

## CATALONIA AND THE WORLD<sup>1</sup>

### Catalonia and Germany

1. Do you know how many countries have a border with Germany?
  - a) 3
  - b) 5
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2. Did you know that Germany is traditionally ....?
  - a) Catholic and Protestant
  - b) Catholic
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3. Did you know that the best way to get a waiter's attention at a German restaurant is ...?
  - a) shouting "Waiter!".
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  - a) 10%
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### Catalonia and Austria

5. Do you know which of these people was *not* Austrian?
  - a) Arnold Schwarzenegger
  - b) Sigmund Freud
  - c) Frank Sinatra
6. How many countries border on Austria?
  - a) 4
  - b) 8
  - c) 12
7. Did you know that the Austrians invented ...?
  - a) the croissant
  - b) the washing machine
  - c) the flute
8. Did you know that mountains make up \_\_\_\_ of the country?
  - a) 1/4
  - b) 2/3
  - c) 3/4

### Catalonia and Belgium

9. Did you know that in Catalonia there are two official languages (Catalan and Spanish), while in Belgium there are ..... official languages?
- a) two: Walloon (French) and Flemish (Dutch)
  - b) three: Flemish (Dutch), Walloon (French) and German
  - c) four: Walloon (French), Flemish (Dutch), German and English
10. Did you know that one of the “sensitive subjects” in conversation in Belgian society is ...?
- a) sex
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11. Did you know that Belgians greet each other by shaking hands, but if they are good friends ...?
- a) they kiss each other on the cheek
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### Catalonia and Spain

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- a) àlgebra (algebra)
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13. Did you know that tapas are not typically Catalan, but originally come from ...?
- a) Galicia.
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14. Did you know that in Catalonia a tourist is popularly called a ...?
- a) guru
  - b) guiri
  - c) gara
15. Did you know that Barcelona is the same distance from Granada as it is from ...?
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16. Did you know that the languages spoken in Spain and Argentina are dialects of Spanish ....?
- a) but the languages spoken in Catalonia, Valencia or the Balearic Islands (Mallorca, Menorca, Ibiza) are *not* all dialects of Catalan
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### Catalonia and France

17. Did you know that many Catalans refer to the south-east of France (Capcir, Haute Cerdagne, Conflent, Roussillon and Vallespir) as ... ?
- a) North Catalonia
  - b) Pyrenean-Mediterranean France
  - c) just "the south-east of France"
18. Did you know that, like the Catalans, the French are famous for being ... ?
- a) *bon vivants*
  - b) good lovers
  - c) serious
19. Did you know that the French are very proud of .... ?
- a) their cuisine and their wine
  - b) their home town
  - c) their parents
20. Did you know that in France they speak ..... languages, apart from French, which are not officially recognised?
- a) 3
  - b) 7
  - c) 12

### Catalonia and Hungary

21. Did you know that in Hungary, if you cross the road when the crossing light is red ...?
- a) people around you may shout at you
  - b) you may be fined
  - c) you may be run over by a car!
22. Did you know that when giving your name in Hungarian, the normal order is ...?
- a) first name and two surnames
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  - b) "Thank you, I am."
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### Catalonia and Ireland

24. Did you know that while in Ireland it is normal to eat your meat or fish with potatoes, in Catalonia it is more common to eat it with ... ?
- a) rice
  - b) pasta
  - c) bread

25. Did you know that while in Ireland, touching your nose when you are speaking is interpreted as a sign of confidentiality, in Catalonia this is interpreted as a sign ...?
- a) of lying
  - b) of being unsure
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26. Did you know that while one of the most popular celebrations in Ireland is Saint Patrick's Day (17<sup>th</sup> March), in Catalonia it is ... ?
- a) Saint Stephen's Day (26<sup>th</sup> December)
  - b) Saint Montserrat's Day (27<sup>th</sup> April)
  - c) Saint George's Day (23<sup>rd</sup> April).

### **Catalonia and Italy**

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- a) speaking foreign languages
  - b) the Republic
  - c) the family
28. Did you know that among the dialects spoken in the north and south of Italy, people ...?
- a) always understand each other
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  - c) never understand each other
29. Did you know that many Italian beaches ...?
- a) in the north make a charge for deckchairs and beach umbrellas
  - b) are too rocky to be able to swim there
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30. Did you know that a typical Italian characteristic is ...?
- a) waving their hands around when they are talking
  - b) keeping absolutely still when they are talking
  - c) never speaking unless they are spoken to
31. Did you know that there is an Italian city where they speak Catalan? Is it ... ?
- a) Rome
  - b) Alghero (Sardinia)
  - c) Naples

### **Catalonia and the Netherlands**

32. Did you know that not everyone is sure what this country is called? Which of the following is the right answer?
- a) Holland and the Netherlands are synonyms
  - b) Holland is a region of the Netherlands
  - c) The Netherlands are two regions of Holland
33. Did you know that Sinterklaas (Santa Claus) is a very popular character among Dutch children and is celebrated on 6<sup>th</sup> December? They believe that he comes on a long journey from ...

