New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day Trivia

Choose one answer per question. Circle A, B, C, or D.

1. During the famous Times Square countdown, which illuminated object descends toward midnight?
   A. A ball
   B. An hourglass
   C. A ring
   D. A lantern shaped like a moon

2. You are invited to a New Year’s Eve countdown in Madrid. Which fruit is traditionally eaten to the sound of the midnight chimes?
   A. Olives
   B. Cherries
   C. Grapes
   D. Raspberries

3. Which Scottish song associated with Robert Burns has become a New Year’s sing-along?
   A. The Skye Boat Song
   B. Auld Lang Syne
   C. My Bonnie Lies over the Ocean
   D. Loch Lomond

4. A photo of New Year’s Eve shows fireworks over the arch of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Which country hosted the celebration?
   A. South Africa
   B. New Zealand
   C. Canada
   D. Australia

5. Which California city began the New Year’s Day parade now known as the Rose Parade?
   A. Santa Barbara
   B. Pasadena
   C. Sacramento
   D. Palm Springs

6. At a Scottish Hogmanay gathering, which guest counts as the first-footer?
   A. The first person to enter the home after midnight
   B. The last person to leave before midnight
   C. The guest who arrives first in the afternoon
   D. The guest who sends the first greeting by mail

7. Which dish is traditionally served in Japan as toshikoshi soba on New Year’s Eve?
   A. Sweet chestnut paste
   B. Grilled rice cakes
   C. Steamed red beans
   D. Buckwheat noodles

8. Japanese temple bells sounded for Joya no Kane traditionally ring how many times in total?
   A. 60
   B. 24
   C. 108
   D. 100

9. The Vienna Philharmonic’s New Year’s Concert has a long tradition of featuring music by which family of composers?
   A. The Strauss family
   B. The Schumann family
   C. The Mendelssohn family
   D. The Scarlatti family

10. A venue uses 24-hour time on its ticket. Which entry identifies midnight at the start of New Year’s Day?
   A. 23:59 on January 1
   B. 00:00 on December 31
   C. 12:00 on January 1
   D. 00:00 on January 1

11. Times Square hosted a New Year’s Eve celebration in 1904. The first ball drop marked the end of 1907. How many years apart are those December 31 events?
   A. Four
   B. Two
   C. Three
   D. Seven

12. A fictional station’s local clock is two hours ahead of UTC. A signal arrives at 22:30 UTC on December 31. What local date and time should the log show?

A. 00:30 on December 31
B. 00:30 on January 1
C. 20:30 on December 31
D. 22:30 on January 1

13. Early Rose Parade organizers covered carriages with fresh blooms in January. What feature of Pasadena were they highlighting?

A. Its hills naturally display red flowers all year without cultivation.
B. Its winters reliably produce the deepest snow in California.
C. Its winter festival always coincides with summer elsewhere in the state.
D. Its mild winters can support fresh flowers.

14. The Greenwich Time Ball was in use decades before the first Times Square ball drop. Who used the Greenwich signal to set timepieces?

A. Crews aboard ships on the Thames
B. Paris railway crews timing the first train
C. Viennese musicians tuning for the new year
D. Spanish grape growers checking harvest times

15. A researcher finds an English record from before the 1752 calendar change. Under the old legal rule, on which date did the year begin?

A. March 21
B. January 1
C. March 25
D. December 25