

PREZ TRIVIAL QUIZ AND ANSWERS

Below is a Presidential Trivia Quiz and Answers.

GRADING CRITERIA: 33 questions, 3 points each, and 1 free point. If the answer is a list which has L elements and you get x correct, you get x/L points. If any are wrong you get 0 points.

You can take the quiz one of three ways.

1) Take it WITHOUT using the web and see how many you can get right. Take 3 hours.

2) Take it and use the web and try to do it fast. Stop when you want, but your score will be determined as follows: If R is the number of points and T is the number of minutes then your score is $\frac{180R}{T} + 1$.

If you get all 33 right in 60 minutes then you get a 100. You could get more than 100 if you do it faster.

3) The answer key has more information and is interesting. Do not bother to take the quiz and just read the answer key when I post it.

Much of this material is from the books *Hail to the chiefs: Political mischief, Morals, and Malarky from George W to George W* by Barbara Holland and *Bland Ambition: From Adams to Quayle- the Cranks, Criminals, Tax Cheats, and Golfers who made it to Vice President* by Steve Tally. I also use Wikipedia.

There is a table at the end of this document that has lots of information about presidents.

THE QUIZ BEGINS!

1. We will need the notion of *how old a candidate is when they run*. I don't want to deal with number-of-months, and I need something easy to compute, so I will take

(Year of the election) - (year of Birth)

So, for example, Biden was born in 1942, so we will take Biden's age for the 2024 election to be

$$2024-1942 = 82.$$

I will use this both in this question and the next one.

Which election had the largest sum-of-the-ages-of-the-candidates? Second largest? Third largest? Fourth largest? Fifth largest?

ANSWER:

We do this in reverse order. The last one is not a surprise:

Fifth largest Sum: 1984: Reagan vs Mondale: SUM is 129

Fourth largest Sum: 1848: Taylor vs Cass: SUM is 130

Third largest Sum: 2016: Trump vs Hillary: SUM is 139

Second largest Sum: 2020: Biden vs Trump: SUM is 152

Largest Sum: 2024: Biden vs Trump: SUM is 160

Some of the candidates in the 18th and 19th century look old but really weren't that old. I have a complete list of elections and sums-of-ages after the quiz. NOTE- there were some elections where only one person ran. They don't count (which is more important for the next question).

2. Name all elections where the sum-of-the-ages-of-the-candidates is ≤ 100 . We do not count the two elections where only one candidate ran. If more than one candidate got electoral votes then we take the first and second electoral-vote-getters.

ANSWER:

1908: Taft vs Bryan: SUM is 99

1904: T. Roosevelt vs Parker: SUM is 98

1900: McKinley vs Bryan: SUM is 97

1864: Lincoln vs McClellan: SUM is 93

1960: Kennedy vs Nixon: SUM is 90

1860: Lincoln vs Breckenridge SUM is 90 (footnote later on that)

1896: Mckinley vs Bryan: SUM is 89

Some points:

- (a) I really thought that Kennedy-Nixon would be the min sum but no, it was McKinley-Bryan. Note that Bryan was 36 years old in his first run.
- (b) I knew that Bryan ran for president many times but didn't now that he actually got the nomination three times. In modern times this just doesn't happen. Hillary Clinton and Al Gore came close when they ran but there was no notion they would run again.

The last person to lose and run again was Nixon- who won (I don't count Trump which is different since he was president.)

- (c) I have not bothered to find out which sum is younger if you count months: Kennedy-Nixon or Lincoln-Breckinridge.
- (d) Lincoln-Breckinridge is not quite right. There were four candidates who got electoral votes . I picked Breckinridge since he got the second most electoral votes. There might be a better way to count *Lincoln's opponent* but this is the one I use.

I have a complete list of elections and sums-of-ages after the quiz. NOTE- there were some elections where only one person ran. They don't count.

3. How many people have been president without having ever held prior elected office? Name each one and, if they had former experience in government, what it was.

ANSWER:

- (a) Donald Trump. No prior government experience.
- (b) Dwight D. Eisenhower. General in WW II and also first supreme commander of NATO.
- (c) Herbert Hoover. Secretary of Commerce.
- (d) Ulysses S. Grant. General in the Civil War.
- (e) Zachary Taylor. Major General in the Mexican American War.

So 3 generals and 1 cabinet positions, which I would consider Government positions. Trump is unique in that he is the only one with no prior job in government.

I only know of one other non-government person who *ran* for president on a major party. Wendell Willkie ran against Roosevelt in 1940. He was a lawyer and active in politics, but never had a job in government. Imagine if Alan Dershowitz or David Brooks ran for president.

Here is a near miss who is (incorrectly) on some lists of people who were president without holding prior elected office: William Howard Taft. Secretary of War. In 1880 he ran and won a 5-year term as a judge in the superior court of Ohio.

People often think George Washington should be on this list; however, he was elected and served in the Virginia House of Burgess

4. How many different people have been or are president?

ANSWER:

45. See Table at the end for more detail You may have heard that Biden is *the 46th president*. Grover Cleveland served two non-consecutive terms which account for the discrepancy.

5. How many different people have been or are vice president?

ANSWER:

49. See Table at the end for more detail.

Some presidents had more than one Vice President (FDR had 3, Nixon had 2) and two VPs served under two presidents (George Clinton and John Calhoun). So the number need not be 45. It turns out to be higher.

6. List all of the presidents that died in office.

ANSWER:

There were eight.

- (a) William Henry Harrison. Died of pneumonia in 1841. Wikipedia claims that the cold was NOT caused by giving his Inaugural Address in the cold rain without a coat, as is the rumor. See comment on Zachary Taylor. Harrison was 68.
- (b) Zachary Taylor. He consumed too much milk and cherries on July 4, 1850. Really! He died of gastroenteritis as a result. Taylor was 65. However, note that Harrison (1841-1841 Prez), Taylor (1853-1853 Prez) died in office, and Polk (1845-1848 Prez) died shortly after leaving office. Some historians think it might have been bad sanitation leading to poisoned water in the White House.
- (c) Abraham Lincoln. He was shot by John Wilkes Booth in 1865. Booth thought Lincoln was a tyrant. Lincoln was 56. John Wilkes Booth shot Lincoln in Ford's theatre and then jumped down from the balcony. This injured his leg, and he got fixed by Dr. Samuel

Mudd. Later Samuel Mudd was jailed as being part of the conspiracy to kill Lincoln (and others- Andrew Johnson and Sec of State Seward were supposed to be killed that night as well—Seward was stabbed but not killed, and Johnson’s potential assassin drank to get his courage up but passed out). Samuel Mudd has been used as an example of the hypocritical oath or of an innocent man jailed; however, he did know Booth ahead of time and there is debate about to what extent he was involved. He was later pardoned by Andrew Johnson. One reason, unrelated to the crime, is that Mudd helped out a lot during a yellow fever epidemic in the prison.

- (d) James Garfield. He was shot by Charles J. Guiteau in 1881. That is not what killed him. Many Civil War veterans lived despite having bullets in them. They had the benefit of not having doctors poking around their wounds with unsterilized hands. ANYWAY, Guiteau wanted a job as the American Council in Paris, which Garfield didn’t give to him. Guiteau thought that if he shot Garfield then President Chester Arthur would give him job. Guiteau was two tacos short of a combination plate. Garfield was 49.
- (e) William McKinley. Shot by Leon Frank Czolgosz in 1901. Czolgosz was an anarchist trying to make a political statement. Its not clear what the statement was. McKinley was 58.
- (f) Warren G. Harding. According to *Hail to the Chiefs* the cause of Harding’s death, in 1923, was mysterious: *all the doctors agreed that Harding died of a stroke, or pneumonia, or apoplexy, or a blood clot, or food poisoning.* That book also strongly suggests that his wife poisoned him. Wikipedia supports death by natural causes of some sort but notes that *enough doubts surround the presidents death to keep reputable scholars open to the possibility of murder.* Harding was 57.
- (g) Franklin D. Roosevelt. Died of a cerebral hemorrhage in 1945. FDR was 63.
- (h) John F. Kennedy. He was shot by Lee Harvey Oswald in 1963. Some disagree or think it was part of a bigger conspiracy. They are wrong. JFK was 46.

There is a memory device for this if you already know some about the presidents: presidents elected in 1840, 1860, 1880, 1900, 1920, 1940, and 1960 all died in office. This accounts for all but Zachery Taylor.

