

Note: The following questions were used in an interscholastic history quiz competition in Sri Lanka. Test yourself and see how many you get right! Answers are found at the end. The format followed a “pub quiz” style where students competed on teams of 3 and could consult on all answers. No buzzers were used. IHBB thanks Gateway College, Rajagiriya, Sri Lanka for providing these questions for practice purposes!

Round 1

1. Following the death of the Prophet Mohammed the control of the Islamic Empire fell on to the hands of a Caliph in 661 AD. What dynasty were the first Caliphs from?
2. At the Congress of Berlin in 1895, Belgium was granted control of its only African colony which was known by the name of Belgian Congo. What is the current name of this now independent nation?

The Next Four Questions are related to each other

3. In 1095 AD, the first Crusade was called for by the Pope as a direct result of the request for help by the Byzantine Emperor. Who was the Pope at this time?
4. When the First Crusade was declared by the Pope in 1095 AD, who was the Emperor of Byzantine?
5. The Byzantine request for help from Catholic Europe in 1095 came as a direct result of the continued invasion of Anatolia by Seljuk Turks. What is the most famous of the battles fought between the Seljuk Turks and the Byzantine Empire, in 1071AD?
6. The Seljuk Turks had captured much of the Islamic Empire by the time of the First Crusade including Baghdad, the home of the Caliph. Yet the Turks did not install their own Caliph and continued to allow the existing dynasty to continue. What is the name of the then existing dynasty in Baghdad?
7. In 1896, a European invasion force into Ethiopia met a humiliating defeat at the hands of Ethiopian forces under Emperor Menelik at Adowa. What is the European nation which met with this defeat?
8. When Soviet Russia invaded Afghanistan in 1979, it was resisted by a certain faction which was supported by the USA. What is the name given to this faction which was replaced by the Taliban later on?
9. It was during the 1350s during the Gampola Kingdom that Kotte was established. It was primarily a fort which resisted invasion from the Jaffna kingdom. The founder of the fort was from a powerful family in the kingdom said to be more powerful than the King. Who was the founder of Kotte?
10. The first Russian state was actually established around Kiev in 882 AD but was overrun by the Mongols in 1240. What is the name of this state?

Round 2

1. In 1997, South Korea had its first president from the opposition; a politician who had opposed the dictatorship rule of the 70s' in exile. He went on to win the Nobel Peace Prize as result of the year 2000 peace talks with North Korea. Who is he?
2. The Teutonic Order controlled much of the Baltic region during the Middle Ages. The leader of the order was the Grand Master and his seat of authority was always in one particular city in East Prussia. What is this city?
3. From 1961 to 1979 South Korea was under a military dictatorship after a military coup in 1961. Who led this military dictatorship?
4. The Labour Party of UK was established in 1900 but it was not until 1945 that it was able to establish a majority government. Who was the Prime Minister of this majority Labour Party government?
5. In 1187 AD, Sultan Saladin defeated most of the remaining Crusader forces of Jerusalem in one ill fated battle for the Crusaders. What is the name of this battle?
6. During the above stated battle, the Crusaders were led by the King of Jerusalem who was a Frenchman and had just been crowned. What is the name of this King?
7. 'Vijayaba Kollaya' or Spoiling of Vijabahu was the incident which divided the Kotte kingdom to three parts including Kandy and Seethawaka. Here, King Vigeyabahu VII was murdered by his three sons and the kingdom divided to prevent their half brother coming to the throne. It also allowed the Portuguese to gain more power in the country. In which year did this occur?
8. The Battle of Gettysburg was a turning point of the American Civil War and resulted in a Union victory which deprived the Confederacy of any chance of international recognition. In which year was the Battle fought?
9. The Confederate Army of Northern Virginia was involved in the Gettysburg battle and was led by a famous commander. Who was he?
10. In 1933 Hitler ordered the setting up of a political or secret police in Germany. It was known for its ruthlessness in curtailing any opposition to the Nazi party. What is the well known name of this secret police?

Round 3

1. The Spanish Reconquista ended only in 1492 when the last remaining Moorish controlled city in Spain was captured by the Spanish. What is the name of this city?
2. A special name was given to the conflict between Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia between 1941-45 by Stalin himself. What is it?
3. In 1803, the British captured Kandy and established a puppet king for a short time until the Kandyan forces were able to push them out of the city. What was the name of this British puppet king?
4. Soviet Russia was known for its cruel treatment on political prisoners in forced labour camps especially based in Siberia. The administration of these camps was under a department of the soviet secret police. What is acronym for the name of this department (the name is wrongly used to refer to the camps themselves)?
5. In 1397 AD, Denmark, Sweden and Norway formed a union when Erik of Pomerania was crowned king of all three kingdoms and this existed until Sweden left in 1523 and Norway did so in 1814. What is name of this union?
6. Medieval Japan was dominated by Shoguns. The first shogun was Minamoto and his shogunate (the first warrior government in Japan) was known by his capital in southern Japan. What is the name of Minamoto's shogunate?
7. The first Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo after independence in 1958 was and is an iconic figure in African nationalism especially after his assassination in 1961. The Soviet Union even made a university in his name in Moscow. Who is he?
8. In 1915 a German U boat torpedoed and sunk a passenger ship off the Irish coast and caused the first reported deaths of American Civilians in the First World War. What was the name of the ship sunk?
9. The Manhattan Project led to the production of the first atomic bomb in 1945 and its detonation underground in USA. In what state of the USA was the first atomic explosion set off?
10. The Fourth Crusade was destined for Egypt. Instead on Venetian influence to pay the cost of transport, it attacked and captured Constantinople in 1204 and established an Empire which existed until 1261. What is the name of this Empire?

