

Federation Quiz

Quiz Master Sheet

The Quiz Master has the answers. Allow for discussion and information-giving at each question.
The Quiz Masters' words are *italicised*. Question Reader's words are italicised and underlined.

1. Why was January 1st, 1901 chosen by the founders of Australia as the day the Commonwealth came into being?
 - a. It's the start of the financial year.
 - b. **It was the first day of the new year of the new century. Because the Christian calendar started with the year 1, not 0, so 1st January 1901 was the start of the 20th century.**
 - c. No reason; the British parliament decided it was convenient and simple.
 - d. They were too late for 1900 and January 26th was seen as inappropriate.
2. Why is Australia called a 'Commonwealth', rather than a 'Republic' or 'Dominion'?
Because...
 - a. The U.K. government insisted on it.
 - b. Australia is a part of the Commonwealth of Nations
 - c. Australia was a Dominion seeking republican status; it was a compromise.
 - d. **The Australian Federalists chose it. It's what the English called their republic when they abolished the monarchy in 1649 (on the 30th of January).**

The word "commonwealth" means "political community for the common good". Kentucky, Virginia, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania use the word 'Commonwealth' in their state constitutions. It dates from the 17th century English Interregnum. Its adoption was initially controversial, as it was associated by some with the republicanism of Oliver Cromwell (see above), but it was retained in all subsequent drafts of the constitution. "Commonwealth" was first proposed as a term for a federation of the six Australian crown colonies at the 1891 constitutional convention in Sydney.

Before Federation there were 6 colonies. See the pre- Federation territorial map (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Territorial_evolution_of_Australia#/media/File:Territorial_evolution_of_Australia.gif)

Before Federation... (Qs 3 - 5)

3. ... did the 6 colonies have their own military forces? Yes - land-based armies
4. ... who patrolled the international ocean borders?
 - a. Each colony patrolled their own coastline
 - b. **The Royal Navy (UK)**
 - c. A coordinated navy of all 7 colonies (including NZ)
 - d. No one did

The colonies became concerned about the coordinated defence of the continent. In 1883 Queensland annexed New Guinea, the south east half of the island, to keep Germany out. Britain revoked it and assumed direct control. Meanwhile Germany colonised Papua. Britain called on the Australian colonies to federate to finance control of New Guinea. This lead to the Australian Natives Association and white Federalism. [National Museum of Australia video Defining Moments:](#)

Australian Federation

5. ... what was used as currency?

- a. UK currency (pounds, shilling & pence)
- b. a haphazard mix of barter, Commissariat store receipts and notes, international coins, IOUs
- c. rum
- d. **B & C, until 1825 when A was legislated by the British Government**

Before Federation, there were tariffs between the colonies and people had to go through customs at the borders. Colonies issued their own stamps. Disagreement about controlling trade between the colonies delayed Federation.

Are these currency milestones are true or false?

6. The Australian pound was created in 1901. **False – 1910.**

7. The Australian dollar was created in 1966. **True – February**

From 1901 the new Commonwealth Government had constitutional power over currency matters and was keen to have a nationally acceptable currency... But it was not until 1910 that legislation – The Australian Notes Act – passed through Parliament, creating the Australian Pound. Private notes were discontinued. Australia's currency remained a mixture of British copper, silver and gold coins, Australian gold coins and the notes of private banks and the Queensland Government well into the 20th century. [Wikipedia](#)

8. Who instigated and led the campaign to unite the colonies?

- a. Alfred Deakin
- b. Edmund Barton
- c. Andrew Inglis Clarke
- d. **Henry Parkes**

On the 24th of October 1889, he gave the Tenterfield Oration that started the process of Federation. It's sometimes compared to Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. He was Premier of NSW a few times, but NSW resisted Federation.

9. “A nation for a continent and a continent for a nation.” Was this the motto of the campaign to unite the colonies?

For the first time in the world, a national constitution was submitted to the people's vote. [AEC John Quick devised a plan for a series of referenda](#) saying Federation be ‘advocated by the citizens and not merely by politicians.’ He also annotated [sic] the Constitution

10. Could women vote in the referenda process of Federation? Choose the best answer.

- a. No, only white men over 21 years who owned property could vote.
- b. **Yes, but only in a few progressive colonies.**
- c. Yes, if they were British subjects.
- d. Yes, but only if they were over 21 years and owned property.

