

CB120, Churchill Quiz, Spring 2018

There are 24 questions in each Churchill Quiz —four questions in six categories:

1. Contemporaries
2. Literary matters
3. Miscellaneous
4. Personal details
5. Statesmanship
6. War

The sequence of questions is based on the order of difficulty—starting with relatively easy questions, becoming progressively more difficult.

To see a list of all the questions, do a search (Ctrl+F) for #Que, then click the small down arrow on the right, or the third of the 3 icons.

To follow a link between questions, hold down the Ctrl key and click the underlined link.

For more information on sources, or for any other enquiries, send an email to the *Chartwell Bulletin Churchill Quiz* editor, Jim Lancaster, whose email address is: jimlancaster7@gmail.com

#Question 1—Personal details

What was Churchill's code-name during The Second World War ?

Answer to Question 1:

Colonel Warden

(David Dilks *The Great Dominion, Winston Churchill in Canada 1900-1954*. Colonel Warden is in The List of Code Names, which precedes the Introduction)

#Question 2—Literary matters

Which of Churchill's books includes these observations in the Preface?

Our story centres on an island, not widely sundered from the Continent, and so tilted that its mountains lie all to the West and North, while South and East is a gently-undulating landscape of wooded valleys, open downs, and slow rivers. It is very accessible to the invader, whether he comes in peace or war, as pirate or merchant, conqueror or missionary.

Answer to Question 2

Volume I of *A History of the English-Speaking Peoples*
(page viii in the Cassell edition)

#Question 3:—War

Which event did Churchill describe, in Volume III of his memoirs of *The Second World War*:

“It was Sunday evening, December 7, 1941. ...I turned on my small wireless set shortly after the nine o’clock news had started. There were a number of items about the fighting on the Russian front... at the end of which some few sentences were spoken regarding an attack by the Japanese on American shipping at Hawaii... I asked for a call to the President ... In two or three minutes Mr. Roosevelt came through “Mr. President, what’s this about Japan?”

Answer to Question 3

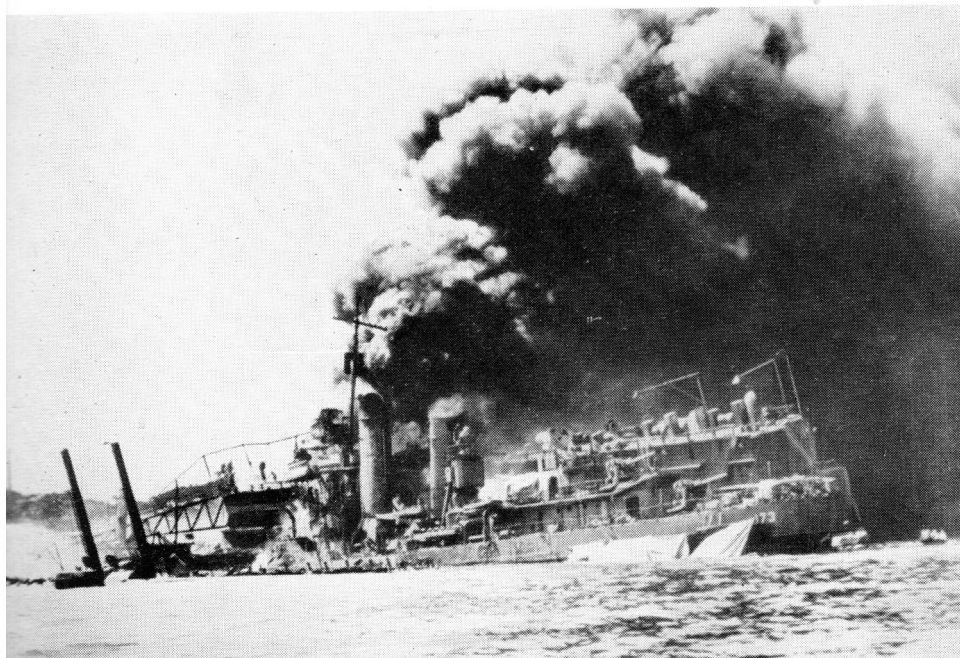
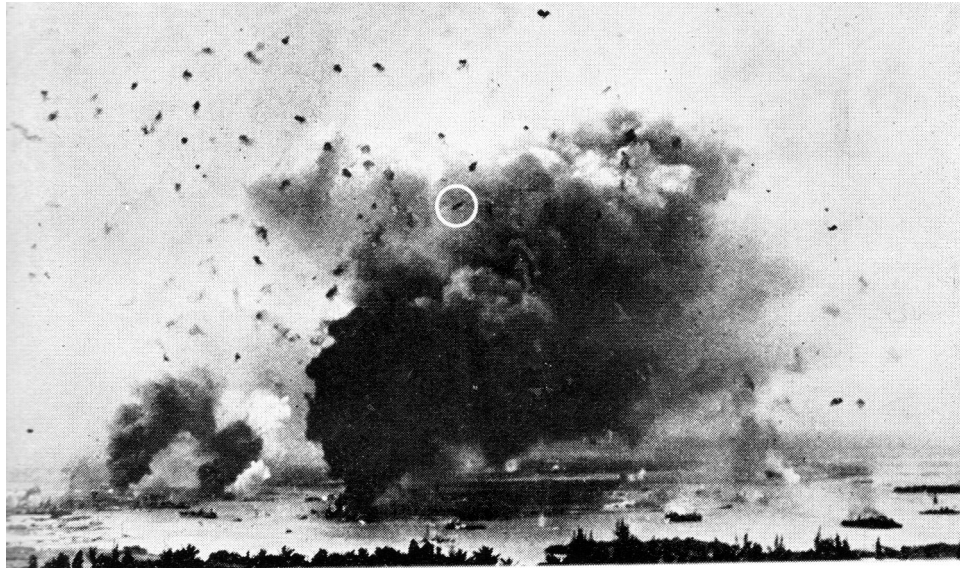
“It’s quite true” he replied. “They have attacked us at Pearl Harbor. We are all in the same boat now.” (Churchill's *The Second World War* volume III pages 472-473 in the *Chartwell Edition*.)

