known as 'Bloody Mary'?

- A She persecuted Roman Catholics
- B She led the fight against the Spanish Armada
- C She persecuted Protestants
- D She started a civil war against Parliament

69. In which year did the English defeat the Spanish Armada?

- A 1603
- B 1642
- C 1588
- D 1560

70. What was the name of Sir Francis Drake's ship, one of the first ships to go all the way round the world?

- A The Mary Rose
- B The Golden Hind
- C The Mayflower
- D The Armada

71. What is the Globe Theatre in London?

- A A theatre designed by Sir Christopher Wren
- B A modern copy of an early Shakespeare theatre
- C The original theatre where Hamlet was first staged
- D The house where Shakespeare was born

72. Who inherited the English throne when Elizabeth I died in 1603?

- A Mary, Queen of Scots
- B James VI of Scotland
- C Edward VI
- D Charles I

73. What is the 'Authorised Version'?

- A The first Bible ever written in English
- B The English Bible translated in James I's reign
- C The revised Prayer Book of Charles I
- D The prayer book written in Edward VI's reign

74. What were the 'plantations' in Ireland?

- A Settlements of Scottish and English Protestants on land taken from Catholic landholders
- B Lands handed back to Catholic families after the rebellions had ended
- C Camps built around Dublin to hold Irish rebels captured in the rebellions
- D Farms given to Irish Catholic chieftains as a reward for their loyalty to the king

75. What was the 'Divine Right of Kings'?

- A The belief that God directly chose the king to rule
- B The right of the Pope to appoint bishops
- C The belief that Parliament should choose the king

D The right of every prisoner to a court hearing

76. In which year did civil war break out between Charles I and Parliament?

- A 1646
- B 1640
- C 1642
- D 1649

77. In which year was Charles I executed?

- A 1649
- B 1646
- C 1660
- D 1642

78. What was England called when it became a republic after Charles I's death?

- A The Restoration
- B The Plantation
- C The Glorious Revolution
- D The Commonwealth

79. What title was Oliver Cromwell given as leader of the new republic?

- A Prince of Wales
- B King of England
- C Archbishop of Canterbury
- D Lord Protector

80. In May 1660 Parliament asked Charles II to come back. Where had he been living in exile?

- A The Netherlands
- B Scotland
- C Ireland
- D Spain

81. Who designed the new St Paul's Cathedral after the great fire of London?

- A Sir Christopher Wren
- B Sir Edmund Halley
- C Sir Isaac Newton
- D Samuel Pepys

82. In which year did the Habeas Corpus Act become law?

- A 1660
- B 1679
- C 1688
- D 1665

83. What did Isaac Newton's famous book Principia Mathematica show?

- A How the plague spread in London
- B How to sail right around the world
- C How gravity works throughout the universe
- D How to translate the Bible into English

84. In which year did leading English Protestants invite William of Orange to invade England?

- A 1690
- B 1679
- C 1660
- D 1688

85. At which battle in Ireland did William III defeat James II in 1690?

- A The Battle of Marston Moor
- B The Battle of the Boyne
- C The Battle of Naseby
- D The Battle of Worcester

86. What were the supporters of James II, who still saw him as the rightful king, called?

- A Puritans
- B Jacobites
- C Roundheads
- D Cavaliers

87. Which of these statements is correct?

- A Like the Church of England, the Protestant Church of Scotland was a state Church
- B Unlike the Church of England, the Protestant Church of Scotland was not a state Church

88. Which of these statements is correct?

- A Shakespeare was one of the first writers to show ordinary English men and women
- B Shakespeare wrote only about kings and queens

89. Which of these statements is correct?

- A When James VI of Scotland became King of England, Scotland stayed a separate country
- B When James VI of Scotland became King of England, Scotland and England became one country

90. True or false: Anne Boleyn was put to death at the Tower of London.

- A True
- B False

91. True or false: Catherine Howard, one of Henry VIII's wives, was a cousin of Jane Seymour.

- A True
- B False

92. True or false: In Henry VIII's new Church of England, the Pope still had the power to appoint bishops.

- A True
- B False

93. True or false: Edward VI died when he was only 15 years old.

- A True
- B False

94. True or false: Elizabeth I did not question people about what they really believed in religion.

- A True
- B False

95. True or false: Mary, Queen of Scots became queen at just one week old.

- A True
- B False

96. True or false: Sir Francis Drake was one of the commanders when the Spanish Armada was defeated.

- A True
- B False

97. True or false: Henry VIII took the title 'King of Ireland'.

- A True
- B False

98. True or false: In the civil war, the Roundheads were the supporters of the king.

- A True

B False

99. True or false: After the Battle of Worcester, Charles II escaped and once hid in an oak tree.

A True

B False

100. True or false: Richard Cromwell, who followed his father as Lord Protector, kept firm control of the army and the government.

A True

B False

101. True or false: 'Habeas corpus' is Latin meaning that the person must be brought before a court.

A True

B False

102. True or false: Isaac Newton discovered that white light consists of all the colours of the rainbow.

A True

B False

103. True or false: The MacDonalds of Glencoe were killed because they took the oath accepting William as king too late.

A True

B False

104. Which TWO wives of Henry VIII were executed?

Choose two answers.

A Catherine Howard

B Anne Boleyn

C Catherine Parr

D Jane Seymour

105. Which TWO describe what Protestants believed or did during the Reformation?

Choose two answers.

A They held that the Pope should appoint all bishops

B They used Bibles in their own languages, not Latin

C They put each person's own bond with God above obeying the Church

D They prayed to saints and at shrines

106. Which TWO statements about Edward VI are correct?

Choose two answers.

A The Book of Common Prayer dates from his reign

B He was the son of Anne Boleyn

C He ruled for more than 20 years

D He was strongly Protestant

107. Which TWO statements about William Shakespeare are correct?

Choose two answers.

A His birthplace was Stratford-upon-Avon

B He wrote a diary about the great fire of London

C He was both a playwright and an actor

D London's Globe Theatre is the original building where he worked

108. Which TWO battles saw Charles I's army defeated in the civil war?

Choose two answers.

A Marston Moor

- B The Boyne
- C Naseby
- D Killiecrankie

109. Which TWO battles did Cromwell win against the Scottish army led by Charles II?

Choose two answers.

- A Dunbar
- B The Boyne
- C Killiecrankie
- D Worcester

110. Which TWO events took place in London during the reign of Charles II?

Choose two answers.

- A A great fire that destroyed much of the city
- B The Battle of the Boyne
- C England's victory over the Spanish Armada
- D A major outbreak of plague

111. Which TWO people were among the early members of the Royal Society?

Choose two answers.

- A Sir Francis Drake
- B Sir Isaac Newton
- C Sir Edmund Halley
- D William Shakespeare

112. Which TWO things did James II do that worried people in England?

Choose two answers.

- A He let Roman Catholics become army officers
- B He arrested some Church of England bishops
- C He made the Church of England the official Church again
- D He passed the Habeas Corpus Act

113. Which TWO reasons explain why the events of 1688 were called the 'Glorious Revolution'?

Choose two answers.

- A It brought a Catholic king to the throne
- B England saw no fighting
- C It made England a republic
- D It secured Parliament's power

114. Which TWO actions of Charles I helped lead to the civil war?

Choose two answers.

- A He tried to force a revised Prayer Book on Scotland's Presbyterian Church
- B He entered the House of Commons to arrest five parliamentary leaders
- C He agreed to hand Parliament control of the English army
- D He gave the Puritans the simple style of worship they wanted

A global power

115. In which year was the Bill of Rights passed, setting out Parliament's rights and the limits on the king's power?

- A 1689
- B 1745
- C 1714
- D 1707

116. True or false: Under the Bill of Rights, the king or queen had to be a Protestant.

- A True
- B False

117. Which TWO rules about Parliament and the monarch were set after William and Mary came to the throne?

Choose two answers.

- A Funding for the army and navy needed Parliament's approval every year
- B Elections for a new Parliament were required at least every three years
- C Elections for a new Parliament were required at least every ten years
- D Taxes could be raised by the monarch without Parliament's agreement

118. What were the two main groups in Parliament called after the Glorious Revolution, at the beginning of party politics?

- A The Jacobites and the Huguenots
- B The Chartists and the Fenians
- C The Whigs and the Tories
- D The Quakers and the Boers

119. From which year were newspapers allowed to be published without a licence from the government?

- A 1707
- B 1689
- C 1721
- D 1695

120. True or false: After the Glorious Revolution, women who owned enough property were allowed to vote.

- A True
- B False

121. What was a 'pocket borough'?

- A A constituency in the hands of one rich family
- B A small farm in the Scottish Highlands
- C A constituency with hardly any voters
- D A new parliamentary seat given to a growing town

122. In which year did Jewish people settle in London, the first to arrive in Britain since the Middle Ages?

- A 1689
- B 1745
- C 1656
- D 1707

123. Which TWO statements about the Huguenots are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A They were Protestants who had suffered persecution because of their faith
- B They arrived in Britain between 1870 and 1914
- C Many were skilled and worked in science, banking or weaving
- D They came to Britain from the Netherlands

124. In which year was the Act of Union agreed, joining Scotland with England and Wales to form the Kingdom of Great Britain?