In 1980 I thought some crazed numerologist would try to kill the president, hence making the ‘ends in 0’ a self-fulfilling prophecy. John Hinkley did try to kill Reagan, but Hinkley was not trying to make the ‘ends in 0’ thing work out. That would be crazy. He was trying to impress Jodie Foster, which make a lot more sense.

Two more died within a year of leaving office: James Polk (age 53) and Chester Arthur (age 57). See comment after question on how many vice presidents went on to be president for some commentary.

ANSWER: There was just one: Richard Nixon resigned in 1974.

7. List all of the vice presidents that have died in office.

ANSWER: :

Seven. All of natural causes. Nobody has ever bothered to assassinate a vice president.

Seven is far more than I would have thought. This could be because even when it happened people didn’t notice. Also, it has not happened lately.

- (a) George Clinton. He was vice president during both Thomas Jefferson second term and James Madison’s first term. Died of a heart attack at age 72 in 1812.
- (b) Edbridge Gerry (Gerrymandering is named after him). James Madison’s vice president second term. Died of a stroke at age 70 in 1814.
- (c) William Rufus van King. Franklin Pierce’s vice president. Died shortly after being sworn in as vice president, of tuberculosis, at age 67 in 1853.
- (d) Henry Wilson. Grants second term vice president. Died of a stroke at age 63 in 1875.
- (e) Thomas Hendricks. Cleveland’s vice president first term. Actually first month only. He died at age 66 in 1885. I could not find what he died of.

- (f) Garret Hobart. McKinley's vice president. Died of a heart attack at age 55 in 1899.
- (g) James Sherman. Taft's vice president. Died of complications brought on by gallstones at Age 57 in 1912.

8. List all of the vice presidents that have resigned.

ANSWER:

ANSWER: There were two:

John Calhoun, Andrew Jackson's vice president, resigned due to policy differences with Andrew Jackson. John Calhoun believed in States Rights and the right for states to nullify a law.

Spiro Agnew, Richard Nixon's vice president, resigned as part of a deal when he was convicted of bribery. See Rachel Maddow's book *Bagman* for details. Its a complicated story. Agnew's crimes had nothing to do with Watergate.

9. List all of the vice presidents that went on to be president.

ANSWER: There were 14.

- (a) John Adams (elected right after being vice president)
- (b) Thomas Jefferson (elected right after being vice president)
- (c) Martin van Buren (elected right after being vice president)
- (d) John Tyler (replaced Harrison who died in office)
- (e) Millard Fillmore (replaced Taylor who died in office)
- (f) Andrew Johnson (replaced Lincoln who died in office)
- (g) Theodore Roosevelt (replaced McKinley who died in office, but then was elected in his own right— a first!)
- (h) Calvin Coolidge (replaced Harding who died in office, but then was elected in his own right)
- (i) Harry Truman (replaced FDR who died in office, but then was elected in his own right)
- (j) Lyndon Johnson (replaced JFK who died in office, but then was elected in his own right)

- (k) Richard Nixon (ran after being vice president and lost, and then ran eight years later and won)
- (l) Gerald Ford (replaced Nixon who resigned)
- (m) George Bush (elected right after being vice president)
- (n) Joe Biden (elected four years after he was Vice President)

The number of people who have been president is 45. The number of people who have been vice president is 49. The number of people who have been both is 14. Hence the number of people who have been either president or vice president is 80. The number of presidents who died in office is 8. The number of vice presidents who died in office is 7. Hence 15 out of 80 died. This is a rather large percentage, around 19%. If you also include the two presidents who died within a year of leaving office (Polk and Arthur) you get 17 out of 80 which is over 21%. Sounds like its a dangerous job; however note that (1) no president has died in office since Kennedy in 1960, (2) no vice president has died in office since Sherman in 1912, (3) most of the people involved were over 60, and (4) medical care and security for presidents and vice presidents are much better now then it was then.

10. What is the max number of ex-presidents alive at the same time? List all of the times this has happened. Your answer should be a list of statements of the following form: *Shortly after X took office there were Y ex-presidents: Z(1), Z(2), ... , Z(Y).*

ANSWER:

The max number of ex-presidents alive at the same time is five. This has happened five times.

- (a) In 1861 just after Lincoln took office there were five living ex-presidents: Martin van Buren (died in 1862), John Tyler (died in 1862), Millard Fillmore (died in 1874), Franklin Pierce (died in 1869), James Buchanan (died in 1868). Key factors: (1) Between 1836 and 1860 there were no 2-term presidents, (2) Martin van Buren lived a long time after being president.
- (b) In 1993 just after Clinton took office there were five living ex-presidents: Richard M. Nixon (died in 1994), Gerald Ford (died in 2006), Jimmy Carter (still alive as of Jan 2025), Ronald Reagan

(died in 2004), George Bush (died in 2018). Key factors: (1) Nixon, Ford, Carter, Bush covered 16 years total, and (2) Reagan lived a long time.

- (c) In 2001 just after George W. Bush took office there were five living ex-presidents: Gerald Ford (died in 2006), Jimmy Carter (still alive as of Jan 2025), Ronald Reagan (died in 2004), George Bush (died in 2018). Bill Clinton (still alive as of Jan 2025). Key factors: (1) Ford, Carter, Bush covered only 10 years, and (2) Reagan lived a long time. (3) Carter's long life.
- (d) In 2017 just after Donald Trump took office there were five living ex-presidents: Jimmy Carter (still alive as of Jan 2025), Bill Clinton (still alive as of Jan 2025). George W Bush (still alive as of Jan 2025). Barack Obama (still alive as of Jan 2025). Donald Trump (still alive as of Jan 2025). Key factors: (1) Carter, Bush covered only 8 years, and (2) Clinton and W were relatively young for presidents and in good health. (3) Carter's long life.
- (e) In 2021 just after Joe Biden took office there were five living ex-presidents, all of whom are alive as of Jan 2021 when I post this. they are Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, George W Bush, Barack Obama, Donald Trump. Key factors: (1) Clinton, Bush, Obama all relatively young, (2) Trump a relatively recent president, and a one-termer, (3) Carter's very long life.

11. What is the min number of ex-presidents alive at the same time? List all the times this has happened. Your answer should be a list of statements that (roughly) say *During X's term there was a time when there were only Y living ex-presidents. They were Z(1), . . . , Z(Y).*

ANSWER:

Zero. This happened six times.

- (a) When George Washington was president there obviously were zero living ex-presidents.
- (b) Shortly after John Adams became president George Washington died. At that time there were zero ex-presidents.
- (c) During Ulysses S Grant's term Andrew Johnson, the prior president died. Lincoln was dead by assassination and all prior presidents were dead from old ages.

- (d) During Theodore Roosevelt's term Grover Cleveland died, and all other ex-presidents were dead. Recall that the prior prez, McKinley, had been assassinated.
- (e) During Herbert Hoover's term, following Calvin Coolidge's death (Hoover's predecessor), there were no ex-presidents. This partially explains why Coolidge didn't run- he had health problems. Note that Harding died in office.
- (f) During Nixon's term, in 1973, Lyndon Johnson died. At that time there were zero ex-presidents. This was because Lyndon Johnson died young (65), Kennedy was assassinated, Eisenhower was old while president. (Personal Note: I noticed this at the time and it got me interested in presidents.)

I would have thought that since FDR served so long and died in office either during FDR's term or Harry Truman's term there would be a time with no living ex-presidents. Early in FDR's term there was only one living ex-president: Hebert Hoover. However, he didn't die until 1964. Hence he lived through the presidencies of FDR, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, and part of Johnson's. This is *not* the most presidents an ex-president has lived through. That honor might go to Carter who has lived through the presidencies of Reagan, Bush Sr, Clinton, Bush Jr, Obama, Trump, and we'll see how much of Biden's. Note that in most of the cases above a recent president had died prematurely (For Grant- Lincoln, For Roosevelt- McKinley, For Hoover- Coolidge, For Nixon- Johnson and Kennedy.)

Since Obama, W, and Clinton are both relatively young, and presidents dying in office is now very rare, I doubt this will happen again. But politics and history can surprise you.

12. List all of the presidents who got a patent. Hint: The answer is NOT Jefferson.

ANSWER:

ANSWER: NOT Thomas Jefferson. Did they have patents back then? There was one: Abraham Lincoln Patent 6469 *A Device for Buoying Vessels over Shoals*.