On page 474 of volume III of his *The Second World War* Churchill continued:

No American will think it wrong of me if I proclaim that to have the United States at our side was, to me, the greatest joy...Now, at this very moment I knew that the United States was in the war, up to the neck and in to the death. **So we had won after all!”**

Answer to Question 3:

The Japanese attack on the American fleet at Pearl Harbor.
(editorial note: See three following photos....)



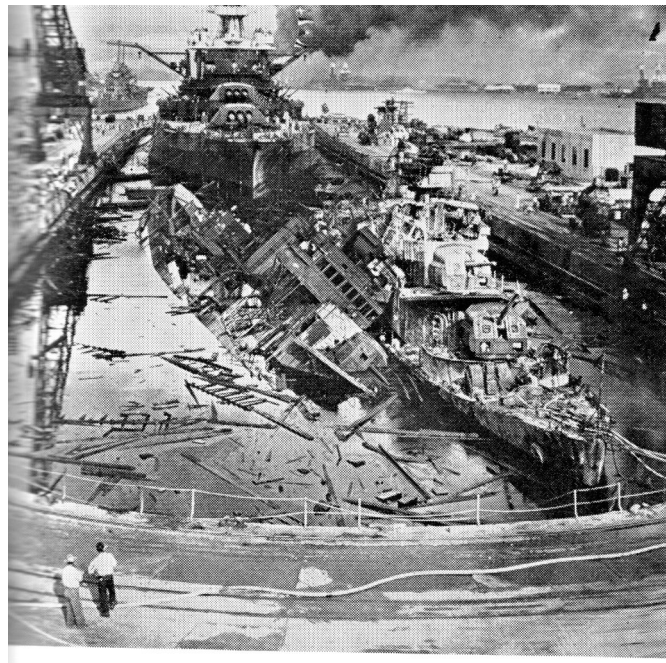
PEARL HARBOR

The date of the attack had been fixed for Sunday, December 7th ... Three hundred and sixty aircraft took part. At 7.55am the first bomb fell—By 10am the battle was over, and the enemy withdrew. Behind them lay a shattered fleet hidden in a pall of fire and smoke.

Top, the battleship *Arizona* blowing up. With, in circle, a Japanese dive-bomber in action.

Bottom, a direct hit on the destroyer *Shaw*.