- A 1707
- B 1801
- C 1714
- D 1689

125. True or false: After the Act of Union in 1707, Scotland kept its own legal system and its own education system.

- A True
- B False

126. Why did Parliament pick George I as king after the death of Queen Anne in 1714?

- A He spoke excellent English
- B He had won the Battle of Culloden
- C He was the eldest son of Anne
- D He was the closest Protestant relative of Anne

127. Who was the first person to be called Prime Minister?

- A Charles Stuart Parnell
- B Sir Robert Walpole
- C William Wilberforce
- D The Duke of Wellington

128. In which year did George II's army beat Bonnie Prince Charlie at the Battle of Culloden?

- A 1805
- B 1707
- C 1714
- D 1746

129. Which TWO statements about the rebellion led by Bonnie Prince Charlie are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A He won the Battle of Culloden
- B Clansmen from the Scottish highlands supported him
- C He tried to take the throne from Queen Anne
- D After his defeat he escaped back to Europe

130. During the Highland Clearances, many landlords destroyed small farms. What were these farms called?

- A Crofts
- B Pocket boroughs
- C Clans
- D Cottage industries

131. Which TWO statements about Robert Burns are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A He was a Scottish poet, called 'The Bard' in Scotland
- B He wrote The Jungle Book
- C He changed or added lyrics to many traditional folk songs
- D He won the Nobel Prize in Literature

132. Which of these statements about thinkers of the Enlightenment is correct?

- A David Hume worked out ideas about steam power
- B Adam Smith worked out ideas about economics

133. True or false: Many of the leading thinkers of the 18th-century Enlightenment came from Scotland.

- A True
- B False

134. True or false: Britain was the first country where industry developed on a large scale.

- A True
- B False

135. What did the Bessemer process make possible?

- A Mapping the coast of Australia
- B Powering horse-driven spinning mills
- C Carding fibres for spinning
- D The mass production of steel

136. What did Richard Arkwright first train and work as?

- A A barber
- B An engineer
- C A banker
- D A sailor

137. Which TWO statements about Richard Arkwright are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A He developed the Bessemer process
- B He improved the original carding machine
- C He built the Great Western Railway
- D He created spinning mills powered by horses, using a single machine

138. True or false: Richard Arkwright is mainly remembered for building canals.

- A True
- B False

139. True or false: During the Industrial Revolution, the law gave workers and children protection from long hours in dangerous places.

- A True
- B False

140. Captain James Cook mapped the coast of which land, where a few British colonies were then set up?

- A Australia
- B Southern Africa
- C India
- D Canada

141. Which TWO goods did Britain import from India and the area now called Indonesia?

Choose two answers.

- A Tea
- B Spices
- C Tobacco
- D Sugar

142. What did Sake Dean Mahomet open in George Street, London, in 1810?

- A The first nursing school in Britain
- B The first railway station in Britain
- C The first curry house in Britain
- D The first newspaper in Britain

143. True or false: In the 18th century, slavery was legal within Britain itself.

- A True
- B False

144. Where did most of the slaves carried on British ships come from?

- A East Africa
- B India
- C Southern Africa
- D West Africa

- 145. True or false: The Quakers formed the earliest formal groups opposing slavery.**
A True
B False
- 146. Which evangelical Christian and member of Parliament helped change the law and win public support against the slave trade?**
A Sir Robert Walpole
B Charles Stuart Parnell
C William Wilberforce
D Isambard Kingdom Brunel
- 147. In which year did the Emancipation Act abolish slavery throughout the British Empire?**
A 1776
B 1807
C 1833
D 1846
- 148. What did the American colonists say when Britain tried to tax them?**
A Home Rule for the colonies
B No taxation without representation
C Votes for women
D Free trade for all
- 149. In which year did 13 American colonies declare their independence?**
A 1783
B 1776
C 1789
D 1760
- 150. True or false: Admiral Nelson was in command of Britain's ships at Trafalgar and died during the battle.**
A True
B False
- 151. Which TWO statements about the Duke of Wellington are correct?**
Choose two answers.
A He was killed at the Battle of Trafalgar
B He was the first person to be called Prime Minister
C He later became Prime Minister
D He defeated Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815
- 152. In which year did Ireland join England, Scotland and Wales in a single United Kingdom?**
A 1606
B 1801
C 1837
D 1707
- 153. Which TWO crosses on the Union Flag are red on a white background?**
Choose two answers.
A The cross of St George
B The cross of St Andrew
C The cross of St David
D The cross of St Patrick
- 154. True or false: The Welsh dragon appears on the Union Flag.**
A True
B False

155. In which year was the first Union Flag made, combining the English and Scottish flags?

- A 1606
- B 1689
- C 1707
- D 1801

156. True or false: Queen Victoria came to the throne in 1837 and reigned until 1901.

- A True
- B False

157. In which year were the Corn Laws repealed?

- A 1847
- B 1832
- C 1867
- D 1846

158. True or false: The Corn Laws had stopped cheap grain from being imported into Britain.

- A True
- B False

159. Which TWO statements about Isambard Kingdom Brunel are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A He was born in Italy
- B He mapped the coast of Australia
- C He was originally from Portsmouth
- D He built the Great Western Railway

160. In which year did the Great Exhibition open in the Crystal Palace in Hyde Park?

- A 1846
- B 1854
- C 1860
- D 1851

161. In the Crimean War (1853-1856), Britain was on the side of Turkey and France. Which country did they fight?

- A Germany
- B The Netherlands
- C Spain
- D Russia

162. True or false: The Crimean War was the first war that the media covered widely with news reports and photographs.

- A True
- B False

163. Where did Florence Nightingale set up her training school for nurses in 1860?

- A St Thomas' Hospital in London
- B A military hospital in Turkey
- C A hospital in Germany
- D A hospital in Italy

164. Which crop failed in Ireland in the middle of the 19th century, causing a famine?

- A Oats
- B Wheat
- C Barley
- D Potatoes

165. Which of these statements is correct?

- A Charles Stuart Parnell wanted Ireland to leave the UK completely
- B Charles Stuart Parnell wanted Ireland to remain part of the UK with a parliament of its own

166. Which of these statements about the Reform Act of 1832 is correct?

- A It gave working-class men without property the vote
- B It got rid of pocket and rotten boroughs

167. What were the campaigners called who presented petitions to Parliament asking for working-class people to be given the vote?

- A The Chartists
- B The Suffragettes
- C The Fenians
- D The Quakers

168. Which TWO years saw Acts of Parliament that let married women keep the money they earned and their own property?

Choose two answers.

- A 1832
- B 1882
- C 1870
- D 1867

169. In 1903 Emmeline Pankhurst helped to found a group whose members were the first to be called 'suffragettes'. What was it called?

- A The Chartists
- B The Women's Social and Political Union
- C The Women's Franchise League
- D The Fenians

170. In 1918, women over what age won the vote and could also become candidates for Parliament?

- A 25
- B 21
- C 30
- D 18

171. True or false: Just before Emmeline Pankhurst's death in 1928, women won the vote at 21, the same age as men.

- A True
- B False

172. Which TWO views about the future of the British Empire were held in the late 19th century?

Choose two answers.

- A Most British people believed the Empire did more harm than good
- B Supporters said its frequent conflicts were a drain on resources
- C Critics said it was over-expanded and its conflicts wasted resources
- D Supporters said it benefited Britain through more trade

173. Which of these statements about the Boer War (1899-1902) is correct?

- A The British fought settlers from the Netherlands in South Africa
- B The British fought settlers from France in India

174. Which TWO statements about Rudyard Kipling are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A His birthplace was Manchester, in 1858
- B In 1907 he received the Nobel Prize in Literature

- C His birthplace was India, in 1865
- D He wrote the song Auld Lang Syne

The 20th century

175. True or false: In the early 20th century, members of Parliament began to be paid a salary for the first time.

- A True
- B False

176. Which TWO factors helped create the conditions for the First World War?

Choose two answers.

- A The Great Depression
- B Increasing militarism
- C Growing nationalism in many European states
- D Hitler's invasion of Poland

177. Whose assassination on 28 June 1914 started the chain of events that led to the First World War?

- A Ernest Rutherford
- B Adolf Hitler
- C Winston Churchill
- D Archduke Franz Ferdinand

178. Which TWO countries were among the Allied Powers fighting alongside Britain in the First World War?

Choose two answers.

- A France
- B Japan
- C Germany
- D The Ottoman Empire

179. Which TWO of these were Central Powers, fighting against Britain in the First World War?

Choose two answers.

