

NYC Tour Guide Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

- 1. What housing development helped bring blacks to settle in Harlem?**
 - A. Central Park**
 - B. Striver's Row**
 - C. Times Square**
 - D. Greenwich Village**

- 2. What is the difference between Hal-Al and Kosher?**
 - A. Musicians and artists**
 - B. Chinese dumplings**
 - C. Arabic; Kosher is Jewish**
 - D. Jewish pastry**

- 3. The Kosciusko Bridge spans what waterway between Brooklyn and Queens?**
 - A. East River**
 - B. Gowanus Canal**
 - C. Harlem River**
 - D. Newtown Creek**

- 4. What black leader was deported out of the country?**
 - A. Marcus Garvey**
 - B. John La Farge**
 - C. Stanford White**
 - D. Washington Irving**

- 5. What was the name of a popular vending machine system for food?**
 - A. Buffet-O-Matic**
 - B. Gastro-Gizmo**
 - C. Automats**
 - D. Snack-O-Tron**

6. Which structure is often regarded as a symbol of freedom in the United States?

- A. The Brooklyn Bridge**
- B. The Statue of Liberty**
- C. The Gateway Arch**
- D. The Washington Monument**

7. Which NYC neighborhood is strongly connected to the hip-hop movement?

- A. Manhattan**
- B. Brooklyn**
- C. The Bronx**
- D. Staten Island**

8. What is unusual about the statues surrounding the Fountain of Peace statue at St. John the Divine?

- A. They were made by children**
- B. They are from ancient Greece**
- C. They depict famous warriors**
- D. They are made of gold**

9. What did Jacob Riis write?

- A. How The Other Half Lives**
- B. Auguste Bartholdi, Gustave Eiffel**
- C. Antonio Meucci**
- D. Peter Stuyvesant**

10. What annual event in New York City celebrates the end of summer with arts, food, and performances?

- A. The West Indian American Day Carnival**
- B. The New York Film Festival**
- C. The Tribeca Film Festival**
- D. The NYC Pride March**

Answers

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- 1. B**
- 2. C**
- 3. D**
- 4. A**
- 5. C**
- 6. B**
- 7. C**
- 8. A**
- 9. A**
- 10. A**

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Explanations

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1. What housing development helped bring blacks to settle in Harlem?

- A. Central Park**
- B. Striver's Row**
- C. Times Square**
- D. Greenwich Village**

Striver's Row was a prominent housing development built in Harlem during the early 20th century. It was specifically designed to attract African American residents and was known for its opulent and spacious apartments. Central Park, Times Square, and Greenwich Village were not housing developments targeted towards African Americans and therefore are not correct choices for this question.

2. What is the difference between Hal-Al and Kosher?

- A. Musicians and artists**
- B. Chinese dumplings**
- C. Arabic; Kosher is Jewish**
- D. Jewish pastry**

Halal and Kosher are both dietary guidelines followed by Muslims and Jews, respectively. The key difference lies in the religious background: Halal is Arabic and refers to what is permissible for Muslims to eat, while Kosher is Jewish and pertains to what is acceptable for Jews to consume. The other options given (A, B, D) are not relevant to the differences between Halal and Kosher.

3. The Kosciusko Bridge spans what waterway between Brooklyn and Queens?

- A. East River**
- B. Gowanus Canal**
- C. Harlem River**
- D. Newtown Creek**

The Kosciusko Bridge spans Newtown Creek between Brooklyn and Queens. This waterway is an industrial waterway that separates the two boroughs, providing a vital transportation link for vehicles traveling between the two areas. The bridge is named after Tadeusz Kościuszko, a Polish military engineer who fought in the American Revolutionary War. Option A (East River) is incorrect because the East River is a separate waterway in New York City that flows between Manhattan and Brooklyn/Queens. Option B (Gowanus Canal) is incorrect because the Gowanus Canal is a different waterway located in Brooklyn, not between Brooklyn and Queens. Option C (Harlem River) is incorrect because the Harlem River separates Manhattan from the Bronx, not Brooklyn and Queens.

4. What black leader was deported out of the country?

- A. Marcus Garvey**
- B. John La Farge**
- C. Stanford White**
- D. Washington Irving**

Marcus Garvey was deported out of the country back to his home country of Jamaica. Garvey was a prominent black leader who founded the Universal Negro Improvement Association, which advocated for black nationalism and Pan-Africanism. He was ultimately convicted of mail fraud in the United States and deported in 1927. This significant event in history is why the correct answer is A, Marcus Garvey. John La Farge, Stanford White, and Washington Irving were not black leaders who were deported out of the country. John La Farge was a famous American artist, Stanford White was an architect known for designing many prominent buildings in New York City, and Washington Irving was a 19th-century American author known for works such as "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" and "Rip Van Winkle."