(Facing page 476 in the Chartwell edition of *The Second World War* Vol III)



As a result of the treacherous blow at Pearl Harbor, the mastery of the Pacific passed into Japanese hands—the strategic balance of the world was, for the time being, fundamentally changed.

Above, the battleship *Pennsylvania*—the only one of the eight American battleships in Pearl Harbor that was not heavily damaged—in front of her is the wreckage of two destroyers.

(Facing page 477 in the Chartwell edition of *The Second World War* Vol III)

#Question 4—Personal details

Who sent Churchill the following cable at the end of January 1942?

“It is fun to be in the same decade with you.”?

At the end of January 1942, Churchill decided to ask for a vote of confidence from the House of Commons. Churchill won the vote handsomely.

He later wrote in *The Second World War* Vol IV page 62 in the Cassell edition:

“Telegrams of relief and congratulation flowed in from all over the Allied world. The warmest were from my American friends at the White House. I had sent congratulations to the President on his sixtieth birthday;

Answer to Question 4:

“It is fun” he cabled “to be in the same decade with you.”

#Question 5—War

Give the month and year for Churchill's speech which opened with these words:

“We have been five months at war against the world's greatest military power... When the war began in September most of us expected that, very soon, our cities would be torn and charred by explosion and fire... There never was a war which seemed so likely to carry its terrors at once into ever home, and there never was a war into which the whole people entered with the same united conviction that, God helping, they could do no other.”

And ended with these defiant words:

“Come then: let us to the task, to the battle, to the toil—each to our part, each to our station. Fill the armies, rule the air, pour out the munitions, strangle the U-boats, sweep the mines, plough the land, build the ships, guard the streets, succour the wounded, uplift the downcast, and honour the brave. Let us go forward together in all parts of the Empire, in all parts of the Island. There is not a week, nor a day, nor an hour to lose.”

The answer to Question 5

Churchill's speech in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester
on January 27, 1940.

#Question 6—Literary matters

Name any of the three books which Churchill wrote in the 1930s, each book warning of the dangers of a Second World War?

Answer to Question 6:

1. *Thoughts and Adventures (Amid These Storms in America)*, published in 1932.
2. *Arms and The Covenant*, published in 1938.
3. *Step By Step, 1936-1939*, published in 1939.

#Question 7—War

When did Churchill first hear about the sinking of HMS *Prince of Wales* and HMS *Repulse*?

Answer to Question 7:

From Churchill's account in *The Second World War* Vol III page 484 in the Chartwell edition :

“I was opening my boxes on the 10th [December 1941] when the telephone at my bedside rang. It was the First Sea Lord. His voice sounded odd. He gave a sort of cough and gulp, and at first I could not hear quite clearly. “Prime Minister, I have to report to you that the *Prince of Wales* and the *Repulse* have both been sunk by the Japanese—we think by aircraft. Tom Phillips is drowned” (Admiral Tom Phillips (1888-10 December 1941) commander of the *Prince of Wales*)

“I put the telephone down; I was thankful to be alone. In all the war I never received a more direct shock... As I turned over in bed the full horror of the news sank in upon me. There were no British or American capital ships in the Indian Ocean or the Pacific, except the American survivors of Pearl Harbor... Over this vast expanse of waters Japan was supreme, and we were everywhere weak and naked.”



A British destroyer taking off some of the crew of the *Prince of Wales*, before she foundered and sunk on 10 December 1941.

#Question 8—Contemporaries

Extract from Churchill's *The Second World War* Vol VI pages 551-552 in the Cassell edition:

“On July 17 [1945] world-shaking news had arrived. In the afternoon Stimson called at my abode and laid before me a sheet of paper on which was written “Babies satisfactorily born”

What was the meaning of this opaque phrase?

Answer to Question 8

(Stimson was Henry L. Stimson (1867-1950), Former Secretary of War. In November 1941 he had been appointed to the ‘Top Policy Group’ for the atom bomb project. From May 1943 he was directly responsible to the President for the Manhattan Project—the development of the atom bomb.

To continue Churchill's account:

“Stimson brought me the report “Babies satisfactorily born” means, he said “that the experiment in the Mexican desert has come off. The atomic bomb is a reality.”.... The bomb had been detonated at the top of a pylon 100 feet high. Everyone had been cleared away for ten miles round, and the scientists crouched behind massive concrete shields and shelters...The blast had been terrific. An enormous column of flame and smoke shot up to the fringe of the atmosphere...Devastation inside a one-mile circle was absolute. Here then was a speedy end to The Second World War.”

