

Diverse Cultures – Questionnaire Answers

1. Which openly bisexual man is considered to be the father of modern economics?

John Maynard Keynes (1883-1946) – Educated at Cambridge he gained international fame for his economic theories. His best selling work in 1919 was *“The Economic Consequences of the Peace”* which argued for Europe’s economic unity.

2. Which gay Spanish poet and playwright was executed in 1936 because of his liberal sympathies?

Frederico Garcia Lorca (1898-1936) – Spain’s most famous 20th century poet and playwright began to explore his gay sexual orientations while studying at Madrid University. His *“Poet in New York”* was published posthumously in 1940 due to his gay oriented subject matter. He was executed in 1936 by death squads to rid the country of liberals.

3. Which famous bisexual literary figure was a leading member of the Bloomsbury group?

Virginia Woolf (1882-1941) – Leading member of the Bloomsbury Group, whose members were mostly lesbian, gay or bisexual. Although married she has a three-year romantic relationship with the writer Vita-Sackville West.

4. What is the most widely recognised symbol of gay pride around the world?

The Rainbow Flag – First proposed in 1978 San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade, sometimes called the *“Freedom Flag”*. It became nationally known after a 1988 lawsuit in which a gay man living in West Hollywood successfully fought his landlord’s attempt to prevent him flying it from his apartment balcony.

5. Name the First Lady who had her female companion live with her at the White House.

Eleanor Roosevelt (1911-1983) – She was forced into the public arena after her husband’s bout with polio in 1921. She became an outspoken advocate for the oppressed. She met journalist Lorena Hickok which she covered Franklin Roosevelt’s 1932 campaign. She moved into the White House in 1941 and lived there for four years.

6. Which prolific gay American playwright won two Pulitzer Prizes and four New York Drama Critics Circle Awards for best play?

Tennessee Williams (1911-1983) – Best known for *“Cat on a Hot Tin Roof”* and *“A Streetcar Named Desire”*, his writings during the oppressively anti-gay McCarthy era only included a hint of homosexuality. Nevertheless audiences understood his message and he increased public awareness of gay people, their lives and their issues.

7. Which gay British playwright was murdered by his lover?

Joe Orton

8. When did the word “gay”, meaning homosexual first appear in print? 1922 in a Gertrude Stein Story – Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Tokias met in Paris in 1907 and became the best known lesbian couple of their time. In her short story “*Miss Furr and Miss Skeene*” 1922, Stein used the word gay to mean homosexual, this was the first time in print the word employed the definition.

9. Whose lesbian-themed novel was banned in England in 1928 under the Obscene Libel Act?

Radclyffe Hall (1880-1943) – Pioneer lesbian author Marguerite Radclyffe Hall was educated at King’s College London where with cropped hair and men’s clothes she preferred to be known as “John”. Her novel “*The Well of Loneliness*” was published in 1928 and spoke positively about lesbianism and encouraged society’s acceptance of it. Banned as obscene, this ban was not lifted until 1943 after Hall’s death, by which time it had already been translated into 14 languages and was selling over 100,000 copies each year.

10. Who was the writer and social activist whose gay novel was published only after his death?

E.M. Forster (1879-1970) – Famous successful novels included “*Room with a View*” and “*Howard’s End*”. Wrote his only gay-themed novel “*Maurice*” in 1914 but would not allow it to be published during his lifetime as he was reluctant to publicise his homosexuality. He left writings dedicated to his life advocating for human rights.

11. Name the world renowned sculptor and painter who also wrote poetry inspired by his love for men.

Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1504) – Against his father’s wishes he pursued his passion to become an artist. Widely known for his sculptures and paintings (ceiling of the Sistine Chapel) he was also a prolific writer. He wrote over 300 poems, many dedicated to his love, Roman nobleman Tommaso Cavalieri < his works in all forms celebrated the male form his idealised.