- A The Austro-Hungarian Empire
- B Bulgaria
- C Russia
- D Serbia

180. Which of these statements is correct?

- A Fewer than 50,000 Indian soldiers fought for Britain in the First World War
- B More than a million Indian soldiers fought for Britain in the First World War

181. Roughly how many British casualties were there on the first day of the British attack at the Somme in July 1916?

- A About 60,000
- B About 6,000
- C About 2 million
- D About 300,000

182. On which date did the First World War end, at 11 o'clock in the morning?

- A 6 June 1944
- B 28 June 1914
- C 11 November 1916
- D 11 November 1918

183. In which year did the British government promise 'Home Rule' for Ireland?

- A 1913
- B 1921
- C 1916
- D 1949

184. True or false: Under the Home Rule proposal, Ireland would have left the UK completely.

- A True
- B False

185. What was the 1916 uprising against the British in Dublin called?

- A The Easter Rising
- B The Blitz
- C The Troubles
- D The Battle of Britain

186. True or false: After the Easter Rising, its leaders were pardoned and set free.

- A True
- B False

187. In which year was Ireland divided into two countries?

- A 1916
- B 1913
- C 1922
- D 1949

188. In which year did the Irish Free State become a republic?

- A 1921
- B 1949
- C 1922
- D 1936

189. What name is often given to the conflict between those who wanted full Irish independence and those loyal to the British government?

- A Home Rule
- B The Troubles
- C The Easter Rising
- D The Great Depression

190. True or false: The 'Great Depression' began around the world in 1929.

- A True
- B False

191. How did car ownership in Britain change between 1930 and 1939?

- A It rose tenfold, reaching 1 million from 100,000
- B It doubled, reaching 2 million from 1 million
- C It halved, falling to 1 million from 2 million
- D It doubled, reaching 4 million from 2 million

192. Which TWO writers were prominent in Britain in the period between the two world wars?

Choose two answers.

- A Ernest Rutherford
- B Evelyn Waugh
- C Graham Greene
- D Alexander Fleming

193. Which economist became known for important new economic theories in the inter-war period?

- A Howard Florey
- B Graham Greene
- C Ernest Rutherford
- D John Maynard Keynes

194. True or false: In 1922 the BBC started the first regular TV service in the world.

- A True
- B False

195. In which year did Adolf Hitler come to power in Germany?

- A 1929
- B 1933
- C 1939
- D 1914

196. Which country did Hitler invade in 1939, leading Britain and France to declare war?

- A Belgium
- B Austria
- C The Soviet Union
- D Poland

197. Which TWO were Axis powers, on Germany's side in the Second World War?

Choose two answers.

- A Canada
- B Italy
- C Poland
- D The Empire of Japan

198. In which year, as German forces advanced through France, did Winston Churchill become Prime Minister and lead Britain in the war?

- A 1945
- B 1951
- C 1900
- D 1940

199. About how many men were rescued from the beaches around Dunkirk in 1940?

- A More than 300,000
- B More than 30,000
- C More than 1 million
- D More than 60,000

200. True or false: From late June 1940 until June 1941, when Germany attacked the Soviet Union, Britain and its Empire faced Nazi Germany nearly alone.

- A True
- B False

201. What was 'the Battle of Britain', fought in summer 1940?

- A The rescue of soldiers from Dunkirk
- B An air battle the RAF won against the Germans
- C The German night bombing of British cities
- D The allied landings in Normandy

202. True or false: In the Battle of Britain, the RAF's key fighter planes, the Spitfire and the Hurricane, were British designs made in Britain.

- A True
- B False

203. During the Blitz, which city was almost totally destroyed by German bombing?

- A Cambridge
- B Coventry
- C Manchester
- D Edinburgh

204. The United States joined the Second World War in December 1941 after Japan bombed which of its naval bases?

- A Singapore
- B Pearl Harbour
- C Dunkirk
- D Normandy

205. On which date did allied forces land in Normandy, an event known as 'D-Day'?

- A 11 November 1918
- B 8 May 1945
- C 6 August 1945
- D 6 June 1944

206. Which TWO Japanese cities did the United States hit with atom bombs in August 1945?

Choose two answers.

- A Hiroshima
- B Nagasaki
- C Osaka
- D Tokyo

207. Who led the scientists, working at Manchester and later Cambridge University, who first managed to 'split the atom'?

- A John Maynard Keynes
- B Howard Florey
- C Alexander Fleming
- D Ernest Rutherford

208. True or false: In a 2002 public vote, Winston Churchill was named the greatest Briton ever.

- A True
- B False

209. True or false: Alexander Fleming, who discovered penicillin, was born in Wales.

- A True
- B False

210. In which year did Alexander Fleming discover penicillin?

- A 1936
- B 1922
- C 1945
- D 1928

211. Which of these statements is correct?

- A Fleming discovered penicillin while he was researching malaria
- B Fleming discovered penicillin while he was researching influenza

212. Which TWO scientists developed penicillin into a drug that could be used?

Choose two answers.

- A Ernst Chain
- B John Maynard Keynes
- C Howard Florey
- D Ernest Rutherford

Britain since 1945

213. Who became Prime Minister when Labour won the general election of 1945?

- A Aneurin Bevan
- B Winston Churchill
- C Harold Macmillan
- D Clement Attlee

214. Which Minister for Health led the setting up of the National Health Service in 1948?

- A William Beveridge
- B Clement Attlee
- C Aneurin (Nye) Bevan
- D R A Butler

215. True or false: The NHS was set up in 1948 and patients did not pay for treatment when they used it.

- A True
- B False

216. In 1947 a group of countries became independent, among them India, Pakistan and Ceylon. How many countries were in this group?

- A Three
- B Five
- C Twelve
- D Nine

217. Why was the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which the UK joined after the war, set up?

- A To defend member nations against a possible Soviet attack
- B To manage independence for the colonies of the Empire
- C To organise trade between the countries of Western Europe
- D To pay for rebuilding British cities after the bombing

218. Which Prime Minister gave the famous 'wind of change' speech on decolonisation?

- A John Major
- B Margaret Thatcher
- C Harold Macmillan
- D Clement Attlee

219. Which TWO statements about Clement Attlee are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A He led the government between 1945 and 1951
- B He led the Labour Party for 10 years
- C He trained as a chemist before entering politics
- D He was Deputy Prime Minister to Winston Churchill during the war

220. In which year was the Beveridge Report, 'Social Insurance and Allied Services', published?

- A 1942
- B 1941
- C 1945
- D 1948

221. Which TWO were among the five 'Giant Evils' that the Beveridge Report said the government should fight?

Choose two answers.

- A Crime
- B Squalor

- C Idleness
- D Greed

222. What did the Education Act 1944 (also known as 'The Butler Act') introduce?

- A Free university education across the UK
- B Secondary schooling at no cost in England and Wales
- C Compulsory schooling for children in Scotland only
- D Free school meals in Northern Ireland

223. Where was the Welsh poet Dylan Thomas born, a place that now has a statue of him and a centre named after him?

- A Swansea
- B Bangor
- C New York
- D Cardiff

224. True or false: Under Milk Wood by Dylan Thomas is a radio play.

- A True
- B False

225. Which TWO statements about Dylan Thomas are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A He died in Swansea at the age of 39
- B Under Milk Wood was first performed after his death
- C He wrote Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night for his dying mother
- D He often read his work aloud to audiences, for example on the BBC

226. In the 1950s, which job in Britain were West Indian recruitment centres looking to fill?

- A Building ships
- B Working in textile mills
- C Mining coal
- D Driving buses

227. True or false: After the Second World War, the UK invited people from the West Indies to come and work in 1948.

- A True
- B False

228. In which decade were The Beatles and The Rolling Stones two well-known British pop groups?

- A The 1950s
- B The 1960s
- C The 1970s
- D The 1980s

229. Which TWO statements about Britain in the 1960s are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A Migration from the West Indies and India rose sharply in the late 1960s
- B Northern Ireland's Parliament was suspended
- C Laws on abortion were made less strict
- D Laws on divorce were made less strict

230. Which of these statements is correct?

- A Migration from the West Indies, India and Pakistan went down in the late 1960s because British industry no longer needed workers
- B Migration from the West Indies, India and Pakistan went down in the late 1960s because new laws restricted immigration

231. How many people of Indian origin expelled from Uganda did Britain admit in the early 1970s?

- A 50,000
- B 3,000
- C 9,000
- D 28,000

232. Which TWO statements about Concorde are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A It stopped flying in 2003
- B It first flew in 1969
- C It began carrying passengers in 1969
- D It was developed by Britain and Germany

233. Which Scotsman developed the television in the 1920s?

- A John Logie Baird
- B Bernard Lovell
- C Robert Watson-Watt
- D Frank Whittle

234. True or false: Radar was first tested successfully in 1935.

- A True
- B False

235. Where did Sir Bernard Lovell build his radio telescope, for many years the largest in the world?

- A Oldham in Lancashire
- B Enfield in north London
- C Jodrell Bank in Cheshire
- D Cambridge in Cambridgeshire

236. What is the Turing machine, invented by the mathematician Alan Turing in the 1930s?

- A A theoretical mathematical device
- B The first cash machine
- C An early jet engine
- D A radar receiver for detecting aircraft

