

# Talbot House: a place of words and letters

## Art, history and religion

20 multiple-choice questions (only one answer is correct)

### on the ground floor (hall and lounge)

**1 Look around in the hall. How could the house best be described - architecturally?**

A: a manor house

B: a mansion

C: a gentleman's house

D: a small chateau

E: a villa

-> hint: is this place in town or in the countryside? Consider its size.

**2 The owner of the house (before the war) ran a particular business.**

**Look at the staircase and choose which of these professions he had.**

A: a brewer

B: a hop merchant

C: a lawyer

D: a banker

E: a solicitor

-> hint: look at the carving in the newel post of the staircase

**3 The wooden 'Way Out' sign (by the front-door) had a specific purpose.**

A: to show visitors the way out

B: to show passers-by that this was a public place

C: to make sure soldiers wouldn't lose their way in the house

D: to promote the optimistic spirit of the house

E: to indicate that the 'way in' was somewhere else

-> hint: read the sign again and consider the appeal of the house during the war

**4 In the lounge is a picture of Tubby Clayton and Neville Talbot, his superior.**

**The picture shows a great physical contrast between both padres.**

**The effect may be due to: ....**

A: a bird's eye view

B: a close-up

C: distortion

D: Photoshop

E: a knee shot

-> hint: consider the position the photographer took

**5 The L&V in the double door stand for the marriage initials of 'Lebbe & Vuylsteke', the owners of the house before the Great War. Such an ornament is called**

- A: a royal cipher
- B: an abbreviation
- C: an acronym
- D: a monogram
- E: a contraction

-> hint: was this meant for a king?

## **on the first floor**

**6 Have a good look at the watercolour opposite Tubby's room. How did the soldiers borrow a book from the library?**

- A: by paying for it
- B: by using a ticket
- C: by signing a form
- D: in exchange of their hat
- E: they just took it

-> hint: what is on the librarian's desk?

**7 Who was Amy Robsart's unfaithful husband?**

- A: Robert the Bruce
- B: Robert Dudley
- C: Robert Taylor
- D: Robert Vaughn
- E: Robert Plant

-> hint: this is a story from the 16<sup>th</sup> century

**8 When Amy was found dead at the bottom of the stairs, people jokingly queried: "Did she fall or was she .....?"**

- A: beaten
- B: hit
- C: murdered
- D: killed
- E: pushed

-> hint: this is a story about stairs...

## on the second floor

**9 On this floor is the flat of the house's volunteers. Over the past decades, Talbot House has been run by volunteers who look after both guests and tourists. We call these people...**

- A: resident wardens
- B: landlords
- C: conservators
- D: attendants
- E: curators

-> hint: they live in for at least a week

**10 Look at the soldiers in the B&W pictures. These were taken during in the Second World War soon after Poperinge was liberated by allied troops. What was the nationality of our liberators?**

- A: British
- B: American
- C: Canadian
- D: Polish
- E: New Zealand

-> hint: think of a street in Poperinge, a square in Roeselare and Tielt, etc...

**11 Have a good look at The Last Supper. Which of these is the only correct statement?**

- A: it was not based on Leonardo Da Vinci's painting
- B: the number of people at the table is incorrect
- C: some of the figures are unfinished
- D: there is a woman in it
- E: this sculpture was made during the war by a soldier staying in TH

-> hint: by consequence, four of these answers are untrue

## on the third floor (the Chapel)

**12 During The Great War, this 'Upper Room' was used as a chapel. Scrap one item that you do NOT see in this place of worship.**

- A: an altar
- B: a pulpit
- C: candle sticks
- D: a sanctuary lamp
- E: a christening font

-> hint: work by elimination

**13 The altar - originally - was a carpenter's bench. Why do you think did Clayton like the idea of such a bench?**

- A: *it was the right height*
- B: *it was something humble*
- C: *Jesus himself was (the son of) a carpenter*
- D: *it was the only available furniture*
- E: *it was strong and solid*

-> hint: he liked symbolism

**14 Study the harmonium closely. Which statement is NOT true!**

- A: *it's portable*
- B: *its foldable*
- C: *it's pedal-powered*
- D: *it's out of order*
- E: *its keyboard is two-toned*

-> hint: look and listen (without touching it!)

**15 Look at the shape of the windows in the attic. Which name is given to this particular form?**

- A: *bay windows*
- B: *crescent windows*
- C: *stained-glass windows*
- D: *bottle-bottom windows*
- E: *skylights*

-> hint: study the form and work by elimination

**16 Churches and chapels often have a sanctuary lamp. The lamp here is called "the Toc H lamp", an oil-fed lamp that is popular in the Christian world. Who do you think was called "The Lady with the Lamp"?**

- A: *Edith Cavell*
- B: *Nellie Spindler*
- C: *Emely Pankhurst*
- D: *Florence Nightingale*
- E: *Mary Secole*

-> hint: we are talking about a nurse from the First World War - work by elimination

## in the garden

**17 The Slessorium, named after Major Slessor, is now used for temporary exhibitions. What do you think was its original purpose when it was built in the early 1930s?**

- A: an extra kitchen
- B: a bathhouse
- C: a garden shed
- D: a storehouse
- E: a workshop

-> hint: consider the fact that the first pilgrims arrived in the early 1930s

**18 Study the photo of Tubby with his favourite pet (on the Slessorium wall). Go on a site for dog breeds and find out which is the most likely one.**

