

Life in the UK Test: Chapter 4, A modern, thriving society

160 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.

The UK today

1. In which part of Europe is the UK located?

- A The south west
- B The south east
- C The north east
- D The north west

2. About how far is it from John O'Groats in Scotland to Land's End in England?

- A About 2,870 miles
- B About 370 miles
- C About 870 miles
- D About 1,870 miles

3. True or false: Most people in the UK live in the countryside.

- A True
- B False

4. What is the capital city of Scotland?

- A Edinburgh
- B Glasgow
- C Dundee
- D Aberdeen

5. What is the capital city of Wales?

- A Cardiff
- B Swansea
- C Newport
- D Belfast

6. Which TWO of these cities are in Wales?

Choose two answers.

- A Newport
- B Dundee
- C Swansea
- D Plymouth

7. How many pence are there in one pound sterling?

- A 240
- B 50
- C 10
- D 100

8. Which TWO of these values are UK coins?

Choose two answers.

- A 20p
- B 30p
- C £3
- D £2

- 9. True or false: Shops in the UK must accept banknotes issued in Scotland and Northern Ireland.**
A True
B False
- 10. True or false: Welsh is a dialect of English.**
A True
B False
- 11. Which language, different from English, do some people in the Highlands and Islands speak?**
A Manx
B Cornish
C Welsh
D Gaelic
- 12. Why are people in the UK living longer than ever before?**
A More people living in the countryside
B Better living standards and health care
C Smaller families than in the past
D Shorter working hours for most people
- 13. True or false: When a man and a woman are married, both have the same responsibility for their children.**
A True
B False
- 14. Which of these statements is correct?**
A On average, girls finish school with higher qualifications than boys
B More men than women study at university
- 15. Roughly what share of the workforce in Britain is made up of women?**
A About half
B About three quarters
C About a tenth
D About a quarter

Religion

- 16. What is a Sikh place of worship called?**
A A church
B A synagogue
C A mosque
D A gurdwara
- 17. Which of these statements is correct?**
A By law, every person in the UK may choose a religion or choose to have none.
B By law, everyone in England must belong to the Church of England.
- 18. Since which decade has the Church of England existed?**
A The 1430s
B The 1730s
C The 1630s
D The 1530s
- 19. True or false: The Church of England has the monarch as its head.**
A True
B False
- 20. Who leads the Church of England spiritually?**

- A The Moderator of the General Assembly
- B The Speaker of the House of Commons
- C The Archbishop of Canterbury
- D The Prime Minister

21. In practice, who usually chooses the Archbishop of Canterbury and other senior officials of the Church of England?

- A The Speaker and a Commons committee
- B The Moderator and the General Assembly
- C The Prime Minister and a Church committee
- D The House of Lords and the bishops

22. True or false: Several Church of England bishops are members of the House of Lords.

- A True
- B False

23. The Church of Scotland belongs to which type of Church?

- A Presbyterian
- B Roman Catholic
- C Anglican
- D Baptist

24. How long does a Moderator of the Church of Scotland's General Assembly serve?

- A For life
- B Four years
- C Five years
- D One year

25. True or false: Wales has the Church of England as its established Church.

- A True
- B False

26. Which TWO names are used for the Church of England outside England?

Choose two answers.

- A The Methodist Church
- B The Anglican Church
- C The Presbyterian Church
- D The Episcopal Church

27. Which TWO of these are Protestant Christian groups?

Choose two answers.

- A Quakers
- B Buddhists
- C Roman Catholics
- D Methodists

28. Which patron saint's day falls on 30 November?

- A St George's Day
- B St Andrew's Day
- C St Patrick's Day
- D St David's Day

29. Which TWO parts of the UK give people an official holiday on their patron saint's day?

Choose two answers.

- A Scotland
- B Northern Ireland
- C England

D Wales

30. True or false: St Patrick's Day, on 17 March, is the patron saint's day of Wales.

A True

B False

Customs and traditions

31. What is the public holiday on the day after Christmas Day called?

A Shrove Tuesday

B Boxing Day

C Hogmanay

D Easter Monday

32. Which TWO foods are often part of the special meal eaten on Christmas Day?

Choose two answers.

A Roast turkey

B Pancakes

C Mince pies

D Chocolate eggs

33. Lent is the period before Easter when Christians reflect and prepare. How many days does it last?

A 30

B 40

C 5

D 8

34. Why were pancakes traditionally made on Shrove Tuesday?

A To celebrate the birth of Jesus

B To use up food before fasting

C To be a symbol of new life

D To mark the start of winter

35. True or false: Lent begins on Shrove Tuesday.

A True

B False

36. Which festival, lasting five days in October or November, is widely known as the Festival of Lights?

A Diwali

B Eid al-Fitr

C Vaisakhi

D Eid ul Adha

37. Which TWO religious groups celebrate Diwali?

Choose two answers.

A Jews

B Hindus

C Sikhs

D Muslims

38. For how many days is the Jewish festival of Hannukah celebrated?

A 3

B 8

C 5

D 40

39. What does Eid al-Fitr celebrate?

- A The end of Ramadan
- B The founding of the Khalsa
- C The Jewish struggle for religious freedom
- D The prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son

40. True or false: In Britain, an animal sacrificed for Eid ul Adha must be killed in a slaughterhouse.

- A True
- B False

41. On which date is the Sikh festival of Vaisakhi celebrated each year?

- A 14 February
- B 14 April
- C 1 April
- D 11 November

42. In Scotland, what is 31 December called?

- A Shrove Tuesday
- B Hogmanay
- C Boxing Day
- D Ash Wednesday

43. True or false: In Scotland, 2 January is a public holiday as well as 1 January.

- A True
- B False

44. On April Fool's Day, 1 April, until what time do people traditionally play jokes on each other?

- A Midday
- B 6.00 pm
- C 11.00 am
- D Midnight

45. Which of these statements is correct?

- A Mothering Sunday is the Sunday three weeks after Easter
- B Father's Day falls on the third Sunday of June

46. Which TWO are Halloween traditions?

Choose two answers.

