

THE ARTS SOCIETY

Artvent

QUIZ 2021



1. A Man in a Red Turban (National Gallery London) is believed to be a self-portrait of Jan van Eyck. It is a superb example of how he exploited the translucency of his oil paint glazes to bring the face alive. Later, a 16th century writer and art historian claimed, not altogether accurately(!), that van Eyck was the 'inventor' of oil paint. Who was the writer?

2. It is thought that Davide Ghirlandaio, the brother and business partner of Domenico Ghirlandaio, painted this exceptionally fine small devotional work (National Gallery London) in about 1490-1500. The Virgin's mantle is painted in the traditional blue of a particularly rare pigment found at the time only in Afghanistan. Can you name the pigment?



3. Caravaggio used a painting technique known as 'chiaroscuro' to capture the drama of the moment in his work The Supper at Emmaus (National Gallery London). What does the term 'chiaroscuro' mean?



4. This portrait of the Hon. Mrs. Graham is one of the most prized possessions of the National Galleries of Scotland. The miniaturist Ozias Humphry remarked of this artist's portraits that they '...were often wrought by candle light...'; the subjects and their pictures being 'scarcely discernible.'? Who was he?



5. In Vermeer's painting The Milkmaid of c.1660 (Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam), he takes a simple everyday activity and makes it into something uniquely special. The artist was highly skilled at capturing the subtle effects of light – how it reflects off different objects and surfaces and how it creates shadows of subtly different intensities. Vermeer made very few paintings. Do you know approximately how many survive?



6. J. W. M. Turner once referred to his painting 'The Fighting Temeraire' (National Gallery London) as 'my Darling' and refused offers to buy it. The painting is lit by a most wonderful orange sky that reflects on the waters of the Thames. But is the sun rising or setting?



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7. In this National Gallery London portrait, Anne, 2nd Countess of Albemarle's face is almost dead white, the red lake pigment having been bleached from the flesh paint by the light. Because this happened to many of this artist's portraits early in their existence, Horace Walpole wittily commented that the artist '...ought to be paid in annuities only for so long as his pictures last.' Who was he?

8. The Beach at Trouville (National Gallery London) was painted by Claude Monet on the beach whilst he was on his honeymoon. Grains of sand are embedded in the canvas. Monet is renowned for his effects of light which he achieved by painting en plein air. What 1830s invention in particular facilitated this practice?



9. During the 1760s Joseph Wright of Derby painted a series of 'candlelight' pictures of increasing complexity, including An Experiment on a Bird in the Air Pump (National Gallery London). The inspiration for his painting may have come from his association with the Lunar Society, whose members included Josiah Wedgwood and Matthew Boulton. Why was the Society so called?



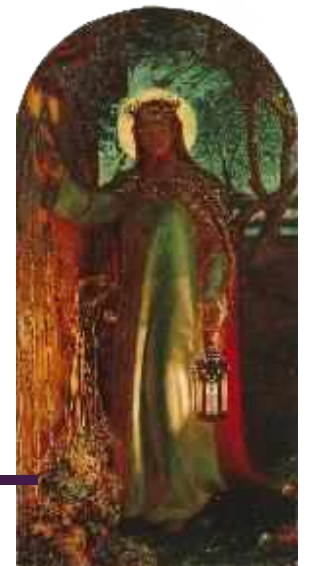
10. Anthony Gormley's Angel of the North dominates the skyline as you drive north passed Newcastle-upon-Tyne but near which city would you go to see these examples of his work on a beach?



11. Giotto's Adoration of the Magi (Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York) was the first in a sequence of seven images depicting the life and Passion of Christ, painted side by side on a long wooden panel in egg tempera with a brilliant gold ground. The last image of the series is now in the collection of the National Gallery London. What does it depict?



12. Holman Hunt painted the background for his famous work The Light of the World largely by moonlight in the orchard of Worcester Park Farm in Surrey. The original version, exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1853, is in Keble College Oxford but where can you see the large replica that he subsequently painted several decades later?



And to finish a little bit of light-hearted Christmas trivia...

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13. This engraving shows Queen Victoria and Prince Albert with some of their children admiring the family Christmas tree. Tradition has it that Prince Albert introduced the Christmas tree into Britain, but why is it a spruce/fir tree?

14. This card designed by J. C. Horsley (V&A) was the first Christmas card to be produced in Britain. Who first thought of the idea of sending Christmas cards in this country and when?



15. The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols has become very much a part of our Christmas traditions but when was the first such service held in Kings College Chapel, Cambridge?



16. This 1877 illustration (V&A) depicts the traditional carol 'I saw three ships come sailing in'. From when does the earliest printed version of the words date?



17. December 26th is St. Stephen's Day. Why and when did it become more commonly known as 'Boxing Day'?



18. These delicious looking tarts, painted here by Monet, are made of puff pastry filled with frangipane. They are a popular treat that French children love to have on Twelfth Night – the Feast of the Epiphany. When sliced open they look for a tiny charm hidden inside. What is the French name for the tarts?



19. This is a painting by the little-known Impressionist painter Gustave Caillebotte. According to the traditional song, The Twelve Days of Christmas, on the sixth day, what did my true love give to me...



20. The menu for Christmas dinner varies from country to country. Can you match the following dishes to the countries below?

- (a) salted dry cod-fish with boiled potatoes
- (b) casserole containing macaroni, carrot, potato and turkey
- (c) oysters on ice - 'Spoiler alert': the painting (right) is by Edouard Manet!
- (d) herring and broad beans
- (e) Christmas pudding

Portugal | France | Great Britain | Sweden | Finland



We would like to thank Lizzie Darbyshire for devising and writing this quiz. Lizzie is Chair of North East Area Support Team and a recently retired Accredited Lecturer of The Arts Society.