12. Who founded the first church to service the lesbian and gay communities and what was the name of the church?

Troy Perry; The Metropolitan Community Church – First services was conducted in 1968 and was attended by 12 people. Within a year it has grown tenfold. He was excommunicated from the Pentecostal Church for refusing to denounce his homosexuality. He was both a religious and political activist opening participating in gay rights demonstrations and protests.

13. What event marks the beginning of the LGBT civil and human rights movement?

The Stonewall Rebellion – So called because police raided the Stonewall Inn, a bar located in New York's Greenwich Village frequented by drag, leather queens and day men, in June 1969. At the time it was illegal to sell alcohol to homosexuals and police raids and arrests were common. Bar patrons and a crowd of onlookers fought back this time against the police brutality, which resulted in a five day rebellion and is credited with sparking today's rights movement.

14. Which Greek poet's home gave rise to the modern word "lesbian"?

Sappho – A resident of then island of Lesbos and a lesbian, she lived around 600BC and wrote passionate poems about her love for women. The word lesbian thus came to describe a homosexual woman. Very little of her work survives today as most of it was ordered to be burned. Her words written on papyrus rolls were discovered in Egypt by archaeologists in the late 1800's.

15. Name the popular symbol of gay pride that originated in the Nazi concentration camps.

Pink Triangle – Pre-Nazi Germany in 1920's saw the modern world's first gay rights movement. In 1933 after the Nazi party came to power a law was passed banning all pro-gay organisations. Men convicted under German law known as *paragraph 175* were sent to concentration camps. The Pink Triangle originated there as prisoners had to wear one so they could be easily identified. Lesbians were forced to wear a black triangle as a symbol of anti-social behaviour.

16. Who was the first professional athlete to come out of the closet while still competing?

Martina Navratilova (b. 1956) – In the sports world homophobia can jeopardise the opportunity to complete in a team or obtain professional endorsements. Martina was the first athlete to come out while still actively competing, the only other is gay figure skater Rudy Galindo.

17. Which ancient Greek philosopher authored the world's first extensive writings on love between men?

Plato (c 427-347 BC) – Greek philosopher Plato's family was involved in the Greek political world. Disillusioned by the corruption and injustices he saw in politics, he and his lover Dion founded the academy in 387 BC teaching ethics, science, mathematics, astronomy and politics. His most famous student was Aristotle. His ideas came to influence philosophy, science and political theory. His Symposium explores the meaning and role of love between men in Greek society and Phaedrus and Laws, remain today as some of the most detailed positive philosophical writings on homosexuality in all literature.

18. Which Russian ballet dancer defected to France in order to dance and live freely as a gay man?

Rudolph Nureyev (1938-1993) – Began training as a ballet dancer at 11 and graduated at 20 from the famous Kirov Ballet School in Leningrad. He defected in 1961 under the speculation of pursuing both artistic freedom and freedom to more openly express his homosexuality. His most famous partnership was with Dame Margo Fonteyn and gained an entry into the “*Guinness Book of World Records*” for having the highest number of curtain calls.

19. Which Russian composer started his professional life working as a civil servant for the St Petersburg Department of Justice?

Pyotr Ilich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893) – Tchaikovsky was raised in a musical family but started his professional life as a civil servant. He began his career at the age of 22 and became widely recognised for classical pieces, “*1812 Overture*, *Swan Lake*” and “*The Nutcracker*”.

20. What folk craft has been used to create a symbol of the lives lost to HIV/AIDS epidemic?

The AIDS Memorial Quilt – Started in 1985 by gay activist Cleve Jones at the Harvey Milk Candlelight March in San Francisco, he asked marchers to carry signs with the names of friends who had died for AIDS. From that night came the idea for the memorial quilt. The Names Project based in San Francisco was founded by Cleve to bring quilt panels together and organise the display of the quilt around the world. Today the quilt has grown to include over 40,000 panels and reproduced in many countries including Scotland.