#Question 9—Personal details

In which year did Churchill receive an honorary degree at Harvard University?

Answer to Question 9:

On 6 September 1943

#Question 10—Miscellaneous

How many times did Churchill visit the United States?

Answer to Question 10:

Sixteen times:

- 1) 2-18 November 1895
- 2) 8 December 1900-1 February 1901
- 3) 6 September -30 October 1929
- 4) 11 December 1931-11 March 1932
- 5) 22 December 1941-14 January 1942
- 6) 17-25 June 1942
- 7) 12-26 May 1943
- 8) 12-14 August and 2-12 September 1943
- 9) 16-20 September 1944
- 10) 14 January -20 March 1946
- 11) 23 March -2 April 1949
- 12) 4-22 January 1952
- 13) 5-9 January 1953
- 14) 24-30 June 1954
- 15) 4-10 May 1959
- 16) 11-13 April 1961

(Source: Martin Gilbert *Churchill and America*, page 451)

#Question 11—Contemporaries

In December 1900 Churchill visited the United States to give a series of lectures. Who introduced Churchill when he gave a lecture in New York on 13 December 1900?

Answer to Question 11

Mark Twain, with these words:

“Mr. Churchill by his father is an Englishman, by his mother he is an American, no doubt a blend that makes the perfect man.” Mark Twain stressed that he had not approved of Britain’s war in South Africa nor America’s conquest of the Philippines two years earlier.

“England and America; we are kin” he said. “And now that we are also kin in sin, there is nothing more to be desired. The harmony is perfect—like Mr. Churchill himself, whom I now have the honor to present to you.”

(Source: Martin Gilbert *Churchill and America* page 37)

#Question 12—Statesmanship

What was Churchill's main theme when he addressed the General Assembly of Virginia on 8 March 1946?

Answer to Question 12:

Extract from the speech:

“The theme of individual liberty and of the rights of citizens so painfully evolved across the centuries in England was upheld through every stress and confusion by Virginia, and that theme lights the English-Speaking world today. **It lights our world and it is also a beacon shining through the mists and storms to many lands, where the rights of man—his honour, his happiness, his freedom are yearned for, or are so far enjoyed only precariously. I salute you here in this General Assembly as the guardians of the sacred flame....**

It has been said that the dominant lesson of history is that mankind is unteachable. You will remember how my dear friend, the late President Roosevelt, had to argue, only a few years ago, that Americans were not ‘soft’, and how he asserted that this was “The land of unending challenge’...

It is in the years of peace that wars are prevented...Peace will not be preserved by casting aside in dangerous years the panoply of warlike strength. There must be earnest thought. There must also be faithful perseverance and foresight.

Greatheart must have his sword and armour to guard the pilgrims on their way. Above all, among English-speaking peoples, there must be the union of hearts based on conviction and common ideals.”

(editorial note: The reference to Greatheart is one of many occasions when Churchill referred to the fictional character in John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*.)

#Question 13—Contemporaries

In October 1936, in Oxford, Churchill remembered the short life of a man who, during the Great War, fought passionately for the rights of the Arab community, leaving behind him a remarkable book *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*. Who was this man?

Answer to Question 13:

Lawrence of Arabia (1888-1935)

During the unveiling of the memorial to Lawrence of Arabia, Churchill mentioned the uniqueness of Lawrence's short life:

“The summons which reached him... came as he would have wished it, swift and sudden on the wings of speed. He had reached the last leap in his gallant course through life. Churchill ended his peroration by quoting the first verse of the poem *The Last Leap*, written by Adam Lindsay Gordon:

All is over! Fleet career.
Dash of greyhound slipping thongs,
Flight of falcon, bound of deer,
Mad hoof-thunder in our rear,
Cold air rushing up our lungs,
Din of many thoughts.

#Question 14—War

What was the momentous occasion which inspired Churchill to write the following account in his history of the Great War.?