5. What was the name of a popular vending machine system for food?

- A. Buffet-O-Matic**
- B. Gastro-Gizmo**
- C. Automats**
- D. Snack-O-Tron**

The correct answer is C. Automats. Automats were a popular vending machine system for food that was widely utilized in New York City and other major cities in the early to mid-20th century. These automatic cafeteria style restaurants allowed customers to insert coins into a slot and receive prepared food dishes from small compartments. The Automats were known for their convenience, affordability, and quick service, making them a beloved food option for both locals and tourists. The other options (A. Buffet-O-Matic, B. Gastro-Gizmo, D. Snack-O-Tron) are not historically accurate vending machine systems for food and were not as widely recognized or used as Automats.

6. Which structure is often regarded as a symbol of freedom in the United States?

- A. The Brooklyn Bridge**
- B. The Statue of Liberty**
- C. The Gateway Arch**
- D. The Washington Monument**

The Statue of Liberty is widely regarded as a symbol of freedom in the United States due to its historical and cultural significance. Gifted by France to the United States in 1886, this colossal statue stands on Liberty Island and has welcomed millions of immigrants arriving at the port of New York. Its symbolism is deeply tied to ideals of liberty, democracy, and the hope of a better life in America. The statue represents not only the freedom from oppression but also serves as a beacon of hope and a welcoming figure for those seeking new opportunities. Its inscription of the poem "The New Colossus" by Emma Lazarus emphasizes the message of refuge and hope for the "huddled masses yearning to breathe free." Other structures mentioned, while important in their own right, do not have the same direct association with freedom as the Statue of Liberty. The Brooklyn Bridge is a marvel of engineering and serves as a connection, the Gateway Arch symbolizes westward expansion and the Washington Monument represents the nation's founding values, but they do not embody the same universal message of freedom that the Statue of Liberty does.

7. Which NYC neighborhood is strongly connected to the hip-hop movement?

- A. Manhattan**
- B. Brooklyn**
- C. The Bronx**
- D. Staten Island**

The Bronx is strongly connected to the hip-hop movement as it is widely recognized as the birthplace of hip-hop culture. In the 1970s, the Bronx emerged as a hub for this revolutionary musical genre, influenced by the socio-economic conditions and vibrant community life of the area. Key elements of hip-hop, such as DJing, rapping, graffiti art, and breakdancing, took root in this neighborhood, particularly with the formation of block parties and local gatherings where artists could showcase their talents. Iconic figures like DJ Kool Herc, who is often credited with pioneering hip-hop music, began his work in the Bronx, solidifying its role in the history of hip-hop. While other neighborhoods, including parts of Manhattan and Brooklyn, later contributed significantly to the hip-hop scene, the origins and initial movements that shaped the genre are deeply intertwined with the Bronx. Therefore, the recognition of the Bronx as the birthplace of hip-hop emphasizes its cultural importance and influence in the evolution of this art form.

8. What is unusual about the statues surrounding the Fountain of Peace statue at St. John the Divine?

- A. They were made by children**
- B. They are from ancient Greece**
- C. They depict famous warriors**
- D. They are made of gold**

The statues surrounding the Fountain of Peace statue at St. John the Divine are unusual because they were made by children. This makes them unique and adds a special touch to the overall ambiance of the location. The fact that the statues were created by children sets them apart from the typical statues found in traditional settings, making them a noteworthy and interesting feature for visitors to discover.

9. What did Jacob Riis write?

- A. How The Other Half Lives**
- B. Auguste Bartholdi, Gustave Eiffel**
- C. Antonio Meucci**
- D. Peter Stuyvesant**

Jacob Riis wrote "How The Other Half Lives." This book was a groundbreaking work of photojournalism that exposed the harsh living conditions of the poor in New York City during the late 19th century. Riis' work shed light on the squalid tenements and poverty experienced by many immigrants and lower-class residents, ultimately leading to social reform and improvements in housing and living conditions in the city. The other options are not relevant to Jacob Riis or his work.

10. What annual event in New York City celebrates the end of summer with arts, food, and performances?

- A. The West Indian American Day Carnival**
- B. The New York Film Festival**
- C. The Tribeca Film Festival**
- D. The NYC Pride March**

The annual event that celebrates the end of summer in New York City with arts, food, and performances is the West Indian American Day Carnival. This vibrant festival takes place on Labor Day and showcases the rich cultural heritage of the Caribbean community through a dazzling parade, live music, and a variety of culinary offerings that highlight Caribbean cuisine. The event attracts hundreds of thousands of attendees, creating a lively atmosphere that includes colorful costumes, dance, and celebration, effectively marking the transition from summer to the fall season. While the other events mentioned also celebrate arts and culture, they do not coincide with the end of summer in the same way. The New York Film Festival and Tribeca Film Festival focus on film and cinema, and are held at different times throughout the year, typically in the fall. The NYC Pride March, which celebrates LGBTQ+ pride and rights, takes place in June, making it unrelated to the end of summer festivities.