- A Dressing up in frightening costumes for 'trick or treat'
- B Wearing red poppies
- C Carving lanterns from pumpkins
- D Sending anonymous cards to someone you secretly admire

47. Bonfire Night on 5 November has its origin in a failed plot to blow up Parliament in which year?

- A 1642
- B 1605
- C 1688
- D 1588

48. True or false: On Remembrance Day, 11 November, a two-minute silence is held at 11.00 am.

- A True
- B False

49. Which TWO are times of year when the UK has bank holidays without religious meaning?

Choose two answers.

- A Early March
- B Late October
- C The beginning of May
- D August

Sport

50. Where was the main site of the 2012 Olympic Games?

- A Aintree, near Liverpool
- B Newmarket, Suffolk
- C Wembley, London
- D Stratford, East London

51. Which TWO of these years are years when the UK hosted the Olympic Games?

Choose two answers.

- A 1984
- B 1966
- C 1948
- D 1908

52. True or false: At the 2012 Olympic Games, the British team finished third in the medal table.

- A True
- B False

53. Whose work at Stoke Mandeville hospital in Buckinghamshire is the origin of the Paralympic Games?

- A Sir Roger Bannister
- B Sir Steve Redgrave
- C Sir Francis Chichester
- D Sir Ludwig Guttman

54. In which year did Sir Roger Bannister become the first man to run a mile in less than four minutes?

- A 1948
- B 1984
- C 1954
- D 1966

55. Who captained England's football team to victory in the 1966 World Cup?

- A Sir Ian Botham
- B Bobby Moore
- C Sir Steve Redgrave
- D Sir Roger Bannister

56. True or false: Sir Ian Botham was captain of the English football team.

- A True
- B False

57. In which sport did Sir Steve Redgrave win gold medals at five Olympic Games in a row?

- A Cycling
- B Rowing
- C Sailing
- D Swimming

58. Which TWO of these are achievements of Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson?

Choose two answers.

- A She sailed alone around the world

- B She was first in the London Marathon six times
- C She won Olympic gold for ice dancing
- D She won 11 Paralympic gold medals

59. In 2012, who became the first British winner of the Tour de France?

- A Bradley Wiggins
- B Mo Farah
- C Sir Chris Hoy
- D Andy Murray

60. Which TWO of these statements about Mo Farah are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A He was born in Somalia
- B He won Olympic gold in the heptathlon in 2012
- C He won Olympic gold in the 10,000 metres in 2012
- D He won the Tour de France in 2012

61. Andy Murray won the US Open in 2012. No British man had taken a Grand Slam singles title since which year?

- A 1936
- B 1966
- C 1908
- D 1948

62. True or false: Ellie Simmonds won her Paralympic gold medals in cycling.

- A True
- B False

63. The Ashes is a series of cricket Test matches between England and which country?

- A India
- B Australia
- C New Zealand
- D South Africa

64. Rugby has two different types with different rules. Which TWO are they?

Choose two answers.

- A Union
- B League
- C Grand Slam
- D Premier

65. Which is the best-known rugby union competition?

- A The Super League
- B The Open Championship
- C The Ashes
- D The Six Nations Championship

66. Where is the National Horseracing Museum?

- A Aintree, near Liverpool
- B Ayr, Scotland
- C Newmarket, Suffolk
- D Ascot, Berkshire

67. Which Scottish town is called the home of golf?

- A Ayr
- B Glasgow
- C St Andrews

D Edinburgh

68. True or false: The Open Championship is played on the same golf course every year.

- A True
- B False

69. Where was the first tennis club founded, in 1872?

- A Leamington Spa
- B Cowes
- C St Andrews
- D Wimbledon

70. True or false: Wimbledon is the only 'Grand Slam' tennis event that is played on grass.

- A True
- B False

71. Which of these statements is correct?

- A In 1966/67 Sir Robin Knox-Johnston was the first to sail alone round the world
- B In 1966/67 Sir Francis Chichester became the first to sail alone round the world

72. On which river do Oxford and Cambridge Universities hold a popular rowing race every year?

- A The Clyde
- B The Severn
- C The Tyne
- D The Thames

73. Which TWO of these people have been Formula 1 world champion?

Choose two answers.

- A Sir Jackie Stewart
- B Bradley Wiggins
- C Sir Chris Hoy
- D Lewis Hamilton

74. Europe's longest dry ski slope is near which city?

- A Belfast
- B Cardiff
- C Manchester
- D Edinburgh

Arts and culture

75. Since which year has the BBC organised the Proms, the summer season of orchestral classical concerts?

- A 1952
- B 1968
- C 1984
- D 1927

76. Henry Purcell, who developed a distinctly British style of music, was the organist at which church?

- A Durham Cathedral
- B St Paul's Cathedral
- C Canterbury Cathedral
- D Westminster Abbey

77. Which TWO pieces did George Frederick Handel write for British kings?

Choose two answers.

- A Façade
- B The Planets
- C Water Music
- D Music for the Royal Fireworks

78. True or false: The composer Handel was born in Germany and gained British citizenship in 1727.

- A True
- B False

79. The popular hymn I vow to thee my country uses a tune adapted from which piece?

- A Holst's Jupiter
- B Handel's Water Music
- C Walton's Façade
- D Elgar's Land of Hope and Glory

80. True or false: The Pomp and Circumstance Marches were written by Benjamin Britten.

- A True
- B False

81. Which composer, who wrote for orchestras and choirs, was deeply shaped by the old folk music of England?

- A Ralph Vaughan Williams
- B Henry Purcell
- C George Frederick Handel
- D Sir William Walton

82. Which TWO are among the best-known works of Sir William Walton?

Choose two answers.

- A Messiah
- B Peter Grimes
- C Balthazar's Feast
- D Façade

83. Which music festival, still an event of international importance, was founded by Benjamin Britten?

- A The National Eisteddfod
- B The Aldeburgh festival
- C The Edinburgh Festival
- D The Glastonbury festival

84. Which of these statements is correct?

- A Sir William Walton composed coronation marches for George VI and Elizabeth II
- B Handel composed the Water Music for George II

85. The National Eisteddfod, a yearly festival of music, dance, art and poetry competitions, is held in which country?

- A Northern Ireland
- B Wales
- C Scotland
- D England

86. True or false: Boy and girl bands became a trend in British pop in the 1960s.

- A True
- B False

87. Who wrote The Mousetrap, the murder-mystery play running in London's West End since

1952?

