3. The Canterbury Tales Quiz

1. During the 14th Century, what made people decide that a collective social change was needed?
   
a) The realisation that the end of the world was not necessarily coming shortly
b) The realisation that the earth was not the centre of the universe
c) The realisation that the end of the world was coming
   b) The realisation that the earth was the centre of the universe

2. What was the life expectancy of women in the 14th Century?
   
a) 14
b) 22
c) 26
d) 29

3. At what age did the majority of men get married in the 14th Century?
   
a) 14
b) 20
c) 24
d) 35

4. Which of the following events took place in 1381 in England?
   
a) Treaty of Bretigny
b) Death of Edward III
c) Invention of the printing press
d) The Peasant’s Revolt

5. Which of the following facts is not true of the life of Geoffrey Chaucer?
   
a) He was a diplomat
b) He died in 1410
c) He was the only son of a London wine-merchant
d) He was a translator
6. Edward III paid £16 ransom to release Chaucer. During which war was he made captive?

a) The Six-Day War
b) The Bulgarian-Ottoman War
c) The Scottish War of Independence
d) The Hundred Years’ War

7. Chaucer is often considered the first representative of which movement in English literature?

a) Humanism
b) Aestheticism
c) Expressionism
d) Transcendentalism

8. Which of the following Italian authors did not influence Chaucer?

a) Dante Alighieri
b) Francesco Petrarca
c) Pietro Bembo
d) Giovanni Boccaccio

9. Which of the following is a narrative poem which many scholars consider to be Chaucer’s finest work?

a) Troilus and Chrisalida
b) Trollus and Cressilda
c) Traldus and Cressida
d) Troilus and Criseyde

10. During which of the following periods were the Canterbury Tales written?

a) 1240-1244
b) 1310-1315
c) 1387-1400
d) 1395-1405

11. In which year did William Caxton publish the Canterbury Tales for the first time?

a) 1450
b) 1460
c) 1470
d) 1480
12. In the *Canterbury Tales*, one story connects a series of other stories. What is this literary technique called?

a) Frame narrative  
b) Web narrative  
c) Box narrative  
d) Casing narrative

13. The Prologue and majority of the tales are composed of what?

a) Decasyllabic verses in rhyming couplets  
b) Unrhymed dodecasyllabic verses  
c) Octosyllabic verses in rhyming couplets  
d) Unrhymed decasyllabic verses

14. In his initial plan for the *Canterbury Tales*, how many stories did Chaucer wish to include?

a) 120  
b) 60  
c) 100  
d) 90

15. How many tales did Chaucer complete?

a) 12  
b) 20  
c) 24  
d) 30

16. Which of the following is a theme of the text?

a) Courtly love  
b) Importance of company  
c) Corruption of the Church  
d) All of the above

17. In which season does the pilgrimage take place?

a) Spring  
b) Summer  
c) Autumn  
d) Winter
18. The pilgrims travel to the shrine of St. Thomas Becket in Canterbury Cathedral. Where do they depart from?

a) Southwark  
b) Southpark  
c) Southbank  
d) Southwalk

19. What is the name of the host?

a) Barry Hailey  
b) Gary Mailey  
c) Harry Bailey  
d) Larry Sailey

20. The host decides that each pilgrim must tell how many stories?

a) Two on the way to Canterbury and two on the way back  
b) One on the way to Canterbury  
c) One on the way back from Canterbury  
d) One on the way to Canterbury and one on the way back

21. What is the prize for winning the storytelling contest?

a) A date with the Wife of Bath  
b) A book of poetry  
c) A medal and certificate  
d) A free meal at the Tabard Inn

22. Apart from the narrator, how many travellers go on the pilgrimage?

a) 27  
b) 28  
c) 29  
d) 26

23. What aspects of the pilgrims are described in the General Prologue?

a) Clothing  
b) Physical appearance  
c) Social rank  
d) All of the above

24. The pilgrims are representative of typical 14th Century social “classes”. What are these collectives called?

a) Estates  
b) Clusters  
c) Assemblies  
d) Factions
25. Which character represents the highest social class of the group?
   a) Squire
   b) **Knight**
   c) Monk
   d) Miller

