

ARTS AND LITERATURE TRIVIA QUESTIONS IV



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1> In the Kingsley Amis book, Lucky Jim is Jim Dixon. What does he do for a living?

- a. Represent Wonking-Wapping in Parliament
- b. Teach at a minor UK university
- c. Swindle little old ladies
- d. Fiddle the books for a corporation

2> The Maltese alphabet has 29 letters, but is missing which letter that is sometimes used as a vowel in English?

- a. U
- b. W
- c. Y
- d. V

3> What is the town in Our Town?

- a. Cabot Cove
- b. Grover's Corners
- c. Lake Wobegon
- d. Mayberry

4> Just 13 chapters long, what 2500-year-old Chinese book has been shaping military (and business) strategy ever since?

- a. Confucius's Analects
- b. Buddha's Tipitaka
- c. Sun Tzu's Art of War
- d. Lao Tzu's Tao Te Ching

5> Where in a bookstore would you look for "Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim" by David Sedaris?

- a. Reference
- b. Humor
- c. Food
- d. Pop Culture

6> In the 1990s, Norman Foster added a glass dome to what capitol building, originally completed in 1894?

- a. Reichstag
- b. Sejm
- c. Diet
- d. Knesset

7> By John Bunyan, "Pilgrim's Progress" follows a pilgrim's progress from the City of Destruction to what city?

- a. Celestial City
- b. Cloud City
- c. Emerald City
- d. Gotham City

8> Urban planner Lucio Costa designed what world capital to look like an airplane when seen from above?

- a. Brasilia
- b. Islamabad
- c. Washington
- d. Canberra

9> Don't be afraid. By what name did Adeline Virginia Stephen become better known?

- a. Agatha Christie
- b. Anne Rice
- c. Virginia Woolf
- d. Joyce Carol Oates

10> Which of these was not one of the Bloomsbury Group, but did hang out at

the Algonquin Round Table?

- a. Virginia Woolf
- b. John Maynard Keynes
- c. Dorothy Parker
- d. EM Forster

11> A "Caspar Milquetoast" is a timid soul. Who was the original Caspar Milquetoast?

- a. The mascot for a Post brand of buttered toast
- b. A vaudeville comedian named Allen Stewart Konigsberg
- c. A character in the comic strip "The Timid Soul"
- d. FDR's second secretary of the treasury

12> Edgar Rice Burroughs not only created Tarzan, but also Pellucidar, where dinosaurs and non-human races co-exist. Where is Pellucidar?

- a. The Dark Side of the Moon
- b. 500 miles underground
- c. The Antarctic
- d. The bottom of the Pacific

13> Although actually buried in Cambridge, Massachusetts, who was the first American to get his bust put up at Poets' Corner of Westminster Abbey?

- a. Carl Sandburg
- b. TS Eliot
- c. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
- d. Walt Whitman

14> What former Pan Am stewardess and author of a George Washington biography is also known as the Queen of Suspense?

- a. Ruth Rendell
- b. Mary Higgins Clark
- c. PD James
- d. Ngaio Marsh

Answers:

- 1> Teach at a minor UK university - The book, a parody of England's red-brick universities, made his reputation.
- 2> Y - The language spoken in Malta is a mix of Italian and Arabic.
- 3> Grover's Corners - It is in New Hampshire.
- 4> Sun Tzu's Art of War - Sun Tzu is said to have been a general in about 500 BC, but the book was probably written a bit later, during the Warring States Period.
- 5> Humor - He came to notice when he recounted his time working for Macy's at Xmas on NPR.
- 6> Reichstag - During the Cold War, it was in West Berlin but was too close to the Berlin Wall. The communists met in East Berlin's Palace of the Republic, while the West German parliament met in Bonn's Bundeshaus.
- 7> Celestial City - The full title adds the words 'from This World to That Which Is to Come'.
- 8> Brasilia - The city was notorious for its poor urban planning. He created large, empty spaces, plus poorly lit streets, making the entire city pedestrian-unfriendly.
- 9> Virginia Woolf - Her most well known books include *To the Lighthouse*, *Mrs Dalloway* (which served as the motif of *The Hours*) and *Orlando* (about a dual-sex person who appears throughout history).
- 10> Dorothy Parker - The Bloomsbury Group also included art critic Clive Bell and the biographer Lytton Strachey, as well as, sometimes, poet TS Eliot, author Aldous Huxley and philosopher Bertrand Russell.
- 11> A character in the comic strip "The Timid Soul" - Harold Webster created him for 'The Timid Soul', which ran every Sunday in the New York Herald Tribune. Milquetoast was a self-portrait, who 'speaks softly and gets hit with a big stick'.
- 12> 500 miles underground - It was on the concave surface of a hollow earth.
- 13> Henry Wadsworth Longfellow - The first writer buried there was Geoffrey Chaucer, but now Dickens, Hardy, Kipling and many more are there, plus Laurence Olivier.
- 14> Mary Higgins Clark - A former Remington-Rand secretary, she often writes suspense stories with telepathy in them.