237. In which year was the structure of DNA discovered through work at universities in London and Cambridge?

- A 1953
- B 1978
- C 1935
- D 1969

238. Sir Frank Whittle, a Royal Air Force engineer officer, developed which invention in the 1930s?

- A The jet engine
- B Radar
- C The Harrier jump jet
- D The hovercraft

239. True or false: James Goodfellow invented the cash machine (ATM) in the 1980s.

- A True
- B False

240. True or false: Oldham in Lancashire was the birthplace, in 1978, of the first 'test-tube baby' in the world.

- A True

B False

241. Which TWO statements about British scientific achievements are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A Alan Turing helped to discover insulin
- B Dolly the sheep was the first mammal to be cloned
- C Dolly the sheep was cloned in 1978
- D Sir Peter Mansfield co-invented the MRI scanner

242. On what date was information first successfully sent over the World Wide Web, invented by Sir Tim Berners-Lee?

- A 4 July 1976
- B 1 January 1985
- C 25 December 1990
- D 25 December 1996

243. Which of these statements is correct?

- A The Harrier jump jet, which can take off vertically, was developed jointly by Britain and France
- B The Harrier jump jet, which can take off vertically, was designed and built in the UK

244. In the late 1970s Britain faced difficulties with its 'balance of payments'. What did this mean?

- A Wages rose faster than the price of goods
- B The government spent more on the NHS than on defence
- C Imports were worth more than the money earned from exports
- D Exports were worth more than the money spent on imports

245. In which year was the Northern Ireland Parliament suspended and direct rule from the UK government introduced?

- A 1985
- B 1972
- C 1998
- D 1969

246. In which event did Mary Peters win an Olympic gold medal in 1972?

- A Rowing
- B Swimming
- C Pentathlon
- D Marathon

247. True or false: The athlete Mary Peters was born in Northern Ireland.

- A True
- B False

248. Which of these countries was NOT one of the six countries that founded the EEC in 1957?

- A Italy
- B France
- C The United Kingdom
- D Belgium

249. True or false: The UK joined the European Economic Community (EEC) when it was formed in 1957.

- A True
- B False

250. Which TWO statements about Margaret Thatcher are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A She became Leader of the Conservative Party in 1970

- B She remained Prime Minister until 1997
- C Her father was a grocer in Grantham, Lincolnshire
- D She became the UK's first woman Prime Minister in 1979

251. True or false: Margaret Thatcher served as Prime Minister for longer than anyone else in the 20th century.

- A True
- B False

252. Which TWO changes were made by Margaret Thatcher's government?

Choose two answers.

- A Creation of the National Health Service
- B Taking the railways into public ownership
- C Legal controls on the powers of trade unions
- D Privatisation of nationalised industries

253. In 1982, which country invaded the Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic, a British overseas territory?

- A Iraq
- B Spain
- C Argentina
- D Uganda

254. Which Prime Minister followed Margaret Thatcher and helped to start the peace process in Northern Ireland?

- A Tony Blair
- B Gordon Brown
- C John Major
- D Harold Macmillan

255. True or false: Roald Dahl served in the Royal Navy during the Second World War.

- A True
- B False

256. Which TWO did Tony Blair's Labour government introduce?

Choose two answers.

- A Direct rule of Northern Ireland from London
- B A Welsh Assembly
- C UK membership of the European Economic Community
- D A Scottish Parliament

257. Which TWO statements about Northern Ireland are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A The Northern Ireland Assembly was suspended in 2002 and not restored until 2007
- B The Good Friday Agreement was signed in 1998
- C The Northern Ireland Assembly was first elected in 1972
- D The Good Friday Agreement was signed under Margaret Thatcher

258. In which year did Gordon Brown take over from Tony Blair as Prime Minister?

- A 1997
- B 2007
- C 2010
- D 2002

259. During the 1990s, Britain had a leading part in freeing which country after it was invaded by Iraq in 1990?

- A Afghanistan

- B Yugoslavia
- C The Falkland Islands
- D Kuwait

260. True or false: British combat troops withdrew from Iraq in 2003.

- A True
- B False

261. After the May 2010 general election, which two parties formed a coalition government?

- A Labour and the Liberal Democrats
- B Labour and the Scottish National Party
- C The Conservatives and Labour
- D The Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats

262. True or false: The 2010 general election was the first since February 1974 in which no party won an overall majority.

- A True
- B False

Answers

1. D: About 10,000 years ago

Across much of the Stone Age, land joined Britain to the continent. The Channel split them for good only about 10,000 years ago.

2. A: True

The first people in Britain were hunter-gatherers. They moved back and forth over a land bridge, following the deer and horses they hunted.

3. D: About 6,000 years ago

Farming reached Britain roughly 6,000 years back. These farmers' ancestors most likely came from south-east Europe, and they built houses, tombs and monuments.

4. D: Wiltshire

Stonehenge, built by early farmers in the Stone Age, is in Wiltshire. It was probably a meeting place for ceremonies held at certain seasons.

5. C: Orkney

Skara Brae is on Orkney, off Scotland's north coast. It has taught archaeologists a lot about how people lived late in the Stone Age.

6. A: Round barrows

Bronze-making began roughly 4,000 years ago. Bronze Age people had roundhouses as homes and put their dead in tombs known as round barrows.

7. D: Dorset

Some Iron Age people lived in defended hill forts. A striking example, Maiden Castle, survives in Dorset.

8. C and D: They spoke a language from the Celtic family; Some lived in defended sites called hill forts

Iron Age people spoke a Celtic language and some lived in hill forts. Stonehenge dates from the Stone Age, and Christian communities first appeared in Roman times.

9. B: False

The first coins minted in Britain came from the Iron Age, and some bore the names of kings of that time. This is seen as the start of British history.

10. B: AD 43

Julius Caesar's invasion in 55 BC failed. In AD 43 Claudius invaded again and, despite resistance from some tribes, the Romans took almost all of Britain.

11. D: The Iceni

Boudicca led the Iceni, whose land lay in today's eastern England. A statue of her stands on Westminster Bridge, close to the Houses of Parliament.

12. B: The Picts

The Romans never conquered parts of what is now Scotland. Hadrian's Wall was meant to keep out the Picts, who were ancestors of the Scottish people.

13. A and C: Vindolanda; Housesteads

The wall included several forts, and Housesteads and Vindolanda survive. Hadrian's Wall is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and popular with walkers.

14. C and D: Introduced new plants and animals; Built roads and public buildings

In their 400 years in Britain the Romans built roads and public buildings, set up a structure of law and brought new plants and animals.

15. A: True

The Romans stayed in Britain for 400 years. The earliest Christian communities there appeared in the 3rd and 4th centuries, within that period.

16. D: AD 410

The Roman army left in AD 410, needed to protect other areas of the empire. Tribes from northern Europe then invaded Britain.

17. C and D: The Angles; The Saxons

The Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes invaded after AD 410, and their languages are the basis of modern English.

The Picts and the Iceni were already in Britain.

18. C: Suffolk

At Sutton Hoo in Suffolk, a king was laid in a ship with his treasure and armour, and the ship was then covered with an earth mound.

19. B: False

St Patrick became the patron saint of Ireland. Another missionary from Ireland, St Columba, set up a monastery on Iona.

20. D: St Augustine

Missionaries from Rome, led by St Augustine, took Christianity to southern Britain. Augustine was the first to be Archbishop of Canterbury.

21. D: AD 789

Vikings from Denmark and Norway first raided Britain in AD 789, taking goods and slaves. Later they stayed and set up communities.

22. D: Alfred the Great

The Anglo-Saxon kingdoms joined together under Alfred the Great, who beat the Vikings. Later England briefly had Danish kings, the first being Cnut.

23. B: Many Vikings settled in northern and eastern England, in the area called the Danelaw.

Many Viking invaders stayed in the Danelaw, in England's east and north. Local place names like Grimsby and Scunthorpe have Viking origins.

24. A: True

The Viking threat pushed people in the north to join under Kenneth MacAlpin. Around then the name Scotland came into use for that country.

25. A: Harold

Harold died in the battle and William took the throne, becoming William the Conqueror. The Bayeux Tapestry, still on show in France, records the battle.

26. C and D: The Welsh slowly won back land from the Normans; Norman French influenced the English language

Norman French, spoken by the new rulers, shaped modern English. Wales was conquered at first but the Welsh regained territory. William came from Normandy, in today's northern France.

27. B: False

Normans and Scots clashed along the border, and the Normans gained some border land, but they never invaded Scotland.

28. B: False

That survey was the Domesday Book, which still exists and shows English society just after the Conquest. The Bayeux Tapestry is an embroidery of the Battle of Hastings.

29. A: 1485

The Middle Ages, also called the medieval period, cover the years from the Norman Conquest to about 1485, a time of nearly constant war.

30. C: Edward I

Edward I's Statute of Rhuddlan of 1284 annexed Wales. The last Welsh rebellions were crushed by the mid-15th century, and English laws and language came in.

31. B and D: Caernarvon; Conwy

After Wales was annexed, the English built huge castles such as Conwy and Caernarvon to hold their power. Windsor and Edinburgh are castles still in use today.

32. A: Robert the Bruce

Robert the Bruce led the Scottish victory at Bannockburn in 1314, so Scotland was not conquered by the English.

