

Unique Opportunity to Gain a Higher Diploma in Festive Contemporary Musicology.

Answer the following questions which are based on well-known carols and other secular Christmas music and send to Kings College Chapel by Christmas Eve (postal strikes permitting) and you could be the proud recipient in 2023 of a qualification recognised the world over and with which you can impress your friends with your musical erudition.

1. The First Noel (sometimes erroneously spelt Nowell)

List these Noels in their order of importance and their contribution to the greater good over the last century:

Noel Gallagher, Noel's House Party, Noel Coward, Knole House in Kent.

2. Torches, Torches, Run with Torches all the way to..... (John Joubert)

With a looming winter of discontent and the cold weather putting increasing pressure on our energy suppliers we may face blackouts in the months to come. It will therefore be wise to prepare. Rank the following in order of usefulness if the lights go out:

Torches, candles, tea lights, the light on your smart phone if you have one, a 'miraculous star', the light fantastic, the light at the end of the tunnel.

3. Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire (sung by Nat King Cole)

With the Fire Service considering joining the mounting list of workers going on strike it might be prudent not to roast your chestnuts on an open fire in case you burn the house down. Can you suggest a safer way of cooking chestnuts? (50 words maximum). Bear in mind the cost of lighting the oven as opposed to microwaving. However the latter method will probably see your chestnuts explode all over the kitchen.

4. I Saw 3 Shi*s Come Sailing In

Pick from the following the 3 people you consider to have been the worst of humankind ever to have walked this earth:

Adolf Hitler, Vlad the Impaler, Ivan the Terrible (the clue is in the name) Genghis Khan, Mick Lynch, whoever is responsible for organising the TV schedules over Christmas.

5. Hark the Harold Angels Sing

Which of these famous Harolds gets your vote?

Harry Kane, Harry Styles, Prince Harry, Harold Macmillan, Harold Shipman (sorry, he should have been in the previous list) Harry Potter, Harold Steptoe.

6. In the Bleak Midwinter. This is fast becoming the anthem for our times. Can you suggest other little ditties that sum up the current situation? Here are a few to get you started:

Postman Pat
Postman Pat
He's going on strike
With his black and white cat.

We three Kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we've travelled afar
Baggage handlers
Passport Controllers
On strike so we've come in the car.

Away in a Manger
No crib for a bed
Mum's feeling stressed
And Dad's in the shed
The children are fighting
It hasn't been nice
And Gran's in the hospital
She fell on the ice.

Good King Charles the Third looked out
Right across his nations
Couldn't see a train in sight
In any of his stations.

7. All I want for Christmas is..... (Sung by Mariah Carey)

Which of the following do you think best exemplifies the state of the nation at this present time?

- (a) an ambulance if I fall over on Christmas Eve.
- (b) the Fire Brigade if I catch the house alight roasting chestnuts (and see Q.3)?
- (c) a train so I can visit my loved ones over the festive period.

8. Mathematical Section

If three people send out ten Christmas cards each before the last day of posting and two thirds of them go second class, five go first class and they forget to put a stamp on the remaining cards, when will they arrive?

- (a) End of January.
- (b) In time for Easter.
- (c) They probably won't arrive at all but no one will notice.

9. While Shepherds Washed their Socks by Night. As it is unlikely that shepherds in Palestine 2000 years ago wore socks this must be an inaccurate piece of reporting. Which of the following activities do you consider a more useful appropriation of their time?

- (a) Trying to see where their sheep had gone by the light of a 'miraculous star' in the middle of a blackout.
- (b) Trying to work out how to get from South London to Newcastle over Christmas by National Express.
- (c) Assessing when it would be the best time to get sick so as to avoid a nurses' strike.

And finally.....

10. Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas
Let Your Hearts be Bright
From now on Your Troubles will be out of sight

Cwg would like to wish you and everyone a Happy Christmas and a very peaceful New Year.