I gave the hint that it was *not* Thomas Jefferson since, in the past, many thought he got a patent for the Swivel Chair (which he did invent).

Jefferson was against patents since he saw them a a form of monopoly; however, he later saw the wisdom of patents so long as they expire.

The first patent in the US was granted in 1790, to Samuel Hopkins of Philadelphia for *making pot and pearl ashes*—a cleaning formula used in soapmaking. Since then there have been over 8 million patents. See <https://www.thoughtco.com/patent-and-trademark-office-4072263> for more info.

George Washington signed the first patent act on April 10, 1790.

See

<https://www.mountvernon.org/george-washington/the-first-president/patents/> for more info.

13. What is the most common first name for a president? List all of the presidents that had that name.

ANSWER:

James, six times. Here are all the first names that occur more than once:

- (a) 6 James: Madison, Monroe, Polk, Buchanan, Garfield, Carter.
- (b) 4 William : Harrison, McKinley, Taft, Clinton.
- (c) 4 John: Adams, Quincy Adams, Tyler, Kennedy.
- (d) 3 George: Washington, Bush Senior, Bush Jr.
- (e) 2 Franklin: Pierce, Roosevelt.
- (f) 2 Andrew: Jackson, Johnson.

Side note: There were 22 presidents that had unique first names among presidents (they are listed below). It is not surprising that Ulysses and Barack are unique president's first name (hmmm- was Ulysses a common name back then?). However, there are several non-exotic names on the list: Tom, Dick, Harry, Joe are on the list.

Thomas Jefferson, Martin Van Buren, Zachery Taylor, Millard Fillmore, Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses Grant, Dwight Eisenhower, Rutherford Hayes, Chester Author, Grover Cleveland, Benjamin Harrison,

Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Warren Harding, Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover, Harry Truman, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan, Barack Obama, Donald Trump, Joe Biden.

14. Which last names have occurred the most times for a president?

ANSWER:

There are five last names that occurred twice:

- (a) John Adams and John Quincy Adams. (Father and Son).
- (b) William Henry Harrison and Benjamin Harrison (Grandfather and Grandson).
- (c) Andrew Johnson and Lyndon Johnson (no relation).
- (d) Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin Roosevelt (Distant cousins— if you start with TR and go up the family tree 6 steps, and then down 6 steps, you get to FDR. They knew and liked each other. Franklin Roosevelt got married in the TR White House.)
- (e) George Bush and George W. Bush (father and son).

In 2016 I thought I would be adding Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton. In 2024 or 2028 I might be adding Donald Trump and one of his sons or daughters.

15. What president lived the longest after leaving office? (as of Jan 2021).

ANSWER:

Jimmy Carter- As of Jan 2025, 44 years.

For your information, here are the top five.

- (a) Jimmy Carter- As of Jan 2024, 44 years.
- (b) Herbert Hoover—31 years
- (c) Gerald Ford—30 years.
- (d) Millard Fillmore—21 years.
- (e) Martin van Buren—21 years.

While on the topic, here is a list all of the presidents who lived at least 90 years (as of Jan 2021).

ANSWER:

- (a) Jimmy Carter: 99 years old and counting. (Oct 1, 1924-)
- (b) George Bush Sr: 94 years 5.5 months (June 12, 1924- Nov 30, 2018)
- (c) Gerald Ford: 93 years 5.5 months (July 14, 1913- Dec 26, 2006)
- (d) Ronald Reagan: 93 years 4 months (Feb 6, 1911-June 5, 2004)
- (e) John Adams: 90 years 6 months (Dec 30, 1735-July 4, 1826)
- (f) Herbert Hoover: 90 years 1.5 months (Aug 10, 1874-Oct 20, 1964)

16. Who is the only deceased president who was not buried with honors? Why?

ANSWER:

John Tyler. The reason is that he served in the confederate house of representatives. He died in 1862 and was buried in the Confederacy.

17. List all of the presidents who later served in Congress or on the Supreme Court.

ANSWER:

- (a) John Q. Adams: House of Reps.
- (b) Andrew Johnson: Senate.
- (c) William Taft: Supreme Court. He never really wanted to be Prez, he wanted to be on the Supreme Court.

This seems unlikely to happen now since taking any job in Wash DC after being president seems like a step down. Way down. George W Bush wants to be the Commissioner of Baseball but is now overqualified.

Curious note: John Tyler was elected to the Provisional Confederate Congress and was later elected to the Confederate House of Representatives, but he died before taking his seat.

18. List all of the presidents that ran again four or more years after leaving office.

ANSWER:

This has happened four times.

- (a) Martin van Buren was President 1837-1841 for the Democratic Party. He ran for Prez as the candidate of the *Free Soilers party* (an anti-slavery party). He did not carry a single state. He was morally against slavery but thought it was sanctioned by the Constitution.
- (b) Millard Fillmore was president 1850-1852 (taking office after Taylor died). He was a Democrat. He ran in 1856 as the candidate for the *Know Nothing party* who were pro-slavery and anti-Catholic and anti-immigrant. He carried Maryland and got 21.6% of the vote across the country. That is not the parties real name. See below.
- (c) Grover Cleveland was president in 1884-1888 as a democrat. He then lost the presidency to Benjamin Harrison, but ran against Harrison and became president 1892-1896, still as a *Democrat* - and won! This was good for him but drives people like me nuts since we have to we have things like *Biden is the 45rd person to be president but is the 46th president*.
- (d) Theodore Roosevelt was president 1901-1909 (first got there upon McKinley's death and then elected in his own right) as a Republican. He did not run in 1909. He ran as the *Bull Moose party* in 1912. He got 88 electoral votes but lost.
- (e) Donald Trump was president 2016-2020 as a Republican. He lost in 2020. He ran again in 2024 as a Republican.

In three of the five cases the candidate ran as a third-party. Once you leave the White House, its hard to come back.

The *Know Nothing Party* was so named since it was semi-secret. If you were a member and asked about it you were supposed to say *I know nothing about it*. Their real name is *The American Party* though they are almost never referred to by that name now.

19. Name a fictional street gang named after a president.

ANSWER:

There are three that I know of. The last two were brought to my attention by Andy Parrish who go them from a Wikipedia entry on fictional street gangs.

FIRST ONE: In the 148th episode of Seinfeld, aired Feb 6, 1997, titled *The van Buren Boys*, there was a street gang of that name. Kramer said *they are every bit as mean as he was*. Their secret sign was to show eight fingers since he was the eighth president. Van Buren was the first president from New York and the show takes place in New York which may explain why they had a street gang named after him.

SECOND ONE: In the video game *Dead to Rights* there are three cities named *Grant City* after President Grant. In these cities is the *Grant City Triad* which is a street gang. I do not know if they were, as Kramer would say *every bit as mean as he was*. One might quibble that the gang is named after the city, not after the president. I have NO such quibble, its not as though this is an quiz for points. OH, it is! Well anyway, I only asked to name ONE fictional street gang named after a prez, if you name this one, thats FINE. Its not as though there is any money or scholarship resting on your performance on this quiz. Maybe bragging rights.

THIRD ONE: In the comic book series DMZ (Manhattan is a De Militarized Zone!) there is a street gang named the *Wilson Triad* named after one of the gang members, Wilson. I still count this.

There may be other fictional street gangs named after presidents, but I do not know of any. If you do, let me know. If you know one I don't then you get FULL CREDIT even if you don't know about any of the three above.

20. Who was the first president elected after women could vote?

ANSWER:

Warren G. Harding. The book *Hail to the Chiefs* has the following quote: *It was the first election women voted in. They needed more practice*. More seriously, Harding had supported the woman's right to vote (I could not find info on if his opponent Cox did.) Harding's wife Florence campaigned with him which helped. Harding won by a large margin: 404 Electoral votes and 60% of the popular vote.

21. Who is the only person who was named after a president, and was played in a movie by an actor who later became president?

ANSWER: Grover Cleveland Alexander. He was a baseball pitcher, named after president Grover Cleveland. He was played in the movie *The Winning Team* by Ronald Reagan. (My source on this one is one of Bill James Baseball Abstract books.)

