Rock and Roll Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Whose 1955 recording of ‘Tutti Frutti’ appears in the Library of Congress National Recording Registry?
   - A. Little Richard
   - B. Fats Domino
   - C. Bo Diddley
   - D. Jerry Lee Lewis

   Correct answer: A. Little Richard
   The registry identifies Little Richard’s 1955 performance. He recorded the song in New Orleans.

2. Which musician played drums in Led Zeppelin’s original lineup?
   - A. John Paul Jones
   - B. Jimmy Page
   - C. John Bonham
   - D. Robert Plant

   Correct answer: C. John Bonham
   Led Zeppelin’s 1968 announcement lists Bonham on drums. Page played lead guitar, Jones handled bass and keyboards, and Plant sang lead vocals.

3. Ann and Nancy Wilson led which band to a 1970s hit with ‘Barracuda’?
   - A. Fleetwood Mac
   - B. Heart
   - C. Blondie
   - D. The Runaways

   Correct answer: B. Heart
   The Wilson sisters led Heart. The song’s publisher lists ‘Barracuda’ among the band’s hits from the 1970s.

4. Which rock band released the album Nevermind in September 1991?
   - A. Alice in Chains
   - B. Pearl Jam
   - C. Soundgarden
   - D. Nirvana

   Correct answer: D. Nirvana
   Nirvana’s official timeline dates the release of Nevermind to September 24, 1991.

5. In which city did the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame open its museum in 1995?

A. Memphis
B. Cleveland
C. New York City
D. Chicago

Correct answer: B. Cleveland
The museum opened in Cleveland on September 2, 1995. A benefit concert at Cleveland Municipal Stadium marked the opening.

6. The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame describes Sister Rosetta Tharpe singing gospel and playing a Gibson onstage. What kind of instrument was it?

A. An electric guitar
B. An upright bass
C. A tenor saxophone
D. An electric organ

Correct answer: A. An electric guitar
The museum highlights Tharpe’s electric guitar playing alongside her gospel singing. Her guitar style helped shape early rock and roll.

7. Chuck Berry brought Chess Records a song then called ‘Ida May.’ Under which title did Chess release the finished recording in 1955?

A. School Day
B. Roll Over Beethoven
C. Johnny B. Goode
D. Maybellene

Correct answer: D. Maybellene
Berry’s biography traces the song from the early ‘Ida May’ demo to the Chess release ‘Maybellene.’

8. Which 1969 album by the Who includes ‘Pinball Wizard’ in its original track list?

A. The Who Sell Out
B. Quadrophenia
C. Tommy
D. Who’s Next

Correct answer: C. Tommy
The Who’s discography lists ‘Pinball Wizard’ on Tommy, which the band released in 1969.

9. Johnny Ramone’s archive dates a live recording by the Ramones to September 15, 1974. Which New York club hosted that performance?

A. CBGB
B. Max’s Kansas City
C. The Bottom Line
D. Mercer Arts Center

Correct answer: A. CBGB
The archive identifies CBGB as the venue for that September performance. It also documents several later Ramones appearances there.

10. Which song did Fats Domino record in 1956 after hearing Louis Armstrong’s 1949 version?

A. Walking to New Orleans
B. Ain’t That a Shame
C. I’m Walkin’
D. Blueberry Hill

Correct answer: D. Blueberry Hill
The Library of Congress account connects Domino’s version of ‘Blueberry Hill’ to the one Armstrong recorded in 1949.

11. A fictional exhibit label credits Link Wray with singing the verses on his 1958 record ‘Rumble.’ Which correction matches the Library of Congress record?

A. It is a spoken introduction followed by an unaccompanied chorus.
B. It is a vocal recording with a different singer on each verse.
C. It is an instrumental built around Wray’s electric guitar.
D. It is a guitar solo with Wray singing between the instrumental sections.

Correct answer: C. It is an instrumental built around Wray’s electric guitar.
The archive identifies ‘Rumble’ as a 1958 instrumental. Wray’s electric guitar carries the performance.

12. A catalog puts Ike Turner and his Kings of Rhythm in the artist field for the 1951 Chess single ‘Rocket 88.’ Which name belongs in that field if it transcribes the original record’s label?

A. Ike Turner and His Kings of Rhythm
B. Jackie Brenston and His Delta Cats
C. Jackie Brenston and His All Stars
D. Ike Turner and His Delta Cats

Correct answer: B. Jackie Brenston and His Delta Cats
Turner and musicians from his band took part in the session, and Brenston sang. The released single carried the credit Jackie Brenston and His Delta Cats.

13. Two studio records describe Buddy Holly making ‘That’ll Be the Day.’ Which order matches the sessions in the Library of Congress account?

A. Two Clovis recordings, both made in 1956.
B. A Clovis recording in 1956, then a new recording in Nashville in 1957.
C. Two Nashville recordings, both made in 1957.
D. A Nashville recording in 1956, then a new recording in Clovis, New Mexico, in 1957.

Correct answer: D. A Nashville recording in 1956, then a new recording in Clovis, New Mexico, in 1957.

Holly first recorded the song in Nashville for Decca in 1956. He recorded it again the next year at Norman Petty’s studio in Clovis.

14. A fictional label calls Les Paul’s prototype, the Log, a conventional hollow-body guitar because of its outline. Which construction detail would correct the label?

A. A solid wooden center carried the working parts, and two side pieces gave it a familiar shape.
B. A hollow wooden center carried the working parts, and a detachable metal frame provided the shape.
C. A removable center held the neck, and the side pieces supported the strings and pickups.
D. Two hollow halves alone supported the strings, and a wooden block was used only for display.

Correct answer: A. A solid wooden center carried the working parts, and two side pieces gave it a familiar shape.

Les Paul mounted the working parts on a solid wooden center. He later added two pieces from an archtop guitar to make the outline look familiar.

15. A fictional catalog assigns the same year to the filming and original release of Talking Heads’ concert film Stop Making Sense. Which pair matches the American Film Institute’s record?

A. Filmed and released in 1983.
B. Filmed in 1984 and released in 1985.
C. Filmed in 1983 and released in 1984.
D. Filmed and released in 1984.

Correct answer: C. Filmed in 1983 and released in 1984.

The concerts were filmed at the Pantages Theatre in Hollywood in December 1983. The resulting film was released in 1984.