- A Dame Agatha Christie
- B Harold Pinter
- C Evelyn Waugh
- D Graham Greene

88. Which TWO are comic operas by Gilbert and Sullivan?

Choose two answers.

- A HMS Pinafore
- B Evita
- C The Mikado
- D Cats

89. In a British pantomime, what is the Dame?

- A The theatre's director
- B A male character played by a woman
- C An animal played by two actors in one costume
- D A female character played by a man

90. True or false: Many British theatres put on a pantomime in the summer.

- A True
- B False

91. The Edinburgh Festival Fringe is mainly a showcase of what?

- A Classical orchestral music
- B Contemporary painting
- C Garden design
- D Theatre and comedy

92. True or false: Sir Laurence Olivier, after whom the yearly London theatre awards are named, was best known for roles in Shakespeare plays.

- A True
- B False

93. Hans Holbein and Sir Anthony Van Dyck came from abroad to paint in Britain. In which centuries did they work there?

- A 14th and 15th
- B 16th and 17th
- C 19th and 20th
- D 18th and 19th

94. True or false: In the Middle Ages, most art in Britain had a religious theme.

- A True
- B False

95. In which year was the Turner Prize for contemporary art established?

- A 1984
- B 1927
- C 1952
- D 1968

96. Which TWO people are past winners of the Turner Prize?

Choose two answers.

- A Richard Wright
- B Damien Hirst
- C Ian McEwan
- D Hilary Mantel

97. Which landscape painter is most famous for his pictures of Dedham Vale, where Suffolk meets Essex?

- A Sir John Lavery
- B John Constable
- C Thomas Gainsborough
- D David Allan

98. True or false: David Allan, painter of The Origin of Painting, was a Welsh artist.

- A True
- B False

99. Which TWO artists belonged to the Pre-Raphaelites?

Choose two answers.

- A Lucian Freud
- B Dante Gabriel Rossetti
- C David Hockney
- D Holman Hunt

100. David Hockney was an important contributor to which art movement of the 1960s?

- A The gothic revival
- B Art Deco
- C Pop art
- D The Pre-Raphaelites

101. True or false: Joseph Turner is credited with making portrait painting more highly regarded.

- A True
- B False

102. The White Tower, part of the Tower of London, is a Norman castle keep. Who ordered it to be built?

- A William the Conqueror
- B Henry VIII
- C Elizabeth I
- D Alfred the Great

103. Which 17th-century architect designed the Queen's House at Greenwich and the Banqueting House in Whitehall?

- A Robert Adam
- B Sir Edwin Lutyens
- C Sir Christopher Wren
- D Inigo Jones

104. The Scottish architect Robert Adam designed both the building and the interior of which great house?

- A The Banqueting House
- B Hardwick Hall
- C The Queen's House
- D Dumfries House

105. Which of these statements is correct?

- A The Houses of Parliament and St Pancras Station date from the 19th century and are in the gothic style
- B The Houses of Parliament and St Pancras Station date from the 18th century and are in a simple style

106. True or false: Sir Edwin Lutyens was responsible for the Cenotaph in Whitehall.

- A True

B False

107. What did Lancelot 'Capability' Brown design in the 18th century?

- A Art Deco ceramics for homes
- B Furniture for great houses
- C Stained glass for churches
- D Natural-looking grounds for country houses

108. True or false: Gertrude Jekyll often worked with Sir Christopher Wren, designing gardens around his buildings.

- A True
- B False

109. Which TWO are leading British fashion designers of recent years?

Choose two answers.

- A Vivienne Westwood
- B Clarice Cliff
- C Gertrude Jekyll
- D Mary Quant

110. Who wrote The Lord of the Rings, chosen in a 2003 vote as the UK's favourite novel?

- A J K Rowling
- B Jane Austen
- C Charles Dickens
- D JRR Tolkien

111. Which English novelist wrote Pride and Prejudice and Sense and Sensibility?

- A Jane Austen
- B Agatha Christie
- C Thomas Hardy
- D Evelyn Waugh

112. True or false: In everyday speech, calling someone 'a Mr Micawber', after the Dickens character, means they are mean with money.

- A True
- B False

113. Which TWO books were written by Robert Louis Stevenson?

Choose two answers.

- A Kidnapped
- B Jude the Obscure
- C Lucky Jim
- D Treasure Island

114. Which author and poet wrote Far from the Madding Crowd, a novel about rural society?

- A Charles Dickens
- B Sir Kingsley Amis
- C Thomas Hardy
- D Graham Greene

115. Which fictional character did the Scottish doctor and writer Sir Arthur Conan Doyle create?

- A Harry Potter
- B Sherlock Holmes
- C Mr Micawber
- D James Bond

116. True or false: The most famous novel of Evelyn Waugh, a satirical writer, is probably

Brideshead Revisited.

- A True
- B False

117. Which TWO novels were written by Graham Greene?

Choose two answers.

- A Our Man in Havana
- B Decline and Fall
- C Scoop
- D Brighton Rock

118. Which Anglo-Saxon poem tells of a hero who fights monsters?

- A Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
- B The Canterbury Tales
- C Beowulf
- D Paradise Lost

119. Which TWO poems have survived from the Middle Ages?

Choose two answers.

- A Paradise Lost
- B The Tyger
- C The Canterbury Tales
- D Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

120. True or false: A sonnet, a type of poem Shakespeare wrote many of, must be 14 lines long.

- A True
- B False

121. Which poet, inspired by his religious views as Protestant ideas spread, wrote Paradise Lost?

- A William Wordsworth
- B Ted Hughes
- C John Milton
- D John Keats

122. What mainly inspired the poems of Sir Walter Scott?

- A The beauty of nature
- B His Protestant religious views
- C Scotland and the songs of the border area
- D His time fighting in the First World War

123. Which of these statements is correct?

- A Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon based poems on what they lived through in the First World War
- B Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon were 19th-century poets inspired mainly by nature

124. Which TWO were poets of the 19th century, when poetry was very popular?

Choose two answers.