- a) Finland
- b) Spain
- c) Russia

34. Did you know that in English the expression “going Dutch” means something which is common among Catalans?

- a) Going mad
- b) Suddenly changing your mind
- c) Dividing up the bill in a restaurant

<b>Catalonia and the Nordic Countries</b>
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35. Did you know that Ikea is a multinational based in ... ?

- a) Catalonia
- b) Sweden
- c) Finland

36. Did you know that when you are invited to eat at a Danish home you should bring flowers, wine or chocolate, while in Catalonia you are expected to bring ...?

- a) pudding (dessert) or wine
- b) oranges or flowers
- c) nothing

37. Did you know that because of the high level of drink-related problems, the only European country with a Ministry for Alcoholic Affairs is ...?

- a) Catalonia
- b) Denmark
- c) Finland

38. Did you know that one of these countries has no historical connection with the Vikings and is not really a Scandinavian country?

- a) Sweden
- b) Norway
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39. Did you know that in Sweden, a polite way to address someone is to use the second person plural (the equivalent of Catalan *vós*)? For example: “Would you (*plural*) like something, Mrs Svensson?”. In Catalonia, addressing someone in the second person plural used to be the customary way of showing affection and respect. For example: “Would you (*plural*) like something, father?”. Among the three personal forms, which is the most polite and formal in Catalan?

- a) *vós* (Vós *sou* molt amable.)
- b) *vostè* (Vostè *és* molt amable.)
- c) *tu* (Tu *ets* molt amable.)

40. Do you know that all the Nordic countries appreciate it if you distinguish between their different identities, just as the Catalans appreciate it if you distinguish their identity relative to...?

- a) France
- b) Portugal
- c) Spain

### **Catalonia and Poland**

41. Do you know which of these people was a Polish Nobel prizewinner?

- a) José Saramago
- b) Frédéric Mistral
- c) Marie Curie

42. Did you know that when a Pole taps his neck with his finger ... ?

- a) he is inviting you for a drink
- b) he is showing you he has a sore throat
- c) he means he is tired

43. Did you know that only one of these people wasn't Polish?

- a) Nicolaus Copernicus
- b) Galileo Galilei
- c) Frédéric Chopin

### **Catalonia and the United Kingdom**

44. Did you know that, just as the United Kingdom includes English, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, the concept of the Catalan Countries includes ... ?

- a) Catalonia, Valencia, the Balearic Islands, Aragon (the eastern part) and North Catalonia (the south-east of France)
- b) Catalonia, Valencia and the Balearic Islands
- c) Catalonia, the Balearic Islands and North Catalonia (the south-east of France)

45. Did you know that the United Kingdom is not the only country where they drive on the left? They also do so in, among other places, ... ?

- a) Switzerland
- b) Georgia
- c) Japan

46. Did you know that every culture has its "sensitive areas" and just as in the United Kingdom you shouldn't ask someone how much they earn, in Catalonia you shouldn't talk about ...?

- a) work
- b) nationalism
- c) health

### **Catalonia and the Slovak Republic**

47. Did you know that, just like in Catalonia, the most important meal of the day is ... ?

- a) breakfast
- b) lunch
- c) dinner

48. Did you know that, just like in Catalonia, one of the main symbols of national identity for the Slovakian people is ... ?

- a) their currency

- b) their language
- c) their cuisine

<b>Catalonia and the Czech Republic</b>
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49. Did you know that only one of the following was not originally Czech?

- a) Budweiser beer
- b) the submarine
- c) soft contact lenses

50. Did you know that in the Czech Republic you can find all sorts of countryside, except for ...?

- a) the sea
- b) rocky mountains
- c) woods

. If you are from one of the countries mentioned in this test and you would like to provide new information or correct something already here ...

. If you are from a European country which does not appear in this test and you would like it to be here ...

write to us at: [assessor.intercat@udg.es](mailto:assessor.intercat@udg.es)!