22. In what movie did a main character get John Quincy Adams' vice president wrong?

ANSWER:

In *Miracle on 34th Street (1947 version)* Kris Kringle, who claims to be Santa Claus, states that he has passed psychological tests, and brags that he knows that John Quincy Adams vice president was Daniel Tompkins. But this is incorrect! John Quincy Adams' vice president was John Calhoun! (Tompkins was James Monroe's vice president.)

Daniel Tompkins was our sixth vice president. John Quincy Adams was our sixth president. They just didn't line up, as the chart at the end of this document shows.

It has been speculated that this was the writers way of telling us that Kris Kringle really was crazy and was not Santa Claus.

23. Which presidents have won Nobel Prizes? For each one say if they won it before, during, or after their term of office, and which Nobel Prize they won. Also include what they won it for.

ANSWER:

- (a) Theodore Roosevelt won the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1905, while in office, for helping to end the Russo-Japanese War.
- (b) Woodrow Wilson won the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1919, while in office, for campaigning for the League of Nations.
- (c) Jimmy Carter won the Nobel Prize for Peace in 2002 for general humanitarian efforts. This was 22 years after leaving office. It seems like you can win this Prize for either a particular thing or a lifetime of service.
- (d) Barack Obama won the Nobel Prize for Peace in 2009. Here is a quote from the press release. *The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided that the Nobel Peace Prize for 2009 is to be awarded to President Barack Obama for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen*

international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples. The Committee has attached special importance to Obama's vision of a world without nuclear weapons.

No president has won a Nobel Prize in any other category or before taking office. I would like to see America elect someone who had a Nobel Prize in Chemistry or Physics. I doubt this will happen since the skills needed are so different. It's hard to imagine someone having a career in Physics and then switching to politics. Or having a career in Politics and then switching to Physics.

Angela Merkel, the chancellor of Germany, has a PhD in Chemistry. She does not have a Nobel Prize. Oh well. Russ Holt Jr. was in the American House of Representatives from 1999-2015 and has a PhD in Physics. He does not have a Nobel Prize and never became president. Oh well.

24. Name THREE fictional presidents who have won Nobel Prizes. For each one say what they won it for. If you name ONE OR TWO, but at least one of yours is NOT in the answer key then (1) you get full credit, and (2) email me about it.)

ANSWER:

- (a) Josiah Bartlett, the president on the TV show *West Wing*, won a Nobel Prize in Economics before becoming president.
 - (b) Laura Montez, the president in Season 6 of the TV show *Veep*, won a Nobel Prize in Peace while president for the (fictional) freeing of Tibet. She did not deserve it as the groundwork was laid by the prior president (and main character) Selina Meyer.
 - (c) Richard John Splett, president on the last episode of *Veep*, won the Nobel Peace Prize for brokering a 3-state solution to the Middle East crisis.
25. Which vice presidents have won Nobel Prizes? For each one say if they won it before, during, or after (I do not know of any fictional vice presidents who won a Nobel Prize. If you do then (1) you get full credit on this question, and (2) email me about it.)

ANSWER:

- (a) Theodore Roosevelt won the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1905, which was after he was vice president (in fact while he was president) for helping to end the Russo-Japanese War.
- (b) Charles Dawes won the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1926, while in office, for recommending a plan for German Reparations after WW I. His plan was rather generous and not followed (not sure of that— its what I deduce from some sources but I could be wrong).
- (c) Al Gore won the Nobel Prize for Peace in 2007 for his work on Climate Change. This was 7 years after leaving office.

26. Which presidents have been sworn in by their nicknames?

ANSWER:

Only one- James Carter was sworn in as Jimmy Carter

If Mitt Romney had become president he surely would have been sworn in by his nickname *Mitt* rather than his real name *Willard*.

If Jeb Bush had become president he surely would have been sworn in by his nickname *Jeb* rather than his real name *John*.

I am personally appalled that Bill Clinton was sworn in as *William Jefferson Clinton*. That name was only ever used by his mother and only when she was mad at him.

I am personally appalled that Joe Biden was sworn in as *Joseph Robbinette Biden*. That name was not even used by his mother and only when she was mad at him.

27. There are nine presidents who, at some point of their presidency, did not have a spouse. Name four of them. Also specify the circumstances.

ANSWER:

There were nine which are listed below.

Nine is more than I would have thought. This may be because we have not had a spouse-less president in a very long time. The last one was Woodrow Wilson whose wife died while he was president, in 1914.

- (a) Thomas Jefferson. His wife, Martha Wayles Skelton Jefferson, died in 1782. He took office in 1797 as a widow. Dolley Madison and Patsy Madison (Dolley's daughter) helped out with hosting

duties. To call them *first ladies* isn't quite right as the term is so much different now than it was then. Sally Hemmings also helped out hosting (this is not a joke or a subtle reference).

- (b) Andrew Jackson. His wife Rachel Donelson Roberts Jackson died Dec 22, 1828 of a Heart Attack. This was after he was elected but before he took office. Rachel's niece Emily Donelson was White House Hostess until she died in 1836. Then it was Sarah York Jackson, Andrew Jackson's daughter-in-law.
- (c) Martin van Buren. His wife, Hannah Hoes van Buren, died in 1819. Martin van Buren took office in 1837. Angelica Singleton married van Buren's oldest son Abraham while van Buren was president and then took over Hosting duties.
- (d) John Tyler. His first wife Letitia Christian Tyler died in 1842 while Tyler was president. He then married Julia Gardiner. Tyler had eight children by his first wife and seven by his second. Fifteen legitimate children is the record for a president. (It is likely the record for all children but this is hard to prove.) His oldest child was born when George Washington was Prez and his youngest child died when Harry Truman was Prez. Quite a span!
- (e) James Buchanan. Never married. His niece Harriet Lane performed the functions of first lady. Some respected historians think that James Buchanan was gay. The gay Community has *not* stepped forward to claim him as one of theirs.

In an earlier draft of this answer key I said:

Gay republicans have embraced Lincoln as Gay. The Gay Republican groups is called Log Cabin Republicans. It is not clear if Lincoln was gay.

Andy Parrish pointed out to me that they claim the name *Log Cabin Reps* because Lincoln valued Liberty and Equality. While they may say that, the fact that a Gay Rep group uses the term *Log Cabin*, and Lincoln is believed by some reputable historians to be gay, makes me think it might not really be a coincidence.

- (f) Chester Arthur. His wife Ellen Lewis Herndon Arthur died in 1880. He took office in 1881. His sister Mary Arthur McElroy performed the functions of the first lady.

- (g) Grover Cleveland. He entered the white house a bachelor but soon married Frances Felon. She was 21, and the youngest first lady.
- (h) Benjamin Harrison. His wife Caroline Lavinia Harrison died in 1892 while he was in office. I have not been able to find out if anyone took over the first lady duties.
- (i) Woodrow Wilson. His first wife, Ellen Axson Wilson, died on Aug 6, 1914, which was during her husbands presidency. Wilson then married Edith Bolling Galt.

I put this question on since I was surprised how many presidents were in this category. To further break it down:

- Four came into the White House as widows and never married (Jefferson, Jackson, van Buren, Arthur).
- Two came in married, but their wife passed away and they remarried in the white house (Tyler, Wilson). (How did they have the time to find a wife while being president?)
- One never married (Buchanan).
- One came in married, but their wife passed away, and he did not remarry (B. Harrison).

There are other complications. William Henry Harrison's wife never lived in the white house since he died before she moved in. Andrew Johnson's wife was too ill to serve as First Lady. Franklin Pierce's wife was mentally unstable and did not host. So one could ask more detailed questions about who hosted, but I choose not to.

Could someone come to the White House without a spouse nowadays? The only candidate I can think of who even tried was Denis Kucinich who ran in the primaries in 2004 at which time he was unmarried. He didn't get far. He got 1% in the Iowa Caucus. He got married in 2005. I doubt his lack of a spouse was why he didn't get very far.

28. (a) Who was the first first lady to have a college degree?
 (b) Who was the last first lady to not have a college degree?
 (c) Name all first ladies who had degrees beyond college.

ANSWER:

- (a) Lucy Hayes, who was Rutheford B Hayes (president 1876-1880) wife, had a college degree from *Cincinnati Wesleyan Female College*.
- (b) Melania Trump started College but didn't finish.
- (c) There are four
 - i. Pat Nixon had an MS in Education from *The Univ of Southern California (USC)*.
 - ii. Laura Bush had an MS in Library Science from *The Univ of Texas at Austin*.
 - iii. Hillary Clinton had a law degree from *Yale*.
 - iv. Michelle Obama had a law degree from *Harvard*.

