

The World Quiz

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW about the way the world works? Is Sweden really socialist to the core? Which country is the lone parenting capital of the world? Is America a free-market, capitalist nation with barely any social provision? How does Britain fare in treating breast cancer compared to other countries which do not have a national health service? Which country has the lowest unemployment?

Take the quiz. Write down your answers and see how you score:

- 1. What is the average rate of 'functional illiteracy' in the advanced world?**
 - a) 2 per cent
 - b) 5 per cent
 - c) 11 per cent
 - d) 18 per cent
- 2. Which of these countries has the highest proportion of people living alone?**
 - a) USA
 - b) Italy
 - c) Australia
 - d) Sweden
- 3. In early 2014, one of these countries had an unemployment rate of 25.6 per cent and another only 2.8 per cent. Which was which?**
 - a) Spain
 - b) Singapore
 - c) France
 - d) Poland
 - e) Japan
 - f) Switzerland
- 4. Which of these countries has the worst five-year survival rate for breast cancer?**
 - a) USA
 - b) UK
 - c) Netherlands
 - d) Australia

5. What percentage of the elderly living in residential care in England and Wales says that they wish that they were dead?

- a) 3 per cent
- b) 8 per cent
- c) 12 per cent
- d) 21 per cent

6. At what age are Polish soldiers and policemen eligible to retire on a pension?

- a) 35
- b) 45
- c) 55
- d) 65

7. Who said, 'He who does not work shall not eat' (and that only those who work should be allowed access to consumer goods)?

- a) Adam Smith
- b) Milton Friedman
- c) Margaret Thatcher
- d) Lenin

8. What is or was 'the rubber room'?

- a) A windowless room with rubber walls for uncontrollable students in a Bronx school
- b) A room in a French *mairie* to which records revealing the corruption of officials are taken to be destroyed
- c) A place in New York where teachers went during the long-winded process of firing them
- d) A rest and recreation room for union officials in Spanish companies

9. What was the rate of youth unemployment in Spain in early 2014?

- a) 17 per cent
- b) 23 per cent
- c) 34 per cent
- d) 54 per cent

10. How many people in the USA received food stamps (2013)?

- a) 3 million
- b) 12 million
- c) 21 million
- d) 48 million

11. Which country has the highest proportion of 'free' or 'charter' schools?

- a) Australia
- b) Sweden
- c) UK
- d) USA

12. Which country has the lowest unemployment rate?

- a) Switzerland
- b) Sweden
- c) Singapore
- d) USA

13. Between 1987 and 2001, the proportion of social housing in Germany changed. In which way?

- a) It more than doubled
- b) It increased by over a half
- c) It increased by a quarter
- d) It more than halved

14. Which country has the highest rate of criminal assaults and threats?

- a) Australia
- b) England and Wales
- c) USA
- d) Sweden

15. Which country has the highest number of angioplasty, hip replacement and knee replacement operations per 100,000?

- a) France
- b) USA
- c) Germany
- d) Sweden

16. Who said, 'I propose to create a Civilian Conservation Corps to be used in simple work; more important, however, than the material gains will be the moral and spiritual value of such work?'

- a) President Hoover
- b) President Coolidge
- c) President F. D. Roosevelt
- d) President Reagan



17. Which country is the world capital of lone parenting (has the highest rate)?

- a) Sweden
- b) Denmark
- c) USA
- d) UK

18. Which country spends a massive 29.4 per cent of its government budget paying pensions?

- a) Switzerland
- b) UK
- c) Italy
- d) Netherlands

19. The proportion of women over sixty-five without partners who live with one of their children has declined to only 3 per cent in one of these countries but has remained at 61 per cent in another. Which is which?

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| a) Belgium | d) Denmark |
| b) Portugal | e) UK |
| c) France | |

20. Who suggested that law school training is excessively long and courses should only last two years instead of three?

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| a) Margaret Thatcher | c) President Obama |
| b) Milton Friedman | d) Lee Kuan Yew |

Answers: 1. d; 2. d;¹ 3. a and b respectively² (Japan and Switzerland also had much lower than average unemployment rates); 4. b;³ 5. d;⁴ 6. a; 7. d; 8. c; 9. d;⁵ 10. d; 11. b; 12. c; 13. d; 14. b;⁶ 15. c⁷ (in fact Germany does the most in each of the three categories of operation); 16. c;⁸ 17. c;⁹ 18. c;¹⁰ 19. d and b respectively;¹¹ 20. c.¹² Give yourself a point for every correct answer.

How did you score?

1–7 You really need to read this book!

8–14 You are pretty well informed and obviously take an interest in the subject. For you, this book is like getting a free upgrade to first class.

15–22 Impressive. You are an expert. It would be an honour if you would read this book.