January Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Which country celebrates Republic Day on January 26 to mark the start of government under its 1950 constitution?
   - A. India
   - B. Pakistan
   - C. Nepal
   - D. Bangladesh

   Correct answer: A. India
   India's constitution came into force on January 26, 1950. Republic Day commemorates that milestone.

2. Which dish traditionally takes centre stage at Burns Night suppers in Scotland on January 25?
   - A. Irish stew
   - B. Welsh rarebit
   - C. Haggis
   - D. Cornish pasty

   Correct answer: C. Haggis
   Burns Night marks the birthday of Scottish poet Robert Burns. Haggis is a traditional part of the supper.

3. A United Nations calendar entry for January 24 highlights the role of learning in peace and development. What is the observance called?
   - A. International Literacy Day
   - B. International Day of Education
   - C. International Youth Day
   - D. World Teachers' Day

   Correct answer: B. International Day of Education
   The United Nations General Assembly established January 24 as the International Day of Education.

4. Which description fits the typical January season in Cape Town, South Africa?
   - A. Warm, rainy summer
   - B. Cool, rainy winter
   - C. Cool, dry winter
   - D. Warm, dry summer

   Correct answer: D. Warm, dry summer
   Cape Town's climate report describes a warm, dry summer from December to March and a wetter winter later in the year.

5. On January 14, 2005, the European Space Agency's Huygens probe landed on which moon of Saturn?

A. Enceladus
B. Titan
C. Rhea
D. Iapetus

Correct answer: B. Titan
Huygens touched down on Titan, Saturn's largest moon, on January 14, 2005.

6. Which Brazilian city's official history links its January 25, 1554, founding date to the site now called the Pateo do Collegio?

A. São Paulo
B. Rio de Janeiro
C. Salvador
D. Recife

Correct answer: A. São Paulo
São Paulo's municipal record dates the city's founding to January 25, 1554. It identifies the Pateo do Collegio in the historic centre as the site.

7. Japan once observed Coming of Age Day on January 15. Which rule replaced that fixed date from 2000?

A. The fourth Monday in January
B. The first Monday in January
C. The third Monday in January
D. The second Monday in January

Correct answer: D. The second Monday in January
Japan's Cabinet Office records that Coming of Age Day moved to the second Monday in January in 2000.

8. NASA says the Quadrantid meteor shower peaks in early January. What is distinctive about the duration of the peak?

A. It lasts almost two weeks.
B. It lasts about two full days.
C. It lasts only a few hours.
D. It lasts through most of January.

Correct answer: C. It lasts only a few hours.
NASA describes a peak of only a few hours for the Quadrantids. The peak is a much shorter period than the shower's full span.

9. Who received a medical degree from Geneva Medical College on January 23, 1849, becoming the first woman to earn an M.D. from a U.S. medical school?

A. Elizabeth Blackwell
B. Clara Barton
C. Susan B. Anthony
D. Harriet Tubman

Correct answer: A. Elizabeth Blackwell
The National Library of Medicine records Elizabeth Blackwell's graduation from Geneva Medical College in New York on January 23, 1849.

10. Which web encyclopedia launched on January 15, 2001, as a project for people to build together?

A. Encyclopedia of Life
B. Britannica Online
C. World History Encyclopedia
D. Wikipedia

Correct answer: D. Wikipedia
The Wikimedia Foundation dates Wikipedia's launch to January 15, 2001. The project began in English and added editions in other languages.

11. Which pair of observations fits the Australian Antarctic Program's chart for the geographic South Pole in January and July?

A. The Sun rises and sets daily in January and stays above the horizon in July.
B. The Sun stays below the horizon in January and above it in July.
C. The Sun stays above the horizon in January and below it in July.
D. The Sun stays above the horizon in January and rises and sets daily in July.

Correct answer: C. The Sun stays above the horizon in January and below it in July.
The geographic South Pole has continuous daylight in January during the Antarctic summer. In July, the Sun remains below the horizon.

12. The Australian Bureau of Meteorology's 1941–2008 summary lists mean monthly rainfall at Darwin Airport as 420.4 mm in January and 1.3 mm in July. What is the difference?

A. January is higher by 421.7 mm.
B. January is higher by 419.1 mm.
C. January is higher by 420.4 mm.
D. July is higher by 419.1 mm.

Correct answer: B. January is higher by 419.1 mm.
Subtract July's 1.3 mm from January's 420.4 mm to get 419.1 mm. That difference compares the two historical averages.

13. London's first public underground service opened in January 1863. Which caption matches that opening and the deep-level line introduced in 1890?

A. Both services used electric trains when they opened.

B. The Metropolitan Railway used electric trains in 1863. The City & South London Railway used steam in 1890.

C. Both services used steam when they opened.

D. The Metropolitan Railway used steam in 1863. The City & South London Railway used electric trains in 1890.

Correct answer: D. The Metropolitan Railway used steam in 1863. The City & South London Railway used electric trains in 1890.

The Metropolitan Railway began with steam-hauled passenger trains. The City & South London Railway opened a deep-level electric line in 1890.

14. The Australian Open debuted at a new venue in January 1988. Which change to the venue and its court surface matches the tournament's archive?

A. It moved from grass at Kooyong to hard courts at Flinders Park.

B. It moved from hard courts at Kooyong to grass at Flinders Park.

C. It moved from grass at Flinders Park to hard courts at Kooyong.

D. It moved from grass at Kooyong to clay at Flinders Park.

Correct answer: A. It moved from grass at Kooyong to hard courts at Flinders Park.

The tournament moved from Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club to Flinders Park, later known as Melbourne Park, and switched from grass to hard courts.

15. An African Union timeline lists May 30, 2019, and January 1, 2021, for the African Continental Free Trade Area. Which caption puts the right milestone on each date?

A. The agreement was first signed in May 2019 and entered into force in January 2021.

B. Trading under the agreement began in May 2019, and the agreement entered into force in January 2021.

C. The agreement entered into force in May 2019, and trading under it began in January 2021.

D. The agreement entered into force and trading under it began on the same date in January 2021.

Correct answer: C. The agreement entered into force in May 2019, and trading under it began in January 2021.

The African Union dates the agreement's entry into force to May 30, 2019. It records January 1, 2021, as the start of trading under the agreement.