

Laboratory Christmas Quiz: Light relief from CPD questions

The Christmas quiz was very successful again last year and the NZIMLS Council has agreed to sponsor another quiz this year. As with last year it is a General Knowledge Quiz and the NZIMLS Council has agreed to award a single prize of \$300.00 towards a laboratory Christmas function for the most correct answers. While individuals can also complete the quiz, the prize is only to a laboratory team entry to encourage teamwork. There are no CPD points for this quiz, and it is not discipline related. The NZIMLS Council have not participated in the question setting or have knowledge of the answers. An answer sheet is available on the NZIMLS website. The answers will be published on the NZIMLS website after the quiz closes, and the winner(s) is announced. Closing date for all answers is 8 December 2025. All completed quiz answers with a Laboratory contact person should be sent to: mike.legge@nzimls.org.nz and subject Christmas Quiz. Please indicate if the entry is a team or individual entry as indicated below. No correspondence will be entered into relating to the quiz.



Team entry: **Yes** **No**
Name of Team and Laboratory:

1. The word 'derrick' used for a construction on commercial oil rigs is named after?

An 18th century crinoline support frame

Old English for a scaffold

A 17th century hangman

A 16th century engineer

2. In which European city was Karl Marx buried?

London

Paris

Moscow

Berlin

3. Which of the following European countries is the biggest banana producer in Europe?

Spain

Denmark

Iceland

Italy

4. Denim was first produced in which French city?

Nice

Lyon

Marseille

Nimes

5. Lewis Carol was a pen name for which author?

C.S. Lewis

Henry Auber Fletcher

Charles Lutwidge Dodgson

Harry Hart Frank

6. Vernal relates to which season?

Autumn

Winter

Spring

Summer

7. In which field would the word Oulipo be found?

Geology

Writing

Painting

Medicine

8. In the Greek mythology Erebus is the persons function of what?

Sky

Day

Sea

Darkness

9. In which opera does Don Jose play a leading role?

La Boheme

Carmen

Lakme

Pagliacci

10. Which European city was known as 'Olisipo during the Roman Empire?

Lisbon

Paris

Tangier

Madrid

11. Which country is generally accredited with the invention of the 'ute'?

New Zealand

Germany

Australia

America

12. How many 'face off' circles are marked in the rink for an ice hockey game?

Eight

Five

Nine

Four

13. The Phoenician people lived mainly in the equivalent of which modern country?

Greece

Turkey

Lebanon

Egypt

14. At sea level, approximately how far can the horizon be seen?

15Km

5Km

10Km

20Km

15. Which country outside of Europe has more than three million German speakers?

Argentina

Columbia

Uruguay

Brazil

16. The meaning of the car manufacturers trademark "Volvo" means which of the following?

To role

To move

To service

To use

17. Which blues guitarist was born Ellas Bates?

Chuck Berry

Muddy Waters

Bo Diddly

Eric Clapton

18. The modern Italian language originated from which Italian City State?

Venice

Rome

Naples

Florence

19. Where is the Sargasso Sea?

Pacific Ocean

Indian Ocean

Artic Ocean

Atlantic Ocean

20. The fashion house "Prada" has been involved in designing which of the following?

Sun protection clothing

Space suits

Antarctic protection clothing

Personal protection clothing

21. In the 17th century which country did lens makers learn to combine lenses?

England

Germany

Italy

Holland

22. In which Western movie did the "Man with no name" use body armour?

For a few dollars more

The good the bad and the ugly

Pale Rider

A fistful of dollars

23. The Normans from France originated from which culture?

Celtic

Germanic

Gaelic

Norse

24. Besides the Vatican, which of the following is the only country to have a square flag?

Switzerland

Austria

Nepal

Finland

25. Norway's Svalbard Island is home to a refuge for which of the following?

Seeds

Threatened species embryos

DNA bank

Data bank

26. How many emirates are in the United Arab Emirates?

Five

Nine

Three

Seven

27. Which metallic element takes its name from the ancient Greek word for stone?

Lithium

Zinc

Tin

Lead

28. The pattern of alternating rectangles of colour on emergency vehicles, is known as?

Quadrant colour

Crossover tartan

Bauhaus block

Battenberg markings

29. What colour are the tennis courts at Melbourne Park for the Australian Open?

Green

Brown

Blue

Red

30. Where did tomatoes originate from?

South America

India

China

Italy

31. Which modern city is on the site of the ancient Greek city of Byzantium?

Tunis

Istanbul

Beirut

Athens

32. Who wrote the music "Adagio for Strings"?

Leonard Bernstein

Claude DeBussey

Benjamin Britten

Samuel Barber

33. How many official national languages are there in Switzerland?

Three

Four

Two

Five

34. In which year was the first in-flight movie screened?

1948

1925

1950

1955

35. Which country produces most of the world's emeralds?

India

Columbia

South Africa

Australia

36. On which island did halloumi cheese originate?

Corsica

Sardinia

Cyprus

Crete

37. What is the main ingredient in a "Singapore Sling"?

Whisky

Cognac

Vodka

Gin

38. From which country did the word "spa" as in "spa pool" originate?

France

Italy

Belgium

Portugal

39. What does a cordwainer make?

Shields

Ships

Shoes

Shirts

40. Which of the following is the world's driest non-polar desert?

Gobi

Atacama

Saraha

Kalahari

41. In which country is the province of Zeeland?

Belgium

Sweden

Denmark

Netherlands

42. What was the group Queen's first name for the group?

Grin

The Smirk

Smile

The Beams

43. In which year was the first web page served on the open internet?

1990

1992

1988

1985

44. Where would you find a serac?

On a glacier

In the ocean

In a desert

On the moon

45. Bumbershoot is the old-fashioned word for which of the following?

Umbrella

Shotgun

Automobile

Fly swat

46. What kind of pastry is used to make eclairs and profiteroles?

Flaky

Choux

Puff

Filo

47. Which of the following countries has no capital city?

Belgium

Netherlands

Switzerland

Austria

48. Putiputi is the te rao Māori word for which of the following?

Flower

Tree

Bird

Animal

49. A thermopolium in the ancient Greece-Roman world was what?

A blacksmith

A public spa

A smelting foundry

A takeaway

50. Which technique was essential for creating flavoured crisps?

Gas chromatography

Thin-layer chromatography

Mass spectrometry

Liquid chromatography

51. Who is the only person below to win the Nobel prize in two different sciences?

Louis Pasteur

Marie Curie

Albert Einstein

Nikola Tesla

52. Where would you find a millum?

Plants

Skin

Astronomy

Mathematics

53. Robert Galbraith is a 'pen name' of which of the following authors?

JK Rowling

John le Carrier

Val Mcdermid

Ian Rankin

54. The island of Upola is in which country?

Samoa

Tonga

Rarotonga

Fiji

55. Which of the following English rulers banned Christmas?

Charles II

George IV

Oliver Cromwell

Charles I

56. What was the nationality of the person who invented the internal combustion engine?

Swiss

German

American

English

57. Which country is the 'home' of the fondue?

France

Switzerland

Holland

Sweden

58. The nationality of Agatha Christie's fictional detective Hercule Poirot was?

Dutch

French

Italian

Belgian

59. The ancient Greek goddess Selene represented which heavenly body?

Venus

Moon

Sun

Jupiter

60. What was the occupation of the person who wrote "Alice in Wonderland"?

Scientist

Philosopher

Priest

Mathematician