- A Sir John Betjeman
- B Lord Byron
- C Ted Hughes
- D John Keats

Leisure

125. Some people in the UK rent an extra piece of land to grow fruit and vegetables. What is this land called?

- A A garden centre

- B A biome
- C A national park
- D An allotment

126. Which TWO of these famous gardens are in Scotland?

Choose two answers.

- A Sissinghurst
- B Crathes Castle
- C Mount Stewart
- D Inveraray Castle

127. True or false: Most shops in the UK open every day of the week, but often for a shorter time on Sundays and on public holidays.

- A True
- B False

128. Haggis is a traditional food of which part of the UK?

- A Wales
- B Scotland
- C England
- D Northern Ireland

129. Which TWO foods are traditionally associated with England?

Choose two answers.

- A Roast beef
- B Fish and chips
- C Ulster fry
- D Haggis

130. In which year were films first shown to the public in the UK?

- A 1926
- B 1856
- C 1946
- D 1896

131. Which British actor became famous in silent films for playing a tramp?

- A David Niven
- B Richard Burton
- C Colin Firth
- D Charlie Chaplin

132. Which of these statements is correct?

- A Sir Alfred Hitchcock never worked outside Britain and stopped making films in the 1930s.
- B Sir Alfred Hitchcock moved to Hollywood and was still a major director when he died in 1980.

133. Which British film helped to raise people's spirits during the Second World War?

- A Lawrence of Arabia
- B Chariots of Fire
- C Passport to Pimlico
- D In Which We Serve

134. Which TWO films were British comedies from the 1950s and 1960s?

Choose two answers.

- A Touching the Void
- B The Killing Fields
- C Passport to Pimlico
- D The Ladykillers

135. True or false: Ealing Studios can claim to be the world's oldest film studio facility that has never stopped working.

- A True
- B False

136. Nick Park has won Oscars for animated films. Which characters appear in several of them?

- A Wallace and Gromit
- B Morecambe and Wise
- C Harry Potter
- D James Bond

137. Which yearly film awards are the UK's equivalent of the Oscars?

- A The Ealing Studios Awards
- B The London Cinema Prizes
- C The Royal Film Medals
- D The British Academy Film Awards

138. Which TWO of these famous British films were directed by David Lean?

Choose two answers.

- A Lawrence of Arabia
- B The Third Man
- C Chariots of Fire
- D Brief Encounter

139. True or false: The Third Man (1949) was directed by Alfred Hitchcock.

- A True
- B False

140. When was the satirical magazine Punch first published?

- A In the 1740s
- B In the 1900s
- C In the 1840s
- D In the 1960s

141. Which TWO of these are satirical magazines?

Choose two answers.

- A Punch
- B Private Eye
- C Coronation Street
- D Spitting Image

142. True or false: Music hall, a kind of variety theatre, was widespread in the UK until TV took over as the main entertainment.

- A True
- B False

143. In which year did Monty Python's Flying Circus bring a new, progressive kind of comedy to British television?

- A 1989
- B 1969
- C 1949
- D 1999

144. People rent separate rooms in a shared house, each with their own tenancy agreement. How many TV licences are needed?

- A One for each tenant
- B One for the whole house

- C None, if the landlord has one
- D One for each TV set

145. How is the BBC paid for?

- A Mainly by advertisements
- B Mainly by subscriptions
- C By the National Lottery
- D By money from TV licences

146. What is the minimum age for buying alcohol at a pub or night club in the UK?

- A 21
- B 18
- C 17
- D 16

147. True or false: A 16-year-old may drink beer or wine alongside a meal in a restaurant if a person aged over 18 is with them.

- A True
- B False

148. What is the minimum age for going into a betting shop or gambling club?

- A 18
- B 17
- C 16
- D 21

149. True or false: In public places, every dog must wear a collar showing its owner's name and address.

- A True
- B False

Places of interest

150. What is Big Ben strictly the nickname of?

- A The Ferris wheel on the River Thames
- B The tower that holds the Parliament clock
- C The great bell of the Parliament clock
- D The main gate of the Tower of London

151. True or false: The clock tower at the Houses of Parliament was named Elizabeth Tower to mark the 2012 Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

- A True
- B False

152. Where is the Eden Project?

- A The Lake District
- B Edinburgh
- C Cornwall
- D North Wales

153. Where is the Giant's Causeway?

- A On Northern Ireland's north-east coast
- B In North Wales
- C In the west of Scotland
- D In south-west England

154. Which is the biggest body of fresh water on mainland Britain?

- A Windermere
- B Ullswater
- C Loch Lomond
- D Wastwater

155. The London Eye was first built as part of which celebration?

- A The coronation of 1953
- B The new millennium
- C The founding of the National Trust
- D The 2012 Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II

156. Which of these statements is correct?

- A Henry VIII built the first Tower of London after he became king.
- B William the Conqueror built the first Tower of London after he became king.

157. Which TWO things can visitors do at the Tower of London?

Choose two answers.

- A Ride a Ferris wheel over the Thames
- B Take a tour with the Yeoman Warders
- C See the great bell called Big Ben
- D See the Crown Jewels

158. True or false: Three volunteers set up the National Trust in 1895.

- A True
- B False

159. True or false: Edinburgh Castle's long history begins in the early Middle Ages.

- A True
- B False

160. Which TWO statements about the Lake District are correct?

Choose two answers.

- A Loch Lomond lies inside it
- B Windermere is its biggest stretch of water
- C It is England's largest national park
- D Snowdon is its best-known landmark

Answers

1. D: The north west

The UK is in north-west Europe. Its longest mainland distance runs from John O'Groats to Land's End.

2. C: About 870 miles

It is the longest distance across the mainland: about 870 miles, or roughly 1,400 kilometres, from Scotland's north coast to England's south-west corner.

3. B: False

The majority live in towns and cities. Large parts of Britain remain rural, and many people visit them for holidays, walking, camping and fishing.

4. A: Edinburgh

Edinburgh is Scotland's capital. Glasgow, Aberdeen and Dundee are other Scottish cities.

5. A: Cardiff

Cardiff is the capital of Wales. Swansea and Newport are also Welsh cities, and Belfast is the capital of Northern Ireland.