33. C: Dublin

English troops first came to Ireland to help the Irish king, then stayed and built settlements. By 1200 they controlled the Pale, the area around Dublin.

34. A: The Holy Land

In the Crusades, Christians from Europe fought to win the Holy Land, and many knights took part.

35. B: False

Despite its name, the Hundred Years War actually went on for 116 years. The English finally left France in the 1450s.

36. D: Henry V

Agincourt, in 1415, is one of the best-remembered battles of the long war with France. Henry V's much smaller army defeated the French.

37. A: Feudalism

Under feudalism the king handed land to lords, who had to help him fight. In northern Scotland and Ireland, land was held by members of clans (prominent families).

38. B: False

Most peasants were serfs. They farmed a small plot belonging to the lord, worked for him in exchange and were not allowed to leave.

39. A: 1348

The Black Death, a disease that was probably a type of plague, reached Britain in 1348. It was among the worst disasters Britain has ever suffered.

40. B: One third

One in three people in England died, and Scotland and Wales lost a similar share of their people.

41. A and C: New social classes appeared, including the gentry; Workers were scarce and peasants asked for higher wages

With fewer people, fewer cereal crops were needed and workers were scarce, so peasants pushed for better pay. New classes such as the gentry arose, and people moved from the countryside into towns.

42. A: True

The disease hit the Pale hard, and for a while the part of Ireland run by the English became smaller.

43. B: John

Before 1215 there were few formal limits on royal power. That year King John had to accept the Magna Carta, meaning the Great Charter.

44. A: True

The Magna Carta protected the nobles' rights and limited the king's power to raise taxes or make and change laws, so he had to involve his noblemen.

45. B and C: Bishops; Great landowners

Nobles, bishops and great landowners made up the Lords. Knights and rich townspeople were elected to the Commons, and only a few people could vote.

46. B: False

Scotland's Parliament had three Houses, known as Estates: one each for the clergy, the lords and the commons.

47. C: By following earlier decisions and tradition

English judges built common law through precedence, meaning following previous decisions, and tradition. The idea that judges are independent of government also began to take hold.

48. A: True

Scotland's legal system grew up a little differently from England's: its laws were codified, whereas English common law rested on precedence and tradition.

49. A and B: Apple; Cow

Norman French and Anglo-Saxon merged into one English language. 'Apple', 'cow' and 'summer' come from Anglo-Saxon, while 'park' and 'beauty' come from Norman French.

50. B: False

By 1400 official documents in England were being written in English, which had become the language preferred by the royal court and Parliament.

51. C: Geoffrey Chaucer

Geoffrey Chaucer wrote The Canterbury Tales in the years before 1400. The pilgrims in the poems tell each other stories as they travel.

52. B: He was the first to print books on a press in England

No one in England had printed books on a press before Caxton, and The Canterbury Tales was among the first books he printed.

53. B: The Battle of Bannockburn

Many Scots kept speaking Gaelic, while the Scots language was also developing. Poets wrote in Scots, among them John Barbour, whose The Bruce tells of Bannockburn.

54. B: York Minster

Great cathedrals such as Lincoln Cathedral were built in the Middle Ages, and many had stained-glass windows. York Minster's glass is a famous example.

55. B: Wool

England was a major trading nation in this period, and its wool was a very important product sold abroad.

56. A and D: Engineers from Germany; Weavers from France

Skilled people came to trade and work. France sent weavers and Germany engineers, while Italy sent glass makers and Holland sent canal builders.

57. C: 1455

The civil war that began in 1455 was a fight over the English throne between supporters of two families, Lancaster and York.

58. B: Lancaster's symbol was a red rose and York's symbol was a white rose.

The war took its name from the families' symbols: a red rose for Lancaster and a white rose for York.

59. D: Richard III

Bosworth Field ended the Wars of the Roses. Richard III, from the York side, died there, and Henry Tudor, leading Lancaster, took the throne as Henry VII.

60. B and C: He was the first Tudor king; He married Elizabeth of York

Henry Tudor led the House of Lancaster and won at Bosworth. By marrying Elizabeth of York, King Richard's niece, he joined the two families, and the Tudor symbol put a white rose inside a red one.

61. B: Built up central government and cut the power of the nobles

Henry VII wanted peace and a secure crown, so he made the central administration stronger, weakened the nobles and saved money carefully. His son Henry VIII kept centralising power.

62. B: Catherine of Aragon

Catherine of Aragon came from Spain. Of their children only Mary lived, and Henry later sought a divorce in the hope of a son with a new wife.

63. A: Anne Boleyn

Anne Boleyn, an Englishwoman, had one daughter with Henry: Elizabeth, who later became Queen Elizabeth I.

64. D: The Pope would not approve his divorce

Henry needed the Pope's agreement to divorce his first wife. When it was refused, he created the Church of England, where the king rather than the Pope chose bishops.

65. A: A Europe-wide movement against the Pope's authority

The Reformation spread across Europe and challenged the authority, ideas and practices of the Pope and the Roman Catholic Church. Its followers, the Protestants, set up their own churches.

66. B: Henry VIII

The Act came in Henry VIII's reign. Afterwards the Welsh had representatives in the House of Commons, and their legal system was reformed.

67. A: Edward VI

Edward VI, Henry VIII's son, was a strong Protestant. The Book of Common Prayer dates from his reign.

68. C: She persecuted Protestants

Mary, a devout Catholic, treated Protestants harshly. She reigned only a short time and was followed by her half-sister Elizabeth.

69. C: 1588

In 1588 England beat the Armada, a big fleet sent by Spain to conquer the country and bring back Catholicism. Elizabeth I was especially popular afterwards.

70. B: The Golden Hind

Drake's Golden Hind circumnavigated the world. Drake also helped command the English against the Spanish Armada and is seen as a founder of England's naval tradition.

71. B: A modern copy of an early Shakespeare theatre

The Globe is a present-day reconstruction of the theatres used for Shakespeare's first performances. His works are still staged and studied in many countries.

72. B: James VI of Scotland

Elizabeth never married and had no children. The throne passed to her cousin, King James VI of Scotland, who then also ruled England, Wales and Ireland as James I.

73. B: The English Bible translated in James I's reign

Also called the King James Version, it came after earlier English Bibles, but many Protestant churches still use it.

74. A: Settlements of Scottish and English Protestants on land taken from Catholic landholders

The English government encouraged Protestants to move to Ulster in the north of Ireland. Many settlers were from south-west Scotland, and James later set up plantations elsewhere in Ireland too.

75. A: The belief that God directly chose the king to rule

James I and Charles I both held this belief and thought a king should not need Parliament's approval to act.

76. C: 1642

War started in 1642, after Charles I failed to arrest five parliamentary leaders. Supporters of the king were called Cavaliers and those of Parliament Roundheads.

77. A: 1649

Parliament had clearly won by 1646, but Charles, held as a prisoner, still refused to agree terms. He was executed in 1649.

78. D: The Commonwealth

With no monarch, England was declared a republic named the Commonwealth. At first the army held control.

79. D: Lord Protector

Cromwell took the title Lord Protector after his Irish campaign and his victory at Worcester, and kept it until his death in 1658.

80. A: The Netherlands

Charles II came back from the Netherlands and was crowned king of all four countries: England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

81. A: Sir Christopher Wren

The fire destroyed much of London, including St Paul's. The city was rebuilt with a new cathedral by the well-known architect Sir Christopher Wren.

82. B: 1679

The Act of 1679 made sure nobody could be held in prison unlawfully. Every prisoner has the right to a hearing in court.

83. C: How gravity works throughout the universe

Newton's best-known work explained gravity across the whole universe. He also found that white light contains all the colours of the rainbow.

84. D: 1688

In 1688 William, a Protestant married to James II's daughter Mary, was asked to come and claim the throne. He met no resistance and James fled to France.

85. B: The Battle of the Boyne

James invaded Ireland with French help to win back the crown, but William beat him at the Boyne and James went back to France.

86. B: Jacobites

Some people, especially in Scotland, kept backing James after he lost the throne. Some joined him in France; these supporters were known as Jacobites.

87. B: Unlike the Church of England, the Protestant Church of Scotland was not a state Church

In 1560 the Scottish Parliament ended the Pope's authority in Scotland. The new Church of Scotland, unlike the

Church of England, was not a state Church.

88. A: Shakespeare was one of the first writers to show ordinary English men and women

He dramatised important events from history but did not limit himself to royalty. He also invented many words still in common use.

89. A: When James VI of Scotland became King of England, Scotland stayed a separate country

In 1603 James VI also became king of England, Wales and Ireland, yet Scotland kept its separate status.

90. A: True

Anne Boleyn was unpopular and faced accusations of having lovers. Her execution took place at the Tower of London.

91. B: False

Catherine Howard was related to Anne Boleyn as her cousin, not to Jane Seymour. Like Anne, she was accused of having lovers and executed.

92. B: False

In the Church of England it was the king, not the Pope, who appointed bishops and decided how people should worship.

93. A: True

Edward VI, a strong Protestant, died aged 15 after a reign of just over six years. His half-sister Mary then took the throne.

