1960s Music Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Which American television host’s show carried the Beatles’ live performance on February 9, 1964?
   A. Ed Sullivan
   B. Dick Clark
   C. Jack Paar
   D. Johnny Carson
   Correct answer: A. Ed Sullivan
   The Beatles played live on The Ed Sullivan Show that night, two days after arriving in New York.

2. Which 1966 Beach Boys album contains both ‘Wouldn’t It Be Nice’ and ‘God Only Knows’?
   A. Surfer Girl
   B. Wild Honey
   C. Pet Sounds
   D. Friends
   Correct answer: C. Pet Sounds
   Both recordings appeared on Pet Sounds. The Beach Boys released the album in May 1966.

3. Which Motown group released ‘Where Did Our Love Go’ in 1964?
   A. The Marvelettes
   B. The Supremes
   C. The Temptations
   D. Martha and the Vandellas
   Correct answer: B. The Supremes
   ‘Where Did Our Love Go’ began a run of hits for the Supremes written and produced by Holland–Dozier–Holland.

4. Which New York town actually hosted the Woodstock festival in August 1969?
   A. Saratoga Springs
   B. Woodstock
   C. Wallkill
   D. Bethel
   Correct answer: D. Bethel
   The festival kept the Woodstock name from its original plans. The performances ultimately took place on farmland in Bethel.

5. Which band topped the Official UK Singles Chart in September 1964 with ‘You Really Got Me’?

A. The Rolling Stones
B. The Kinks
C. The Animals
D. The Dave Clark Five

Correct answer: B. The Kinks
The Official Singles Chart for September 10 lists the Kinks’ ‘You Really Got Me’ at number one.

6. Which musician took over the U.S. number-one spot from the Beatles in 1964 with a recording of ‘Hello, Dolly!’?

A. Louis Armstrong
B. Nat King Cole
C. Ray Charles
D. Tony Bennett

Correct answer: A. Louis Armstrong
Louis Armstrong’s recording reached number one after the Beatles held the top spot with three singles in succession.

7. At which festival did Bob Dylan play his celebrated electric set in 1965?

A. Philadelphia Folk Festival
B. Monterey International Pop Festival
C. Newport Jazz Festival
D. Newport Folk Festival

Correct answer: D. Newport Folk Festival
Dylan performed with an electric guitar and band at the 1965 Newport Folk Festival.

8. How many shows did Johnny Cash record at Folsom State Prison on January 13, 1968, for the album At Folsom Prison?

A. Three
B. One
C. Two
D. Four

Correct answer: C. Two
Cash recorded two shows that day. The original album drew its tracks from those sessions.

9. Who wrote ‘Crazy,’ the song Patsy Cline popularized in the early 1960s?

A. Willie Nelson
B. Hank Cochran
C. Harlan Howard
D. Roger Miller

Correct answer: A. Willie Nelson
Cline recorded the hit, and Willie Nelson wrote the song during his early years as a Nashville songwriter.

10. Which band performed with Janis Joplin when she sang ‘Ball and Chain’ at the 1967 Monterey International Pop Festival?

A. Country Joe and the Fish
B. Jefferson Airplane
C. The Paul Butterfield Blues Band
D. Big Brother and the Holding Company

Correct answer: D. Big Brother and the Holding Company
Joplin sang with Big Brother and the Holding Company. The band returned for a second set and performed ‘Ball and Chain’ for the festival cameras.

11. Ella Fitzgerald performed in Berlin in 1960 and again in 1962. Which pairing matches the concerts to their live recordings?

A. Both live albums from the 1960 concert
B. The Lost Berlin Tapes from 1960 and Ella in Berlin from 1962
C. Ella in Berlin from 1960 and The Lost Berlin Tapes from 1962
D. Both live albums from the 1962 concert

Correct answer: C. Ella in Berlin from 1960 and The Lost Berlin Tapes from 1962
The 1960 performance became Ella in Berlin. The Lost Berlin Tapes comes from a different Berlin concert in 1962. Both contain a live version of ‘Mack the Knife.’

12. Which Stax guitarist helped Otis Redding write ‘(Sittin’ On) The Dock of the Bay’ and finished the mix for its 1968 release?

A. Albert King
B. Steve Cropper
C. Duck Dunn
D. Booker T. Jones

Correct answer: B. Steve Cropper
Steve Cropper co-wrote the song with Redding and completed the final mix after their recording sessions.

13. Which section opens John Coltrane’s A Love Supreme, recorded in December 1964?

A. Psalm
B. Resolution
C. Pursuance
D. Acknowledgement

Correct answer: D. Acknowledgement
The suite starts with ‘Acknowledgement.’ The original record label places it first, followed by ‘Resolution.’

14. At the 1965 Grammys, who shared credit with Stan Getz for Record of the Year for ‘The Girl from Ipanema’ and Album of the Year for Getz/Gilberto, respectively?

A. Astrud Gilberto for the record and João Gilberto for the album
B. João Gilberto for the record and Astrud Gilberto for the album
C. Astrud Gilberto for both awards
D. João Gilberto for both awards

Correct answer: A. Astrud Gilberto for the record and João Gilberto for the album
The Recording Academy credits Stan Getz and Astrud Gilberto for the winning single. It credits Stan Getz and João Gilberto for the winning album.

15. The Grammy Hall of Fame lists two 1960s singles called ‘I Heard It Through the Grapevine.’ Which sequence puts those releases in the right order?

A. The Miracles in 1967, then Marvin Gaye in 1968
B. Marvin Gaye in 1967, then Gladys Knight & the Pips in 1968
C. Gladys Knight & the Pips in 1967, then Marvin Gaye in 1968
D. Gladys Knight & the Pips in 1967, then the Temptations in 1968

Correct answer: C. Gladys Knight & the Pips in 1967, then Marvin Gaye in 1968
The Hall of Fame dates the Gladys Knight & the Pips single to 1967 and Gaye’s Tamla single to 1968.