6. A and C: Newport; Swansea

Swansea and Newport are cities in Wales, along with the capital, Cardiff. Dundee is in Scotland and Plymouth is in England.

7. D: 100

The UK currency is the pound sterling, written with the symbol £, and one pound is made up of 100 pence.

8. A and D: 20p; £2

Coins range from 1p up to £2, with 20p and £2 among them; there is no 30p or £3 coin. The £5, £10, £20 and £50 are banknotes.

9. B: False

Scotland and Northern Ireland have their own banknotes, which can be used anywhere in the UK. But shops and businesses are not obliged to take them.

10. B: False

Welsh is an entirely separate language from English. Many people in Wales speak it, and schools and universities teach it.

11. D: Gaelic

Gaelic is used in some areas of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. Welsh is spoken in Wales, and some people in Northern Ireland speak Irish Gaelic.

12. B: Better living standards and health care

Higher living standards and improved health care mean people live longer. A record number are now 85 or older, which pushes up spending on pensions and health care.

13. A: True

By law men and women must not be treated unfairly because of their gender or whether they are married. Married parents share responsibility for their children equally.

14. A: On average, girls finish school with higher qualifications than boys

Girls on average leave school with better results than boys, and more women than men go on to study at university.

15. A: About half

Today roughly half of all workers are women. They work in every sector of the economy, and more hold senior posts than ever before.

16. D: A gurdwara

Sikhs worship in gurdwaras. Across the UK there are also mosques for Muslims, synagogues for Jews, and Hindu and Buddhist temples.

17. A: By law, every person in the UK may choose a religion or choose to have none.

Although the UK is historically Christian, the law lets every person pick their own religion, or decide not to practise any religion at all.

18. D: The 1530s

The Church of England is a Protestant Church dating from the Reformation of the 1530s, and it is England's established Church.

19. A: True

The monarch heads the Church of England, which reflects the constitutional tie between the state and the Church in England.

20. C: The Archbishop of Canterbury

The Archbishop of Canterbury is the Church of England's spiritual leader. The Moderator chairs the Church of Scotland's General Assembly.

21. C: The Prime Minister and a Church committee

The monarch is entitled to pick the Archbishop and other senior officials, but the choice normally falls to the Prime Minister working with a Church-appointed committee.

22. A: True

Some Church of England bishops have seats in the House of Lords, another sign of the link between Church and state in England.

23. A: Presbyterian

The Church of Scotland, the national Church in Scotland, is Presbyterian and is run by ministers and elders.

24. D: One year

The Moderator chairs the General Assembly and often speaks for the Church of Scotland, but holds the post for a single year.

25. B: False

Wales and Northern Ireland have no established Church. Only in England is the Church of England the state Church.

26. B and D: The Anglican Church; The Episcopal Church

In other countries the Church of England is called the Anglican Church, and in the United States and Scotland the Episcopal Church. Methodists and Presbyterians are separate Protestant groups.

27. A and D: Quakers; Methodists

Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians and Quakers are Protestant groups. Roman Catholics form a different branch of Christianity, and Buddhism is a separate religion.

28. B: St Andrew's Day

30 November is St Andrew's Day, for Scotland. St David's Day is 1 March, St Patrick's Day 17 March and St George's Day 23 April.

29. A and B: Scotland; Northern Ireland

Only Scotland and Northern Ireland make their saint's day an official holiday, though in Scotland some businesses stay open. England and Wales still celebrate theirs with parades and festivals.

30. B: False

St Patrick's Day on 17 March belongs to Northern Ireland. The patron saint's day of Wales is St David's Day on 1 March.

31. B: Boxing Day

Boxing Day follows Christmas Day (25 December), and both are public holidays.

32. A and C: Roast turkey; Mince pies

Typical dishes are roast turkey, mince pies and Christmas pudding. Pancakes belong to Shrove Tuesday and chocolate eggs to Easter.

33. B: 40

Lent covers the 40 days before Easter. People traditionally fasted then, and today many give up something, such as a favourite food.

34. B: To use up food before fasting

Shrove Tuesday, or Pancake Day, is the day before Lent. Pancakes used up foods like eggs, fat and milk before the fasting period began. Chocolate eggs stand for new life at Easter.

35. B: False

False. Shrove Tuesday is the day before; Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, when Christians may be marked with a

cross of ash on the forehead.

36. A: Diwali

Diwali celebrates good beating evil, and gaining knowledge. Leicester holds a famous Diwali celebration.

37. B and C: Hindus; Sikhs

Diwali is a Hindu and Sikh festival. Muslims celebrate the two Eids, and Jews celebrate Hannukah.

38. B: 8

Hannukah, in November or December, lasts eight days. A candle is lit each day on a menorah, recalling oil meant for one day that burned for eight.

39. A: The end of Ramadan

Eid al-Fitr follows a month of fasting by Muslims during Ramadan. Its date moves every year, and Muslims go to special services and meals.

40. A: True

True. Eid ul Adha recalls that Ibrahim was ready to sacrifice his son at God's command. Many Muslims kill an animal for food, which in Britain must happen in a slaughterhouse.

41. B: 14 April

Vaisakhi (also written Baisakhi) falls on 14 April. It marks the start of the Sikh community called the Khalsa, with parades, dancing and singing.

42. B: Hogmanay

Scots call New Year's Eve Hogmanay. For some Scottish people it matters more than Christmas.

43. A: True

True. New Year's Day is a public holiday across the UK, and Scotland also has a public holiday on 2 January.

44. A: Midday

April Fool jokes are played only until midday. Newspapers and TV often run joke stories on that day.

45. B: Father's Day falls on the third Sunday of June

Father's Day falls on the third Sunday in June. Mothering Sunday comes three weeks before Easter, not after it; on both days children send cards or give gifts.

46. A and C: Dressing up in frightening costumes for 'trick or treat'; Carving lanterns from pumpkins

Halloween (31 October) comes from a pagan festival marking the start of winter. Anonymous cards belong to Valentine's Day and poppies to Remembrance Day.