Note that all four are rather recent first ladies.

29. Which presidents never went to college?

ANSWER:

- (a) George Washington. He was a surveyor so he knew some stuff.
- (b) Andrew Jackson. Log cabin kind of guy.
- (c) Martin Van Buren. Pure Politician.
- (d) Zachary Taylor. General in the Mexican-American War.
- (e) Millard Fillmore. Self-Taught Lawyer.
- (f) Abraham Lincoln. Self-Taught Lawyer.
- (g) Andrew Johnson. His wife taught him how to read and write and do simple sums.
- (h) Grover Cleveland. He had been a Sheriff.
- (i) Harry S Truman. He had been a soldier after High School.

Could this happen again? Here are some scenarios:

- (a) Someone like Bill Gates who dropped out of college and founded a very lucrative company.
- (b) If you are a Governor or Senator for X years I think people will not care a bit about your formal degree status. Nor should they.

- (c) If the Republicans keep up their anti-elitist stance they may one day see not going to college as a benefit. Rick Santorum said that College is not for everyone.

Scott Walker ran for the Republican Nomination in 2016 and was initially a serious candidate. He does not have a college degree. He would be in category (b) above.

30. Which presidents have had advanced degrees beyond College. (Note that Abe Lincoln practiced law but did not have a Law Degree. In those days you didn't need to.)

Just for these presidents I also comment on their veep.

ANSWER:

- (a) Rutherford B Hayes–Harvard Law. (Wheeler-Lawyer without a law degree)
- (b) William Taft–Univ. of Cincinnati Law. (Sherman-Lawyer without a law degree)
- (c) Woodrow Wilson–John Hopkins, PhD in History and Political Science. (Marshall-Lawyer without a law degree)
- (d) Richard Nixon–Duke Law. (Agnew-No advanced degree, Ford-Yale Law)
- (e) Gerald Ford–Yale Law. (Rockefeller-No advanced degree)
- (f) Bill Clinton–Yale Law. (Gore-No advanced degree)
- (g) George W. Bush–Harvard MBA. (Cheney-No advanced degree)
- (h) Barack Obama–Harvard Law. (Biden–Syracuse Univ College of Law)
- (i) Joe Biden–Syracuse University College of Law. (Kamala Harris-Univ of CA-Hastings College Law Degree)

Near misses:

- (a) William Henry Harrison withdrew from Univ of PA Medical School. If he had stayed maybe he would know that you shouldn't give a speech for 3 hours in the rain. OR he would know not to drink the White House water.

- (b) FDR finished all of the requirements to graduate with a Law Degree from Columbia but did not formally graduate.
- (c) JFK withdrew from Stanford Business School.

If I missed anything, let me know.

One would think a PhD in History and/or Political Science would be good training for the Presidency and I suspect it did help Wilson. However, the conventional wisdom seems to be that Law School is good prep.

Note that since 1968 it has become far more common to have an advanced degree: Nixon, Ford, Bush Sr, Clinton, Bush Jr, Obama, Biden having one and Carter, Reagan, Trump not having one.

I would like to see a President who had a PhD in a hard science. Angela Merkel, the Chancellor of Germany, has a PhD in Physics.

31. Which presidents were 2-star Generals or higher?

ANSWER:

I list them in order of most impressive rank to least. I also list which wars they participated in. They may not have been generals in all of them.

- (a) George Washington. General of the Army. French and Indian War, Rev War.
- (b) Dwight D. Eisenhower. 5-star General. WW II.
- (c) Ulysses S. Grant. 4-star General. Civil War.
- (d) Andrew Jackson. Major General (2 stars). Rev War, Creek War, War of 1812, First Seminole War.
- (e) William Henry Harrison. Major General (2 stars). Northwest Indian War, War of 1812.
- (f) Zachary Taylor. Major General (2 stars). War of 1812, Black Hawk War, Second Seminole War, Mexican American War.
- (g) Rutherford B. Hayes. Major General (2 stars). Civil War.
- (h) James A. Garfield. Major General (2 stars). Civil War.

The most recent was Dwight D Eisenhower. This seems unlikely to happen anytime soon. Not a single Vietnam Vet who has run has won (Gore, Kerry, McCain). None of Obama, Trump, or Biden have served. With the volunteer draft the kind of people who end up in Congress (upper class or even rich) tend to not have been in the army. But this just takes one exception to prove me wrong. One of the candidates running in the Democratic primary in 2020 was Pete Buttigeg who served in Afghanistan.

32. Which presidents who were ELECTED once but never ran for president again after their term was over? (Excluding those who died in their first term.)

ANSWER:

- (a) James Polk. He was a compromise candidate and hence pledged to only serve one term. That was just as well— he was in really bad health when he stepped down. He lived only 103 days after leaving office. He died at the age of 53. He had the shortest retirement of any president.
- (b) Franklin Pierce. He made several unpopular blunders in dealing with the slavery issue (e.g., The Kansas-Nebraska Act) and his party did not renominate him. Note that he was a Democrat (hence pro-slavery) but from the North. So he couldn't please anyone.
- (c) James Buchanan. Note that he was a Democrat (hence pro-slavery) but from the North. So he couldn't please anyone. Gee, similar to Pierce. He had promised to only serve one term and did so.
- (d) Rutherford B. Hayes. He got elected under suspicious means. There was a compromise and one of the terms of it was that he not run again.
- (e) Calvin Coolidge. He had a mild heart attack during his term and declined to run for health reasons. This was not known at the time.
- (f) Harry S Truman. Similar to Theodore Roosevelt (see later comment) in that he had already served about 7 years, having filled most of FDR's 4th term.

- (g) Lyndon B Johnson. He declined to run. He had already been in office about 5 years; however, the real reason is that he thought he might lose the election because of the Vietnam war.

Theodore Roosevelt became president when McKinley died, then later ran and won, and then did not run again since he had already served around 7 years. But he ran four years later, and lost.

33. Who was the first first female to run in the general election for president of the United States? Note that running just in the primaries does not count, so Elizabeth Dole's attempt to get the Republican nomination in 2000 does not count (She was a serious candidate in the primaries.) Even with that proviso, this is an ambiguous question so I'll take several answers as being

correct. **ANSWER:**

I'll take any of the people mentioned below as a correct answer. I'll have many more details below.

Victoria Chaffin Woodhull in 1872.

Belva Ann Lockwood in 1884 and 1888.

Gracie Allen in 1940.

Hillary Clinton in 2016.

Just an FYI- here are some that can be said to have *run for president* though they were not involved with the general election.

Margaret Chase Smith in 1964.

Shirley Chisholm in 1972.

Elizabeth Dole in 2000.

Hillary Clinton in 2008.

We will discuss all eight of the above even though only the first four are correct answers.

Some Historians say it was Victoria Chaffin Woodhull. Her party was the Equal rights party. She ran in 1872 and 1892. We will just discuss the 1872 run since I could not find much about the 1892 run.

She went around the country campaigning. This was before women could vote. Fredrick Douglas was her vice President. While some

historians acknowledge that she was the first female to run for president, under some stricter criteria her 1872 run does not count. Her name was not allowed to appear on any ballots and she got no votes. She died in 1927 and hence lived to see women get the vote and use it to elect Warren G. Harding. Oh well.

Under a stricter criteria the answer would be Belva Ann Lockwood who ran in 1884 and 1888. She was on some ballots and got 4100 votes. She died in 1917 and hence did not live to see women get the vote and use it to elect Warren G. Harding. Just as well.

Another answer is Gracie Allen who ran in 1940. She was half of the comedy team Burns and Allen (George Burns was her husband) and ran as a publicity stunt. She ran as a member of the *Surprise Party*. She had no vice president since she would not tolerate any Vice in her administration. Even though it was a stunt, she was the first female candidate to get a respectable number of votes for some definition of respectable. How respectable? We present an excerpt from the book *Comedians: Laugh be a Lady* by Darryl Littenon, available at amazon:

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00C04CVNE/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1

Burns and Allen also became known for their inventive publicity stunts. In 1932, the gag was Gracie was looking for her brother. They popped up on shows of other performers, asking, “Has anybody seen Gracie’s brother?” Her real-life brother, in the meanwhile, found that the running joke had gotten so widespread that he had to go into hiding for several weeks until it blew over. Another stunt had Gracie running for president. She represented the Surprise Party, gave speeches, and in the 1940 general election got 42,000 votes.

