

Candidate Number.....



BLUE BADGE TOURIST GUIDE EXAMINATIONS

Tuesday 7th April 2026 at 14:00

BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE (PAPER ONE)

Time allowed: 2 HOURS (120 minutes)

This paper comprises **200** short answer questions, all of which should be answered.

Notes

1. Please write your **candidate number** at the top of this page and at the top right-hand corner of all the rest of the pages (the Invigilator has your number).
2. The answers should be written on the question paper.
3. All names should include first name **AND** last name, unless otherwise specified.
4. Please write legibly in pen.
5. Please deposit your completed paper as instructed by the Invigilator.

Candidate Number.....

Architecture & Gardens (15)

1	Name the woodcarver who was a contemporary of Christopher Wren.	
2	Cathedrals in Ely, Rochester and Durham are built in which architectural style?	
3	In which month will the RHS Chelsea Flower Show take place in 2026?	
4	Which prize was awarded in 2025 to Appleby Blue for their new approach to urban almshouses?	
5	What is an atrium in a building?	
6	Which is the simplest of the classical orders of architecture?	
7	Name ONE architect known for the English baroque style?	

8	Name the 18 th -century botanist known as the “Father of Taxonomy”.	
9	Give the last name of the English father-and-son plant hunters from the 17 th century.	
10	Which architectural style is characterised by pointed arches, ribbed vaults and flying buttresses?	
11	What is a keystone in an arch?	
12	To which style of architecture do Holkham Hall, Woburn Abbey and Chiswick House belong?	
13	Which architect, who died in 2021, is famous for high-tech “inside-out” buildings?	
14	Which garden complex in Cornwall, designed by Nicholas Grimshaw, is 25 years old this year?	
15	Name ONE building by Norman Foster and Partners in the UK.	

Arts: Visual & Applied (15)

16	For which type of painting is Nicholas Hilliard best known?	
17	Which annual prize, named after a great British painter, is presented to a British visual artist?	
18	Name the first President of the Royal Academy of Arts.	
19	Which late 19 th -century movement promoted handmade craftsmanship and simple design?	
20	What is a triptych?	
21	Name the early 19 th -century painter known for landscapes of the Suffolk countryside.	
22	To which art movement do William Holman Hunt and John Everett Millais belong?	

23	Name ONE English photographer who helped to create the concept of “Swinging Sixties”.	
24	What is the name for a work painted onto wet or dry plaster?	
25	Thomas Chippendale, George Hepplewhite and Thomas Sheraton specialised in which craft?	
26	Which art movement of the 1950s to 1970s used imagery from popular culture to challenge “High Art”?	
27	Name the early 20 th -century female sculptor whose work can be seen in Wakefield and in St Ives.	
28	With which art movement are Salvador Dali and René Magritte associated?	
29	Name ONE work by the sculptor Anish Kapoor.	

30	Which artist developed the technique of pointillism by applying dots of pure colour to the canvas?	
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Commerce, Industry & Science (13)

31	What does AI stand for in computer science?	
32	In which city is the National Railway Museum?	
33	Name ONE region in the UK where the wool trade was historically the main industry.	
34	Cadbury and Rowntree were chocolate-making families of which religious faith?	
35	What was Tim Berners-Lee's famous invention?	
36	Name the airline established by Richard Branson in 1984.	
37	Name ONE scientist associated with the discovery of the structure of DNA.	

38	Which engineer designed the Menai Suspension Bridge and the Caledonian Canal?	
39	George Stephenson is associated with which form of transport?	
40	Which supermarket chain is the market leader in the UK?	
41	In which area (or county) did Abraham Darby first smelt iron using coke?	
42	Which computer scientist appears on the reverse of a £50 note?	
43	Who formulated the law of universal gravitation in 1687?	

Constitution, Government & Law (13)

44	Name the Deputy Prime Minister.	
45	How many MPs are elected to the House of Commons?	

46	Who is Leader of the Reform UK Party?	
47	On which weekday is Prime Minister's Question Time held?	
48	In which year was the Magna Carta first sealed?	
49	Name ONE Stuart monarch associated with the doctrine of the divine right of kings.	
50	What do the letters KC stand for after the name of a barrister?	
51	What is the address of the First Lord of the Treasury?	
52	Which position does Sir Lindsay Hoyle hold in the House of Commons?	
53	Give ONE form of identification required to vote in the UK.	
54	Which cabinet member presents the Budget to Parliament?	

55	In which year did the UK vote in a referendum to leave the European Union?	
56	Which position has Andy Burnham held since 2017?	

Cuisine (9)

57	CAMRA promotes which alcoholic drink?	
58	From which type of fish is a kipper made?	
59	Other than chicken and spices, name ONE key ingredient in chicken tikka masala.	
60	What is black pudding?	
61	Name the meal with eggs, bacon, sausages, beans, tomatoes and toast.	
62	What does Twinings famously sell?	

