

1st Century Palestine Multiple Choice Questions

From Block A

1. Which Jewish social group was known as rich priests who conspired with Romans?
 - a) Scribes
 - b) Zealots
 - c) Sadducees
 - d) Essenes
2. Which Jewish social group was most known for strictly enforcing religious laws?
 - a) Zealots
 - b) Great Majority
 - c) Scribes
 - d) Pharisees
3. Which language was used in administration in Palestine?
 - a) Hebrew
 - b) Aramaic
 - c) Greek
 - d) Latin
4. Which cultures were the biggest influences on 1st century Palestinian culture?
 - a) Greek and Roman
 - b) Greek and Egyptian
 - c) Roman and Persian
 - d) Roman and Egyptian
5. Which language was spoken in Palestine?
 - a) Hebrew
 - b) Aramaic
 - c) Greek
 - d) Latin
6. Which Jewish social group was the most violent?
 - a) Scribes
 - b) Zealots
 - c) Sadducees
 - d) Essenes

7. Which Jewish social group did not believe in the resurrection or angels?

- a) Pharisees
- b) Scribes
- c) Sadducees
- d) Essenes

8. Who was the first Roman emperor to convert to Christianity?

- a) Emperor Trajan
- b) Caesar Augustus
- c) Emperor Constantine
- d) Emperor Justinian

9. People disliked King Herod the Great because

- a) He was not pure enough
- b) He was not Jewish enough
- c) He was too close to the Romans
- d) All of the above

10. Old Testament contracts were made by

- a) signing an official document
- b) sacrificing an animal
- c) a ritualistic handshake
- d) uttering the contract aloud in a sacred place - words were sacred!

11. Which civilization did NOT conquer the Holy Land?

- a) Egyptian
- b) Greek
- c) Persian
- d) Roman

12. What was the most degrading occupation a God-fearing, pure-blooded Jewish person could have?

- a) Tax collector
- b) Beggar
- c) Servant in a Roman household
- d) Pig caretaker

13. What does "Galilee" mean?

- a) Foreign invaders
- b) Circle of Gentiles
- c) Enemies of the State
- d) Greek descendants

14. What is a "Tel"?

- a) a sacred space in synagogues
- b) a layer in an ancient mound
- c) a primitive cave system
- d) a sacrificial knife

15. The western wall in the Temple is also known as

- a) The Great Wall
- b) The Wailing Wall
- c) The Wall of Prayers
- d) The Holy Wall

16. Jerusalem was a significant city for the Jew. Which item below does NOT support this idea?

- a) It was rich in natural resources
- b) It was a political capital
- c) The Temple was located there
- d) It was a place where many cultures converged and trade took place

17. Jesus changed the negative perception of Samaritans by

- a) recruiting one as an apostle
- b) telling a parable featuring one
- c) confronting those who attacked them
- d) protesting their mistreatment

18. Which social group bore the most resentment for foreign occupation of Palestine?

- a) Pharisees
- b) Essenes
- c) Great Majority
- d) Zealots

19. Which social group would not think Jesus was a threat to them?

- a) Sadducees
- b) Essenes
- c) Romans
- d) Pharisees

20. Which social group is most likely to criticize Jesus for performing a miracle on the Sabbath?

- a) Sadducees
- b) Pharisees
- c) Essenes
- d) Scribes

21. The ruler of Palestine, around the time of Jesus' birth, was

- a) Herod the Great
- b) Herod Antipas
- c) Herod Archelaus
- d) Herod I

22. Which ruler built the Church of the Nativity?

- a) Julius
- b) Justinian
- c) Augustus
- d) Constantine

23. Which religious group controls the main entrance to the Church of the Nativity?

- a) Roman Catholic
- b) Muslim
- c) Greek Orthodox
- d) Jewish

24. This social group expected Jesus to be a militant hero who saves the Israelites from foreign rule.

- a) Essenes
- b) Zealots
- c) Great Majority
- d) Gentiles

25. What was NOT a reason for Jews' resentment towards Romans?

- a) Occupation of land
- b) Taxation
- c) Polytheism
- d) Import of exotic goods from foreign lands

