

The York Explorer Quiz

People have been writing about York ever since the Romans arrived here in AD71 and possibly even longer, so there's a lot of history to discover in this little city. Organisations like York Archaeological Trust have produced lots of info about the city, I'm told that York has the best documented history of any city outside London and I can believe it.

So with all this history around us I'd like to invite you to dip your toe in and test the waters, try my quiz and see if you think you'll like York, its history and its people, I think you will.

York Explorer Quiz

Q1

York castle museum is housed inside an old building, was the original building a -

- A) Castle dungeon
- B) World war two aircraft hangar
- C) A prison

Q2

York is famous for its Viking centre but once a year York has a big Viking festival called Jolablot. Is Jolablot in -

- A) June
- B) August
- C) February

Q3

Is York easy to get to by train?

- A) No, but there is the good bus station
- B) Yes York train station was once the largest railway station in world, and it's well connected on the railway system
- C) York has no train station

Q4

How easily can you park in York?

- A) It's not easy to find a place
- B) York is full of double yellow lines but has no park parking wardens
- C) It's easy. York has several "park and ride" car parks, you just pay for a return bus ticket from the car park into town.

Q5

York is famous for Jorvik Viking Centre, but which ordinary museum covers Viking times?

- A) Castle Museum
- B) Yorkshire Museum

Q6

York was invaded by the great Viking army in AD 866, but who lead the army?

- A) Ivar the Boneless
- B) Eric Bloodaxe
- C) King Canute

Q7

Clifford's Tower was built in 1244 but this was not the first time the site had been used for a castle, who built the first castle on this site?

- A) Richard the Lionheart
- B) Henry I
- C) William the Conqueror

Q8

York minister has it own-

- A) Police force
- B) Guard dogs
- C) Portcullis

Q9

In the (Yorkshire) Museum Gardens you can see the ruins of St. Mary's Abbey but how did the Abbey become a ruin? Was it-

- A) Bombed in the Second World War
- B) Closed by Henry VIII in his dissolution of the monasteries
- C) Destroyed by Oliver Cromwell in the English Civil War

Q10

Most of York's historic buildings date from which period?

- A) Roman times
- B) Viking times
- C) Medieval times

Q11

What happened between 23 April and 16 July 1644?

- A) The great bubonic plague killed 50 percent of York's population
- B) York saw the biggest flood in the history of the city
- C) The Siege of York - York, the royalist city, was under siege by Oliver Cromwell and the parliamentarians.

Q12

George Hudson played an important part in the history of York, was he -?

- A) Queen Victoria's Butler
- B) The Railway King
- C) York's last hangman

Q13

St. Margaret Clitherow lived in a street called shambles, in York, and a house in the street is a shrine to her memory but what did she do -

- A) Shelter catholic priests

- B) Devote her life to the poor and needy
- C) Heal the sick

Q14

York art gallery has paintings by John Martin, John Martin the artist, had a brother called Jonathan Martin (1782 -1838) who is also remembered in York. But, what did Jonathan Martin, the artist's brother, do?

- A) He was one of the crew in the mutiny on the bounty
- B) He was a grave robber who sold bodies to surgeons
- C) He tried to burn down York Minster

Q15

Alcuin of York (AD 735-804) was a -

- A) Warrior who killed Eric Bloodaxe
- B) Scholar who became master of Charlemagne's palace school and described York as a "lovely dwelling place".
- C) The first abbot of St. Mary's abbey

Q16

Walter De Gray's tomb is in the south transept of York Minster, but who was he? (De Gray lived from 1175 to 1255)

- A) Archbishop of York and King John's chancellor
- B) Richard the Lionheart's right hand man on crusade
- C) King Henry II's personal physician

Q17

Near York Minster you can find a church called St Michael le Belfrey, and just a few yards from this church you can find a pub claiming to be the birth place of someone famous, he was born in 1570. But who was he?

- A) Guy Fawkes (the gunpowder plotter)
- B) Robert Aske (he led the pilgrimage of grace)
- C) Bishop John Fisher (executed by Henry VIII)

York Explorer Quiz - Answers

- 1) The correct answer is **C** - The Castle museum was originally a prison. I think the museum got its name because it is in the area where the medieval castle was.
- 2) The correct answer is **D** - Jolablot is in February folks and it's well worth a visit!
- 3) The correct answer is **B** – Yes, it's easy to get to York by train. The Railway King (George Hudson) wanted to make all the railways come to York and he did a pretty good job of making that happen.
- 4) The correct answer is **D** - Use the park and ride folks, it's secure, it's cheap and it's easy.
- 5) The correct answer is **B** - the Yorkshire Museum covers Roman, Viking and Medieval history and also has a small prehistoric gallery.
- 6) The correct answer is **A** - Ivar the Boneless, but I bet you thought it was Eric Bloodaxe didn't you?
- 7) The correct answer is **C** - William the Conqueror built the earth mound that Clifford's tower sits on in the year 1069; and he built a wooden castle on the mound. At that time, York was the second most important city in England.
- 8) The correct answer is **A** - Look out folks or the mister police will get you but at least they're not allowed to hang you these days!
- 9) The correct answer is **B** - Yes, good old king Henry VIII ruined our beautiful monasteries and abbeys (not that I'm biased you understand).
- 10) The correct answer is **D** - Most of the historic buildings to survive in York are medieval
- 11) The correct answer is **D** - During the English civil war 4000 of the King's men were inside the City of York. 30,000 of Oliver Cromwell's men held York under siege; Prince Rupert came to the rescue, and chased Oliver Cromwell's men to Marston Moor, but was beaten in one of the biggest battles of the English civil war. Cromwell's men came back to York, and the city fell on 16 July 1644
- 12) The correct answer is **B** - George Hudson was the Railway King, and York wouldn't be the city it is now with out him (even if he was a rogue).
- 13) The correct answer is **A** - Her crime was sheltering catholic priests. It's hard to believe that 400 years ago you could be executed for choosing the wrong religion in England but that's what happened to Margaret. She was crushed to death beneath a door with heavy weights placed on top of it.
- 14) The correct answer is **C** - Jonathan Martin hid in York Minster; in the night he set the

Minster on fire then escaped down a rope. He was classed as insane and spent the rest of his life in hospital.

15) The correct answer is **B** - Alcuin was a scholar and friend of Charlemagne, Charlemagne (Charles the Great) was one of the most powerful men in Europe.

16) The correct answer is **A** - De Gray was Archbishop of York and King John's chancellor. He was also with King John when the king signed Magna Carta.

17) The correct answer is **A** - Guy Fawkes was born very close to York Minster in 1570 and he went to school in York. Fawkes was one of a gang who tried to blow up the king of England, King James I, in 1605. Guy Fawkes was tortured and executed in 1606. Was Guy Fawkes born in the pub called Guy Fawkes birth place? I'm told the pub wasn't built at the time so I think it's unlikely, but he was born very close by.

That's all for now folks.
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Thanks ;-)