47. B: 1605

In 1605 Guy Fawkes led a Catholic group that tried, and failed, to blow up the Houses of Parliament and kill the Protestant king.

48. A: True

True. The day remembers people killed while fighting for the UK and its allies; at first it honoured the First World War dead (the war ended on 11 November 1918). Wreaths are placed at the Cenotaph.

49. C and D: The beginning of May; August

Bank holidays fall at the start of May, at the end of May or start of June, and in August. Northern Ireland also has a holiday in July for the Battle of the Boyne anniversary.

50. D: Stratford, East London

The main site of the 2012 Olympics was in Stratford, in the east of London. The Paralympic Games that year were held in London too.

51. C and D: 1948; 1908

The UK has been the Olympic host three times: in 1908, 1948 and 2012. In 1966 England won the football World Cup, and 1984 is when Torvill and Dean won Olympic gold.

52. A: True

British athletes did well in many different Olympic sports in 2012 and ended up third in the table of medals.

53. D: Sir Ludwig Guttman

Sir Ludwig Guttman, a doctor and refugee from Germany, found new ways to treat patients with spinal injuries and got them involved in sport and exercise.

54. C: 1954

Roger Bannister ran a mile in less than four minutes in 1954, the first man anywhere to do so.

55. B: Bobby Moore

Bobby Moore led the England side to World Cup victory in 1966. That tournament was held in the UK.

56. B: False

Ian Botham captained the English cricket team, not the football team, and set English Test records with both bat and ball.

57. B: Rowing

Steve Redgrave won rowing gold at five Olympic Games one after another. He is counted among Britain's greatest Olympians.

58. B and D: She was first in the London Marathon six times; She won 11 Paralympic gold medals

Tanni Grey-Thompson, a wheelchair athlete, took 16 Paralympic medals (11 of them gold) over five Games and was first in the London Marathon six times. Ice dancing gold went to Torvill and Dean.

59. A: Bradley Wiggins

The cyclist Bradley Wiggins won the Tour de France in 2012, a first for a British rider. He also won Olympic gold in 2004, 2008 and 2012.

60. A and C: He was born in Somalia; He won Olympic gold in the 10,000 metres in 2012

Mo Farah, a distance runner born in Somalia, took gold in both the 5,000 m and 10,000 m races in 2012. Wiggins won the Tour de France and Jessica Ennis the heptathlon.

61. A: 1936

No British man had won a Grand Slam singles title since 1936. In 2012 Murray also won Olympic gold and silver and reached the Wimbledon final.

62. B: False

Ellie Simmonds won Paralympic gold in swimming, in 2008 and 2012. Nobody in the British team at the 2008 Games was younger than her.

63. B: Australia

The Ashes is the best-known cricket competition. Cricket started in England and games can go on for as long as five days.

64. A and B: Union; League

Rugby began in England early in the 19th century. Union and league are played under different rules, and each has its own leagues and national teams.

65. D: The Six Nations Championship

England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, France and Italy take part in the Six Nations, while the Super League is the best-known rugby league club competition.

66. C: Newmarket, Suffolk

The museum is in Newmarket in Suffolk. Ascot, Aintree and Ayr host famous race meetings: Royal Ascot, the Grand National and the Scottish Grand National.

67. C: St Andrews

St Andrews is called the home of golf. The modern game goes back to Scotland in the 15th century.

68. B: False

A different golf course hosts The Open each year. It is the only 'Major' golf tournament that takes place outside the United States.

69. A: Leamington Spa

Modern tennis took shape in England towards the end of the 19th century, and the first club was set up in Leamington Spa in 1872.

70. A: True

Wimbledon, held annually at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, is also the oldest tennis tournament anywhere.

71. B: In 1966/67 Sir Francis Chichester became the first to sail alone round the world

Chichester was the first solo round-the-world sailor. Two years later Knox-Johnston was first to do it without a stop.

72. D: The Thames

Rowing is popular both for leisure and as a competitive sport, and the yearly Oxford against Cambridge race takes place on the Thames.

73. A and D: Sir Jackie Stewart; Lewis Hamilton

Jackie Stewart, a Scottish driver, was world champion three times, and Lewis Hamilton is one of the more recent British winners. Hoy and Wiggins are cyclists.

74. D: Edinburgh

There are dry ski slopes across the UK, and the longest in Europe is close to Edinburgh. Scotland also has five ski centres.

75. D: 1927

The BBC has run the Proms since 1927. The season lasts eight weeks, and its best-known concert, the Last Night of the Proms, is shown on television.

76. D: Westminster Abbey

Purcell (1659-95) played the organ at Westminster Abbey. He composed church music and operas, and British composers are still influenced by him.

77. C and D: Water Music; Music for the Royal Fireworks

Handel composed the Water Music for George I and Music for the Royal Fireworks for George II. The Planets is by Holst and Façade is by Walton.

78. A: True

True. Handel lived in the UK for many years and took British citizenship in 1727. His oratorio Messiah is often sung by choirs around Easter.

79. A: Holst's Jupiter

Gustav Holst adapted Jupiter, part of his suite The Planets, as the tune of this hymn. The Planets has one piece for each planet of the solar system.

80. B: False

False. They are by Sir Edward Elgar, who was born in Worcester. March No 1, Land of Hope and Glory, is normally heard at the Last Night of the Proms.

81. A: Ralph Vaughan Williams

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) composed for orchestras and choirs, and old English folk music had a strong effect on his work.

82. C and D: Balthazar's Feast; Façade

Walton's Façade was turned into a ballet, and Balthazar's Feast is written for a big choir. Peter Grimes is an opera by Britten and Messiah is by Handel.

83. B: The Aldeburgh festival

Britten started the Aldeburgh festival in Suffolk. He is best known for operas such as Peter Grimes and Billy Budd.

84. A: Sir William Walton composed coronation marches for George VI and Elizabeth II

Walton composed coronation marches for both George VI and Elizabeth II. Handel's Water Music was for George I; it was the Royal Fireworks music that he wrote for George II.

85. B: Wales

The National Eisteddfod of Wales takes place every year. Most of its performances are in Welsh, and it holds major competitions for Welsh poetry.

