

#### **Section 4 is a monologue about Oxford and Cambridge Universities...**

Good evening fellow members of the New York memory club. Tonight, I'm going to talk about these two famous English Universities, Oxford and Cambridge. Let's see who wins tonight's big memory prize, which is a bow of real English beer.

Oxford is the oldest English speaking university in the world. There is no clear date of when it started, but records show that there was some teaching in Oxford in 1096AD and it developed rapidly from 1167 when King Henry II banned English students from attending the University of Paris. In 1188, a historian gave a public lecture to the top Oxford teachers and in 1190, the first known overseas student arrived. This started the university's tradition of international exchanges. In 1231, the masters, meaning the teachers, were recognized as "Universitas", which is Latin for something like a corporation. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century, conflict between town and gown, meaning ordinary towns people and students, the students wore gowns, accelerated the establishment of halls of residence like dormitories. This led to the Oxford colleges of which University, Balliol and Merton colleges established between 1249 and 1264 are the oldest. Less than a century later, Oxford was the most famous center of learning in the world. It soon became a center for religious and political dispute. John Wycliffe, a 14<sup>th</sup> century master of Balliol College campaigned for a bible in common English. The pro-Latin leaders of the Catholic Church in Rome were very angry over this. And even more angry when in 1530, King Henry VIII forced Oxford University to accept his divorce from Catherine of Aragon. In the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, the Oxford philosopher, John Locke, suspected of treason was forced to leave England. The 18<sup>th</sup> century was an age of scientific discovery and religious revival. For example, a geometry professor at Oxford, Edmond Halley successfully predicted the return of the comet that was named after him. I don't have enough time to tell you much more about Oxford University but I must tell you that from 1878, academic halls were established for women. Since 1974, only one of Oxford's 39 colleges has not accepted both men and women. St. Hilda's college remains the only women's college.

Now for a few numbers. The University of Oxford has over 17000 students. A quarter of the students are from outside the UK, 5% from Asia, 8% from North America, and 10% from other European countries and a few elsewhere. Oxford University currently has students from more than 130 countries. Over 5600 students are engaged in post graduate courses. Of these, around 3000 are working in the Arts and Humanities. Going back to the colleges of which there are 39, there are also 7 permanent private halls which were founded by different Christian denominations and which still retain their religious character. 30 colleges and all 7 halls have met students for both undergraduate and graduate degrees. 7 other colleges are for graduates only. 1 All Souls has fellows only and 1 Kellogg College specializes in part time graduates and continuing education. Okay. That's enough for Oxford, now I'd tell you something about Cambridge University.

The town itself has its origins in the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC when the Iron Age tribe established the settlement on Castle hill. Later, the Romans took over the site which was an important strategic point and was the meeting point for several important Roman roads. Over a 1000 years later, the

Normans from France built a castle here. All that remains of this castle nowadays is the small hill that was inside the castle walls. In the 12<sup>th</sup> century, students attended schools attached to the monasteries and cathedrals. And as universities developed in Italy and France, scholars moved from one center to another. Some went from Paris to Oxford and later in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, groups arrived in Cambridge. By the middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, there were enough students there for the town to be officially recognized as a seat of learning. In fact, in 1231, King Henry III wrote out orders on how academic life in the town was to be managed. At this time, students had to make their own arrangements for living accommodation. Because it was difficult to find a decent place to live, hostels like simple hotels were set up for them and from these the college system evolved. The first college was Peterhouse, founded by a bishop, the bishop of Ely. Just like in Oxford, as the university grew and took over more of the town, there were outbreaks of trouble between town and gown. Well, my time is nearly up, so I'd fast forward to the late 1800s when two colleges were founded for women but it was not until the late 1940s that they were awarded degrees. A third women's college was founded in the 1950s but it was not until the 1970s that other colleges began to accept female students.

**Questions 31-40**

Question 31-35

Insert the letter, A-E in Column 2 to the corresponding event or date in Column 1

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 31. 1167 .....  | A. Oxford University's tradition of international exchanges started. |
| 32. A historian gave a lecture to top Oxford teachers ..... | B. English students banned from a French university.                 |
| 33. 1190 .....  | C. Merton College founded.   |
| 34. 13th century .....                                      | D. 1188  |
| 35. Records of teaching at Oxford .....                     | E. 1096  |

Question 36

**Complete the following sentence with A NUMBER**

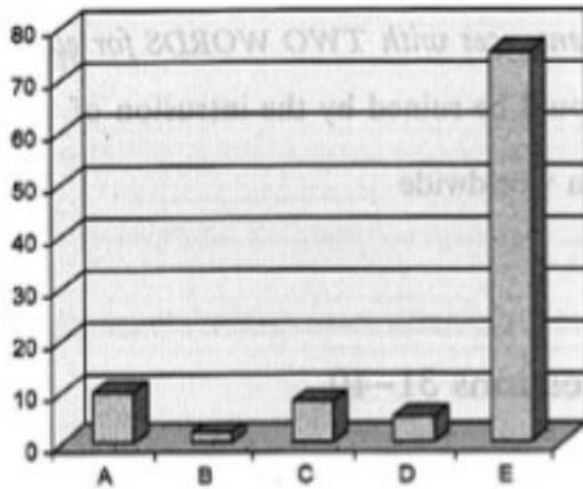
36. A total of Oxford colleges accept both men and women .....

Question 37-38

**Complete the following sentence.**

Write **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** for each answer

In the bar chart below, Column A represents Oxford University students from 37..... and Column C students from 38 .....



Question 39

Choose the correct letter, A-C

**39. King Henry III .....**

- A. said Cambridge students had to make their own accommodation arrangements
- B. ordered hostels to be built for the students
- C. recognised Cambridge as a seat of learning

Question 40

Answer the question in **ONE WORD AND A NUMBER**

**40. When did Cambridge University start to award degrees to women? .....**