Margaret Chase Smith was placed in nomination in 1964 as a Republican. This was the first time a female was so placed in a major party. Even though, she did not run in the general, so this is not an answer.

Shirley Chisholm did this in 1972 as a Democrat. And again, this does not count. Both Chase and Chisholm did this to make a point, not really to win or even get the nomination.

Elizabeth Dole ran in the Republican primaries in 2000. She was knocked out early; however, she was running to win and was a plausible candidate. Elizabeth Dole's run was more legit than Smith or Chisholm because Dole was a serious candidate who plausibly could have gotten the nomination. Being placed in nomination seems more like a symbolic gesture. Even so, since she did not run in the general election, she does not count.

Hillary Clinton ran in the Democratic primaries in 2008. she was the first female candidate to seriously run for a major parties nomination and to have a real chance at it. This seems different from Elizabeth Dole but its not clear how to make that rigorous. Even so, since she did not get the nomination (Barack Obama did), she did not run in the general election, so she does not count.

Hillary Clinton, in 2016, was the first female candidate to get a major parties nomination and run in the general. This answer works under any definition of *runs for prez* and no later answer will be better. Hence, when I post this quiz in the future I won't have to update this question.

34. Name all of the presidents who won an election despite having one of their opponents have a larger percent of the popular vote. This can happen because of the electoral college. List the president, the year, and who the opponents were.

ANSWER:

We list the president who won and the number of electoral votes they won. We also list the percent they were behind, rounded down.

- (a) 1824: John Q Adams (84), Andrew Jackson (99), William Crawford (41), Henry Clay (37). Since there was no majority it went to the House of Representatives. Clay through his support to John Q Adams so he won. Clay later became Sec of State in what Andrew Jackson has called *the corrupt bargain*. Andrew Jackson had a 10% popular vote lead.
- (b) 1876: Rutherford B Hayes (185), Samuel Tilden (184). Tilden had a 6% popular vote lead.

- (c) 1888: Benjamin Harrison (233), Grover Cleveland (168) Cleveland had a $< 1\%$ popular vote lead.
- (d) 2000: George W Bush (271), Al Gore (266) Gore had a $< 1\%$ popular vote lead.
- (e) 2016: Donald Trump (306), Hillary Clinton (232) H. Clinton had a 2% popular vote lead.

35. Name all of the presidents who won an election despite having LESS THAN 50% of the vote.

ANSWER:

This can easily happen either because the electoral college did funny things (see last question) or if its close and there are third-party candidates who do pretty well. We list the president, the year, and all opponents who got at least 1% of the vote. If I have left someone out who should be there or included someone who shouldn't, let me know. The opponents are listed in order of their popular vote.

- (a) 1824: John Q Adams, Andrew Jackson, William Crawford, Henry Clay (NOTE- I do not know if Crawford or Clay got more popular vote.)
- (b) 1844: James Polk, Henry Clay, James G. Birney
- (c) 1848: Zachary Taylor, Lewis Cass, Martin van Buren
- (d) 1856: James Buchanan, John C. Fremont, Millard Fillmore
- (e) 1860: Abraham Lincoln, John C. Breckenridge, John Bell, Stephen A. Douglas.
- (f) 1876: Rutherford B Hayes, Samuel Tilden.
- (g) 1880: James Garfield, Winfield Scott Hancock, James Weaver.
- (h) 1884: Grover Cleveland, James Blaine, John St. John, Benjamin Franklin Butler
- (i) 1888: Benjamin Harrison, Grover Cleveland, Clinton B Fisk, Alson Streeter
- (j) 1892: Grover Cleveland, Benjamin Harrison, James Weaver, John Bidwell.

- (k) 1912: Woodrow Wilson, Theodore Roosevelt, William H Taft, Eugene V Deb, Eugene W Chafin
 - (l) 1948: Harry Truman, Thomas E Dewey, Strom Thurmond, Henry A Wallace.
 - (m) 1960: John F. Kennedy, Richard Nixon, Harry F. Byrd.
 - (n) 1968: Richard Nixon, Hubert Humphrey, George Wallace
 - (o) 1992: Bill Clinton, George Bush, Ross Perot
 - (p) 1996: Bill Clinton, Bob Dole, Ross Pierrot
 - (q) 2000: George W Bush , Al Gore, Ralph Nader
 - (r) 2016: Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton, Gary Johnson, Jill Stein
36. Who were our six wealthiest presidents? The amount of money we use is their peak net worth in current dollars.

ANSWER:

This is based on an article *The Ten Richest U.S. Presidents* posted on the Wall Street Journal's website. It was posted on Feb 17, 2012.

We use 2010 dollars.

- (a) Donald Trump: Hard to say since he is secretive about his finances; however, I will guess that at his peak he was worth a half a billion dollars.
- (b) George Washington: 525 Million. Much of this was inherited from Martha Washington's father.
- (c) Thomas Jefferson: 212 Million. Even so, he died in debt. He sold his library to the country to form the library of Congress.
- (d) Theodore Roosevelt: 125 Million. He had a large trust fund but lost alot of it on a ranching venture in the Dakotas. He then wrote books that made money.
- (e) Andrew Jackson: 119 Million. He was born to humble surroundings but married rich and made money in the Military. He died in debt. He claimed to understand the common man. Despite his wealth he really did.
- (f) James Madison: 101 Million. Mostly in Land. His net worth went down later in his life due to the financial collapse of his plantation.

If Mitt Romney (losing candidate in 2012) had been elected, would have been number 4 on the list. He is worth around 200 Million.

37. Which presidents never gave a state of the union address?

ANSWER:

Recall that the State of the Union address is given in Jan, approx a year after they are prez. William Henry Harrison and James Garfield were dead before then. WHH by Pneumonia (some historians think it was not pnemnonia but instead lead in the White House Water), Garfield was shot. I learned this on Jeopardy. On Final Jeopardy the topic was US Presidents. The question was (I am paraphrasing) *Two US presidents never gave a state of the Union address. One was William Henry Harrison. Who was the other one?* I guessed George Washington and was WRONG. Humbling.

38. What is the max number of 2-term presidents we've had in a row. List all president involved.

ANSWER:

The answer is three and its only happened twice:

Jefferson (1801-1809), Madison (1809-1817), Monroe (1817-1825)

Clinton (1993-2001), Bush Jr (2001-2009), Obama (2009-2016).

I am surprised its so rare. Incumbency is an advantage.

39. Note that neither Obama nor Romney (the prez contenders in 2012) ever served in the military. When was the last time before 2012 when neither of the two major candidates served in the military?

ANSWER:

The last was 1944- FDR vs Dewey. One can quibble on what it means to serve in uniform (does W count for serving in the National Guard? Does Carter count for serving in the Navy but not in Wartime?) But none of this mattered in the end. Here is the list and some info on it.

Year of election	Winner	Winner's Unif	Loser	Loser's Unif
2012	Obama	None	Romney	None
2008	Obama	None	McCain	Army-Viet
2004	Bush Jr.	Nat Guard-Viet	Kerry	Army-Viet
2000	Bush Jr.	Nat Guard-Viet	Gore	Army-Viet
1996	Clinton	None	Dole	Army-WW II
1992	Clinton	None	Bush Sr.	Army-WW II
1988	Bush Sr.	Navy-WW II	Dukakis	Army 1955-1957
1984	Reagan	Army-WW II	Mondale	Army-Korean
1980	Reagan	Army-WW II	Carter	Navy 1947-1952?
1976	Carter	Navy 1947-1952	Ford	Navy-WW II
1972	Nixon	Navy-WW II	McGovern	Air force-WW II
1968	Nixon	Navy-WW II	Humphrey	None
1964	Johnson	None	Goldwater	Air Force- WW II
1960	Kennedy	Navy-WW II	Nixon	Navy-WW II
1956	Eisenhower	Army-WW II	Stevenson	Navy-WW II
1952	Eisenhower	Army-WW II	Stevenson	Navy-WW II
1948	Truman	Nat Guard- WW II	Dewey	None
1944	FDR	None	Dewey	None

Bush Jr joined the National Guard to avoid going to Viet and there is even some question as to whether he really served in the National Guard.