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<b>Catalonia and Germany</b>
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1. Do you know how many countries have a border with Germany?
  - a) 3
  - b) 5
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*(France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark, Poland, Czech Republic, Austria, Switzerland)*
2. Did you know that Germany is traditionally ....?
  - a) Catholic (in the south) and Protestant (in the north)**
  - b) Catholic
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3. Did you know that the best way to get a waiter's attention at a German restaurant is ...?
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<b>Catalonia and Austria</b>
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  - c) Frank Sinatra**
6. How many countries border on Austria?
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  - b) 8**
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*\*(Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Lichtenstein, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland)*
7. Did you know that the Austrians invented ...?
  - a) the croissant**
  - b) the washing machine
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*It was invented in Vienna in 1600 to commemorate the Austrian victory over the Turkish empire and represents the crescent moon on the Turkish flag. "Eating the Turkish moon" symbolised victory over the Turks.*

8. Did you know that mountains make up \_\_\_\_ of the country?

- a) 1/4
- b) 2/3**
- c) 3/4

#### Catalonia and Belgium

9. Did you know that in Catalonia there are two official languages (Catalan and Spanish), while in Belgium there are ..... official languages?

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- b) three: Flemish (Dutch), Walloon (French) and German**
- c) four: Walloon (French), Flemish (Dutch), German and English

*In Catalonia, people also speak Aranese (a dialect of Occitan), which is taught in schools in the Vall d'Aran and is respected and protected by Catalan law.*

10. Did you know that one of the "sensitive subjects" in conversation in Belgian society is ...?

- a) sex
- b) politics (between the Flemish and the Walloons)**
- c) age

*Catalonia is a similar case: the question of the Catalan language and identity is both omnipresent and taboo.*

11. Did you know that the Belgians greet each other by shaking hands, but if they are good friends ...?

- a) they kiss each other on the cheek**
- b) they give each other a quick kiss on the lips
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*In Catalonia people kiss each other twice, once on each cheek. Boys only do this if they are very close friends; otherwise, they shake hands.*

#### Catalonia and Spain

12. Did you know that a lot of Catalan words come from Arabic? Which of these words does not come from Arabic?

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- *This territory was annexed to France in 1648 under the Treaty of the Pyrenees signed by France and Spain.*

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*obviously option b) is also true! :-)*

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- *They are 1. Gascon (Occitan), 2. Basque, 3. Picard (Dutch), 4. Alsatian (German), 5. Breton, 6. Catalan and 7. Corsican.*

<b>Catalonia and Hungary</b>
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- b) Saint Montserrat's Day (27th April)
- c) **Saint George's Day (23rd April).**

- *Saint George is the patron saint of Catalonia and the Catalans celebrate "lovers' day" then, rather than on Saint Valentine's Day (14<sup>th</sup> February). On Saint George's Day the tradition is that girls receive a rose and boys a book, although nowadays the book is a mutual gift. The gift of a book is linked to the fact that 23<sup>rd</sup> April is also World Book Day, commemorating the deaths of both Shakespeare and Cervantes on the same day.*

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31. Did you know that there is an Italian city where they speak Catalan? Is it ... ?

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- *Approximately 15% of the population speaks Catalan, as a result of the occupation of the area by the Catalan Crown between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. In Alghero, people speak Sard and Italian, as well as Catalan.*

#### Catalonia and the Netherlands

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- b) oranges or flowers
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- b) **vostè** (**Vostè és molt amable.**)
- c) *tu* (Tu ets molt amable.)

- *In former times it was normal to address your mother and father as "vós": "Pare, esteu bé?" (Are you well, father?). Even today in some towns you can still hear this form used in this context. "Vós" is also used today in government circles.*

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<b>Catalonia and Poland</b>
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*Her name was originally Marja Skłodowska.*

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- a) **he is inviting you for a drink**
- b) he is showing you he has a sore throat
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- *In Catalonia, there is no single non-verbal sign for this, but the invitation is often made by raising your hand towards your mouth, with the thumb and index finger held as if you were holding a glass, and making a drinking motion.*

43. Did you know that only one of these people wasn't Polish?

- a) Nicolaus Copernicus
- b) Galileo Galilei**
- c) Frederick Chopin

- *Speaking of famous people, did you know that Italians and Catalans argue about the origin of Christopher Columbus, who "discovered" America?*

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- a) Switzerland
- b) Georgia
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- *In Catalonia we drive on the right, like all the rest of Europe apart from the United Kingdom and Ireland.*

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- a) work
- b) nationalism**
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<b>Catalonia and the Slovak Republic</b>
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\* *Narcís Monturiol (Figueres 1819 – Barcelona 1885) invented the submarine.*

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