94. A: True

Everyone had to go to their local church and follow set services, but the queen did not enquire into private beliefs. This balance helped her avoid serious religious conflict in England.

95. A: True

Her father died when she was a week old, so she became queen as a baby. She spent much of her childhood in France.

96. A: True

Drake helped lead the English against the Armada and is regarded as helping to found England's naval tradition.

97. A: True

Henry VII and Henry VIII spread English control beyond the Pale to the whole of Ireland, and Henry VIII called himself King of Ireland.

98. B: False

The Roundheads backed Parliament. The king's supporters were called the Cavaliers.

99. A: True

Cromwell beat Charles II's Scottish army at Worcester. Charles got away, at one point famously hiding up an oak tree, and later fled to Europe.

100. B: False

Richard failed to keep the army and government under control. With Oliver gone there was no clear leadership, and people started to talk about having a king again.

101. A: True

The Habeas Corpus Act of 1679 meant no one could be kept in prison unlawfully; every prisoner is entitled to a hearing in court.

102. A: True

Newton, born in Lincolnshire and drawn to science at Cambridge, discovered this about light. He is also known for his work on gravity.

103. A: True

All Scottish clans had to take an oath accepting William. The MacDonalds of Glencoe swore it late and were all killed, and the massacre made some Scots distrust the new government.

104. A and B: Catherine Howard; Anne Boleyn

Anne Boleyn and her cousin Catherine Howard both faced accusations of having lovers and were put to death. Jane Seymour died soon after giving birth, and Catherine Parr outlived Henry.

105. B and C: They used Bibles in their own languages, not Latin; They put each person's own bond

with God above obeying the Church

Protestants rejected the Pope's authority, read the Bible in their own language and stopped praying to saints or at shrines. A person's own relationship with God mattered more to them than obeying the Church.

106. A and D: The Book of Common Prayer dates from his reign; He was strongly Protestant

Edward was the son of Henry VIII and Jane Seymour. He was a firm Protestant, his reign lasted just over six years, and the Book of Common Prayer comes from that time.

107. A and C: His birthplace was Stratford-upon-Avon; He was both a playwright and an actor

Shakespeare came from Stratford-upon-Avon and acted as well as writing plays and poems. The first diary was written by Samuel Pepys, and today's Globe in London is a modern copy, not an original theatre.

108. A and C: Marston Moor; Naseby

The king's army lost at Marston Moor and Naseby, and by 1646 Parliament had clearly won. The Boyne and Killiecrankie came after the Glorious Revolution.

109. A and D: Dunbar; Worcester

The Scots crowned Charles II and he marched into England, but Cromwell beat his army at Dunbar and Worcester. Parliament then controlled Scotland too.

110. A and D: A great fire that destroyed much of the city; A major outbreak of plague

Plague struck London in 1665, killing thousands, and a great fire followed the next year. Samuel Pepys described these events in his diary.

111. B and C: Sir Isaac Newton; Sir Edmund Halley

The Royal Society was set up under Charles II to promote 'natural knowledge'. Halley correctly forecast that the comet now named after him would come back.

112. A and B: He let Roman Catholics become army officers; He arrested some Church of England bishops

James II, a Catholic, let Catholics serve as army officers although an Act of Parliament banned it, and did not try to agree with Parliament. People feared he wanted England to be Catholic again.

113. B and D: England saw no fighting; It secured Parliament's power

William took the throne without resistance in England, and the change ended the danger of a monarch ruling alone just as he or she pleased.

114. A and B: He tried to force a revised Prayer Book on Scotland's Presbyterian Church; He entered the House of Commons to arrest five parliamentary leaders

The Prayer Book caused serious unrest in Scotland. Later Charles failed to arrest five leaders in the Commons, who had been warned, and war could no longer be avoided.

115. A: 1689

The Bill of Rights came in 1689, after William and Mary took the throne. From then on the balance of power between the monarch and Parliament was changed for good.

116. A: True

Parliament now decided who could take the throne, and it ruled that the monarch must be Protestant.

117. A and B: Funding for the army and navy needed Parliament's approval every year; Elections for a new Parliament were required at least every three years

Parliament now had to be elected at least once every three years, and the monarch needed its approval each year for army and navy funding. Taxes also needed Parliament's agreement.

118. C: The Whigs and the Tories

The monarch needed ministers who could win a majority in both Houses, and two groups formed, the Whigs and the Tories. Today's Conservative Party is still sometimes called the Tories.

119. D: 1695

From 1695 newspapers no longer needed a government licence, and more and more of them appeared. This was an important step towards a free press.

120. B: False

No women could vote at all. Only men owning property of a certain value had the vote, so it was far from a modern democracy.

121. A: A constituency in the hands of one rich family

Some constituencies were in the hands of one rich family and were called pocket boroughs. Those with almost no voters were called rotten boroughs.

122. C: 1656

Jewish settlers arrived in London in 1656, the first since the Middle Ages. At this time many people also left Britain for new colonies in America.

123. A and C: They were Protestants who had suffered persecution because of their faith; Many were skilled and worked in science, banking or weaving

The Huguenots were Protestant refugees from France who came between 1680 and 1720. Many had a good education and became scientists or bankers, or worked in crafts such as weaving.

124. A: 1707

The Act of Union of 1707 joined Scotland with England and Wales as the Kingdom of Great Britain. It followed uncertainty over who would succeed Queen Anne.

125. A: True

Scotland stopped being an independent country, but it kept its own legal system, its own education system and its Presbyterian Church.

126. D: He was the closest Protestant relative of Anne

George I was German and was picked because he was Anne's closest Protestant relative. His English was poor, so he relied more on his ministers.

127. B: Sir Robert Walpole

The leading minister in Parliament came to be known as the Prime Minister. Sir Robert Walpole was the first, holding the post from 1721 to 1742.

128. D: 1746

Charles Edward Stuart landed in Scotland in 1745 and won some early successes. His army was beaten at Culloden in 1746, and he fled back to Europe.

129. B and D: Clansmen from the Scottish highlands supported him; After his defeat he escaped back to Europe

Charles, a grandson of James II, raised an army of highland clansmen in 1745 to replace George II. He lost at Culloden in 1746 and fled to Europe.

130. A: Crofts

Landlords knocked down many crofts to free the land for sheep and cattle. Evictions were frequent in the early 1800s, and many Scots left for North America.

131. A and C: He was a Scottish poet, called 'The Bard' in Scotland; He changed or added lyrics to many traditional folk songs

Burns wrote in Scots and in English and reworked many folk songs. His best-known work is probably Auld Lang Syne, sung at New Year. The Nobel Prize and The Jungle Book belong to Kipling.

132. B: Adam Smith worked out ideas about economics

Adam Smith's ideas on economics are still referred to today. David Hume wrote about human nature; steam power was James Watt's work.

133. A: True

Many of the great Enlightenment thinkers were Scottish, such as Adam Smith, who wrote about economics, and David Hume, who wrote about human nature.

134. A: True

Britain led the way. Its Industrial Revolution, across the 1700s and 1800s, came from new machinery and steam power. Before it, farming was Britain's largest employer.

135. D: The mass production of steel

Producing steel in large amounts helped the growth of shipbuilding and the railways. Manufacturing then became the main source of jobs in Britain.

136. A: A barber

Arkwright worked as a barber who could dye hair and make wigs, but when wigs went out of fashion he moved into textiles.

137. B and D: He improved the original carding machine; He created spinning mills powered by

horses, using a single machine

Arkwright improved carding, which prepares fibres to be spun, and made spinning more efficient. He later used the steam engine to drive his machines.

138. B: False

Arkwright is remembered for running his factories in an efficient and profitable way. Canals were built in this period to link factories with towns and ports.

139. B: False

No law protected employees at that time. Children worked too and were treated like adults, sometimes even more harshly.

140. A: Australia

Cook mapped Australia's coast and some colonies followed. In the same period Britain took control of Canada, while the East India Company came to control much of India.

141. A and B: Tea; Spices

India and today's Indonesia supplied textiles, tea and spices, while sugar and tobacco were brought from the West Indies and North America.

142. C: The first curry house in Britain

His Hindoostane Coffee House was Britain's first curry house. With his wife he also brought 'shampooing', an Indian head massage, to Britain.

143. B: False

Slavery was against the law inside Britain, but the overseas slave trade was a fully established industry dominated by Britain and its American colonies.

144. D: West Africa

Slaves were mainly taken from West Africa to America and the Caribbean and forced to labour on sugar and tobacco plantations.

145. A: True

In the late 1700s Quakers formed the first organised groups against slavery and asked Parliament to ban it.

146. C: William Wilberforce

Wilberforce and other abolitionists won the public over. From 1807 slave trading was banned on British ships and in British ports.

147. C: 1833

The slave trade in British ships was banned in 1807, and slavery itself was ended across the Empire in 1833. After that, 2 million workers from India and China were taken on in place of the freed slaves.

148. B: No taxation without representation

The colonists felt the taxes threatened their liberty because they had no representatives in the British Parliament.