26. Which character seems to love animals more than humans?
   a) Squire
   b) Friar
   c) Wife of Bath
   d) **Priess**

27. Which two characters sing “Come Hither Love To Me”?
   a) Knight and Squire
   b) **Summoner and Pardoner**
   c) Parson and Plowman
   d) Monk and Friar

28. The Wife of Bath is an expert at what?
   a) Love remedies
   b) Cookery
   c) Dance
   d) Chess

29. How many times has the Wife of Bath been married?
   a) 2
   b) 3
   c) 4
   d) 5

30. What colour are the Wife of Bath’s stockings?
   a) Black
   b) White
   c) **Red**
   d) Blue

31. What is the one negative characteristic of the Knight?
   a) Vanity
   b) Egocentricity
   c) **Bad Hygiene**
   d) Rudeness
32. Which phrase is written on the Prioress’ brooch?

a) Carpe diem  
**b) Amor vincit omnia**  
c) Caritas vincit omnia  
d) Veni, vidi, vici

33. Which of these adjectives best describes the Squire?

a) Attractive  
b) Aggressive  
c) Experienced in combat  
d) Illiterate

34. Which character is the Monk coupled with?

a) The Prioress  
b) The Poor Parson  
c) The Pardoner  
d) The Friar

35. Which of the following physical features characterises the Friar?

a) Red beard  
b) Gap between his front teeth  
c) Wart on his nose  
**d) White neck**

36. How often does the Poor Parson tell lies?

a) Always  
b) Sometimes  
c) Often  
**d) Never**

37. Which character is the Poor Parson coupled with?

a) Friar  
b) Summoner  
c) **Plowman**  
d) Miller

38. The Summoner represents which of the following?

a) God the judge  
b) God the provider  
c) God the creator  
d) God the merciful
39. The Pardoner sells which animal's bones as saint's bones?
   a) Dog's
   b) Pig's
   c) Goat's
   d) Sheep's

40. Which of the tales is thought to have been written before the collection was conceived?
   a) The Miller's Tale
   b) The Wife of Bath's Tale
   c) The Knight's Tale
   d) The Pardoner's Tale

41. In the Knight's Tale, which character is helped by Mars in the battle for Emily's love?
   a) Theseus
   b) Arcite
   c) Nicholas
   d) Palamoun

42. Which character is invited by the host to tell his tale after the Knight?
   a) The Prioress
   b) The Friar
   c) The Wife of Bath
   d) The Monk

43. Which of the following is not a genre of the Miller's Tale?
   a) Fabliaux
   b) Burlesque
   c) Romance
   d) Satire

44. Which of these adjectives does not describe John in the Miller's Tale?
   a) Astute
   b) Old
   c) Jealous
   d) Foolish
45. The Wife of Bath’s Tale is inspired by which of the following Medieval French poems?

a) Ma Joie Me Semont  
b) Trop Est Mes Mari Jalos  
c) Quant Floris  
d) Roman de la Rose

46. The Knight in the Wife of Bath’s tale discovers that women most want what in the world?

a) As many children as possible  
b) Good looks and money  
c) Health and happiness  
d) Complete sovereignty over their husbands and lovers

47. Which of the tales is an Arthurian Romance?

a) The Miller’s Tale  
b) The Knight’s Tale  
c) The Wife of Bath’s Tale  
d) b) and c) are correct

48. Chaucer uses low comedy, irony, satire and burlesque in the tales. Which is the harshest and most offensive of these devices?

a) Low comedy  
b) Irony  
c) Satire  
d) Burlesque

49. In Chaucer’s Retraction, whom does he ask the reader to thank for anything that they have liked in the text?

a) Himself  
b) Thomas Becket  
c) Jesus Christ  
d) The pilgrims

50. The "burlesque" is a type of comedy that is generally physical rather than verbal, relying on slapstick and horseplay as in “The Miller’s Tale.” It usually focuses on ordinary folk. True or false?

False