63	Which food with PDO status is associated with Melton Mowbray?	
64	Name ONE English county where Stilton cheese may be produced.	
65	Name the alcoholic drink made from apples.	

Education in England (7)

66	Until what age must young people in England stay in education or training?	
67	Name TWO STEM subjects.	i) ii)
68	What kind of schools are Harrow, Winchester and Rugby?	
69	At what age are GCSE's usually taken?	
70	Which children are supported by SEND?	

71	Name the public school where Prince William, Boris Johnson and Tom Hiddleston were educated.	
72	At what age are A-Levels usually taken?	

Finance & Taxation (5)

73	Which institution is known as "The Old Lady of Threadneedle Street"?	
74	The £12.71 per hour National Living Wage is paid from what age?	
75	What percentage is the basic rate of income tax in England?	
76	Which tax is collected by the DVLA?	
77	Name TWO of the largest banks in the UK.	<p>i)</p> <p>ii)</p>

Health, Social Services & Voluntary Sector (7)

78	Which nurse is associated with the development of modern nursing during the Crimean War?	
79	MMR is a vaccine for three childhood illnesses. Name ONE .	
80	What is the cost in England of an NHS prescription per item?	
81	Which discovery by Alexander Fleming helped treat bacterial infections?	
82	In which year was the NHS established?	
83	What do the letters A&E stand for at a hospital?	
84	Which disease caused a major epidemic in England in 1665?	

History (22)

85	The failure of which crop was the cause of the Great Famine in Ireland in the 1840s?	
86	Which king was known as “Longshanks” and the “Hammer of the Scots”?	
87	In whose reign did actresses first appear on the British stage?	
88	Who was the only king of England to be given the title “the Great”?	
89	With which religious order is the name “Charterhouse” associated?	
90	In which decade did women over 21 gain the vote in the UK?	
91	Who was the first monarch of the House of Hanover?	
92	Which uprising of 1381 was led by Wat Tyler, John Ball and Jack Straw?	

93	Which flower was adopted to commemorate the dead of the First World War in the UK?	
94	Which Prime Minister introduced income tax to fund the war with Napoleon?	
95	Which TWO kings met at the Field of the Cloth of Gold?	i) ii)
96	Which Roman Emperor ordered the invasion of Britannia in 43 AD?	
97	Edward I belonged to which royal house of England?	
98	Name the agreement, signed at Easter 1998, that helped bring peace to Northern Ireland.	
99	Which king authorised the English Bible published in 1611?	
100	Which 19 th -century British Prime Minister advocated Home Rule for Ireland?	

101	Who was the Prime Minister from 1979 to 1990?	
102	Name the mother of Queen Elizabeth I?	
103	Name TWO of the seven kingdoms of Anglo-Saxon England.	i) ii)
104	For which king did G.F. Handel compose his Coronation marches in 1727?	
105	Which queen was executed at Fotheringhay Castle in 1587?	
106	Which king was crowned in Bath Abbey in 973?	

Infrastructure, Housing, Transport and Energy (12)

107	HS2 will connect London with which city?	
108	What kind of energy comes from the sun, the wind or water?	

109	By which year does the UK aim to reach net zero carbon emissions?	
110	From which English port does a ferry run to the Hook of Holland?	
111	Which motorway connects Cardiff and London?	
112	In which decade was "Right to Buy" introduced?	
113	What is the speed limit for cars on UK motorways?	
114	Name the longest canal in Britain.	
115	What effect warms the Earth by trapping heat in the atmosphere?	
116	What do we call a property where the resident owns the property and the land outright?	
117	Name TWO international airports in England (outside London)	<p>i)</p> <p>ii)</p>

118	Apart from London, name ONE location in the UK which has an underground metro system.	
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Language & Literature (15)

119	Who wrote the James Bond novels?	
120	What is the name of the sign language used by the Deaf community in Britain?	
121	In which cities are the following dialects spoken? i) Brummie ii) Geordie	i) ii)
122	In which UK city is the world's largest performing arts festival held every August?	
123	In which language was the epic poem <i>Beowulf</i> written?	
124	Which novel by Emily Brontë has been adapted into a film starring Margot Robbie and Jacob Elordi?	

125	Which play by George Bernard Shaw was adapted into the stage musical <i>My Fair Lady</i> ?	
126	To which group of writers and artists did Virginia Woolf belong?	
127	Which poet wrote <i>Ode on a Grecian Urn</i> and <i>Ode to a Nightingale</i> ?	
128	According to Shakespeare, which king murdered “the princes in the Tower”?	
129	Where is Jane Austen buried?	
130	The poetry of William Wordsworth is mostly linked to which area of England?	
131	Which prize for fiction was David Szalay awarded for his novel <i>Flesh</i> in 2025?	
132	Which fictional detective was created by Arthur Conan Doyle?	
133	Which position does Simon Armitage currently hold?	

