25 tough Mahabharata questions

From The Great Mahabharata Quiz
The answers are on the last page.

1. What is the meaning of "Timingila" — the gigantic sea creature mentioned in several places in The Mahabharata?

   A King of the seas
   B Divine animal
   C Earth-destroyer
   D Whale-swallower

2. What does Sauptika Parva mean?

   A Book of the Victors
   B Book of the Dice Game
   C Book of the Sleepers
   D Book of Exile

3. Who cursed Yama (Dharma deva) to be born on earth as Vidura — a Shudra?

   A Rishi Mandavya
   B Rishi Durvasa
   C Rishi Vishwamitra
   D Rishi Vasishtha

4. Kubera cursed the yaksha Sthunakarna for exchanging his masculinity for Shikhandi's femininity, saying that Sthunakarna would remain female. The yakshas begged him to set a limit. What limit did Kubera set?

   A Sthunakarna would regain his male form after Shikhandi's death
   B Sthunakarna would regain his male form after a year
   C Sthunakarna could regain his male form after a pilgrimage
   D Sthunakarna would regain his male form after 10 years

5. What vow (vrata) did Karna decide to observe until he had killed Arjuna?

   A Not to wash his feet
   B Not to sleep on a bed
   C Not to attend any entertainment
   D Not to eat after noon

6. What did Sarama, the dog of the gods, do to Janamejaya for letting his brothers mistreat her puppy?

A She invoked Asuras to destroy his kingdom
B She killed his brothers
C She cursed him
D She destroyed his sacrifice

7. What boon did Brahma grant the Rakshasa Charvaka, who was Duryodhana's friend?

A Invisibility
B Fearlessness from all beings, as long as he did not disrespect Brahmanas
C Immortality
D Power of every living being, except Brahmanas

8. How did a Brahmana curse Karna for killing the calf of his cow?

A Karna would lose his most prized possession in battle
B Karna would experience immense pain during his death
C Karna would be defeated by the weakest warrior
D Karna's chariot-wheel will get stuck when he is fighting his greatest opponent

9. Who cursed Rajarishi Nahusha to be born as a giant serpent on earth?

A Bhrigu
B Durvasa
C Agastya
D Markandeya

10. What was Prabhasa, the youngest Vasu and future Bhishma, also called?

A Dyaus
B Agni
C Indra
D Surya

11. How did Rishi Vasishtha curse the Vasu called Prabhasa, the future Bhishma, for being the main culprit in stealing his cow Nandini?

A He would live a life of poverty
B He would live a life of danger
C He would live a life of struggle
D He would live in the world for a long time

12. Kubera gave the Antardhana astra to Arjuna. For its ability to put the enemy to sleep, what was the Antardhana also known as?

A Prasvapana
B Nidrastra
C Shayanastra
D Varunastra

13. What is another name for the Pashupata, the astra capable of destroying all creation, which was given to Arjuna by Shiva?

A Vaishnavastra
B Narayanastra
C Brahmastra
D Raudra

14. In return for Karna's kavacha and kundala, Indra gifted him Vasavi astra, which Karna used to kill Ghatotkacha in Kurukshetra. How many times could the Vasavi astra be used?

A Once
B Twice
C Five times
D Any number of times

15. What was Angaraparna, the Gandharva who attacked the Pandavas as they fled from Varanavata, also called?

A Chitrangada
B Chitraratha
C Gandharva Raja
D Yakshaputra

16. What was Alambusha, the Rakshasa who fought on the side of the Kauravas, also known as?

A Shalakantaka
B Viduratha
C Durjaya
D Vrishasena

17. Supratika was the name of King Bhagadatta's elephant. What does Supratika mean?

A Having immense strength
B Having a thick hide
C Having a beautiful trunk
D Having a beautiful gait

18. Being blind, Dhritarashtra was also known as Pragnachakshu. What does Pragnachakshu mean?

A Wise and powerful
B Having knowledge for his eye
C One with penetrating eyes
D One with eyes of God

19. One of Shiva's names is Nilalohita. What does it mean?

A Blue-black
B Blue-green
C Blue-red
D Blue-iron

20. Which child was cursed to be born crooked?

A Ashtavakra
B Chyavana
C Yayati
D Sukanya

21. Why did Shukracharya curse Yayati with premature old age?

A For refusing to be his disciple
B For refusing to accept his daughter's alliance
C For secretly fathering children with Sharmishtha, his wife's maid
D For insulting a Brahmana

22. How many years after Vinata laid her eggs did Garuda emerge?

A 100 years
B 500 years
C 1000 years
D 2000 years

23. How many offences by Shishupala did Krishna pardon?

A 101
B 10
C 50
D 100

24. How did Gandhari curse Krishna?

A Krishna will die in a fire
B The Yadava clan would end in 36 years
C The Pandavas will kill all Yadavas in 36 years
D Krishna will be forgotten

25. To fulfill a divine prophecy and father the sage Astika, who would ultimately save the entire Naga race from King Janamejaya's sacrifice, the ascetic Jaratkaru reluctantly married the sister of the Naga king Vasuki. What does Jaratkaru mean as explained by Sauti Ugrashrava?

A Jara means to create, and Karu implies vastness
B Jara means to preserve, and Karu implies strength
C Jara means to waste, and Karu implies vastness
D Jara means to destroy, and Karu implies wisdom

Answers

1.	D	Whale-swallower
2.	C	Book of the Sleepers
3.	A	Rishi Mandavya
4.	A	Sthunakarna would regain his male form after Shikhandi's death
5.	A	Not to wash his feet
6.	C	She cursed him
7.	B	Fearlessness from all beings, as long as he did not disrespect Brahmanas
8.	D	Karna's chariot-wheel will get stuck when he is fighting his greatest opponent
9.	C	Agastya
10.	A	Dyaus
11.	D	He would live in the world for a long time
12.	A	Prasvapana
13.	D	Raudra
14.	A	Once
15.	B	Chitraratha
16.	A	Shalakantaka
17.	C	Having a beautiful trunk
18.	B	Having knowledge for his eye
19.	C	Blue-red
20.	A	Ashtavakra
21.	C	For secretly fathering children with Sharmishtha, his wife's maid
22.	C	1000 years
23.	D	100
24.	B	The Yadava clan would end in 36 years
25.	C	Jara means to waste, and Karu implies vastness