

Speak the Culture: France

December 2008

Notes

Quiz Questions

- Q. Which French ruler was crowned Holy Roman Emperor on Christmas Day in AD 800?
A.
- Q. Which prestigious French literary prize did Afghan-born writer Atiq Rahimi win in November for his novel *Syngué Sabour*?
A.
- Q. Which electronic music duo broke new ground with their debut album, *Homework*, recorded in 1997?
A.
- Q. At Christmas, what is *le Réveillon*?
A.
- Q. Who have the French Socialist party elected as their new leader, amid claims of 'voting irregularities'?
A.
- Q. The French usually have turkey or capon for the main course of the Christmas meal, but what is the Yuletide shellfish of choice, often eaten as a starter?
A.
- Q. Which German, permanently in sunglasses, is chief couturier at fashion house Chanel, and has been since 1983?
A.
- Q. The Arc de Triomphe in Paris was built after which series of conflicts?
A.
- Q. Who is the French character that accompanies St Nicholas on his Christmas rounds, spanking children who haven't been as good as they might have been?
A.
- Q. Which 61 year old English singer, adopted by the French as one of their own back in the 1960s, recently released the album *Enfants d'Hiver*?
A.
- Q. A fragment of staircase from the original Eiffel Tower sold recently at auction for over half a million euros, but in which decade was the tower built?
A.
- Q. Name the actress who won an Oscar in 2008 for her portrayal of Edith Piaf in the film *La Vie en Rose*.
A.

Quiz questions written
by Andrew Whittaker
of speaktheculture.net

In association with
thisfrenchlife.com

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Quiz Questions

Q. Which region of France produces the brandy Armagnac?

A.

Q. What is the *Sapin de Noël*?

A.

Q. Which French composer wrote *Le carnaval des animaux* in 1886?

A.

Q. Which American state was named after a French king in 1682?

A.

Q. *Plus Belle la Vie*, a blockbusting soap opera that draws over six million viewers each weekday night, is set in which city?

A.

Q. Which 19th century author wrote the epic series of novels entitled *La Comédie humaine*?

A.

Q. Who is Cyril Lignac?

A.

Q. Who painted fields of poppies near the village of Argenteuil (now a Parisian suburb) in the 1870s?

A.

Q. Bertrand Cantat has resumed his singing career after being released from prison, having served five years for the manslaughter of his girlfriend. With which popular French band is he the lead singer?

A.

Q. What is the PTT?

A.

Q. How many *régions* are there in France; and how many *départments*?

A.

Q. Who redesigned the street layout of central Paris under Napoleon III, creating the city's wide elegant boulevards?

A.

Q. British children leave stockings by the fireplace for Father Christmas. What do French children leave?

A.

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Quiz Questions and Answers

- Q.** Which French ruler was crowned Holy Roman Emperor on Christmas Day in AD 800?
A. Charlemagne.
- Q.** Which prestigious French literary prize did Afghan-born writer Atiq Rahimi win in November for his novel *Syngué Sabour*?
A. The Prix Goncourt.
- Q.** Which electronic music duo broke new ground with their debut album, *Homework*, recorded in 1997?
A. Daft Punk.
- Q.** At Christmas, what is *le Réveillon*?
A. A family meal taken after Midnight Mass.
- Q.** Who have the French Socialist party elected as their new leader, amid claims of 'voting irregularities'?
A. Martine Aubry, mayor of Lille.
- Q.** The French usually have turkey or capon for the main course of the Christmas meal, but what is the Yuletide shellfish of choice, often eaten as a starter?
A. Oysters.
- Q.** Which German, permanently in sunglasses, is chief couturier at fashion house Chanel, and has been since 1983?
A. Karl Lagerfeld.
- Q.** The Arc de Triomphe in Paris was built after which series of conflicts?
A. The Napoleonic Wars.
- Q.** Who is the French character that accompanies St Nicholas on his Christmas rounds, spanking children who haven't been as good as they might have been?
A. Le Père Fouettard.
- Q.** Which 61 year old English singer, adopted by the French as one of their own back in the 1960s, recently released the album *Enfants d'Hiver*?
A. Jane Birkin.
- Q.** A fragment of staircase from the original Eiffel Tower sold recently at auction for over half a million euros, but in which decade was the tower built?
A. 1880s.
- Q.** Name the actress who won an Oscar in 2008 for her portrayal of Edith Piaf in the film *La Vie en Rose*.
A. Marion Cotillard.

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Quiz Questions and Answers

- Q.** Which region of France produces the brandy Armagnac?
A. Gascony.
- Q.** What is the *Sapin de Noël*?
A. Christmas tree.
- Q.** Which French composer wrote *Le carnaval des animaux* in 1886?
A. Camille Saint-Saëns
- Q.** Which American state was named after a French king in 1682?
A. Louisiana.
- Q.** *Plus Belle la Vie*, a blockbusting soap opera that draws over six million viewers each weekday night, is set in which city?
A. Marseille.
- Q.** Which 19th century author wrote the epic series of novels entitled *La Comédie humaine*?
A. Honoré de Balzac
- Q.** Who is Cyril Lignac?
A. He's a celebrity chef.
- Q.** Who painted fields of poppies near the village of Argenteuil (now a Parisian suburb) in the 1870s?
A. Claude Monet.
- Q.** Bertrand Cantat has resumed his singing career after being released from prison, having served five years for the manslaughter of his girlfriend. With which popular French band is he the lead singer?
A. Noir Désir.
- Q.** What is the PTT?
A. The Poste, Téléphone et Télécommunications, in charge of the French postal service and public telephones.
- Q.** How many *régions* are there in France; and how many *départments*?
A. 22 *régions* and 100 *départments*.
- Q.** Who redesigned the street layout of central Paris under Napoleon III, creating the city's wide elegant boulevards?
A. Baron Haussmann.
- Q.** British children leave stockings by the fireplace for Father Christmas. What do French children leave?
A. Shoes or clogs.

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