Australian citizenship was not established until 1948.

11. Who authored the first draft of the Constitution?

- a. Henry Parkes & Alfred Deakin
- b. Henry Parkes & Edmund Barton
- c. **Samuel Griffith and Andrew Inglis Clarke**, Tasmanian Attorney General co-authored 1st draft of constitution
- d. Alfred Deakin and Edmund Barton

12. Five colonies had agreed to be included in the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act 1900 when it was passed. Which one was late in agreeing and therefore isn't mentioned in the Constitution's preamble?

- a. Queensland
- b. **W.A. They held a referendum the month after and agreed – at the last minute.**
- a. The Northern Territory
- b. South Australia

13. Is God mentioned in the constitution? **Yes, in the preamble.**

14. Who was able to vote in the 2nd Federal election (in 1903)?

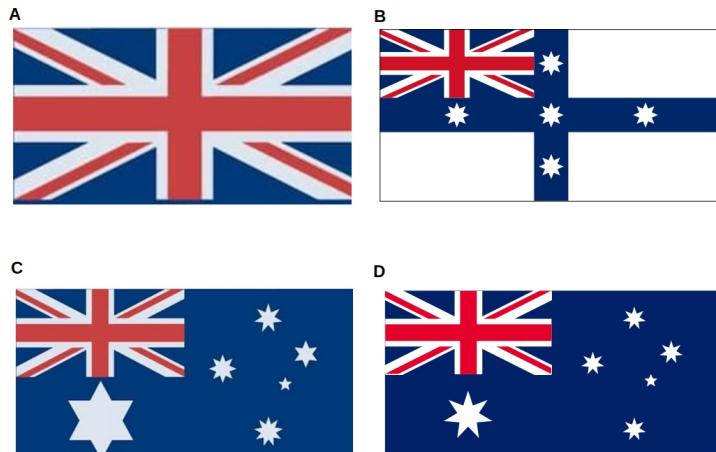
- a. British subjects over 21 years who resided in Australia for at least 6 months.
- b. **(a.) including Maoris but not Aboriginal natives of Australia, Asia, Africa or the Islands of the Pacific.**
- c. (a.) but not Aboriginal natives of Australia, Asia, Africa or the Islands of the Pacific and New Zealand.
- d. (a.) excluding unmarried women.

15. When were Aborigines able to vote in federal elections?

- a. **1962.**
- b. Before Federation.
- c. 1949 – if they had voting rights in their state.
- d. 1949 – if they had served in the armed forces.

All Aborigines were given the vote in 1962 after a referendum to change the constitution. Technically, they could vote long before Federation, but were suppressed from doing so, sometimes violently. 1949 saw some progress.

These four flags represented Australia at different times.



16. Which one was the national flag in January, 1901? **A The Union Jack**

17. Which flag won the world's first popular competition for a national flag in 1901? **C**

18. Which one was known as the Federation Flag? **B** *From 1830 – 1920 The Australian Colonial Flag became known as the Federation flag. The Eureka Stockade flag by Henry Ross, a Canadian who is said to have died in the stockade, was probably inspired by it.*

19. - 22. Spot the differences between C and D. *The points on the stars are different. In D, the Commonwealth Star has 7 sides (for 6 states and territories) as do all the other stars except the smallest one which has 5. In C, the Commonwealth Star has 6 sides (1 point) and in the Southern Cross only the small and top star are the same – the left one has 6 sides, the bottom one has 9 and the west has 8 sides (3 points). 4 points. D was adopted in 1908.*

23. Who was Australia's first Prime Minister?

- Alfred Deakin
- Edmund Barton**
- Samuel Griffith
- Henry Parkes
- Andrew Fisher

24. What are the three Federation colours that were popular on buildings and homes of the time?
b) green, red and yellow.

25. How do the emu and kangaroo in the coat of arms symbolize Advance Australia Fair? They can't walk backwards.

Total = 25 points
(Open-ended questions – ask when the timing's right.)

Is today (Federation Day) Australia's Independence Day?

The Commonwealth of Australia

Government

