

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) Prioress**

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