

ET4Bs Christmas Quiz 2020 (including answers)

General (Christmassy) knowledge

1. How many doors are there on a traditional Advent Calendar? **A: 24**
2. Widow Twankey appears in what perennially popular festive pantomime (well it would be popular if the theatres were allowed to open)? **A: Aladdin**, Widow Twankey being Aladdin's mother. NB: although the whole of 2020 seems to have had a pantomime flavour, if you do read about Wishy Washy this Christmas, the name in fact refers to Aladdin's older brother, and is not a euphemism for any particular government minister.
3. Which classic 1860s American novel begins with the line "Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents"? **A: Little Women** (by Louisa May Alcott)
4. Which of these Shakespeare quotes is NOT taken from his festive 'comedy' Twelfth Night? i) Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon 'em ii) If music be the food of love, play on, or iii) The course of true love never did run smooth? **A: iii)**. The 'course of true love' quote comes from A Midsummer Night's Dream.
5. In which year did the Queen deliver the first ever televised Christmas speech (accept 2 years either way)? **A: 1957**
6. William I of England was crowned on Christmas Day in which year? **A: 1066**. He was of course also known by the epithet 'William the Conqueror' which cements the popular notion that 'history is always written by the winning side'.
7. Which leader of the USSR finally confirmed his resignation on Christmas Day 1991? For a bonus point, who succeeded him? **A: Mikhail Gorbachev. Bonus: Boris Yeltsin**
8. On Christmas Eve in which year did Dover become the first English town reported to be air-raided (clue – it was in WW1)? **A: 1914**. Although Hartlepool had been shelled at an earlier date, this had been undertaken by an offshore gun boat, whereas Dover was the first town to be bombed from the air by a plane. Great Yarmouth and Kings Lynn were later bombed by German Zeppelins and suffered the first casualties, after Kaiser Wilhelm II's changed his initial resistance to such bombing in January 1915.
9. Which animal-friendly Christmas slogan was popularised by the charity Dogs Trust in 1978? **A: A Dog Is For Life, Not Just For Christmas**
10. Christmas Island is a territory of which southern hemisphere state, which is located about 1,000 miles South East of the Island itself? **A: Australia**
11. The modern term 'Warts n all' comes from a reply offered by which puritanical leader, who was believed to be behind attempts to ban Christmas in the 1640s, but on this occasion was being asked how he wanted his own portrait painted? **A: Oliver Cromwell**, who nonetheless finished in 10th position, in the 2002 BBC poll to find the 'Ten greatest Britons of all time' (Winston Churchill topped the poll).
12. According to the Nativity story, is it true or false that Joseph and Mary travelled to Bethlehem to pay their taxes? **A: True** (also to attend a census). Benjamin Franklin is sometimes credited with the saying "in this world nothing is certain, except death and taxes", though the Nativity story suggests the origins of the phrase may be much earlier. NB: As it's Christmas we won't mention that the UK Self-Assessment deadline is only round the corner, on 31 January!

Christmas-themed Entertainment & Music

13. Dan Stevens' character was killed off in 2012's Downton Abbey Christmas special, but what was his character's name? **A: Matthew Crawley**
14. What colour Christmas did Elvis have in his 1957 song? **A: Blue**
15. The character Clarence Odbody features in which classic 1946 Christmas based film? **A: It's a Wonderful Life.** Clarence is the ghost (angel) who is sent to persuade George Bailey (Jimmy Stewart) that life is in fact worth living.
16. Actors Alan Rickman and Laura Linney appear together as work colleagues, albeit as part of different storylines, in which 2003 Christmas-based film? **A: Love Actually**
17. Which British playwright, whose popular works included The Caretaker and The Birthday Party, passed away on Christmas Eve 2008? **A: Harold Pinter**
18. In the popular Channel 4 animated short film The Snowman, who narrated the original introduction, when the film was first shown in 1982? **A: Raymond Briggs** (the original book's author). Later versions of the film included different introductions by David Bowie and Mel Smith.
19. Name The Simpsons two festive sounding pets (a point for each)? **A: Santa's Little Helper** (their dog) **and Snowball** (their cat). In her 2004 'alternative Christmas message' for Channel 4, Marge Simpson compared the 'US-UK special relationship' as akin to Dr Evil and Mini Me in the Austin Powers films ("helping out in all our zany schemes to take over the world").
20. What was the stage name of the hard rock musician Ian Fraser Kilmister (born Christmas Eve 1945)? **A: Lemmy.** Motorhead's lead singer and main songwriter lived as fast as he played, claiming to have drunk a bottle of Jack Daniels every day since age 30. He passed away 28 December 2015.
21. In the popular nursery rhyme 'Christmas is coming the goose is getting fat', how much money are you encouraged (initially) to put 'in the old man's hat'? **A: A Penny**
22. Figgy Pudding is the requested dessert in which popular Christmas song? **A: We Wish You a Merry Christmas**
23. Which sometimes controversial musician, known as the 'Godfather of Soul', died on Christmas Day in 2006? **A: James Brown.** His musical reputation appeared to survive several brushes with the law, and even occasional imprisonment.
24. The popular anthem 'Have yourself a merry little Christmas' was sung by whom, in the 1944 musical 'Meet Me In St. Louis'? **A: Judy Garland**
25. Which madcap DJ, born Christmas Day 1944, was featured in the film Bohemian Rhapsody as unofficially promoting Queen's classic song in advance of its release date? **A: Kenny Everett.** The song became the Christmas No 1 of 1975, and the rest is history.
26. Name the irreverent actor who was allegedly found looking through the bible 'for loopholes', prior to his death on Christmas Day 1946? **A: W C Fields**
27. Complete the punch line of this joke from late comic and Christmas favourite Ronnie Corbett: "It was revealed in a government survey published today that the Prime Minister is doing the work of two men...". **A: ..Laurel and Hardy**
28. In the video for the Christmas classic 'Fairytale of New York', which well known actor plays a policemen who 'arrests' Pogues singer Shane MacGowan? **A: Matt Dillon**
29. Which of the following Beatles songs has NOT been covered in John Lewis's Christmas adverts of recent years: i) Real Love, ii) We can work it out, or iii) Golden Slumbers? **A: ii) We can work it out.** Real Love featured in the 'Monty the