21. Which nineteenth-century writer was the first to boldly proclaim his pride in being gay?

Oscar Fingal Flahertie Wills Wilde (1854-1900) – Wilde was a poet, novelist and playwright always considered flamboyant. Works include “*The Picture of Dorian Grey*” and “*The Importance of Being Earnest*”. Although he married and has two sons he realised his homosexuality and fell in love with the son of Marquis of Queensberry. Wilde was arrested and convicted for committing homosexual act and served two years imprisonment with hard labour. Whilst on the witness stand he defended homosexuality as the noblest form of affection naming it as “*the love that dare not say its name*”.

22. Name the European Queen who abdicated the throne in order to avoid marriage and childbirth.

Queen Christina of Sweden (1625-1689) – Ruled Sweden from 1644-1654. The death of her father made her ruler-elect when she was six years old. She excelled at traditional male endeavours such as horseback riding, game hunting and swordsmanship, routinely wore men’s clothing. She relinquished the throne in 1654 and travelled throughout Europe. Historians have recorded her romantic interests in both men and women.

23. Which Crow Indian had the uncommon distinction of being both a woman and a warrior?

Barcheeampe, Woman Chief of the Crow Indians of the Upper Missouri – Born into the Gros Ventres group, was taken prisoner when she was 10 and was raised as the daughter of a Crow Indian warrior. Also known as Woman Chief she became a hero to the Crow people after leading a successful defence against an attack by the Blackfoot nation. She married four women and her bravery was honoured in song.

24. Which nineteenth-century lesbian social worker was the first American woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize?

Jane Adams (1860-1935) – She was the first American woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931 for her work in the international woman's peace movement. She devoted her entire life to social causes. She founded Hill House in Chicago in which social work student could train. She met her life partner there and they travelled the country to promote Adams' lectures. In 1920 Adams helped found the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

25. Which Harlem Renaissance writer was honoured as a commander in the French Legion of Honour?

James Baldwin (1924-1987) Born in Harlem, the grandson of a slave, author James Baldwin wrote 22 books focusing on issues of race and his personal experience of being both African American and gay. The oldest of nine children, he became a minister in the Harlem churches before moving to France in 1948 to escape homophobia and racism. He returned to America in 1957 to participate in the black civil rights movement. He settled in France in 1970 and was invested as a commander in the Legion of Honour. One of France's highest awards.

26. Which nineteenth-century physician collected the first extensive library materials on homosexuality?

Magnus Hirschfeld (1868-1935) German-Jewish physician Magnus Hirschfeld was one of the modern world's first gay activists. He published a 34 page booklet arguing that there was a biological basis for homosexuality. In 1897 he co-founded the Scientific Humanitarian Committee which marked the beginning of Germany's gay rights movement. In 1919 he founded the Institute of Sexology in Berlin, dedicated to advancing sexual freedom, including the rights of lesbians and gay men and the legalisation of contraceptives.

27. What gay mathematician helped the Allied troops win World War II?

Alan Turing (1912-1954) – A British mathematician he is credited with developing the theoretical basis for the digital computer. During World War II his unique understanding of mathematical underpinning of Germany's encoding machine "*Enigma*" allowed the British to decipher the codes in time to stop the bombing of British ships. Turing was open about being gay. He was burgled in 1952 and told police it may be a former lover. He was charged by the police was "*gross indecency*" and faced going to prison for two years or hormone therapy designed to suppress his homosexual feelings. He committed suicide in 1954.

28. What word can be used in association with rats, dogs and crab cooks but not gay people?

Olympics – The first gay games were held in August 1982 in San Francisco and organised by decathlete Dr Tom Waddell. Originally called the Gay Olympics the event had to change its name when the US Olympic Committee refused to allow it to be associated to other events – including rat Olympics, dog Olympics and crab cooking Olympics – and obtained a court order to prohibit usage by the Gay Games. The case went all the way to the US Supreme Court, which ruled it could not be used in association with the word gay.

29. Which Scottish musical director is responsible for the longest running musical still playing in London's West End?

Sir Cameron Macintosh

30. Which two English actors played gay male stereotypes in the BBC's radio programme "*Round the Horne*"?

Hugh Paddock & Kenneth Williams (Julian & Sandy)