149. B: 1776

The colonies declared independence in 1776. After the colonists defeated the British army, Britain recognised their independence in 1783.

150. A: True

Britain won at Trafalgar in 1805 against the French and Spanish fleets. Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square remembers him, and his ship HMS Victory is in Portsmouth.

151. C and D: He later became Prime Minister; He defeated Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815

Wellington, known as the Iron Duke, ended the French Wars at Waterloo in 1815 and was later Prime Minister. Nelson died at Trafalgar; Walpole was the first Prime Minister.

152. B: 1801

Following an Act of Union passed in 1800, Ireland joined in 1801. Before that it had shared a monarch with England and Wales since the time of Henry VIII but was a separate country.

153. A and D: The cross of St George; The cross of St Patrick

St George's cross (England) is red on white, and St Patrick's (Ireland) is red and diagonal on white. St Andrew's (Scotland) is white and diagonal on blue. Wales is not shown on the flag.

154. B: False

Wales has its own official flag with a dragon, but it is not on the Union Flag because Wales was already joined to England when the first version of the flag was designed.

155. A: 1606

The first Union Flag of 1606 combined the Scottish and English flags. Wales was already part of England then, so the Welsh dragon was not included.

156. A: True

Victoria became queen at 18 in 1837 and ruled for almost 64 years. Britain's power and influence abroad grew during her reign.

157. D: 1846

The Corn Laws were scrapped in 1846 as part of the move towards free trade. Raw materials became cheaper to import, which helped British industry.

158. A: True

The Corn Laws kept out cheap grain. Removing them in 1846 was one example of the government's free trade policies.

159. C and D: He was originally from Portsmouth; He built the Great Western Railway

Brunel was an engineer from Portsmouth who built tunnels, bridges, railways and ships. His Great Western Railway, from Paddington, was the first major railway in Britain.

160. D: 1851

The Great Exhibition of 1851 was held in a huge steel and glass building. Countries from around the world took part, but most exhibits were British-made.

161. D: Russia

Britain, Turkey and France fought Russia. Queen Victoria created the Victoria Cross during this war to honour brave soldiers.

162. A: True

It was the first war covered in depth by news reports and photographs. Many soldiers died from diseases caught in hospital rather than from their wounds.

163. A: St Thomas' Hospital in London

Her school at St Thomas' was the first school like it and is still open. She had earlier nursed soldiers in Turkey during the Crimean War, and she is often called the founder of modern nursing.

164. D: Potatoes

Many Irish people relied heavily on potatoes. When the crop failed, a million people died and another 1.5 million emigrated.

165. B: Charles Stuart Parnell wanted Ireland to remain part of the UK with a parliament of its own

Parnell argued for 'Home Rule', with Ireland keeping its place in the UK. Other nationalists, such as the Fenians, wanted full independence.

166. B: It got rid of pocket and rotten boroughs

The 1832 Act greatly increased the number of voters and gave more seats to towns and cities. Voting still depended on owning property, so the working class could not vote.

167. A: The Chartists

The Chartists wanted the vote for working people and others without property. Another Reform Act followed in 1867, creating more town seats and lowering the property needed to vote.

168. B and C: 1882; 1870

Before 1870 a married woman's money and property became her husband's. Acts of 1870 and 1882 changed this. The Reform Acts of 1832 and 1867 were about voting.

169. B: The Women's Social and Political Union

In 1889 Pankhurst founded the Women's Franchise League, and in 1903 she helped start the WSPU. WSPU members used civil disobedience, such as smashing windows and hunger strikes.

170. C: 30

Women over 30 won the vote in 1918, partly in recognition of their war work in the First World War. Just before 1928 the age was lowered to 21, the same as for men.

171. A: True

In 1918 only women over 30 could vote. Shortly before 1928 the voting age for women was brought down to 21, equal with men.

172. C and D: Critics said it was over-expanded and its conflicts wasted resources; Supporters said it benefited Britain through more trade

Supporters of expansion pointed to more trade, while critics said the Empire was over-expanded and its conflicts drained resources. Still, most British people thought the Empire did good in the world.

173. A: The British fought settlers from the Netherlands in South Africa

The Boers were Dutch settlers in South Africa who fought hard for over three years. The war led people to doubt that the Empire could last.

174. B and C: In 1907 he received the Nobel Prize in Literature; His birthplace was India, in 1865

Kipling wrote Just So Stories, The Jungle Book and the much-loved poem If. Auld Lang Syne is by Robert Burns, and Manchester in 1858 is Emmeline Pankhurst's birthplace.

175. A: True

Paying MPs was one of the early 1900s reforms and helped more people get involved in public life. Other measures included pensions for older people and free meals for schoolchildren.

176. B and C: Increasing militarism; Growing nationalism in many European states

Nationalism, militarism, imperialism and Europe's split into two camps set the scene. The Great Depression began in 1929 and Poland was invaded in 1939, both after this war.

177. D: Archduke Franz Ferdinand

The killing of the Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand was the trigger. Other causes, such as nationalism and militarism, had already prepared the ground.

178. A and B: France; Japan

Britain's allies included France, Russia, Japan, Belgium and Serbia, joined later by others such as the United States. Germany and the Ottoman Empire were on the opposing side.

179. A and B: The Austro-Hungarian Empire; Bulgaria

The Central Powers were mainly Germany, Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire, with Bulgaria joining later. Russia and Serbia were among the Allies.

180. B: More than a million Indian soldiers fought for Britain in the First World War

Soldiers came from all over the British Empire. Over a million Indians fought for Britain, about 40,000 of whom died, alongside troops from the West Indies, Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

181. A: About 60,000

On the opening day of the Somme attack alone, Britain had around 60,000 casualties. Over the whole war, British casualties passed 2 million.

182. D: 11 November 1918

Fighting stopped at 11 o'clock in the morning on 11 November 1918, and Britain and its allies were the winners.

183. A: 1913

The promise came in 1913 and a Home Rule Bill went before Parliament. The First World War then caused the government to put changes in Ireland on hold.

184. B: False

Home Rule meant Ireland would govern itself with its own parliament while staying inside the UK. Protestants in the north opposed it and threatened to fight it.

185. A: The Easter Rising

Irish Nationalists did not want to wait until after the war for change, so they rose up in Dublin in 1916. This became known as the Easter Rising.

186. B: False

The leaders were put to death under military law. After that, a guerrilla war was fought in Ireland against the British army and police.

187. C: 1922

A peace treaty was signed in 1921, and in 1922 Ireland split in two: Northern Ireland stayed in the UK and the rest became the Irish Free State.

188. B: 1949

The Irish Free State was formed in 1922 with its own government. It became a republic in 1949.

189. B: The Troubles

Some people in the North and the South still wanted a single independent Ireland. Long disagreement turned into a terror campaign, and the conflict is usually called 'the Troubles'.

190. A: True

After better living conditions in the 1920s, the Great Depression began in 1929. Some parts of the UK then saw mass unemployment.

191. B: It doubled, reaching 2 million from 1 million

Prices generally fell in the 1930s, so people with jobs had more to spend. The number of car owners doubled, reaching 2 million by 1939.

192. B and C: Evelyn Waugh; Graham Greene

The inter-war years saw a cultural flowering, with Graham Greene and Evelyn Waugh among the leading writers. Rutherford and Fleming were scientists.

193. D: John Maynard Keynes

John Maynard Keynes put forward influential economic ideas during the cultural flowering of the inter-war years.

194. B: False

1922 was when BBC radio broadcasts began. The BBC's regular television service, a world first, started in 1936.

195. B: 1933

Hitler took power in 1933. He considered the terms the Allies had placed on Germany after the First World War to be unjust and he wanted more land for Germans.

196. D: Poland

Britain had tried to avoid another war. Once Germany attacked Poland in 1939, both Britain and France declared war to halt Hitler.

197. B and D: Italy; The Empire of Japan

On the Axis side were fascist Germany, fascist Italy and the Japanese Empire. Poland and Canada were among the main allied countries.

198. D: 1940

Churchill took office in May 1940 at a moment of national crisis. He had first become an MP in 1900 and came back as Prime Minister in 1951.

199. A: More than 300,000

The Navy, helped by civilians in small fishing and pleasure boats, brought over 300,000 soldiers back. The phrase 'the Dunkirk spirit' comes from this rescue.

200. A: True

After France fell, Britain and its Empire had almost no other allies fighting Germany until Hitler turned on the Soviet Union in 1941.

201. B: An air battle the RAF won against the Germans

Hitler needed control of the skies before invading Britain. British fighter planes resisted and won this vital battle in the air.

202. A: True

These two British-made fighter planes were the key aircraft the Royal Air Force used to win the Battle of Britain.

203. B: Coventry

The Blitz was the German bombing of British cities at night. Coventry was nearly wiped out, and the East End of London also suffered heavy damage.

204. B: Pearl Harbour

Japan's December 1941 bombing of the American base at Pearl Harbour brought the United States into the war.

205. D: 6 June 1944

The allied landings in Normandy took place on 6 June 1944. After winning on the beaches, the Allies pushed through France and into Germany.

