

## PREZ TRIVIAL QUIZ

Below is a Presidential Trivia Quiz .

**GRADING CRITERIA:** 40 questions, 2.5 points each. Some of the questions ask for a list. For those I usually have cutoffs: if you name  $x$  on the list, 1 point,  $y$  on the list 2.5 points, any wrong then 0 points.

You can take the quiz one of two 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. I leave it to you to use the time you spend and what you get right to determine your score.

The answer key has more information. I recommend that when you are done with the quiz, and after I post the answers, read all of them, even those you know you got right.

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

$$(\text{Year of the Election}) - (\text{Year of Birth})$$

So, for example, Trump was born in 1946, so we will take Trump's age for the 2024 election to be

$$2024-1946 = 78.$$

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

Which election had the largest sum-of-the-ages-of-the-top-two-candidates?

2. Which election had the smallest sum-of-the-ages-of-the-top-two-candidates?

3. There have been five people who became president without having held prior elected office?  
If you name 3 of them, 1 points.  
If you name 4 of them, 1.5 points.  
If you name someone not on the list, 0 points.
4. How many different people have been or are president?
5. How many different people have been or are vice president?
6. There have been 8 presidents who died in office.  
If you name 5 of them, 1 point.  
If you name all 8, 2.5 points.  
If you name one that is not on the list, 0 points.
7. Seven vice presidents died in office.  
If you name 2 of them, 1 point.  
If you name 3 of them, 2.5 points.  
If you name all 7 then you really know your vice presidents!  
If you name one that is not on the list, 0 points.
8. Two vice presidents have resigned from the position.  
If you name one of them, 1 points.  
If you name both of them, 2.5 1 points.  
If you name one that is not on the list, 0 points.
9. There are 14 people who were vice president and later president.  
If you name 7 of them, 1 point.  
If you name 8 or more of them, 2.5 points.  
If you name someone who did not, 0 points.
10. There have been five times when the number of living ex-presidents is five. (NOTE- For this quiz Donald Trump *does count* as an ex-president. He is *both* an ex-president and the current president.) That is the max.

To specify one of these times give a statements of the following form:

*Shortly after X took office there were Y ex-presidents: Z(1), Z(2), ... , Z(Y).*

If you give 3 such statements, 1 points.

If you give 4 or more, 2.5 points.

If you give an incorrect statement, 0 points.

11. There have been six times when the number of living ex-presidents is zero. That is the min (obviously).

To specify one of these times give a statements of the following form:

*Shortly after X took office there were 0 ex-presidents*

If you give 3 such statements, 1 points.

If you give 4 or more, 2.5 points.

If you give an incorrect statement, 0 points.

12. Who is the only president who got a patent? Hint: The answer is not Jefferson.

13. What is the most common first name for a president? List all of the presidents that had that name. You need to get all of them to get any credit.

14. Which last names have occurred the most times for a president? You must get all of them to get full credit.

15. What president lived the longest after leaving office? (as of Jan 2025).

16. List all of the presidents who later served in Congress or on the Supreme Court. You must list all of them to get full credit. No partial credit for naming some of them.

17. Five presidents ran again four or more years after leaving office.

If you name three of them, 1 points

If you name four of them, 2.5 points

If you name someone not on the list, 0 points.

18. There are three fictional street gang named after a president that I know of.

If you name one, 2.5 points (full credit)

If you name one that is correct that I didn't know, 3 points (MORE than full credit)

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

20. Four presidents have won Nobel Prizes. They were all in peace.

If you name two of them, you get 1 point.

If you name three of them, you get 2.5 points.

If you name someone not on the list, 0 points.

For each one that you name say if they won it before, during, or after their term of office, and which Nobel Prize they won.

(Note: *The Nobel Peace Prize* is sometimes confused with the *Peace Summit Award*. Do not include presidents who won the *Peace Summit Award*. Actually, that should be easy, since no president has won the *Peace Summit Award*.)

21. Four fictional presidents have won Nobel Prizes.

If you name one of them, 1 points.

If you name two or more then 2.5 points.

If you name someone not on the list, 0 points.

If you name someone I didn't know about, 3 points. (And please email it to me.)

22. Three vice presidents have won Nobel Prizes?

If you name 1, 1 points

If you name 2 or more, 2.5 points

If you name someone not on the list, 0 points.

(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.)

23. Name all presidents have been sworn in by their nicknames.

You have to name all of them. No partial credit for a partial list.

24. There are nine presidents who, at some point of their presidency, did not have a spouse.

If you name three of them, 1 point.

If you name four of them, 2.5 points.

If you name someone not on the list, 0 points.

Also specify the circumstances- why they didn't have a spouse, Did they get one later?

25. (a) Who was the first first lady to have a college degree? (1 point)

(b) Who was the last first lady to not have a college degree? (1 point)

(c) Four first ladies had degrees beyond college. Name 2 of them (1 point)

(This question is 3 instead of 2.5. Oh well.)

26. Nine presidents never went to college.

If you name 4 of them, 1 point.

If you name 5 or more of them, 2.5 points.

If you name someone not on the list, 0 points.

27. Nine 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. Nowadays there are still four states where you can take the bar without having a law degree: California, Virginia, Vermont, Washington.)

If you name 5 of them then 1 point.

If you name 6 or more of them then 2.5 points.

If you name someone not on the list, 0 points.

28. Only one president was formally a 5-star general (Washington would have been, but the concept did not exist yet.) Name that president.

29. Which presidents who were ELECTED once never ran for president again after their term was over? (Excluding those who died in their first term.)
30. Who was the 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 Hillary Clinton's failed attempt to get the nomination in 2008 does not count. Even with that proviso, this is an ambiguous question so I'll take several answers as being correct.
31. 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.
32. Who were our six wealthiest presidents? The amount of money we use is their peak net worth in current dollars.
33. Which presidents never gave a state of the union address?
34. What is the max number of 2-term presidents we've had in a row. List all president involved.
35. 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? (This question was more interesting when I asked in 2012 as it made the point that serving in the military used to be far more common.)
36. Name all of the presidents whose first language was not English, and what it was.
37. List all the sitting VPs who ran and won a Presidential election?
38. 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.
39. Time Magazine *Man of the Year* (later *Person of the Year*) began in 1927. Name all of the presidents who served after 1927 yet did not win the award.

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

**END OF PRES QUIZ**