

# WWII Knowledge Quiz

## Question 1

World War II started when Germany invaded which country?

- A. Great Britain
- B. France
- C. Poland
- D. Belgium

**Correct Answer:** Poland - Germany attacked Poland on September 1, 1939.

Two days later France and Great Britain declared war on Germany.

## Question 2

Early in the war, in his first address to the British House of Commons, Prime Minister Winston Churchill said, "I have nothing to offer but..."

- A. "A swift end to tyranny"
- B. "Blood, toil, tears and sweat."
- C. "An appeal to human decency"
- D. "Peace in our time"

**Correct Answer:** "Blood, toil, tears and sweat." - The previous British prime minister, Neville Chamberlain, tried to appease Hitler rather than confront him. Churchill promised a much different, more difficult path. He confided in one of his generals, "They trust me, and I can give them nothing but disaster for quite a long time."

## Question 3

In what year did Winston Churchill make his 'Never was so much owed by so many to so few' speech?

- A. 1940
- B. 1939
- C. 1805
- D. 1942

**Correct Answer:** 1940 - Winston Churchill delivered his famous 'Never was so much owed by so many to so few' speech on August 20, 1940, during World War II. This speech praised the efforts and bravery of the Royal Air Force pilots who fought in the Battle of Britain, highlighting their crucial role in defending the United Kingdom from Nazi Germany.

## Question 4

When was food rationing introduced in Britain during the Second World War?

- 1. 1940
- 2. 1941
- 3. 1943
- 4. 1944

**Correct Answer:** January 1940 - With the shortage of food during the First World War still fresh in the memory, the government introduced the food rationing scheme in January 1940.



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## Question 5

What was Germany's initial strategy for conquering Britain?

- A. First destroy the British navy, then send in ground forces.
- B. Immobilize London with poison gas attacks.
- C. First establish air superiority, then send in ground forces.
- D. First send in ground forces, then attack the country with aircraft.

**Correct Answer:** First establish air superiority, then send in ground forces.

## Question 6

Which country was the site of most of the Nazi extermination camps?

- A. The USSR
- B. Czechoslovakia
- C. Poland
- D. Hungary

**Correct Answer:** Poland - Most Nazi (death) camps were located in Poland. Poland had the largest Jewish population at that time followed by the Soviet Union and Romania. As Nazis occupied more territory in Europe, more Jews came under their control. They set up the mobile killing units and death camps in these regions, in keeping with their goal of annihilating the Jews.

## Question 7

The German military operation code-named Walküre ("Valkyrie") hoped to assassinate which leader?

- A. Winston Churchill
- B. Benito Mussolini
- C. Adolf Hitler
- D. Franklin Roosevelt

**Correct Answer:** Adolf Hitler - By 1944 a group of German military officers had become so dismayed at Hitler's erratic leadership that they hoped to eliminate him.

A briefcase bomb was detonated in a meeting attended by Hitler, but he suffered only minor injuries. Nearly two hundred plotters were executed for their part in the failed coup.

## Question 8

The town of Flanders, one of the key battle areas in World War II, is in which country?

- A. France
- B. Netherlands
- C. Belgium
- D. Australia

**Correct Answer:** Belgium - Flanders, a region in Belgium, was a significant battleground during both World War I and World War II. Known for the brutal trench warfare and numerous battles, Flanders has become synonymous with the immense human cost of these conflicts.



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## Question 9

In World War II Operation Sea Lion was Adolf Hitler's plan to invade which country?

- A. Australia
- B. France
- C. Ireland
- D. Britain

**Correct Answer:** Britain - Operation Sea Lion was Adolf Hitler's planned invasion of Britain during World War II. The operation was ultimately never carried out, largely due to Germany's failure to achieve air superiority in the Battle of Britain.

## Question 10

What was the name of the German air force during World War II?

