
Srinivasa-Ramanujan-quiz ^{1 2 3}

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How much do we know about our own Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan ? Try this quiz, to find out.

These questions are listed in no particular order.

To know more about Ramanujan's life, take a look at [1] and [2] and [3]

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1. What lie did the British mathematician Hardy give to the Scotland Yard once, in order to save Ramanujan from an arrest? When did that happen ?
2. What famous inequation did Hardy give once, regarding Ramanujan and another famous mathematician David Hilbert?
3. Among other places around the world what is also there at the IISc, Bangalore; Defence Ministry, New Delhi; and Kumbakonam?
4. Which prize's previous winners include Manjul Bhargava (Fields Medal 2014) and Terence Tao (Fields Medal 2006) ?
5. What unique thing is present in a temple devoted to Saraswati at BITS, Pilani?

¹Based on material downloaded from <http://gonitsora.com/srinivasa-ramanujan-quiz/>

²Additional material has subsequently been added by drpartha. This quiz keeps growing, as I discover more about Ramanujan.

³You can ask for the solutions from drpartha@gmail.com

6. Hardy gave a personal rating to various mathematicians, to himself he gave 25, to Littlewood a 35, to Archimedes an 80, but how much did he give Ramanujan?
7. What is the significance of the ship named SS Nevasa in Ramanujan's life?
8. Which famous number theorist always used to carry a copy of Ramanujan's collected papers wherever he went?
9. For almost 20 years he has been doing it, according to Bruce C. Berndt he does not understand all that he proves from it but it gives him satisfaction. What?
10. "A disappearing Number" is a recent play related to the life of Ramanujan. Where was it staged?
11. Which book by Robert Kanigel depicting the life of Ramanujan was made into a Hollywood movie ?
12. "An equation has no meaning for me unless it expresses a thought of God." Who is the speaker?
13. Pierre Deligne won the 1974 Fields Medal, the highest honour in mathematics for proving what?
14. Ramanujan Gonit Sangho is an organization doing pioneering work for young students, where is it based?
15. If Janaki Ammal is Ramanujan's wife, then who is Komalatammal?
16. Which seminal paper of Ramanujan was published in the Quarterly Journal of Mathematics, Oxford in 1914, which has paved the way for modern day computer algorithms?
17. "On Some properties of Bernoulli numbers " is a paper by Ramanujan published in the Journal of the Indian Mathematical Society. What is its significance?
18. What unique thing related to Ramanujan is shown in a scene in the Hollywood movie High School Musical?
19. Which is the highest educational qualification that Ramanujan held apart from his FRS?

20. Your Hit Parade was a famous American show in the 1950s and 1960s. How is it related to Ramanujan?
21. Which book is stated to be the first to have greatly influenced Ramanujan's approach to mathematics ?
22. According to Ramanujan, he often received inspiration for his mathematical discoveries from visions of this Hindu Goddess. What was her name ?
23. In August 1905, Ramanujan ran away from home, and stayed in this city for nearly a month. Which city was this ?
24. Ramanujan was the second Indian to be elected as Fellow of the Royal Society (in 1918), UK.
Who was the first ? In which year was he elected ?
25. How does the Government of India celebrate Ramanujan's contributions to mathematics ?
26. The unbelievable story that Ramanujan failed in a mathematics exam does the rounds often. How far is this true ?
27. Why did many members of his family boycott his funeral ?
28. What was the exact cause of his untimely death ?
29. How is the name Nagoya related to Ramanujan's life ?
30. How did Ramanujan get his name ?
31. We hear so much of Ramanujan's mentor at Cambridge Univ. G.H. Hardy. What was his full name ?
32. Which came first to Ramanujan ? Fellowship of the Royal Society, or the Fellowship of Trinity College ?
33. This "gang of four" contributed to Ramanujan's memory. What is their names ?
34. Ramanujan was once compared to Beethoven. On what occasion ? By whom ?
35. What was Hardy's reaction when he saw the notebook Ramanujan sent him ?
(Note: This became the beginning of an incredible intellectual relationship between two giants belonging to two different cultures).

36. Finally, the question which many people find most difficult to answer :
Specifically, for which mathematical contributions was Ramanujan elected to the Royal Society ?

Concluding remarks : Constructive suggestions and remarks are welcome, to make this quiz more useful and more effective. Solutions to this quiz may be obtained by sending a request to drpartha@gmail.com.

References

- [1] Robert Kanigel, The man who knew infinity, Pub.: Washington Square Press.
- [2] New World Encyclopedia,
http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Srinivasa_Ramanujan
- [3] S. Parthasarathy, Remembering Ramanujan,
<http://drpartha.org.in/drpartha/ramanukumbak.htm>

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