Easter Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Under the Western Gregorian calculation, which day of the week is Easter Day?
   - A. Sunday
   - B. Friday
   - C. Saturday
   - D. Monday

   Correct answer: A. Sunday
   The month and date vary, but the calculation selects a Sunday each year.

2. In the Church of England's calendar, which observance falls on the Sunday before Easter Day?
   - A. Ash Wednesday
   - B. Pentecost
   - C. Palm Sunday
   - D. Epiphany

   Correct answer: C. Palm Sunday
   Palm Sunday begins Holy Week. Easter Sunday comes one week later.

3. In English Heritage's account of Victorian street food, which baked item did vendors offer for Good Friday?
   - A. Yorkshire puddings
   - B. Hot cross buns
   - C. Mince pies
   - D. Shortbread fingers

   Correct answer: B. Hot cross buns
   English Heritage describes spiced hot cross buns among the foods people could buy from street sellers on Good Friday.

4. What does the Canadian Museum of History identify as a pysanka in Ukrainian Easter tradition?
   - A. A carved wooden spoon
   - B. A woven basket
   - C. An embroidered scarf
   - D. A decorated egg

   Correct answer: D. A decorated egg
   A pysanka is an Easter egg decorated with designs on its shell. The plural is pysanky.

5. In John 20:1, who reaches the tomb before daylight?

A. Simon Peter
B. Mary of Magdala
C. Thomas
D. Martha of Bethany

Correct answer: B. Mary of Magdala
John opens the account with Mary of Magdala, also known as Mary Magdalene. She sees that the stone has been moved.

6. The Church of England's Easter Day guide describes a service that can begin on Holy Saturday evening. What is the service called?

A. The Easter Vigil
B. The Palm Sunday procession
C. The Good Friday liturgy
D. The Ash Wednesday service

Correct answer: A. The Easter Vigil
The Church of England describes the Easter Vigil as its first service of Easter, beginning on the evening before Easter Day.

7. In the Canadian Museum of History's account of traditional pysanky, what keeps dye from coloring selected areas of the shell?

A. Egg white
B. Salt crystals
C. Flour paste
D. Beeswax

Correct answer: D. Beeswax
Beeswax covers parts of the shell and preserves the color underneath when dye reaches the uncovered areas.

8. Which U.S. president opened the White House grounds to children for the first White House Easter Egg Roll recorded in 1878?

A. James A. Garfield
B. Ulysses S. Grant
C. Rutherford B. Hayes
D. Grover Cleveland

Correct answer: C. Rutherford B. Hayes
The White House Historical Association dates the event to Easter Monday, April 22, 1878, during Hayes's presidency.

9. In Luke 24:13–16, which village are two disciples walking toward when Jesus joins them?

A. Emmaus
B. Bethlehem
C. Bethany
D. Nazareth

Correct answer: A. Emmaus
Luke names Emmaus as their destination and describes Jesus joining them along the way.

10. According to the Royal Mint Museum's account of Royal Maundy, what is in the white purse presented to recipients?

A. Paper vouchers for bread
B. Ordinary coins given in place of food and clothing
C. Miniature silver medals
D. Silver Maundy coins

Correct answer: D. Silver Maundy coins
The museum describes the white purse as holding specially minted silver Maundy coins. The red purse contains ordinary money.

11. What are the earliest and latest possible dates for Easter Sunday under the Western Gregorian calculation?

A. March 22 and April 26
B. March 21 and April 25
C. March 22 and April 25
D. March 25 and April 30

Correct answer: C. March 22 and April 25
The Western Gregorian rule can place Easter as early as March 22 or as late as April 25. Both endpoints are possible.

12. In a fictional calendar using the Western Gregorian rule, the first ecclesiastical full moon on or after March 21 falls on Sunday, April 9. What is Easter Sunday's date in this example?

A. April 9
B. April 16
C. April 10
D. April 23

Correct answer: B. April 16
The rule chooses the first Sunday after the qualifying ecclesiastical full moon. Since April 9 is a Sunday, the next Sunday is April 16.

13. Mark 16:1 names Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James when describing the purchase of spices. Who is named with them?

A. Elizabeth
B. Joanna
C. Martha
D. Salome

Correct answer: D. Salome
Mark names Salome with the two Marys. The women buy spices with the intention of anointing Jesus.

14. If Western Gregorian Easter Sunday falls on April 12, on what date does the Roman Catholic Octave of Easter end?

A. April 19
B. April 18
C. April 20
D. April 26

Correct answer: A. April 19
Easter Sunday counts as the first day of the eight-day octave. The eighth day is the following Sunday, April 19.

15. The Law Library of Congress describes an 1876 act about the Capitol grounds and an 1878 Easter Monday decision. Which sequence matches those records?

A. Congress opened the Capitol grounds to egg rollers, then the White House ended egg rolling on its lawn.
B. The White House grounds opened to egg rollers, then Congress restricted playground use of the Capitol grounds.
C. Congress restricted playground use of the Capitol grounds, then the White House grounds opened to egg rollers.
D. Congress restricted playground use of the White House grounds, then egg rollers were invited to the Capitol.

Correct answer: C. Congress restricted playground use of the Capitol grounds, then the White House grounds opened to egg rollers.
The 1876 act restricted use of the Capitol grounds as a playground. In 1878, Hayes opened the White House grounds for egg rolling on Easter Monday.