Monarchy (12)

134	<p>Charles III has two sons. Name them BOTH.</p> <p>(First names only.)</p>	<p>i)</p> <p>ii)</p>
135	Which archbishop crowns the monarch at a coronation?	
136	Name the current Princess Royal.	
137	Give the first names of BOTH the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh.	<p>i)</p> <p>ii)</p>
138	Who is third in line to the British throne?	
139	Which royal residence in Edinburgh is used for official duties in Scotland?	
140	Which crown does the King usually wear at the State Opening of Parliament?	

141	Which member of the Royal Family is the founding patron of the Invictus Games?	
142	For how many years did Queen Elizabeth II reign?	
143	What is the surname used by the British royal family?	
144	Which organisation of 56 countries is made up of many former British colonies?	
145	Name the ceremony when the British monarch commemorates the Last Supper by giving money to pensioners.	

Performing Arts & Media (10)

146	Who wrote the play <i>The Mousetrap</i> ?	
147	<i>Alice in Wonderland</i> was converted into which form of dance by Christopher Wheeldon in 2011?	

148	Which organisation presents <i>The Proms</i> each summer?	
149	Which long-running British TV series features a Time Lord who travels in the TARDIS?	
150	What type of family theatre entertainment is traditionally performed at Christmas in Britain?	
151	Which music festival takes place on a field in Somerset?	
152	Which TWO men wrote comic operas in the late 1800s, including <i>The Pirates of Penzance</i> and <i>The Mikado</i> ? (Last names only.)	i) ii)
153	Which actor plays <i>Mr Bean</i> ?	
154	In which 2025 film does Jessie Buckley play Shakespeare's wife?	
155	Name ONE British actor knighted in 2025 or 2026.	

Physical Geography, Landscape, Countryside & Coastline (24)

156	Name the river which flows through Liverpool.	
157	Which national park in northwest England is famous for mountains and lakes?	
158	Name the natural rock formation on the north coast of Northern Ireland.	
159	What is the approximate distance from the north of Scotland to the south of England? (In miles or km.)	
160	Name ONE county with white coastal cliffs.	
161	Which warm Atlantic current keeps the west of Britain milder than the east?	
162	Name TWO types of stone found in the British Isles used as building material.	i) ii)

163	Name the Government department responsible for farming and the countryside?	
164	What is the colour of the oilseed rape flower?	
165	Which planning policy protects a ring of land around cities to limit urban growth?	
166	Which stone is frequently found in the Cotswolds?	
167	Name ONE breed of cattle used for dairy.	
168	Which association was founded in 1895 by Octavia Hill?	
169	Name ONE national park in Wales.	
170	Name ONE field sport involving wildlife that requires a licence in Britain.	
171	Which is the main cereal crop produced in the UK?	

172	Name TWO National Landscapes (formerly AONBs) in England.	i) ii)
173	Which tree produces conkers?	
174	Name TWO fish species commonly found in UK waters.	i) ii)
175	Name the meat which comes from deer.	
176	What type of animals are Clydesdales and English Thoroughbreds?	
177	Water reed, long straw and wheat reed are used for what type of roofing?	
178	Which native British tree is traditionally used for cricket bats?	
179	Gloucestershire Old Spots and Tamworth are breeds of which animal?	

Religion & Multiculturalism (7)

180	Name the Holy Book of Islam.	
181	What is the common feature of Judaism, Christianity and Islam?	
182	What is the Torah?	
183	Which religion was founded by Guru Nanak?	
184	Name the new Archbishop of Canterbury.	
185	Who is the patron saint of Scotland?	
186	Name the TWO brothers who established the Methodist movement.	i) ii)

Sport (7)

187	For which sport are Brands Hatch and Silverstone famous?	
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188	Which English football league is the most widely followed around the world?	
189	In which sport are terms such as “leg before wicket” and “square leg” used?	
190	Which city is hosting the next Commonwealth Games in 2026?	
191	What do the letters FA stand for in FA Cup?	
192	Which sport is played at Allianz Stadium in Twickenham?	
193	In which sport are Emma Raducanu and Jack Draper top-ranked players?	

Tourism (7)

194	Other than the Blue Badge, name ONE qualification awarded by the Institute of Tourist Guiding.	
195	Give ONE example of what a coach tachograph records.	

196	What do the letters DCMS stand for?	
197	Which Act of 2010 protects against discrimination?	
198	From which country does the highest number of visitors come to the UK?	
199	Which national tourism agency is responsible for marketing Britain worldwide?	
200	Name ONE membership association for tourist guides.	

END OF PAPER

FOR NOTES ONLY – WILL NOT BE MARKED

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