

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. 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.
 - (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. 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 served in the Virginia House of Burgess

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.
- (d) James Garfield. He was shot by Charles J. Guiteau in 1881. 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 Author 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. What 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.

5. List all of the presidents who have resigned.

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

6. 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.

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

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. It's a complicated story. Agnew's crimes had nothing to do with Watergate.

8. 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. The case of Garfield is instructive. To paraphrase the book *Hail to the Chiefs*

Many civil war veterans lead fine lives even though they had bullets lodged in their bodies. But they had one advantage over Garfield. They didn't have doctors huddling around them.

9. 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 2021), 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 2021), Ronald Reagan (died in 2004), George Bush (died in 2018). Bill Clinton (still alive as of Jan 2021). 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 2021), Bill Clinton (still alive as of Jan 2021). George W Bush (still alive as of Jan 2021). Barack Obama (still alive as of Jan 2021). Donald Trump (still alive as of Jan 2021). 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.

Could we have 6 living ex-presidents? Here are some scenarios We look at scenarios where Biden is a one-termer and is followed by Alice-Bob-Carol.

1) Biden is a 1-termer and Carter lives to be at least 100. Then in Jan 2025 there will be 6 living ex-presidents.

2) Biden and Alice are 1-termers But Carter dies before 2029. Then in 2029 we would have Living Ex presidents Clinton (82), W (82), Obama (67), Trump (82), Biden (82), Alice (age unknown).

I will stop here. I think the scenarios are unlikely since most incumbents win lately. Trump probably would have won if not for the pandemic.

10. 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.

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

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 as 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.

12. 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.

13. 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.

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

ANSWER: Jimmy Carter- As of Jan 2021, 41 years.

For your information, here are the top five.

- (a) Jimmy Carter- As of Jan 2021, 41 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: 96 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)
15. 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.

16. 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)- 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 *Democratic party* - 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.

In three of the four 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.

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

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.

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. 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.

(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.

21. 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 than (1) you get full credit, and (2) email me about it.)

- (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 deserved 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.
22. 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.)
- (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.
23. Name four of the presidents who, at some point of their presidency, did not have a spouse. Also specify the circumstances. (There were more than four, but you only have to name four.)

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: (1) four came into the White House as widows and never married (Jefferson, Jackson, van Buren, Arthur), (2) two came in married, but their wife passed away and they remarried in the white house (Tyler, Wilson), (3) one never married (Buchanan), (4) 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? Could happen but I doubt it will.

24. Which presidents never went to college?

- (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, or
- (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 (2) above.

25. 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.

- (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.
- (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)

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.

26. 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.)
- (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 and 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.
 - (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 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.
27. 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.

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. This is more legit than Smith or Chisholm because she 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.

28. 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.

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.

Donald Trump and many of his supporters would claim that Joe Biden should also be on this list for the 2020 election.

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

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).

The fact that it use to be rare but happened recently MIGHT mean that the incumbency has more power than it used to. Or that the parties are more disciplined- note that neither Clinton, Bush Jr, or Obama had a primary challenge. Or this could be circular— because an opposing candidate will likely lose to an incumbent, the serious contenders don't run.

Of course trends hold until they don't. And in fact, in 2020 they didn't. It is quite likely that if not for the pandemic Trump would have won so the answer to the question would be four in a work, only once.

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

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

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

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.

32. How many former (not sitting) VPs won a presidential election? List all of them.

2

Richard Nixon: VP under Ike 1952-1960, ran in 1960 and lost, but then ran in 1968 and won.

Joe Biden: VP under Obama 2008-2016, ran in 2020 and won.

33. How many times has the prez and VP had the same first name? For each such time list the prez and VP.

Only once: John Quincy Adams and John Calhoun.

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-