Clinton dodged the draft, clearly a No.

Reagan enlisted in the Army Enlisted Reserve in 1937. He was made a second Lt in 1937. He was ordered to active duty in 1942 but due to nearsightedness was excluded from serving overseas. He then went into public relations for the Army. Even though he never saw combat, I count this. (Neither did Carter).

Humphrey and Johnson seems to have been too young for WW I and too old for WW II (Humphrey was 30 in WW II, Johnson was 34).

Stevenson enlisted in the Navy but his training was completed after WW I already ended.

Dewey seems to have been too young for WW I and too old for WW II.

FDR was too old for WW I and WW II.

40. Name all of the presidents whose first language was not English, and what it was.

ANSWER:

There is only one- Martin van Buren was born in a Dutch speaking community in New York.

41. Who ran for the presidency and lost three times (note that this does not mean he got on the national ticket all three times), declined two offers to run as Vice President, and both of those times the Prez candidate ran and won and died.

ANSWER:

Daniel Webster. He ran for president in 1836, 1840, 1848.

In 1836 he was one of four Whig candidates whose name was on the ballot (I do not know in how many states) and he won Massachusetts but no other state. Martin van Buren, the Democrat, beat all of the Whigs.

In 1840 he was not on the ballot but he was offered the chance to run as William Henry Harrison's Vice President. He declined and Harrison won and died.

In 1848 he was not on the ballot but he was offered the chance to run as Zachary Taylor's Vice President. He declined and Taylor won and died.

42. List all the sitting VPs who ran and won a Presidential election?

ANSWER: Four:

- (a) John Adams (Washington's VP.)
- (b) Thomas Jefferson (Adams VP.)
- (c) Martin van Buren (Jackson's VP.)
- (d) George H.W. Bush (Reagan's VP.)

Being the Vice President diminishes one and hence makes it harder to be elected president. VP's that became president and then ran as such did better.

43. How many presidents had earlier in their life been in the Cabinet? List all of them.

ANSWER:

8

- (a) Thomas Jefferson. Sec of State under Washington.
- (b) James Madison. Sec of State under Jefferson.
- (c) James Monroe. Sec of state and war under Madison.
- (d) John Quincy Adams. Sec of state under Monroe.
- (e) Martin van Buren. Sec of state under Jackson.
- (f) James Buchanan. Sec of state under Polk.
- (g) William Howard Taft. Sec of state under Theodore Roosevelt.
- (h) Herbert Hoover. Sec of commerce under Harding and Coolidge.

There were only two people who had been both a VP and in the cabinet: Thomas Jefferson and Martin van Buren. Note that the last person to be in the cabinet and then be president was Herbert Hoover. I don't even think anyone from the cabinet has ran for president since then. Times have changed.

44. List all of the sitting Senators who won a presidential election.

ANSWER:

3

- (a) Warren G Harding
- (b) John F Kennedy
- (c) Barack Obama

45. List all of the sitting Governors who ran and won a Presidential Election.

ANSWER:

7

- (a) Rutherford B Hayes- Gov of Ohio

- (b) Grover Cleveland- Gov of New York
- (c) William McKinley- Gov of Ohio
- (d) Woodrow Wilson- Gov of New Jersey
- (e) Franklin Roosevelt- Gov of New York
- (f) Bill Clinton- Gov of Arkansas.
- (g) George W Bush- Gov of Texas

46. List all of the sitting House members (not Senate) who ran and won a Presidential Election.

ANSWER:

Just one- James Garfield.

47. Name all of the elections (and the people involved) where three of the four of WINNING PREZ, WINNING VP, LOSING PREZ, LOSING VP were at one time (perhaps before or after) president.

ANSWER:

1980- Reagan-Bush vs Carter-Mondale

1960- Kennedy-Johnson vs Nixon-Lodge

1920- Harding-Coolidge vs Cox-Roosevelt

NEAR MISSES:

1840- Harrison-Tyler vs Van Buren and NO RUNNING MATE (The party could not agree on a VP so they just didn't have one.)

1848- Taylor-Fillmore vs Van Buren (third party) and Charles Francis Adams

Note- Charles Francis Adams was the son of John Quincy Adams.

48. There is an English king who can count among his descendants all but one of the American Presidents elected from Washington to Trump. Who is the King and who is the missing Prez?

ANSWER:

King John, who also produced the Magna Carta, has as his descendants all of the presidents except Martin van Buren.

I found this out when I heard that 95% of all genetic lines die out (this may not be quite right, but lots die out) but those that live on have LOTS of descendants. Charlemagne and Genghis Kahn also have lots.

49. We define *running for president* as getting a nonzero number of electoral votes. List all of the people who have ran for president and lost, but then ran later and won. (Note: If Donald Trump runs in 2024 then that would count since he lost in 2020. The fact that he won in 2016 is not relevant to the question.)

ANSWER:

- (a) Thomas Jefferson lost in 1796 to John Adams. He ran again in 1800, beating John Adams. He also won in 1804 against Pinckney.
 - (b) Andrew Jackson lost in 1824, to John Quincy Adams (William Crawford and Henry Clay also ran). He ran again in 1828, beating John Quincy Adams. He ran again in 1832, beating Henry Clay, John Floyd, and William Wirt.
 - (c) William Henry Harrison lost in 1836, to Martin van Buren, but then won in 1840, beating Martin van Buren.
 - (d) Grover Cleveland lost in 1888 to Benjamin Harrison, but then won in 1892, beating Benjamin Harrison.
 - (e) Richard Nixon lost to JFK in 1960, but then beat Hubert Humphrey in 1968.
50. Time Magazine *Man of the Year* (later *Person of the Year*) began in 1927. Name all of the presidents who DID NOT win it.

ANSWER:

Only three:

- (a) Calvin Coolidge
- (b) Herbert Hoover
- (c) Gerald Ford.

I can't tell if the president really IS that important or if, by now, they kind of feel an obligation. Imagine if Trump had never gotten it he would be mad. He may still be mad since he got it only once and Obama got it twice.

51. How many presidents were either left-handed or ambidextrous?

ANSWER:

8

- (a) Thomas Jefferson. He injured his right wrist but found that he could write with his left.
- (b) James Garfield. He was ambidextrous. It was said that he could write Latin with one hand and English with the the other. And his guests would see this and be impressed since they could check his work. Either Education had gone down or the story is false. But he was ambidextrous.
- (c) Woodrow Wilson. He had a stroke and could no longer use his right hand and found that ht ecould use his left.
- (d) Harry Truman. He was born left-handed but wrote with his right hand. He uses his left for everything else.
- (e) Gerald Ford.
- (f) Ronald Reagan. He was born left-handed but wrote with his right.
- (g) George HW Bush. In the election of 1992 all three candidates were left handed: Bush, Clinton, Perot.
- (h) Bill Clinton.
- (i) Barack Obama. In the election of 2008 both candidates were left handed: Obama, McCain.

Of the 46 presidents 8 have been left handed or ambidextrous. This is around 17%. About 10% of people are left handed and about 1% are ambidextrous. So more are left handed than is usual, but not much more.

END OF PRES QUIZ

TABLE OF INFORMATION

In the table below I have a line whenever there was *any* change in president or vice president.

1. Pres is who is president.
2. Vice Pres is who is president.

3. NP is the Number of Presidents there are at that point.
4. NVP is the Number of Vice Presidents there are at that point.
5. diff is the number NVP-NP.
6. Lspan is the Lifespan of the president
7. D means the person died in office. R means the person resigned from office.
8. To save space I left out middle names, except for John Q. Adams and George W. Bush who needs that middle initial to distinguish them from there fathers who were also presidents. In one cases this is a mistake: *William King* is really *William Rufus de Vane King*.
9. To save space I leave out the first two digits of a year in phrases like "1735-26" This means 1735-1826. There is no case where this is ambiguous.