Penguin' ad in 2014 and Golden Slumbers featured in the 'Moz, the Monster under the bed' 2017 ad.

30. In 'Blackadder's Christmas Carol' name the actors playing Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, who seek to (prematurely) reward Ebenezer Blackadder for being 'the nicest man in England' (a point for each)? **A: Miriam Margolyes and Jim Broadbent**

Joined the choir invisible – gone but not forgotten in 2020

These questions commemorate a few famous people who sadly passed away in the last 12 months.

31. Which rock guitar legend, who died earlier this year, famously played lead on Michael Jackson's early-1980s hit 'Beat it'? **A: Eddie Van Halen**
32. Dame Diana Rigg proved in the 1960's that, when kitted out in leather, she was more than a match for anyone. What was the name of her super-sexy character in the TV show the Avengers? **A: Emma Peel.** Her subsequent 50-year multi-faceted career proved, if there were ever any doubt, that she was much more than just a pretty face.
33. Which of these films was NOT directed by the late British film director Alan Parker? i) Bugsy Malone (1976), ii) Midnight Express (1978), iii) Fame (1980), iv) Flashdance (1983), or v) The Commitments (1991)? **A: iv) Flashdance** (this everyday story, of a female Polish welder who becomes a professional dancer, was actually directed by Adrian Lyne, another Brit). Meantime Alan racked up 19 BAFTAs, 10 Golden Globes and 6 Oscars in his career– not bad for someone who began by making TV ads (the comic Cinzano ads featuring Leonard Rossiter and Joan Collins were one example).
34. The late Peter Green was the initial frontman for which internationally successful rock and blues outfit, which he helped form after leaving John Mayall's Bluesbreakers in 1967? **A: Fleetwood Mac.** Although personal troubles saw Peter leave the music business for many years, his distinctively 'economical' blues playing style saw him retain an army of personal followers and admirers.
35. Late actor Ian Holm played the older Bilbo Baggins in Peter Jackson's Lord of the Rings trilogy. What birthday does Bilbo celebrate at a party given near the start of The Fellowship of the Ring (an extra point if you can pronounce the birthday in the same way Bilbo did)? **A: It was his 111th birthday – though Bilbo described it as his 'Eleventy-first' (also accept 'Eleventy-one') birthday.**
36. The late Richard Wayne Penniman found fame as which energetic 1950s rocker? **A: Little Richard.** His early hits including Tutti Frutti and Long Tall Sally inspired many UK acts, like the Beatles, who also supported Richard during some early 1960s UK tour dates.
37. Kirk Douglas passed away in February, at the ripe old age of 103, which makes him the oldest name on our 2020 list! Which troubled artist did Kirk portray in the 1956 film Lust for Life? **A: Vincent Van Gogh.** Kirk acknowledged that his tough early life as the son of Jewish immigrants (who had arrived from modern day Belarus) helped give him the determination inspiration and energy needed to maintain his 60-year film career.
38. Which popular entertainer did Ernie Wise describe as a "self-made man", with Eric Morecambe responding that "it was good of him to take the blame"? **A: Des**

- O'Connor** (who died last month). Des took the M&W friendly jibes in good part, recognising that all publicity was good publicity.
39. James Bond favourite, Sir Sean Connery, sadly passed away a few weeks ago. For his role in which (non-Bond) 1987 film did Sean win a Best Supporting Actor Oscar? **A: The Untouchables**. NB: From our own perspective, his apparent status as everyone's favourite advocate of all things Scottish seemed slightly at odds with his reportedly long term non-UK resident tax status (but hey, what do we know anyway!).
 40. Dave Prowse's considerable physical presence saw him cast in many (sometimes non-speaking, or dubbed) roles, one example being as Darth Vader in the early Star Wars films. Before then, in the very early 70s he had appeared in a series of public information films, to promote what? **A: The Green Cross Code**. Dave played 'Green Cross Man' a superhero invented to help children adhere to road safety. Before the Green Cross Code was launched in 1970, children were encouraged to follow the simpler 'Kerb Drill'.
 41. Recently deceased Geoffrey Palmer played opposite which female lead in the 1990s sitcom *As Time Goes By*? **A: Judi Dench**. Geoffrey's lugubrious deadpan face helped him land many other starring and supporting roles, such as in *The Rise and Fall of Reginald Perrin*, & *Butterflies*.
 42. Complete the title of this Channel 4 comedy show, which originally starred the late comedian John Sessions: *Whose Line...?* **A: .. is it anyway?** John's penchant for physical comedy and quick-witted improvisation helped establish the show, alongside the TV career of its main presenter Clive Anderson.
 43. One of the few American acts to embrace Jamaican reggae music, Johnny Nash had a string of international hits in the 1970s. Complete the title of this 1972 smash: "I can see..."? **A: ..Clearly Now**. One of Johnny's other hits sums up how we feel about HMRC in the 21st century – 'There are more questions than answers'!
 44. Former England World Cup winners Jack Charlton & Nobby Stiles both passed away in 2020. How many of England's 1966 winning XI are still alive? **A: Only 4** (George Cohen, Sir Bobby Charlton, Sir Geoff Hurst and Roger Hunt), Gordon Banks, Ray Wilson, Bobby Moore, Alan Ball & Martin Peters having died previously.
 45. Before starring in light-hearted TV series such as *Yes Minister* and *Heartbeat*, the late Derek Fowlds presented which popular kids TV series in the mid-70s? **A: The Basil Brush show**, where of course he played Basil's 'straight man', Mr. Derek.
 46. Tim Brooke-Taylor was one third of zany 1970s TV comics *The Goodies*, alongside Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie. They also enjoyed a short (although it must be admitted, undistinguished) chart career in that decade. Complete the title of this 'less than memorable' festive Goodies hit: 'Make a daft noise....?' **A:..For Christmas**. Tim of course enjoyed a stellar 50 plus-year career as a writer and performer, working with most/all the major innovative UK comic talents coming through in the 60s and 70s.
 47. How many times did racing driver, the late Stirling Moss, win the FI World Championship? **A: None** (he was often described as "the greatest driver never to win the World Championship", though he finished runner up on 4 occasions). In the UK, his name became synonymous with, and was unofficially ascribed to, any amateur driver perceived to be driving much too quickly. Once stopped for alleged speeding by the police, they asked sarcastically if he 'thought he was Stirling Moss', and refused to believe him when he replied 'yes, I do'.

48. Former Stranglers musician Dave Greenfield specialised in which musical instrument? i) lead guitar, ii) bass guitar iii) keyboards or iv) drums/percussion. **A: iii) keyboards.** His keyboard virtuosity and playing style saw him compared with the Doors & Rick Wakeman (if that seems somewhat at odds with the supposed 'spirit of punk', we can assure you that, once you saw him play, you got it!).
49. In 1991, actor Michael Angelis became the voice over narrator on *Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends*, taking over from which other famous Liverpoolian? **A: Ringo Starr**
50. 'Ceased to be' Monty Python star Terry Jones of course directed as well as starred in the religious themed satire 'Life of Brian'. Which famous musician apparently contributed £3m to the movie's production costs, when other funding fell through, 'because he wanted to see the film'? **A: George Harrison** (this was later described, only half-jokingly, as 'the world's most expensive cinema ticket ever issued'). We'll leave you with this thought from the movie: "All right, but apart from the sanitation, the medicine, education, wine, public order, irrigation, roads, the fresh-water system, and public health, what have the Romans ever done for us?" (a quote from the People's Front of Judea by the way, not, on pain of death, to be confused with either the Judean People's Front or the Judean Popular People's Front).