

Manchester Congress Quiz 2025

Welcome to the 18th annual Manchester Congress Quiz!
Everyone can now have a go at this great fun and challenging quiz and have a chance to win a prize.

The deadline for entries is Midnight Sunday by email: send your answers to abbot_hugo@hotmail.com

Results (along with answers to the quiz) will be announced the day after on the MCBA website.

*Don't put be put off by how hard the quiz is, remember you are competing against each other, and not the quiz itself.
To reflect the reduced nature of this years congress, the quiz will be shorter and more accessible.*

A. History

Q1. In 1497, John Cabot set sail for his round the World voyage (sponsored by Henry VII) from which city, the second largest seaport in England?

Q2. Who became the first Vice President to assume the Presidency upon the death of the President, who died after a poorly judged winter walk? Unbelievably, this man's grandson is still alive.

Q3. In 1942 "Operation Torch" was an allied invasion of which area?

Q4. Pierre Cauchon, the Bishop of Beauvais in the 15th century was the principle judge in whose trial and subsequent execution?

Q5. Which philosopher, theologian and key figure in the Christian Church was born in what is now Lazio, Italy in 1225?

Q6. Alfred the Great and King John were completely unrelated kings of what is now England, yet neither were expected to ever take the throne – why not? William II and William I are close to joining this group, though their case is not quite as extreme.

Q7 How many former Prime Ministers of the UK are still alive? (You may need to count carefully)

Q8. Ivan the Terrible had between 6 and 8 wives, at least 7 children, a married lover and several mistresses, but during what genteel activity did his death from

a stroke occur in 1584?

B. Geography

Q9. By surface area the largest two lakes in the UK are located in which constituent country?

Q10. What simple geometric shape is the black area on the flag of Kuwait?

Q11. Travelling due north from the capital of Poland gets you to a land border with which country?

Q12. Which Canadian Province is named after Queen Victoria's father? It's capital city is named after his mother, her grandmother.

Q13. Which city completes this list: St Davids, Inverness, Norwich and ?
If you have no idea, try picturing them on a map.

Q14. Which 4 colours can go before the word "Nile" to give 4 of its current and historical tributaries?

Q15. With 64 million people, Luzon is an island found in which country? It is home to Quezon city, the most populous city in the country, but not the nation's capital.

Q16. Which is the smallest of the UK's national parks? It is nearly 1000 years old.

C. TV and Film

Q17. Maya Hawke, who starred in this years highest grossing film (Inside Out 2) is the daughter of which two other actors? Both have received Oscar nominations, but neither have ever won.

Q18. Wicked became the highest grossing Broadway musical adaptation this year, overtaking the previous record, from which film that was set in Greece?

Q19. An attack on whom (that has left her in a coma) took place on Christmas day in Albert square? The who-dunnit-plotline will lead in the 40th anniversary celebrations for Eastenders in 2025.

Q20. Which notoriously biased presenter had to cancel an interview with the former buffoon Prime minister of 2019-2021 after accidentally emailing him her briefing notes?

Q21. The actor Ian Mc.Kellen received his first Bafta award for best adapted

screenplay, for transposing which of Shakespeare's plays for 1930s fascist Britain? He also starred in the title role.

Q22. Which two word title is given to the Marvel Cinematic Cartoon series that explores alternative timelines and things that might have happened, if other actions had been taken?

Q23. What deadly quip does James Bond come out with after killing the assassin Vargas with a spear gun on the beach, in the 1965 film "Thunderball"?

Q24. Which soap opera broadcast its final episode on 14th November 2024 after being on our screens for 24 years?

D. Arts, Books and Music

Q25. What grizzly fate links the characters of Chiron and Demetrius in Shakespeare's Titus Andronicus, and Black Walder Frey and his brother Lothar Frey in the television series Game of Thrones?

Q26. Eric Weisz, born in March 1874 in Budapest is more commonly name by what stage name? It provided the title for a hit song by Dua Lipa, that reached number 2 in the UK charts.

Q27. Which two artists born respectively in January 1823 and November 1840, both in Paris, share almost an identical surname, the only difference being the second letter?

Q28. A major fashion trend in the United States at the turn of the century was a black velvet suit with a big lace collar, worn by boys of around 3-8 years of age. It was named after which character, the eponymous hero in a child's novel, written by the author that would go on to write The Secret Garden twenty five years later?

Q29. The singer Charli XCX recently score her first solo number 1 with "Guess". Her first number one was a duet back in 2012 entitled "I love it" famous for its opening lyrics "I got the feeling on a summer day when you were gone". With whom did she duet?

(The real name of these singers are Aino Jawo and Caroline Hjelt)

Q30. The monumental bronze sculpture "The Gates of Hell" by August Rodin depicts a scene from which poem of the 14th Century?

Q31. What slightly cheesy and overly dramatic dance movement is also known as “Webbing”? This two word expression referring the parts of the body that are used in it was a particular choice of choreographer and director Bob Fosse.

Q32. “The dumping ground” was the nickname of the residential care home that was the place of residence of which fictional character, first created in 1991? (The Author of the stories has recently been made a Dame)

E. Science and Nature

Q33. Making up nearly a quarter of all animals, what is the largest order of insects, with over 400,000 species?

Q34. If you “add together” the chemical symbols for Indium, Tellurium, Sulphur, Titanium and Neon you end up with which body part, which would be upset if you consumed the substance!

Q35. The dinosaur Iguanodon has two large spiky what? This bone was wrongly thought to be a nose horn when it was first excavated.

Q36. Whale Sharks, Nurse sharks and Blind sharks are all part of which larger family of sharks, named after something you have a lot of in most homes?

Q37. In chemistry, Ionic, Covalent and Metallic are all types of what?

Q38. In terms of their names, which one of these scientists is the odd one out and why?

Copernicus, Gallileo, Seaborg, Einstein, Schroedinger

Q39. Surprisingly, what substance is the principle component of Volcanic gas?

Q40. Often used in medicine for various things, what term is given to a thin fabric made from an open weave? The Warp and Weft yarns are crossed during manufacture to keep the shape firmly in place and add stability.