It was a few minutes before the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. I stood at the window of my room looking up Northumberland Avenue towards Trafalgar Square, waiting for Big Ben to tell that the war was over. My mind strayed back across the scarring years to the scenes and emotions of the night at the Admiralty when I listened for these same chimes in order to give the signal of war against Germany to our Fleets and squadrons across the world.

And now all was over! The unarmed and untrained island nation, which with no defence but its Navy, had faced unquestioningly the strongest manifestation of military power in human record, had completed its task

Our country had emerged from the ordeal alive and safe, its vast possessions intact, its war effort still waxing, its institutions unshaken, its people and Empire united as never before. Victory had come after all the hazards and heartbreaks in an absolute and unlimited form. All the Kings and Emperors with whom we had warred were in flight or exile. All their Armies and Fleets were destroyed or subdued. In this Britain had borne a notable part, and done her best from first to last...

And then suddenly the first stroke of the chime. I looked again at the broad street beneath me.... Then, from all sides, men and women came scurrying into the street...Almost before the last stroke of the clock had died away, the strict, war-straitened, regulated streets of London had become a triumphant pandemonium...

My wife arrived, and we decided to go and offer our congratulations to the Prime Minister, on whom the central impact of the home struggle had fallen, in his hour of recompense. But no sooner had we entered our car than twenty people mounted upon it. We were impelled slowly forward through Whitehall. We had driven together the opposite way along the same road on the afternoon of the ultimatum....

It was with feelings which do not lend themselves to words that I heard the cheers of the brave people who had borne so much and given all, who had never wavered, who had never lost faith in their country or its destiny, and who could be indulgent to the faults of their servants, when the hour of deliverance had come.

(Source—Churchill's *The World Crisis*, his history of the Great War, Vol IV 1916-1918 Part II, pages 541-543. His text is also on pages 818-819 in the abridged and revised edition of *The World Crisis*, 1911-1918, first published in 1931. The abridged edition reprints two verses from A. E. Housman's *The Shropshire Lad*, XXXV. These two verses introduced Chapter III in the first Volume of Churchill's *The World Crisis* page 42:

‘On the idle hill of summer,
Sleepy with the sound of streams,
Far I hear the steady drummer
Drumming like a noise in dreams.

Far and near and low and louder,
On the roads of earth go by,
Dear to friends and food for powder,
Soldiers marching, all to die.’

A.E.Housman *The Shropshire Lad*, XXXV

Answer to Question 14:

VICTORY

#Question 15—Statesmanship

Churchill's last speech in the House of Commons , March 1, 1955.

According to Robert Rhodes James—the Editor of *Winston S. Churchill His Complete Speeches* in 8 volumes—the speech was listened to with deep respect and almost total silence in a packed chamber. What did Churchill say which would have earned the silence and respect of the House?

Answer to Question 15:

Then it may well be that we shall, by a process of sublime irony, have reached a stage in this story **where safety will be the sturdy child of terror, And survival the twin brother of annihilation**

Adding, for good measure, the philosophical observation—**And wonder what would lie before them if God wearied of mankind.**

#Question 16—Contemporaries

The March 1965 issue of *The Atlantic* was a special issue about *Sir Winston Churchill, The Greatest Englishman*. Twelve people, who had known Churchill well, wrote tributes in his memory.

One of the contributors was an English war correspondent who had written an article about Churchill in 1898 after having met him aboard ship when returning from the Sudan Wars.

Who was this war correspondent?



Answer to Question 16

George Warrington Steevens (1869-1900)

Mr Steevens was an English war correspondent who had been so impressed after meeting Churchill during the Sudan wars that, in 1898, he devoted an article about him in a series entitled *Twentieth Century Men—Peeps into Futurity*.

Extracts from the article:

Mr Winston Spencer Churchill, who goes to India tonight for a few months, is the youngest man in Europe...

Anyone other than him, being a junior subaltern of Hussars, would be a boisterous, simple, full-hearted, empty-headed boy. But

Mr. Churchill is a man, with ambitions fixed, with the steps toward their attainment clearly defined....

He will shortly leave the army; in the meantime his brief military career is interesting mainly as an illustration of the versatility, the pushing energy, and—its complement—the precocious worldly wisdom of the man...

The master strain in his character is the rhetorician. Platform speeches and leading articles flow from him almost against his will. At dinner he talks and talks, and you can hardly tell when he leaves off quoting his one idol Macaulay, and begins his other, Winston Churchill....