Round 4

1. The First French Empire was ruled by Napoleon Bonaparte. The Second French Empire was declared in 1852. Who was the ruler of this second empire?
2. Between 1915 and 1916 Britain launched a campaign against the Ottoman Empire trying to capture the Dardanelles in Anatolia but was unsuccessful. What was the name the campaign which is the name of the peninsula where the first landings occurred?
3. In 1993 Israel and the Palestinian Liberation organization (PLO) entered into peace talks and negotiated a agreement by which Palestine gained some autonomy. What is the name of the treaty agreed upon?
4. In 1868, the Japanese Meiji Emperor was able to regain power after the last Shogunate was overthrown in a civil war and led to industrialisation of the country. What is the name given to this process which established Japan as an imperial power?
5. Napoleon Bonaparte married his first wife in 1796, who was the widow of a Count. Who was Napoleon Bonaparte's first wife?
6. The founding Director of the FBI, held the office 1924 to 1972 until his death. He was actually exempted from retirement age restrictions to allow him to stay in office. Who was he?
7. The Hospitaliers or the Knights of St John was established during the Crusades to assist Christian pilgrims. It still exists and is a sovereign order. What city is this order now based in?
8. The beautiful rock fortress of Yapahuwa was the capital of Sri Lanka for only 9 years between 1289 and 1298. Who was the founder and only king to rule from Yapahuwa?

The next two questions are linked

9. In the 4th century BC, the first true empire of India was established after a new dynasty under Mahapadma took over Magadha Empire. They were in power when Alexander III the Great's conquest. What was the name of this dynasty which existed until 321 BC when the Maurya usurped them?
10. The Maurya Empire stretched from Afghanistan to southern India. It was famous for its third ruler, Ashoka who converted to Buddhism. Who was the founder of the empire?

Round 5

1. The emergence of Malaysia as an economic power house of South East Asia was achieved under the leadership of one prime minister who came to power in 1981. He was a doctor by profession and retired from office in 2003, undefeated. Who was this famous politician?
2. After the Ethnic Cleansing of the Balkans and the breakup of Yugoslavia, the President of Serbia was charged with war crimes due to his involvement in the process. He came to power in 1989 and was arrested in 2001 and put to trial in the Hague in 2002. Who was this President?
3. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) was important in stopping the spread of nuclear weapons the Cold War. But it is undermined now with the presence of nuclear weapons in India, Pakistan and Israel which are not signatories to the treaty. In which year was it first signed?
4. In 1146 AD, the Middle East was partially united under the Sultan of Egypt and Syria, against the Crusaders. However this united Sultanate existed only under one Sultan who was a Turk and Saladin was his General in Egypt. What is the name of this Sultan who increased Turkish power in the region?

The next two questions are linked

5. The Battle of Little Big Horn of 1876 was important in the Indian Wars of USA. Here, a US cavalry force were defeated by a combined force of Sioux and Cheyenne. The commander of the US cavalry was famous for his earlier victories against the natives and this was his last stand. Who was this famous General?
6. At the Battle of Little Big Horn the native Indians were led by two iconic leaders of whom one was Crazy Horse. Who was the other?
7. Between 1405 and 1433 China's first and only naval explorer travelled as far as Somalia in massive fleet. His legacy was forgotten until a publication in 1904 and was confirmed by the Galle Trilingual Inscriptions discovered in 1911. During his visit to Sri Lanka he is said to have battled and captured the Sri Lankan king. Who was this Chinese explorer?
8. The Ayyubid sultanate of Medieval Egypt depended on a collection of slave soldiers for its military power and in 1250 AD they overthrew the sultanate and established rule in Egypt. They were conquered by the Ottomans in 1517. What is the name of these once professional slave soldiers, turned rulers of Egypt?
9. In 1885 the British managed to finally defeat the last dynasty of Burma and colonise it. What was the last capital of Burma known for its Buddhist architecture?
10. In 1898, USA invaded and captured the Philippines as part of its greater war with the colonial ruler of the islands. This was the same time USA captured Cuba and other Caribbean islands in what many so as an attempt at Empire building. What was the country USA was at war at this time and the colonial ruler of the Philippines?