86. B: False

False. Boy and girl bands were a trend of the 1990s. The 1960s brought bands such as The Beatles and The Rolling Stones, and Punk followed in the late 1970s.

87. A: Dame Agatha Christie

The Mousetrap is by Agatha Christie. It opened in the West End in 1952 and its original run is longer than that of any other show.

88. A and C: HMS Pinafore; The Mikado

Gilbert and Sullivan's 19th-century comic operas include HMS Pinafore, The Pirates of Penzance and The Mikado. Evita and Cats are shows with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

89. D: A female character played by a man

The Dame is a traditional pantomime role: a woman acted by a man. Pantomimes often also have a horse or cow with two actors inside one costume.

90. B: False

False. Pantomimes are a Christmas tradition. They are cheerful family shows with music and comedy, based on fairy tales.

91. D: Theatre and comedy

The Fringe is the largest part of the Edinburgh Festival, held every summer. It shows mostly theatre and comedy, often experimental.

92. A: True

True. The Laurence Olivier Awards, held each year in London, honour the actor, later Lord Olivier, famous for his Shakespeare roles.

93. B: 16th and 17th

During the 16th and 17th centuries many painters active in Britain were foreign, Holbein and Van Dyck among them. British portrait and landscape artists became famous from the 18th century.

94. A: True

True. Medieval art was mostly religious, such as church wall paintings and pictures in religious books. Much of it disappeared after the Protestant Reformation.

95. A: 1984

The Turner Prize began in 1984 and is named after the painter Joseph Turner. It is seen as one of Europe's most prestigious visual art awards.

96. A and B: Richard Wright; Damien Hirst

Damien Hirst and Richard Wright have won the Turner Prize for contemporary art. Ian McEwan and Hilary Mantel are novelists who won a prize for fiction.

97. B: John Constable

John Constable (1776-1837) painted landscapes, and his best-known works show Dedham Vale in the east of England.

98. B: False

False. David Allan (1744-96) was Scottish and best known for his portraits. The Welsh artist in the list is John Petts, known for engravings and stained glass.

99. B and D: Dante Gabriel Rossetti; Holman Hunt

The Pre-Raphaelites, active in the later 19th century, painted detailed, brightly coloured religious or literary scenes. Members included Holman Hunt, Rossetti and Sir John Millais.

100. C: Pop art

Hockney, born in 1937, played a big part in 1960s pop art and is still influential.

101. B: False

False. Turner (1775-1851) painted landscapes in a modern style and had great influence; he is credited with lifting the status of landscape painting.

102. A: William the Conqueror

The White Tower is a Norman keep, built because William the Conqueror ordered it.

103. D: Inigo Jones

Inigo Jones drew on classical architecture for both buildings. Later that century Wren worked on the new St Paul's Cathedral.

104. D: Dumfries House

In the 18th century Robert Adam designed the inside as well as the structure of houses like Dumfries House. Inigo Jones designed the Queen's House and the Banqueting House.

105. A: The Houses of Parliament and St Pancras Station date from the 19th century and are in the gothic style

The medieval gothic style came back in the 19th century, when many large public buildings went up, including town halls in Manchester and Sheffield.

106. A: True

True. After the First World War Lutyens designed many war memorials around the world, including the Cenotaph, where the yearly Remembrance Day service is held. He also designed New Delhi as India's seat of government.

107. D: Natural-looking grounds for country houses

Brown laid out the land around country houses with grass, trees and lakes so it looked natural. He liked to say a place had 'capabilities'.

108. B: False

False. Jekyll frequently partnered with Edwin Lutyens, creating colourful gardens for the houses he designed.

109. A and D: Vivienne Westwood; Mary Quant

Mary Quant, Vivienne Westwood and Alexander McQueen are recent fashion designers. Clarice Cliff designed Art Deco ceramics and Gertrude Jekyll designed gardens.

110. D: JRR Tolkien

In a 2003 vote, Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* was chosen as the UK's favourite novel.

111. A: Jane Austen

Jane Austen (1775-1817) wrote about marriage and family life. Many of her books have been adapted for film and television.

112. B: False

False. Mr Micawber stands for someone who is always hopeful. The Dickens character whose name means a mean person is Scrooge.

113. A and D: Kidnapped; Treasure Island

Stevenson's best-known books are *Treasure Island*, *Kidnapped* and *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. *Lucky Jim* is by Kingsley Amis and *Jude the Obscure* by Thomas Hardy.

114. C: Thomas Hardy

Thomas Hardy (1840-1928) is best known for novels about country life, such as *Far from the Madding Crowd* and *Jude the Obscure*.

115. B: Sherlock Holmes

Conan Doyle is best known for his Sherlock Holmes stories. Holmes was one of the earliest detectives in fiction.

116. A: True

True. Waugh's satirical novels include *Decline and Fall* and *Scoop*, but *Brideshead Revisited* is probably his most famous.

117. A and D: Our Man in Havana; Brighton Rock

Greene's novels, often shaped by his religious beliefs, include *Brighton Rock*, *Our Man in Havana* and *The Heart of the Matter*. *Decline and Fall* and *Scoop* are by Evelyn Waugh.

118. C: Beowulf

Beowulf is an Anglo-Saxon poem about a hero battling monsters. It is still being translated into modern English.

119. C and D: The Canterbury Tales; Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (a tale of one of King Arthur's knights) are medieval. *Paradise Lost* is by Milton and *The Tyger* by William Blake.

120. A: True

True. A sonnet always has 14 lines. Besides his plays, Shakespeare wrote many sonnets and a few longer poems.

121. C: John Milton

As Protestant ideas spread, some poets wrote about their faith. John Milton was one of them, and *Paradise Lost* is his work.

122. C: Scotland and the songs of the border area

Scott's poems drew on Scotland and the old stories and songs of the Scottish-English border. Owen and Sassoon wrote about the war, Milton about faith, and Wordsworth about nature.

123. A: Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon based poems on what they lived through in the First World War

Owen and Sassoon were poets of the First World War. Wordsworth is the poet named as being inspired by nature.

124. B and D: Lord Byron; John Keats

Keats, Byron, Shelley, Tennyson, Blake and the Brownings wrote in the 19th century. Ted Hughes and John

Betjeman are more recent poets.