What will he become, who shall say? At the rate he goes there will hardly be room for him in Parliament at thirty, or in England at forty. It is a pace that cannot last, yet already he holds a vast lead over his contemporaries. Meanwhile, he is a wonder; a boy with a man's ambitions and, more wonderful yet, a very mature man's self-appreciation—knowledge of his own powers and the extent to which each may be applied to set him forward on his road.

#Question 17—Personal details

In which of Churchill's books do we find the following advice?

Twenty to twenty-five! These are the years ! Don't be content with things as they are, "The earth is yours and the fulness thereof." Enter upon your inheritance, accept your responsibilities. Raise the glorious flags again, advance them upon new enemies, who constantly gather upon the front of the human army, and have only to be assaulted to be overthrown. Don't take No for an answer. Never submit to failure. Do not be fobbed off with mere personal success or acceptance. You will make all kinds of mistakes; but, as long as you are generous and true, and also fierce, you cannot hurt the world, or even seriously distress her. She was made to be wooed and won by youth. She has lived and thrived by repeated subjugations.

Answer to Question 17

(*My Early Life, A Roving Commission* page 74 in the Thornton Butterworth edition, First published in 1930)

#Question 18—Contemporaries

Churchill wrote the following lines about which King?

During these last months the King walked with death, as if death were a companion, an acquaintance, whom he recognised and did not fear. In the end, death came as a friend, and, after a happy day of sunshine and sport, and after a 'good night' to those who loved him best, he fell asleep as every man or woman who strives to fear God, and nothing else in the world, may hope to do.

Answer to Question 18

King George VI

#Question 19—Miscellaneous

Who wrote the following prophecy about Winston Churchill in 1926?

Today, in the prime of life, with the dangerous 'forties' navigated, with the most plentiful crop of political wild oats ever sown or ever survived, re-united to his traditional party, miraculously translated to the office from which his father fell, never to rise again, he is easily the foremost figure in Parliament, with a past that would have extinguished anyone ordinarily destructible, and nevertheless with a future that is the most interesting in politics.

He emerges today from No 10 Downing Street, and such is his buoyance and tenacity of grip upon the lifeboat of office that I see no reason why he should not one day emerge from No 10.

But, before that happens, I hope he will have given evidence that he has judgment as well as genius, and that he has ceased to be 'an intractable little boy, a mischievous and dangerous little boy, a knee-worthy little boy.'

(Source: *The Greatest Englishman*, published in *The Atlantic* in March 1965, page 58.)

Answer to Question 19

Alfred George Gardiner (1865 – 1946) a British journalist who often wrote under the pen-name of *Alpha of the Plough*.

#Question 20—Personal details

Where did Churchill make his first public speech?

Answer to Question 20

At a Conservative Party rally at Claverton Manor near Bath on 26 July 1897.

#Question 21—Literary matters

Name any of Churchill's books published between the end of The Second World War and his retirement on 5 April 1955:

Answer to Question 21

The Dawn of Liberation July 1945

War Speeches July 1946

Secret Session Speeches September 1946

The Second World War volume I October 1948

The Second World War volume II June 1949

Europe Unite February 1950

The Second World War volume III July 1950

The Second World War volume IV August 1951

In The Balance October 1951

The Second World War volume V September 1952

The War Speeches, definitive edition, 3 vols, September 1952

Stemming the Tide June 1953

The Second World War volume VI 1953

#Question 22—Personal details

On what occasion did Churchill give his last speech as Prime Minister?

Answer to Question 22

On April 4 1955 when Churchill and his wife gave their farewell dinner to the Queen at 10 Downing Street. (Source: Martin Gilbert *Winston S. Churchill* volume VIII page 1120.

#Question 23—Contemporaries

During his second tenure as Prime Minister, one of Churchill's major projects was the establishment of a high-technology institute in the United Kingdom.

Name his long-term friend and colleague who masterminded the foundation of Churchill College in Cambridge?

Answer to Question 23

Jock Colville (1915-1987).

Churchill College received its Royal Charter in 1960.

#Question 24—Statesmanship

In which year did both Houses of Congress vote to confer honorary American citizenship on Sir Winston Churchill?

Answer to Question 24

April 1963.

FINIS