- A. Advertisement
- B. Kriegsmarine
- C. Volkswagen
- D. Luftwaffe
- E. Wehrmacht

**Correct Answer:** Luftwaffe - The Luftwaffe was the aerial warfare branch of the German Wehrmacht during World War II. Established in 1935, it played a crucial role in Germany's military operations, including the Blitzkrieg tactics and the Battle of Britain.

## Question 11

In World War II, what were the V1 and V2?

- A. British Tanks
- B. Video Games
- C. German Missiles
- D. German Submarines

**Correct Answer:** German Missiles - The V1 and V2 were early forms of guided missiles developed by Nazi Germany during World War II. The V1, known as the "buzz bomb," was a pulse-jet-powered cruise missile, while the V2 was the world's first long-range guided ballistic missile, both used to target Allied cities, particularly London.

## Question 12

Which town in the British midlands was destroyed during a German air raid in November 1940?

- A. Birmingham
- B. Leicester
- C. Springfield
- D. Coventry

**Correct Answer:** Coventry - The city of Coventry in the British Midlands was heavily bombed by the German Luftwaffe on the night of November 14, 1940, during World War II. This devastating air raid, known as the Coventry Blitz, resulted in widespread destruction and significant civilian casualties, marking a pivotal moment in the war's impact on British cities.



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## Question 13

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour took place in December of which year?

- A. 1800
- B. 1940
- C. 1941
- D. 1942

**Correct Answer:** 1941 (7th Dec), leading to the United States' formal entry into World War II. This surprise military strike significantly damaged the U.S. Pacific Fleet and marked a pivotal moment in global history.

## Question 14

When the Allies landed on the beaches of Normandy, what were the code names they used for the five beaches?

- A. Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno & Sword
- B. Utah, Omaha, Juno, Sheild & Silver
- C. Green, Amber, Red, Blue & Gold
- D. Bravo, Charlie, Echo, Fox, & Gold

**Correct Answer:** Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword were the code names for the five beaches of Normandy where Allied forces landed on D-Day. More than 13,000 Allied aircraft, 5,000 ships and 156,000 troops successfully stormed the beaches that day – more than 4,000 lost their lives.

## Question 15

What was the code name for D-Day?

- A. Operation Rolling Thunder
- B. Operation Overlord
- C. Operation Desert Storm
- D. Operation Red Dawn

**Correct Answer:** Operation Overlord - Operation Overlord was the code name for D-Day, when about 156,000 American, British and Canadian forces landed on five beaches along a 50-mile stretch of the heavily German-fortified coast of France in the Normandy region. It was the largest amphibious military assault in history.

## Question 16

How long did World War II last for?

- A. 7 years
- B. 6 years 1 day
- C. 3 years
- D. 1 month

**Correct Answer:** 6 years 1 day - World War II lasted from September 1, 1939, when Germany invaded Poland, to September 2, 1945, when Japan formally surrendered. This global conflict spanned 6 years and 1 day, involving most of the world's nations and resulting in significant geopolitical changes.



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## Question 17

What does the abbreviation VE stand for?

- A. Victory in the End
- B. Victory in the East
- C. Victory in Europe

**Correct Answer:** Victory in Europe - On May 8, 1945 - known as Victory in Europe Day or VE Day - celebrations erupted around the world to mark the end of World War II in Europe.

## Question 18

Winston Churchill addressed the nation on VE Day from the balcony at Buckingham Castle, which monarch and future monarch joined him?

**Correct Answer:** King George VI and the then Princess Elizabeth

## Question 19

How old was Queen Elizabeth at the end of World War II?

- A. 18 years old
- B. 19 years old
- C. 20 years old
- D. 21 years old

**Correct Answer:** 19 years old.

## Question 20

In which year is it generally accepted that Hitler died?

- A. 1945
- B. 1944
- C. 1943
- D. 1946

**Correct Answer:** 1945 - Adolf Hitler, chancellor and dictator of Nazi Germany from 1933 to 1945, committed suicide via a gunshot to the head on 30 April 1945 in the Führerbunker in Berlin after it became clear that Germany would lose the Battle of Berlin, which led to the end of World War II in Europe.



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