	Pres	Vice Pres	NP	NVP	diff	Lspan
1789-97	George Washington	John Adams	1	1	0	1732-99
1797-01	John Adams	Thomas Jefferson	2	2	0	1735-26
1801-05	Thomas Jefferson	Aaron Burr	3	3	0	1743-26
1805-09	Thomas Jefferson	George Clinton	3	4	1	
1809-13	James Madison	George Clinton D	4	4	0	1751-36
1813-14	James Madison	Edbridge Gerry D	4	5	1	
1814-17	James Madison	NO VP	4	5	1	
1817-25	James Monroe	Daniel Tompkins	5	6	1	1758-31
1825-29	John Q. Adams	John Calhoun	6	7	1	1767-48
1829-33	Andrew Jackson	John Calhoun R	7	7	0	1767-45
1833-37	Andrew Jackson	Martin van Buren	7	8	1	
1837-41	Martin van Buren	Richard Johnson	8	9	1	1782-62
1841-41	William Harrison D	John Tyler	9	10	1	1773-41
1841-45	John Tyler	NO VP	10	10	0	1790-62
1845-49	James Polk	George Dallas	11	11	0	1795-49
1849-50	Zachery Taylor D	Millard Fillmore	12	12	0	1784-50
1850-53	Millard Fillmore	NO VP	13	12	-1	1800-74
1853-53	Franklin Pierce	William King D	14	13	-1	1804-69
1853-57	Franklin Pierce	NO VP	14	13	-1	
1857-61	James Buchanan	John Breckenridge	15	14	-1	1791-68
1861-65	Abraham Lincoln	Hannibal Hamlin	16	15	-1	1809-65
1865-65	Abraham Lincoln D	Andrew Johnson	16	16	0	
1865-69	Andrew Johnson	NO VP	17	16	-1	1808-75
1869-73	Ulysses Grant	Schuyler Colfax	18	17	-1	1822-85
1873-75	Ulysses Grant	Henry Wilson D	18	18	0	
1875-77	Ulysses Grant	NO VP	18	18	0	
1877-81	Rutherford Hayes	William Wheeler	19	19	0	1822-93
1881-81	James Garfield D	Chester Arthur	20	20	0	1831-81
1881-85	Chester Arthur	NO VP	21	20	-1	1829-86
1885-85	Grover Cleveland (I)	Thomas Hendricks D	22	21	-1	1837-08
1885-89	Grover Cleveland (I)	NO VP	22	21	-1	
1889-93	Benjamin Harrison	Levi Morton	23	22	0	1833-01
1893-97	Grover Cleveland (II)	Adlai Stevenson	23	23	0	

	Pres	Vice Pres	NP	NVP	diff	Lspan
1897-99	William McKinley	Garret Hobart D	24	24	0	1843-01
1899-01	William McKinley	NO VP	24	24	0	
1901-01	William McKinley D	Theodore Roosevelt	24	25	1	
1901-05	Theodore Roosevelt	NO VP	25	25	0	
1905-09	Theodore Roosevelt	Charles Fairbanks	25	26	1	1858-19
1909-13	William Taft	James Sherman D	26	27	1	1857-30
1913-21	Woodrow Wilson	Thomas Marshal	27	28	1	1856-24
1921-23	Warren Harding D	Calvin Coolidge	28	29	1	1865-23
1923-25	Calvin Coolidge	NO VP	29	29	0	1872-33
1925-29	Calvin Coolidge	Charles Dawes	29	30	1	
1929-33	Herbert Hoover	Charles Curtis	30	31	1	1874-64
1933-41	Franklin Roosevelt	John Gardner	31	32	1	1882-45
1941-45	Franklin Roosevelt	Henry Wallace	31	33	2	
1945-45	Franklin Roosevelt D	Harry Truman	31	34	3	
1945-49	Harry Truman	NO VP	32	34	2	1884-72
1949-53	Harry Truman	Alben Barkely	32	35	3	
1953-61	Dwight Eisenhower	Richard Nixon	33	36	3	1890-69
1961-63	John Kennedy D	Lyndon Johnson	34	37	3	1917-63
1963-69	Lyndon Johnson	Hubert Humphrey	35	38	3	1908-73
1969-73	Richard Nixon	Spiro Agnew R	36	39	3	1913-94
1973-74	Richard Nixon R	Gerald Ford	36	40	4	
1974-76	Gerald Ford	Nelson Rockefeller	37	41	4	1913-06
1976-81	Jimmy Carter	Walter Mondale	38	42	4	1924-
1981-89	Ronald Reagan	George Bush	39	43	4	1911-04
1989-93	George Bush	Dan Quayle	40	44	4	1924-18
1993-01	Bill Clinton	Al Gore	41	45	4	1946-
2001-09	George W Bush	Dick Cheney	42	46	4	1946-
2009-17	Barack Obama	Joe Biden	43	47	4	1961-
2017-21	Donald Trump	Mike Pence	44	48	4	1946-
2021-??	Joe Biden	Kamala Harris	45	49	4	1942-

Ages of Prez Candidates

Year	Pres-Age	Opp-Age	Sum of ages
1788	George Washington-56	John Adams-53	108
1792	George Washington-60	NONE	60
1796	John Adams-61	Thomas Jefferson-53	114
1800	Thomas Jefferson-58	John Adams-66	124
1804	Thomas Jefferson-62	Charles Pinkney-58	120
1808	James Madison-57	Charles Pinkney-62	119
1812	James Madison-61	DeWitt Clinton-43	104
1816	James Monroe-58	Rufus King-61	119
1820	James Monroe-62	NONE	62
1824	John Q. Adams-57	Andrew Jackson-57	114
1828	Andrew Jackson-61	John Quincy Adams-61	122
1832	Andrew Jackson-65	Henry Clay-54	119
1836	Martin van Buren-54	William Henry Harrison-63	117
1840	William Harrison-67	Martin van Buren-58	125
1844	James Polk-49	Henry Clay-66	115
1848	Zachery Taylor-64	Lewis Cass-66	130
1852	Franklin Pierce-48	Winfield Scott-66	114
1856	James Buchanan-65	John Fremont-43	108
1860	Abraham Lincoln-51	John Breckinridge-39	90
1864	Abraham Lincoln-55	George McClellan-38	93
1868	Ulysses Grant-48	Horatio Seymour-58	106
1872	Ulysses Grant-52	Horace Greeley-61	113
1876	Rutherford Hayes-54	Samuel Tilden-62	116
1880	James Garfield-49	Winfield Hancock-56	105
1884	Grover Cleveland-47	James Blaine-54	101
1888	Benjamin Harrison-57	Grover Cleveland-51	108
1882	Grover Cleveland-55	Benjamin Harrison-57	112

Year	Pres-age	Opp-Age	sum of ages
1896	William McKinley-53	William Jennings Bryan-36	89
1900	William McKinley-57	William Jennings Bryan-40	97
1904	Theodore Roosevelt-46	Alan Parker-52	98
1908	William Taft-51	William Jennings Bryan-48	99
1912	Woodrow Wilson-56	Theodore Roosevelt-54	110
1916	Woodrow Wilson-60	Charles Hughes-64	124
1920	Warren Harding-55	James Cox-50	110
1924	Calvin Coolidge-52	John Davis-51	103
1928	Herbert Hoover-54	Al Smith-55	109
1932	Franklin Roosevelt-50	Herbert Hoover-58	108
1936	Franklin Roosevelt-54	Alf Landon-49	103
1940	Franklin Roosevelt-58	Wendell Wilkie-48	106
1944	Franklin Roosevelt-62	Thomas Dewey-42	104
1948	Harry Truman-64	Thomas Dewey-46	110
1952	Dwight Eisenhower-62	Adlai Stevenson-52	114
1956	Dwight Eisenhower-66	Adlai Stevenson-56	122
1960	John Kennedy-43	Richard Nixon-47	90
1964	Lyndon Johnson-56	Barry Goldwater-55	111
1968	Richard Nixon-55	Hubert Humphrey-57	112
1972	Richard Nixon-59	George McGovern-50	109
1976	Jimmy Carter-52	Gerald Ford-63	115
1980	Ronald Reagan-69	Jimmy Carter-56	125
1984	Ronald Reagan-73	Walter Mondale-56	129
1988	George Bush-64	Mike Dukakis-55	119
1992	Bill Clinton-46	George Bush-68	114
1996	Bill Clinton-50	Bob Dole-72	122
2000	George W Bush-54	Al Gore-52	106
2004	George W Bush-58	John Kerry-61	119
2008	Barack Obama-47	John McCain-72	119
2012	Barack Obama-51	Mitt Romney-65	116
2016	Donald Trump-70	Hillary Clinton-69	139
2020	Joe Biden-78	Donald Trump-74	152
2024	Joe Biden-82	Donald Trump-78	160