1990s Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Which two actors played the leading roles in the 1997 film Titanic?
   - A. Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet
   - B. Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman
   - C. Keanu Reeves and Sandra Bullock
   - D. Ben Affleck and Liv Tyler

   Correct answer: A. Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet
   The Academy's collection account identifies Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet as the stars of Titanic.

2. Who became South Africa's president following its first democratic national elections in April 1994?
   - A. F. W. de Klerk
   - B. Thabo Mbeki
   - C. Nelson Mandela
   - D. Desmond Tutu

   Correct answer: C. Nelson Mandela
   South Africa held its first elections open to adult citizens of every race in April 1994. Nelson Mandela was inaugurated the following month.

3. What did players look after on the tiny screen of Bandai's original Tamagotchi, introduced in 1996?
   - A. A virtual city
   - B. A virtual pet
   - C. A virtual garden
   - D. A virtual band

   Correct answer: B. A virtual pet
   Bandai launched Tamagotchi in Japan in 1996. Players cared for a virtual pet on an egg-shaped handheld device.

4. Which city hosted the 1992 Summer Olympics?
   - A. Sydney
   - B. Atlanta
   - C. Seoul
   - D. Barcelona

   Correct answer: D. Barcelona
   The 1992 Summer Olympics took place in Barcelona, Spain. Atlanta hosted the next edition in 1996.

5. Which group reached number one on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 in 1997 with the single Wannabe?

A. TLC
B. Spice Girls
C. All Saints
D. Backstreet Boys

Correct answer: B. Spice Girls
Billboard records four weeks at number one for Wannabe by the Spice Girls in early 1997.

6. A museum label describes an early PalmPilot handheld from the 1990s with a cradle that connected it to a desktop computer. What was its main everyday purpose?

A. Organizing contacts, appointments, notes, and tasks
B. Playing music from pocket-sized discs
C. Taking photographs and printing them on demand
D. Receiving live television channels

Correct answer: A. Organizing contacts, appointments, notes, and tasks
The PalmPilot kept contacts, notes, tasks, and calendar entries in a pocket-sized device. Owners could synchronize that information with a desktop computer.

7. Which U.S. player converted the deciding penalty against China in the 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup final?

A. Julie Foudy
B. Mia Hamm
C. Briana Scurry
D. Brandi Chastain

Correct answer: D. Brandi Chastain
Brandi Chastain scored the decisive penalty. The U.S. won the shootout 5–4 after the match ended scoreless.

8. The Channel Tunnel opened in 1994. What kind of transport link did it create between England and France?

A. A pedestrian tunnel for walkers and cyclists
B. A motorway for trucks and cars driven end to end
C. A rail link for passenger and freight trains
D. A cable-car service with suspended cabins

Correct answer: C. A rail link for passenger and freight trains
Trains run through the Channel Tunnel. Shuttle trains can also carry vehicles across the Channel.

9. The Hubble Space Telescope's first servicing mission installed corrective optics in 1993. What problem were those optics meant to address?

A. The primary mirror's shape blurred the images.
B. The telescope's radio signal reached Earth too slowly.
C. The telescope's orbit was too close to the Moon.
D. The solar panels generated too much power for the cameras.

Correct answer: A. The primary mirror's shape blurred the images.
A slight error in the primary mirror's curvature blurred early images. The new optics compensated for that error.

10. After British administration ended on July 1, 1997, what status did Hong Kong take on?

A. A territory under joint British and Chinese administration
B. An independent country with its own seat at the United Nations
C. A province of the People's Republic of China
D. A special administrative region of the People's Republic of China

Correct answer: D. A special administrative region of the People's Republic of China
The 1997 Hong Kong Yearbook records the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China on July 1.

11. A fictional exhibit pairs a 1999 account statement in euros with a euro banknote from 2002. Which explanation fits both dates?

A. The euro was used only for physical cash until 2002.
B. Euro cash began circulating in 1999. Banks started keeping accounts in euros in 2002.
C. The euro began as an accounting and electronic currency in 1999. Euro cash followed in 2002.
D. Electronic use and cash circulation both began in 2002.

Correct answer: C. The euro began as an accounting and electronic currency in 1999. Euro cash followed in 2002.
The euro launched in 1999 for accounting and electronic payments. Euro banknotes and coins entered circulation on January 1, 2002.

12. A Belfast Agreement timeline lists April 10 and May 22, 1998. Which two events belong on those dates, in order?

A. Voters approved it, then the agreement was signed.
B. The agreement was signed, then voters approved it.
C. The agreement was signed, then it came into force.
D. Formal talks began, then the agreement was signed.

Correct answer: B. The agreement was signed, then voters approved it.
The Belfast Agreement, also called the Good Friday Agreement, was signed on April 10. Voters approved it on May 22.

13. An archive tags a document as adopted on December 11, 1997, at COP3, the third meeting of parties to the United Nations climate convention. Which document fits that record?

A. The Rio Declaration
B. The Paris Agreement
C. The Montreal Protocol
D. The Kyoto Protocol

Correct answer: D. The Kyoto Protocol
The Kyoto Protocol was adopted at COP3 in Kyoto, Japan, in December 1997. It entered into force in February 2005.

14. A museum wants its label for the 1995 discovery of 51 Pegasi b to state the specific first that astronomers achieved. Which caption is accurate?

A. The first exoplanet confirmed to orbit a Sun-like star
B. The first exoplanet discovered by a dip in its star's brightness
C. The first planet detected in orbit around a pulsar
D. The first exoplanet captured in a direct photograph

Correct answer: A. The first exoplanet confirmed to orbit a Sun-like star
51 Pegasi b was the first confirmed exoplanet around a Sun-like star. Astronomers had already detected planets orbiting a pulsar.

15. A museum caption lists Album of the Year beside The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill. How many Grammys did Lauryn Hill win at that 1999 ceremony, including that award?

A. Seven
B. Three
C. Five
D. Ten

Correct answer: C. Five
Lauryn Hill took home five awards at the 1999 ceremony, the most that night. Album of the Year was one of her wins.