206. A and B: Hiroshima; Nagasaki

The war with Japan ended in August 1945 after the atom bombs fell on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Germany had already been defeated in May 1945.

207. D: Ernest Rutherford

Ernest Rutherford headed the team that first split the atom. Fleming and Florey are known for penicillin, and Keynes for his ideas on economics.

208. A: True

Churchill died in 1965 and was given a state funeral. In 2002 the public chose him as the greatest Briton in history.

209. B: False

Fleming was born in Scotland. As a teenager he moved to London, where he later trained and qualified as a doctor.

210. D: 1928

Fleming found penicillin in 1928. In 1945 he received the Nobel Prize in Medicine for this work.

211. B: Fleming discovered penicillin while he was researching influenza

Fleming was studying flu in 1928 when he made the discovery. Penicillin is still used against bacterial infections.

212. A and C: Ernst Chain; Howard Florey

After Fleming's discovery, Florey and Chain turned penicillin into a usable medicine, and it was being mass-produced by the 1940s.

213. D: Clement Attlee

Voters chose a Labour government in 1945, and Clement Attlee took office promising to bring in the welfare state described in the Beveridge Report.

214. C: Aneurin (Nye) Bevan

Aneurin Bevan, known as Nye, was Health Minister and led the creation of the NHS in 1948, giving everyone a basic level of health care.

215. A: True

True. Founded in 1948, the NHS promised a minimum standard of care for everyone, with no charge at the moment of treatment.

216. D: Nine

Nine countries became independent in 1947, among them India, Pakistan and Ceylon (today Sri Lanka). Other colonies followed over the next 20 years.

217. A: To defend member nations against a possible Soviet attack

NATO was a new alliance of nations formed against the perceived danger of attack from the Soviet Union and the countries allied with it. The UK also built its own atomic bomb.

218. C: Harold Macmillan

Harold Macmillan led the Conservative government of the time. His 'wind of change' speech was about the Empire's countries gaining independence.

219. A and D: He led the government between 1945 and 1951; He was Deputy Prime Minister to Winston Churchill during the war

Attlee, a barrister by training, served as Churchill's deputy in the wartime coalition, then led the government between 1945 and 1951. He led Labour for 20 years.

220. A: 1942

The wartime government asked for the report in 1941 and it appeared in 1942. It laid the foundations of today's welfare state.

221. B and C: Squalor; Idleness

The five Giant Evils were Want, Disease, Ignorance, Squalor and Idleness. Crime and Greed were not on the list.

222. B: Secondary schooling at no cost in England and Wales

R A Butler, a Conservative in charge of education from 1941, oversaw the 1944 Act. Its split between primary and secondary schools still exists in most of Britain.

223. A: Swansea

Swansea, his birthplace, has several memorials to him, such as a statue of him and the Dylan Thomas Centre. He died in New York aged 39.

224. A: True

True. Under Milk Wood is a play written for radio. It was first performed in 1954, after Thomas had died.

225. B and D: Under Milk Wood was first performed after his death; He often read his work aloud to audiences, for example on the BBC

Thomas read his work aloud in public and on the BBC. He died in New York, not Swansea, and wrote that 1952 poem for his dying father.

226. D: Driving buses

Labour was short, so industries looked overseas. Bus drivers were recruited in the West Indies, while textile and engineering firms sent agents to recruit in India and Pakistan.

227. A: True

True. To help rebuild the country, the government first encouraged workers from Ireland and elsewhere in Europe, and in 1948 invited people from the West Indies too.

228. B: The 1960s

This was the 1960s, known as 'the Swinging Sixties'. British fashion, cinema and pop music grew, and many people could now afford cars and other consumer goods.

229. C and D: Laws on abortion were made less strict; Laws on divorce were made less strict

The 1960s relaxed the laws on divorce and abortion. Migration fell in the late 1960s, and Northern Ireland's Parliament was suspended in 1972.

230. B: Migration from the West Indies, India and Pakistan went down in the late 1960s because new laws restricted immigration

The government passed laws requiring immigrants to have a strong link to Britain by birth or by ancestry, so the numbers coming fell.

231. D: 28,000

Even though immigration rules had been tightened, Britain accepted 28,000 Ugandan exiles of Indian origin in the early 1970s.

232. A and B: It stopped flying in 2003; It first flew in 1969

Britain and France built Concorde, the only supersonic passenger airliner. Its first flight was in 1969, passenger services started in 1976 and it was retired in 2003.

233. A: John Logie Baird

John Logie Baird developed television in the 1920s, and in 1932 he broadcast the first television pictures between London and Glasgow.

234. A: True

True. Radar was developed by the Scotsman Sir Robert Watson-Watt, who suggested that radio waves could detect enemy aircraft.

235. C: Jodrell Bank in Cheshire

Lovell's work with radar led him to new discoveries in astronomy. He built the radio telescope at Jodrell Bank in Cheshire.

236. A: A theoretical mathematical device

Alan Turing's machine was a theoretical idea in mathematics. It strongly influenced computer science and the development of the modern computer.

237. A: 1953

The discovery came in 1953 and helped advances in medicine and crime-fighting. Francis Crick, one of the Nobel Prize winners for it, was British.

238. A: The jet engine

Whittle developed the jet engine in Britain in the 1930s. The hovercraft came later, in the 1950s, from Sir Christopher Cockerell.

239. B: False

False. Goodfellow invented the ATM in the 1960s, and the first one was used by Barclays Bank in 1967.

240. A: True

True. IVF treatment for infertility was first developed in Britain by Sir Robert Edwards and Patrick Steptoe, leading to this birth in 1978.

241. B and D: Dolly the sheep was the first mammal to be cloned; Sir Peter Mansfield co-invented the MRI scanner

Mansfield co-invented the MRI scanner. Dolly was the first cloned mammal, in 1996. Insulin's co-discoverer was the Scottish physician John MacLeod.

242. C: 25 December 1990

The web's inventor, Sir Tim Berners-Lee, is British. The first successful transfer of information across it happened on 25 December 1990.

243. B: The Harrier jump jet, which can take off vertically, was designed and built in the UK

The Harrier was a UK design able to lift off straight up. It was Concorde, not the Harrier, that Britain built together with France.

244. C: Imports were worth more than the money earned from exports

As the post-war boom ended, prices rose sharply and the pound's exchange rate was unstable, so the value of goods bought in exceeded what exports brought in.

245. B: 1972

The 1970s brought grave unrest to Northern Ireland. In 1972 its Parliament was suspended, and around 3,000 people died in the violence in the decades after 1969.

246. C: Pentathlon

Mary Peters took gold in the pentathlon in 1972, then raised funds for athletics locally and managed the women's British Olympic team.

247. B: False

False. She was born in Manchester and moved to Northern Ireland when she was young. She was made a Dame in 2000.

248. C: The United Kingdom

The EEC was founded in 1957 by West Germany, France, Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. At first the UK chose to stay out.

249. B: False

False. At first the UK chose to stay out, and it only became a member in 1973.

250. C and D: Her father was a grocer in Grantham, Lincolnshire; She became the UK's first woman Prime Minister in 1979

Thatcher became Conservative leader in 1975 and Prime Minister after the 1979 election. She stayed in office until 1990; 1970 is when she joined the cabinet.

251. A: True

True. She held office from 1979 to 1990 and worked closely with US President Ronald Reagan.

252. C and D: Legal controls on the powers of trade unions; Privatisation of nationalised industries

Thatcher's government sold off nationalised industries and limited union powers by law. The NHS and nationalisation of the railways came from the Labour government after 1945.

253. C: Argentina

Argentina invaded in 1982. The UK sent a naval taskforce, and military action won the islands back.

254. C: John Major

John Major took over from Mrs Thatcher and helped start the peace process, which Tony Blair's government later built on.

255. B: False

False. Dahl, born in Wales to a Norwegian family, was in the Royal Air Force. He began publishing in the 1940s and is best known for children's books.

256. B and D: A Welsh Assembly; A Scottish Parliament

Elected in 1997, the Blair government set up a Scottish Parliament with strong law-making powers and a Welsh Assembly. Direct rule began in 1972, and the UK joined the EEC in 1973.

257. A and B: The Northern Ireland Assembly was suspended in 2002 and not restored until 2007; The Good Friday Agreement was signed in 1998

Building on the peace process, the Blair government reached the Good Friday Agreement in 1998. The Assembly was elected in 1999, suspended in 2002 and reinstated in 2007.

258. B: 2007

Tony Blair led Labour to power in 1997, and Gordon Brown replaced him as Prime Minister in 2007.

259. D: Kuwait

British forces were a leading part of the coalition that liberated Kuwait after Iraq's 1990 invasion. Britain was also involved in the conflict in the former Yugoslavia.

260. B: False

False. They left Iraq in 2009. Since 2000 British forces had taken part in operations against international terrorism, including in Afghanistan and Iraq.

261. D: The Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats

In 2010 no party gained an overall majority, so the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats joined forces and the Conservative leader, David Cameron, became Prime Minister.

262. A: True

True. For the first time since February 1974, no single party won a majority, which led to a Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition.