

ISRAEL IQ

The American Jewish Committee challenges you to test your Israel knowledge

Part II – Israel: the people and culture

1. What is the population of Israel?

- a. 4 million
- b. 6 million
- c. 8 million
- d. 10 million

2. The first American president to visit Israel said: "The Israelis have shown qualities that Americans identify with: guts, patriotism, idealism, a passion for freedom. I have seen it. I know." Who was he?

- a. John F. Kennedy
- b. Lyndon B. Johnson
- c. Richard Nixon
- d. Jimmy Carter

3. Israel sent humanitarian aid and search and rescue teams to help what country after a devastating earthquake in 1999?

- a. India
- b. Egypt
- c. South Africa
- d. Turkey

4. Amos Oz is a prize-winning Israeli:

- a. Musician
- b. Scientist
- c. Actor
- d. Author

5. Eleven Israeli athletes were killed by Arab terrorists in the 1972 Olympics, which were held in what city?

- a. Paris
- b. Rome
- c. Cairo
- d. Munich

6. The single largest immigrant group in Israel is from:

- a. Ethiopia
- b. Former Soviet Union
- c. United States
- d. Argentina

7. What is special about the Israeli Arab population in the Negev?

- a. They are Bedouin
- b. They are Shiites
- c. They are Sunni
- d. They are Wahabis

8. What university in Israel is often compared to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in terms of its elite status and advanced work in technological and scientific research?

- a. Hebrew University
- b. Bar-Ilan University
- c. Israel Technion
- d. Haifa University



Israel Government Press Office

9. What is the name of the international competition for Jewish athletes, held every four years, in Israel?

- a. Maccabiah Games
- b. Goodwill Games
- c. Titan Games
- d. Olympic Games

10. What university was the first to introduce cancer research in Israel, to design and build a computer, to establish a nuclear physics department, and to create the World's First Interactive Outdoor Science Museum?

- a. The Weizmann Institute
- b. Tel Aviv University
- c. Hebrew University
- d. Ben-Gurion University of the Negev



Israel Government Press Office: Photographer, Moshe Milner

11. The synagogue of the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center in Jerusalem has stained glass windows painted by which famous artist?

- a. Pablo Picasso
- b. Vasily Kandinsky
- c. Marc Chagall
- d. Gustav Klimt

12. What is the best selling newspaper in Israel?

- a. Ha'aretz
- b. Jerusalem Post
- c. Ma'ariv
- d. Yedioth Ahronoth

13. What is the Magen David Adom?

- a. Emergency medical and health services
- b. The police force
- c. The fire department
- d. A labor union

14. What holiday is celebrated in Israel on the fifth day of Iyar (this year on May 7)?

- a. Labor Day
- b. Purim
- c. Holocaust Remembrance Day
- d. Independence Day

15. Ilan Ramon is the Israeli astronaut who flew to space and tragically perished in what shuttle disaster?

- a. Apollo
- b. Challenger
- c. Columbia
- d. Atlantis

16. What young actress was born in Israel, raised on Long Island, played in *Star Wars*, and now attends Harvard University?

- a. Mili Avital
- b. Natalie Portman
- c. Gaby Hoffman
- d. Tovah Feldshuh

17. Can you name the famous Jewish Soviet dissident who currently holds a seat in the Knesset?

Fill in: _____

18. "God Has Pity on Schoolchildren" is the poem quoted in Yitzhak Rabin's acceptance speech for the Nobel Peace Prize. Who wrote the poem?

- a. Yehuda Amichai
- b. Haim Gouri
- c. Dahlia Ravikovitch
- d. Natan Zach

19. What type of tree, whose branches symbolize peace, grows in many places throughout Israel?

- a. Oak
- b. Fig
- c. Olive
- d. Palm

20. Which of these is often considered a national food of Israel?

- a. Pickles
- b. Falafel
- c. Matzoh ball soup
- d. Schnitzel

21. Which former American Jewish Committee president signed an agreement with David Ben-Gurion in 1950 that became the blueprint for American Jewish support for Israel and mutual understanding between Jews in Israel and the United States?

- a. Louis Marshal
- b. Joseph Prokauer
- c. Jacob Blaustein
- d. Cyrus Adler

22. Itzhak Perlman, the internationally known Israeli-born musician, plays which instrument?

- a. Cello
- b. Violin
- c. Piano
- d. Oboe

23. During Operation Moses and Operation Solomon the government of Israel arranged for airlifts to Israel of thousands of people who had been practicing Judaism for 2000 years in what country?

- a. Zimbabwe
- b. Ethiopia
- c. Sri Lanka
- d. Paraguay



Israel Government Press Office: Photographer, Alpert Nathan

24. Advanced water saving techniques developed in Israel have helped increase agricultural output sevenfold with hardly any increase in the amount of water used in the past 25 years.

True
False

25. The current conductor of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra said: "The road to peace with Israel's neighbors may be difficult, but I am sure the struggle for peace will continue. As a friend of Israel and of the Jewish people, I wish with all my heart for a complete and lasting peace in this country that I love so much." What is his name?

- a. Zubin Mehta
- b. Yehudi Menuhin
- c. Daniel Barenboim
- d. Yoav Talmi

Part III of the Israel IQ Quiz will appear in June

Log on to The American Jewish Committee web site at www.ajc.org for additional facts about Israel and for local events on Israel in your area.



Shai Yehezkel, IDF Spokesman's Office



The American Jewish Committee
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If you scored:
25: You are an Israel genius! Congratulations on your vast knowledge of Israeli culture and people! 24-25: You have a good understanding of life and culture in Israel.
20-23: You could use some improvement on your knowledge of Israeli culture and people. There's a lot to be proud of! Find out what it is: 0-7: Hit the books! You've missed out on some of the richest aspects of Israeli life.
Answer Key: 1. b, 2. c, 3. d, 4. d, 5. d, 6. b, 7. a, 8. c, 9. a, 10. a, 11. c, 12. d, 13. a, 14. d, 15. c, 16. b, 17. Natan Sharansky, 18. a, 19. c, 20. b, 21. c, 22. b, 23. b, 24. True, 25. a