ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Historic or Historical Quiz: 20 Questions with Answers

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Explanations

1. The first Moon landing in 1969 was ___ moment for the whole world.
✔ **A) a historic**
Historic means important and memorable. A history moment and historicly are not correct English.

2. My brother loves ___ novels set in medieval castles.
✔ **C) historical**
Historical novels are stories set in the past. We need an adjective before novels.

3. In careful writing: our team's first win in the final was truly ___: people will talk about it for years.
✔ **B) historic**
Historic means important enough for people to remember. The win is famous, not just from the past. Dictionaries also record historical in this sense, but careful writers use historic.

4. Someone who studies and writes about the past is called ___.
✔ **C) a historian**
A historian is a person. Historic and historical are adjectives.

5. The adverb from historic and historical is ___.
✔ **A) historically**
The adverb is historically, with -ally, for both meanings.

6. The museum guide wore ___ costume from the 1700s.
✔ **D) historical**
Historical costume means clothes from a past period.

7. Which form is the usual one today in both British and American writing?
✔ **B) a historic day**
Most people say the h in historic, so a historic is usual. An historic is older usage, still heard, mainly in British English.

8. We found ___ weather records going back two hundred years.
✔ **A) historical**
Historical records are records from the past. They don't need to be famous.

9. In careful writing: it was ___ decision that everyone would remember: for the first time, girls could join the club.
✔ **B) a historic**
The decision is important and memorable, so careful writers use historic. Dictionaries also record historical in this sense.

10. In careful writing: is Robin Hood ___ figure (a person who really lived), or just a legend?
✔ **D) a historical**
A historical figure is a real person from the past. A historic figure usually means a very important person, although dictionaries also record historic as another word for historical.

11. The ___ town centre is full of old buildings that the town wants to protect.
✔ **B) historic**
Historic is the usual word for old places that matter and are worth keeping.

12. ___ speaking, the river was the town's main road.
✔ **A) Historically**
Before speaking we need an adverb: historically speaking means from the point of view of history.

13. Prices of some fruit reached ___ high last winter, higher than ever recorded.
✔ **C) a historic**
A historic high is the highest level ever recorded. A history high is not English.

14. In careful writing: which word means "important in history"?
✔ **C) historic**
Historic means important or famous in history. Historical usually means simply about or from the past, although dictionaries also record it in the sense famous in history.

15. Dinosaurs lived in ___ times, long before people wrote anything down.
✔ **D) prehistoric**
Prehistoric means from the time before written records. Historical times are the times we have records for.

16. Grandad joined the local ___ society, a club that studies the town's past.
✔ **D) historical**
A historical society is a club that studies history. We need an adjective before society.

17. The young scientist made ___ with her discovery: nobody had done it before.
✔ **B) history**
To make history is to do something important for the first time. It is a fixed phrase with the noun history.

18. The film's costumes are ___ accurate, right down to the buttons.
✔ **A) historically**
Before the adjective accurate we need an adverb: historically accurate.

19. Telling a past story in the present tense (So yesterday I walk into class …) is called the ___ present.
✓ **D) historic**
This is the historic present, also called the historical present. Both names are used in grammar books.

20. Students must use ___ evidence, such as old letters and diaries, in their essays.
✓ **D) historical**
Historical evidence is evidence from the past. Prehistoric would mean from before written records, and letters are written.

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