Basketball Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. An NBA shooter starts a successful field-goal attempt from outside the long-distance arc with both feet behind the line. How many points is it worth?
   - A. Three
   - B. One
   - C. Two
   - D. Four

   Correct answer: A. Three

   A made field goal from beyond the arc earns three points when the shooter's position qualifies under NBA rules.

2. How long is one regulation quarter in an NBA game?
   - A. 10 minutes
   - B. 8 minutes
   - C. 12 minutes
   - D. 15 minutes

   Correct answer: C. 12 minutes

   The NBA plays four regulation quarters of 12 minutes each.

3. An NBA player stops dribbling, holds the ball, and starts dribbling again without another player touching it. What is this violation commonly called?
   - A. Goaltending
   - B. Double dribble
   - C. Backcourt violation
   - D. Defensive three seconds

   Correct answer: B. Double dribble

   Starting another dribble after ending the first one is an illegal second dribble in this situation.

4. What does AST count in an NBA player's box score?
   - A. Turnovers
   - B. Steals
   - C. Rebounds
   - D. Assists

   Correct answer: D. Assists

   AST is the abbreviation for assists. An assist credits a pass that directly leads to a teammate's made basket.

5. Who invented basketball in 1891 while teaching in Springfield, Massachusetts?

A. Walter Camp
B. James Naismith
C. Abner Doubleday
D. William G. Morgan

Correct answer: B. James Naismith
Naismith created the indoor team game while working at the YMCA training school in Springfield.

6. An NBA team gains a new offensive possession with more than a minute left in the quarter. What is the standard starting value on the shot clock?

A. 24 seconds
B. 14 seconds
C. 20 seconds
D. 30 seconds

Correct answer: A. 24 seconds
A standard new possession starts with 24 seconds. The rules specify shorter resets for certain situations within a possession.

7. An NBA team gains control in its backcourt and play continues without interruption. Within how many seconds must the team advance the ball to the frontcourt?

A. Twelve
B. Five
C. Ten
D. Eight

Correct answer: D. Eight
The NBA's eight-second rule limits how long a team can hold continuous possession in its backcourt.

8. With eligible substitutes available in an NBA game, which personal foul disqualifies a player?

A. The fifth
B. The fourth
C. The sixth
D. The seventh

Correct answer: C. The sixth
An NBA player is disqualified upon committing a sixth personal foul under normal substitution conditions.

9. With time remaining in the NBA quarter, a field-goal attempt hits the rim and the shooting team grabs the rebound. What is the usual shot-clock reset?

A. 14 seconds
B. 8 seconds
C. 20 seconds
D. 24 seconds

Correct answer: A. 14 seconds
When the offense regains possession after its shot hits the rim, the shot clock resets to 14 seconds.

10. Who made the first three-point field goal officially credited by the NBA, in October 1979?

A. World B. Free
B. Larry Bird
C. Rick Barry
D. Chris Ford

Correct answer: D. Chris Ford
The NBA credits Boston's Chris Ford with the first made three-pointer in league history.

11. Who became the NBA's first unanimous regular-season MVP in 2015–16?

A. Kevin Durant
B. LeBron James
C. Stephen Curry
D. Kawhi Leonard

Correct answer: C. Stephen Curry
The league announced that Curry had received every first-place vote for the 2015–16 MVP award.

12. Where was Wilt Chamberlain's 100-point NBA game in March 1962 played?

A. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
B. Hershey, Pennsylvania
C. New York, New York
D. Boston, Massachusetts

Correct answer: B. Hershey, Pennsylvania
Chamberlain scored 100 for the Philadelphia Warriors against the New York Knicks in a game played in Hershey.

13. Who won the NBA's first Finals MVP award in 1969 while playing for the runner-up team?

A. Elgin Baylor
B. Bill Russell
C. John Havlicek
D. Jerry West

Correct answer: D. Jerry West
West won the inaugural award as a Los Angeles Laker after the Boston Celtics won the series.

14. Who became the first Black player to appear in an NBA regular-season game, in October 1950?

A. Earl Lloyd
B. Chuck Cooper
C. Nat Clifton
D. Don Barksdale

Correct answer: A. Earl Lloyd
Lloyd played for the Washington Capitols on October 31, 1950. Cooper and Clifton also broke barriers in the league that year.

15. Who posted the NBA's first officially recorded quadruple-double in his Chicago debut in October 1974?

A. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar
B. Artis Gilmore
C. Nate Thurmond
D. Elvin Hayes

Correct answer: C. Nate Thurmond
Thurmond reached double digits in points, rebounds, assists, and blocks against Atlanta.