

## AHSS EDINBURGH ARCHITECTURE QUIZ 2020

If you'd like a helping hand, we recommend the following for reliable reference:  
www.pastmap.org.uk for information on listed buildings; www.scottisharchitects.org.uk for information on architects; and, of course, the Edinburgh edition of 'The Buildings of Scotland'.

1. In what year did the Great Fire of Edinburgh destroy countless buildings?

- a) 1692
- b) 1756
- c) 1824

2. What were the original names given to the two squares sited at either end of George Street on James Craig's New Town plan of 1767?

- a) *St Andrew's Square and Queen's Square*
- b) *St George's Square and Charlotte Square*
- c) *St Andrew's Square and St George's Square*

3. This is one of two buildings facing each other in Thistle Court on Thistle Street. What is their significance in relation to the building of the New Town?

- a) *They are believed to be the earliest surviving buildings in the New Town*
- b) *They were the only freestanding houses built in the first phase of the New Town*
- c) *They were the only New Town houses designed by James Craig, architect of the New Town plan.*



4. Which author wrote the following, and where can a plaque bearing the quote be found?:  
'... how I feared I should never have a friend far less a wife, and yet passionately hoped I might; how I hoped (if I did not take to drink) I should possibly one day write one little book. And then now — what a change! I feel somehow as if I should like the incident set upon a brass plate at the corner of that dreary thoroughfare, for all students to read, poor devils, when their hearts are down.'

- a) *Sir Walter Scott, College Wynd*
- b) *Robert Louis Stevenson, Drummond Street*
- c) *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Gilmerton Road*

5. Which bridge partially collapsed in 1769, killing five people?

- a) *George IV Bridge*
- b) *South Bridge*
- c) *North Bridge*



6. Designed by Robert Adam in 1789, Edinburgh University's Old College provides a fine example of the use of sandstone quarried from Craigleith Quarry. Sixteen horses were required to haul each of the portico's six monolithic columns from the quarry to the site. What is the weight of each column?

- a) 5 tons
- b) 9 tons
- c) 12 tons

7. Old College was completed after Robert Adam's death by William Henry Playfair. But who, in later years, designed the iconic dome that stands over the main entrance?

- a) *Sir Robert Rowand Anderson*
- b) *William Burn*
- c) *Sir Robert Lorimer*

8. Which area, designed and built between 1822 and 1858 and comprising 150 townhouses, was under feudal ownership and excluded from the council's New Town plans because the owner wished it to be the most exclusive area in Edinburgh?

- a) *Moray feu*
- b) *Stockbridge*
- c) *George Square*

9. Built from 1816 onwards through until the end of the 1820s, Ann Street is arguably one of Edinburgh's most picturesque streets. It is reputedly named after the relative of a famous Scottish painter associated with this area of Edinburgh. Who is that relative?

- a) *Whistler's mother*
- b) *Alexander Nasmyth's daughter*
- c) *Sir Henry Raeburn's wife*



10. On which building will you find five wise and five foolish virgins? The wise ones will doubtless have insured themselves!

- a) *Scottish Widows Headquarters*
- b) *Standard Life Assurance Building*
- c) *Guardian Royal Exchange Building*



11. Work is currently being carried out on the former Frasers store at the west end of Princes Street to create Diageo's 'Johnnie Walker Princes Street' visitor attraction. Who was the first occupier of a purpose-built department store on this site?

- a) *Robert Maule & Son*
- b) *RW Forsyth*
- c) *Binns Ltd*

12. Which building in George Street bears a rather weary St Andrew leaning on his Saltire cross?

- a) *The Dome*
- b) *St Andrew's and St George's West Church*
- c) *Freemason's Hall*

13. What would have been considered unusual for the time about the sculptor of David Livingstone's statue in East Princes Street Gardens?

- a) *The sculptor advocated the use of photographs when modelling a subject*
- b) *The sculptor was a rare example of a woman artist receiving a public commission*
- c) *The sculptor received the commission despite accusations of improper relations with Princess Louise*



14. Which architect was responsible for creation of the city's ceremonial entry route from the east, completed in 1822?

- a) *James Gillespie Graham*
- b) *Archibald Elliot*
- c) *Richard Crichton*

15. In his Edinburgh lectures of 1853, John Ruskin was famously scathing about the city's classical architecture. He took particular offence at a series of sixty-six identical lion's heads adorning a Greek revival building, complaining 'it is seldom that, in the very basest and coarsest grotesques of the inferior Gothic workmen, anything so contemptible as this head can ever be found'. To which building was Ruskin referring?



- a) *National Gallery of Scotland*
- b) *Surgeon's Hall*
- c) *Royal Scottish Academy, formerly the Royal Institution*

16. The Scottish Georgian Society, the previous incarnation of the AHSS, operated for many years from 39 North Castle Street. Which celebrated Scot previously lived at this address?

- a) *Author Sir Walter Scott*
- b) *Civil engineer Robert Stevenson*
- c) *Architect William Henry Playfair*

17. The forecourt of the Palace of Holyroodhouse is partially enclosed by substantial wrought iron railings and gates based on Jean Tijou's work at Hampton Court in the late 17th century. What is their significance?

- a) *They were built as a memorial to Albert, the Prince Consort*
- b) *They were built to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee*
- c) *They were built as a memorial to Edward VII*



18. Can you place the following Edinburgh schools in the date order of their foundation: (1) George Watson's College (2) George Heriot's School (3) Royal High School?

- a) *1, 2, 3*
- b) *3, 2, 1*
- c) *2, 1, 3*

**19.** Modernist buildings are rare in central Edinburgh. Built in 1962–64, this brutalist extension to Edinburgh University's Student's Union is one of the few remaining. It can be found tucked away behind Teviot Row House in Charles Street Lane, but which was the architectural practice responsible for designing it?

- a) *Sir Basil Spence, Glover and Ferguson*
- b) *Rowand Anderson, Kininmonth and Paul*
- c) *Robert Matthew, Johnson-Marshall and Partners*



**20.** Edinburgh has many carved stone plaques incorporated into its buildings, celebrating a wide range of trades. Where is this plaque to be found?

- a) *Canongate*
- b) *Dean Village*
- c) *Stockbridge Colonies*



**21.** Edinburgh's cemeteries provide peaceful places to walk during lockdown. Can you match the following architects with their final resting place?

- 1. *William Adam*
  - 2. *Thomas Hamilton*
  - 3. *William Henry Playfair*
  - 4. *David Bryce*
  - 5. *Sir John James Burnet*
- a) *Dean Cemetery*
  - b) *Warriston Cemetery*
  - c) *Greyfriars Kirkyard*
  - d) *Old Calton Burial Ground*
  - e) *New Calton Burial Ground*