Round 6

1. The world's first public railway to use steam locomotives regularly was the Stockton to Darlington Railway, in 1825. Its first locomotive was the Locomotion and was built by the same engineer who built the Rocket steam engine. Who was this famous railway engineer?
2. The first modern roads for fast travel by vehicles came into being only in 1924 in Europe. It was called 'autostrada' and was built under a Fascist ruler. In which country was the autostrada constructed?
3. Between 1501 and 1722 AD the Shahs of Persia was from a dynasty of Kurdish origin. During the reign of this dynasty, Persia spread from Afghanistan to Iraq and Armenia. It was ended by the Afghans. What is the name of this dynasty?
4. The first recorded invasion of Sri Lanka was in 237 BC where King Suratissa was overthrown by two merchants from South India specialising in horse trade. Who were these two merchants?
5. In 1328 AD Scotland's independence was recognized by England after a series of wars over the Middle Ages. This independence remained until the 16th century. Under whose leadership was Scottish independence achieved in 1328?
6. In 1971 the Soviet Union launched the first ever space station. Yet it was only for a one man crew and was not successful. What was the name of this space station?
7. Between 1936-39, the Spanish Civil war occurred where the Republic was supported by USSR and the Nationalists by Nazi Germany. The Nazi were directly involved in aerial bombings throughout Spain. Who was the leader of the Republicans who became the dictator of Spain?
8. China's Nationalist Party or Guomindang was the first political entity to push for a widespread nationalism in Imperial China and started many uprisings funded by Chinese diaspora in USA. Who was the founder of the Nationalist party and considered by some the true father of the nation?
9. In the war of 1967 between Israel and its Arab neighbours, Israel gained a lot of territories including Golan Heights and Sinai. What was the name of this very short war?
10. In 1968 the then US president announced plans to withdraw ground forces from Vietnam after heavy losses in the Vietcong's Tet offensive. Who was the US president in office at the time?

Tie Breaker Round

1. In 1958 three Arab countries formed the United Arab Republic but it was dissolved in 1961. What are the three countries which were involved in this (they are currently seen on the headlines all the time)?
2. In 1932, Hitler ran for presidency of Germany but was defeated thoroughly by the opposing candidate and the then President since 1925, a famous hero of the First World War. Who was the opposing candidate?
3. Che Guevara is famous for his contribution to the Cuban revolution and his attempts for the same in Bolivia, where he was killed. However what is his country of birth?
4. After the Battle of Waterloo Napoleon Bonaparte was imprisoned in St Helena. But where was he imprisoned the first time from where he managed to escape?
5. In 1942, a small Mediterranean island which was then a crown colony of Britain was awarded the George Cross for resisting heavy German bombing during the Second World War. It was earlier the base of the Knights Hospitaliers and gained independence from Britain in 1964. What is this now sovereign island?
6. A heavily industrialised region of Germany near the French border was put under administration of the League of nations via the Treaty of Versailles after the first world war. It was returned to Germany following a plebiscite in 1935. A similar process occurred after the second world war. What is the name of this region?

THE ANSWERS TO ALL ROUNDS BEGIN ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE!

Answers to Sri Lankan Interschool Quiz Competition 2013**Round 1**

1. Umayyad Dynasty
2. Democratic Republic of the Congo
3. Pope Urban II
4. Emperor Alexius I
5. Battle of Manzikert
6. Abbasid Dynasty
7. Italy
8. Mujahidin
9. Veera Alakesvara
10. Kievan Rus

Round 2

1. Kim Dae Jung
2. Konigsburg
3. Park Chung-Hee
4. Clement Attlee
5. Battle of Hittin
6. Guy of Lusignan
7. 1521
8. 1863
9. Robert E. Lee
10. Gestapo

Round 3

1. Granada
2. The Great Patriotic War
3. Muttusami
4. GULAG
5. Kalmar Union
6. Kamakura Shogunate
7. Patrice Lumumba
8. Lusitania
9. New Mexico
10. Latin Empire

Round 4

1. Louis Napoleon (Napoleon III)
2. Gallipoli Campaign
3. Oslo Accords
4. Meiji Restoration
5. Marie Josephine
6. Edgar Hoover
7. Rome
8. Bhuvanekabahu I
9. Nanda
10. Chandragupta Maurya

Round 5

1. Mahathir bin Muhammad
2. Slobodan Milosevic
3. 1968
4. Nur al-Din
5. General Custer
6. Sitting Bull
7. Zheng He
8. Mamluks
9. Mandalay
10. Spain

Round 6

1. George Stephenson
2. Italy
3. Safavid Dynasty
4. Sena and Guththika
5. Robert the Bruce
6. Salyut 1
7. General Franco
8. Sun Yat-sen
9. Six Day War
10. Lyndon B. Johnson

Tie Breaker Round

1. Syria, Egypt, Yemen
2. Paul Ludwig Hindenburg
3. Argentina
4. Elba
5. Malta
6. Saarland