- A: a Cairn terrier
- B: a dwarf poodle
- C: a Jack Russell
- D: a dachshund
- E: a King Charles

-> hint: work by elimination

**19 Study the photo of the Concert Party and look at the figures in the front row. One soldier is dressed as a woman. Such a character is now sometimes called...**

- A: the lady prompter
- B: the leading lady
- C: the drag queen
- D: the female director
- E: the props lady

-> hint: the dress is a giveaway

**20 The elegant building at the farthest side of the garden was (and still is) used as:**

- A: a pagoda
- B: a pigeon hole
- C: a dovecote
- D: a henhouse
- E: a birdcage

-> hint: they may be flying around here

## answer key

### on the ground floor (hall and lounge)

**1 Look around in the hall. How could the house best be described - architecturally?**

*C: a gentleman's house* -> clarification: this is a stylish town-house built for a wealthy family (a mansion is bigger)

**2 The owner of the house (before the war) ran a particular business.**

**Look at the staircase and choose which of these professions he had.**

*B: a hop merchant* -> clarification: there are hop cones carved in the newel post

**3 The wooden 'Way Out' sign (by the front-door) had a specific purpose.**

*D: to promote the optimistic spirit of the house*

-> clarification: the founder wanted the soldiers to forget the war for a short while

**4 In the lounge is a picture of Tubby Clayton and Neville Talbot, his superior.**

**The picture shows a great physical contrast between both padres.**

**The effect may be due to....** *E: a knee shot* -> clarification: it looks like a frog's view

**5 The L&V in the double door stand for the marriage initials of 'Lebbe & Vuylsteke', the owners of the house before the Great War. Such an ornament is called**

*D: a monogram* -> clarification: only royalty have ciphers; the monogram (which may contain one or more capitals) has its letters entwined

### on the first floor

**6 Have a good look at the watercolour opposite Tubby's room. How did the soldiers borrow a book from the library?**

*D: in exchange of their hat* -> clarification: there is a pile of hats next to the librarian

**7 Who was Amy Robsart's unfaithful husband?**

*B: Robert Dudley* -> clarification: he was the lover of Queen Elizabeth I

**8 When Amy was found dead at the bottom of the stairs, people jokingly queried:**

**"Did she fall or was she .....?"** *E: pushed*

-> clarification: she was found dead with a broken neck; he may have pushed her down

### on the second floor

**9 On this floor is the flat of the house's volunteers. Over the past decades, Talbot House has been run by volunteers who look after both guests and tourists.**

**We call these people...** *A: resident wardens*

-> clarification: 'resident' means that these caretakers live in the house during their stay

**10 Look at the soldiers in the B&W pictures. These were taken during the Second World War soon after Poperinge was liberated by allied troops.**

**What was the nationality of our liberators?** *D: Polish* -> clarification: Polenlaan, Polenplein... in gratitude for our liberation on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1944

**11 Have a good look at The Last Supper. Which of these is the only correct statement?**

*C: some of the figures are unfinished*

-> clarification: there are 13 figures (Jesus plus his Twelve Disciples), the effeminate figure on his right side is John the Baptist; the work is in the baroque style (18<sup>th</sup> century)

**on the third floor (the Chapel)**

**12 During The Great War, this 'Upper Room' was used as a chapel. Scrap one item that you do NOT see in this place of worship. B: a pulpit**

-> clarification: the padre (priest) gave his sermon from the altar; the christening font is the little china one between the two candle-sticks in front of the altar

**13 The altar - originally - was a carpenter's bench. Why do you think did Clayton like the idea of such a bench? C: Jesus himself was (the son of) a carpenter**

-> clarification: the symbolism was so strong that he never wanted anything else for an altar

**14 Study the harmonium closely. Which statement is NOT true! D: it's out of order**

-> clarification: it still works - as you can hear

**15 Look at the shape of the windows in the attic. Which name is given to this particular form? B: crescent windows -> clarification: a half-moon shape**

**16 Churches and chapels often have a sanctuary lamp. The lamp here is called "the Toc H lamp", an oil-fed lamp that is popular in the Christian world. Who do you think was called "The Lady with the Lamp?" D: Florence Nightingale**

-> clarification: this nurse used to walk the wards of the military hospital carrying this sort of lamp

**in the garden**

**17 The Slessorium, named after Major Slessor, is now used for temporary exhibitions. What do you think was its original purpose when it was built in the early 1930s?**

*B: a bathhouse*

-> clarification: the first visitors, the so-called 'pilgrims', wanted somewhere to freshen up and there were no proper facilities in the house like bathrooms or toilets.

**18 Study the photo of Tubby with his favourite pet (on the Slessorium wall).**

**Go on a site for dog breeds and find out which is the most likely one.**

*A: a Cairn terrier -> clarification: as distinguished by its size and coat*

**19 Study the photo of the Concert Party and look at the figures in the front row.**

**One soldier is dressed as a woman. Such a character is now sometimes called:**

*C: the drag queen*

-> clarification: there were hardly any female soldiers in those days (except a few military nurses); so, someone chose to play the female part in the show (and may well have like it!)

**20 The elegant building at the farthest side of the garden was (and still is) used as:**

*C: a dovecote -> clarification: although the building may look a bit like a pagoda, it was and still is the pigeon house*

**my score**

**number correct ..... x 5 = .....%**