Answer Key

1: C	2: D	3: C	4: A	5: B	6: B	7: C
8: C	9: D	10: B	11: A	12: D	13: B	14: B
15: B	16: A	17: B	18: D	19: B	20: B	21: A
22: D	23: C	24: B	25: D			

From Block D

1. Which item below was likely NOT a Greek influence in Palestine, especially in Jerusalem?

- a) Language
- b) Architecture
- c) Lifestyle
- d) Religion

2. Which king built the Great Temple in Jerusalem?

- a) King Herod the Great
- b) King Herod Antipas
- c) King Solomon
- d) King David

3. Jews generally reviled people from this province

- a) Canaan
- b) Galilee
- c) Judea
- d) Samaria

4. This was because they

- a) had too many connections to Rome, therefore they were corrupt
- b) ate pork like Gentiles, therefore they were unclean
- c) intermarried local Canaanites, therefore they were not pureblood
- d) did not speak the same language as everyone as in Palestine, therefore they were ignorant

5. The Patriarchs are

- a) Adam, Moses and Jacob
- b) Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
- c) Abraham, Moses and Jacob
- d) Abraham, Jacob and Moses

6. What is NOT true about Beersheba

- a) Hagar and her son Ishmael were once stranded here
- b) Abraham was once there
- c) It was once a Roman fort
- d) It contains a famous well

7. Jews spoke in

- a) Latin
- b) Greek
- c) Hebrew
- d) Aramaic

8. Religious documents, like the Torah, would have been written in

- a) Latin
- b) Greek
- c) Hebrew
- d) Aramaic

9. Shortly before his crucifixion, Jesus prayed with his disciples

- a) in the Kidron Valley
- b) on the Mount of Olives
- c) on Mount Moriah
- d) on Golgotha

10. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre is known for

- a) the place where Jesus was born
- b) the place where Jesus was buried
- c) the place where Jesus is to return again in glory
- d) the place where Jesus was lost as a 12 year old boy

11. The Temple Mount does NOT include the following structure...

- a) Dome of the Chain
- b) Dome of the Ring
- c) Al Aqsa Mosque
- d) Golden Gate

12. Members of the Jewish faith believe that Christ will appear here, when he arrives.

- a) Al Aqsa Mosque
- b) The Garden of Olives
- c) Golden Gate
- d) The Wailing Wall

13. Which province(s) was/were the first to have direct Roman rule?

- a) Galilee
- b) Galilee and Judea
- c) Judea
- d) Judea and Samaria

14. Judea was governed by...

- a) Prefects
- b) Roman militia
- c) Pharisees
- d) Sadducees

15. What did land signify to Jewish people?

- a) Social status
- b) Covenant with God
- c) Wealth
- d) Political standing

16. Who conquered Palestine and changed its culture?

- a) Julius Caesar
- b) Attila the Hun
- c) Alexander the Great
- d) King Xerxes of Persia

17. What does NOT characterize the Jewish faith?

- a) polytheism
- b) monotheism
- c) covenants
- d) animal sacrifice

18. What was NOT a reason for Jewish people's distrust/dislike of King Herod?

- a) He was not fully Jewish
- b) He crucified criminals
- c) He killed babies
- d) He killed some of his own children and one of his wives

19. Which ruler was viewed as being god-like?

- a) Caesar
- b) Pontius Pilate
- c) King Herod the Great
- d) King Herod Archelaus

20. Jesus grew up in

- a) Bethlehem
- b) Nazareth
- c) Jerusalem
- d) Samaria

21. The "Sanhedrin", members of the Temple high court, came from this social group

- a) Pharisees
- b) Sadducees
- c) Scribes
- d) Romans

22. What was Joseph's profession?

- a) fisherman
- b) shepherd
- c) farmer
- d) carpenter

23. Which social group was the most open to Jesus' teachings?

- a) Essenes
- b) Zealots
- c) Great Majority
- d) Gentiles

24. In the time of Jesus, Nazareth was known for

- a) its rich wool industry
- b) its poverty
- c) its Roman occupation
- d) its reputation as a holy place

25. Which social group bore the most resentment for foreign occupation of Palestine?

- a) Essenes
- b) Zealots
- c) Great Majority
- d) Sadducees

Answer Key

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