125. D: An allotment

An allotment is land that people rent on top of any garden they have at home, usually so they can grow their own fruit and vegetables.

126. B and D: Crathes Castle; Inveraray Castle

Crathes Castle and Inveraray Castle are well-known Scottish gardens. Sissinghurst is in England and Mount Stewart is in Northern Ireland.

127. A: True

Most UK shops trade seven days a week. They usually close earlier, or open later, on Sundays and public holidays.

128. B: Scotland

Haggis, a sheep's stomach filled with offal, onions, suet and oatmeal, is linked with Scotland. Wales has Welsh cakes and Northern Ireland the Ulster fry.

129. A and B: Roast beef; Fish and chips

England is linked with roast beef, eaten with potatoes, vegetables and Yorkshire puddings, and fish and chips are popular there too. Haggis is Scottish and the Ulster fry comes from Northern Ireland.

130. D: 1896

Public film showings in the UK began in 1896, and going to the cinema soon became very popular.

131. D: Charlie Chaplin

Charlie Chaplin made his name in silent films as a tramp. Like many other British actors, he built a career in Hollywood.

132. B: Sir Alfred Hitchcock moved to Hollywood and was still a major director when he died in 1980.

Hitchcock was one of the leading directors when British studios did well in the 1930s. He later went to Hollywood and kept his importance as a director until 1980, the year he died.

133. D: In Which We Serve

In the Second World War, British films such as *In Which We Serve* did a lot to keep up morale. *Passport to Pimlico* was a later comedy, and the other two came out in 1962 and 1981.

134. C and D: Passport to Pimlico; The Ladykillers

British comedy films reached a high point in the 1950s and 1960s with titles such as *Passport to Pimlico* and *The Ladykillers*, with the *Carry On* films coming later. *The Killing Fields* is from 1984 and *Touching the Void* from 2003.

135. A: True

Ealing Studios is said to have the longest unbroken record of any film studio anywhere. Many films made in the UK today are produced by foreign companies using British skills.

136. A: Wallace and Gromit

Nick Park's work shows British strength in animation, and several of his Oscar-winning films feature Wallace and Gromit. *Harry Potter* and *James Bond* are film series made in the UK.

137. D: The British Academy Film Awards

The British Academy Film Awards are held every year by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) and are the UK's answer to the Oscars.

138. A and D: Lawrence of Arabia; Brief Encounter

David Lean made *Brief Encounter* (1945) and *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962). *The Third Man* was directed by Carol Reed and *Chariots of Fire* by Hugh Hudson.

139. B: False

Carol Reed directed *The Third Man*. Among the famous British films listed, the one by Hitchcock is *The 39 Steps* from 1935.

140. C: In the 1840s

Satirical magazines started to appear in the 19th century. The best known of them, *Punch*, first came out in the 1840s.

141. A and B: Punch; Private Eye

Punch was the most famous satirical magazine of the 19th century, and *Private Eye* keeps that tradition going today. *Spitting Image* was a satirical TV show and *Coronation Street* is a soap opera.

142. A: True

Comedians were a big part of music hall. Morecambe and Wise, for example, performed in music halls during the 1940s and 1950s and later became TV stars.

143. B: 1969

Monty Python's Flying Circus began in 1969 and brought a new style of progressive comedy. Satire shows were also important, such as Spitting Image, shown in the 1980s and 1990s.

144. A: One for each tenant

Normally a single licence covers all the equipment in a home. When people rent separate rooms on separate tenancy agreements, each of them needs a licence.

145. D: By money from TV licences

TV licence money funds the BBC, including its radio stations, and the BBC is independent of government. Most other UK channels rely mainly on advertising and subscriptions.

146. B: 18

Only people aged 18 or over can be sold alcohol in pubs and night clubs. Younger people may be let into some pubs if an adult is with them.

147. A: True

From 16, people may have beer or wine alongside a meal in a restaurant or hotel, including a pub's dining area, if accompanied by someone aged over 18.

148. A: 18

Betting shops and gambling clubs are only open to people aged 18 or over. Betting on sports and other events is a common pastime in the UK.

149. A: True

Dogs in public must have a collar with the owner's name and address. The owner must also keep the dog under control and clean up after it.

150. C: The great bell of the Parliament clock

Big Ben is the nickname of the great bell in the clock at the Houses of Parliament, though many people use it for the clock too. The tower itself is called Elizabeth Tower.

151. A: True

The tower that holds Big Ben was given the name Elizabeth Tower in honour of the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in 2012.

152. C: Cornwall

The Eden Project is in Cornwall, in south-west England. Its biomes work like huge greenhouses holding plants from around the world, and it is also a charity.

153. A: On Northern Ireland's north-east coast

The Giant's Causeway lies on Northern Ireland's north-east coast. Its columns were made from volcanic lava around 50 million years ago.

154. C: Loch Lomond

Loch Lomond, in a national park in the west of Scotland, is the largest stretch of fresh water in mainland Britain. Windermere is the biggest stretch of water in the Lake District.

155. B: The new millennium

The London Eye, a 135-metre Ferris wheel on the south bank of the Thames, was built for the UK's millennium celebrations and is still part of New Year events.

156. B: William the Conqueror built the first Tower of London after he became king.

William the Conqueror built the first Tower of London once he had become king in 1066, not Henry VIII.

157. B and D: Take a tour with the Yeoman Warders; See the Crown Jewels

At the Tower of London the Yeoman Warders, also called Beefeaters, give tours about its history, and the Crown Jewels are on show. Big Ben is at the Houses of Parliament and the Ferris wheel is the London Eye.

158. A: True

The National Trust began in 1895, started by three volunteers. Both it and its Scottish counterpart, the National Trust for Scotland, are charities that protect important buildings, coastline and countryside.

159. A: True

Edinburgh Castle stands out on the skyline of the Scottish capital, and its past reaches as far back as the early Middle Ages.

160. B and C: Windermere is its biggest stretch of water; It is England's largest national park

The Lake District is the biggest national park in England and is known for lakes and mountains; Windermere is its largest stretch of water. Snowdon is in Snowdonia, in Wales, and Loch Lomond is in Scotland.