

Generational IQ Test

1. John F. Kennedy was assassinated when I was in junior high. By the time I graduated from high school, Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy had also been killed.
 - a. Traditionalist
 - b. Boomer
 - c. Gen X
 - d. Gen Y
2. Crowded? I can tell you about crowded. The Catholic schools in my neighborhood sometimes had 60 in a class! It made everything very competitive. The good thing was you had to learn how to get along, how to team up with other people.
 - a. Traditionalist
 - b. Boomer
 - c. Gen X
 - d. Gen Y
3. I think there's a good reason you don't hear much "Oh, he's my hero" talk these days. I just don't think there are many heroes. There are people who are rich, famous, whatever, but not too many heroes.
 - a. Traditionalist
 - b. Boomer
 - c. Gen X
 - d. Gen Y
4. The year I turned 15, the unemployment rate was nearly 25 percent.
 - a. Traditionalist
 - b. Boomer
 - c. Gen X
 - d. Gen Y
5. I was just old enough to learn how to drive when I heard about the Chernobyl accident in the Soviet Union. I don't think I quite understood the magnitude of that at the time. I do now.
 - a. Traditionalist
 - b. Boomer
 - c. Gen X
 - d. Gen Y
6. Everybody talks about TV this and TV that; this show, that show. I don't really need it that much. There are plenty of other things to do.
 - a. Traditionalist
 - b. Boomer
 - c. Gen X
 - d. Gen Y
7. Morning routine: the newspaper and a cup of coffee. It's still hard to beat the newspaper for getting information about things, and a cup of coffee works for me any time of day.
 - a. Traditionalist
 - b. Boomer
 - c. Gen X
 - d. Gen Y
8. When I was a freshman in college, planning to major in political science, the Berlin Wall came down. I was in heaven!
 - a. Traditionalist
 - b. Boomer
 - c. Gen X
 - d. Gen Y
9. When I was a kid the Battle of the Bulge was not a book about getting rid of the spare tire around your middle.
 - a. Traditionalist
 - b. Boomer
 - c. Gen X
 - d. Gen Y
10. Some members of our generation were to be referred to as "yuppies," supposedly derived from "young, upwardly mobile professionals" or "young urban professionals." Whatever. I don't think it was generally meant as a compliment.
 - a. Traditionalist
 - b. Boomer
 - c. Gen X
 - d. Gen Y

Generational IQ Answer Key

1. John F. Kennedy was assassinated when I was in junior high. By the time I graduated from high school, Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy had also been killed.

Boomer. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas, on November 22, 1963. Both Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. were assassinated in 1968.

2. Crowded? I can tell you about crowded. The Catholic schools in my neighborhood sometimes had 60 in a class! It made everything very competitive. The good thing was you had to learn how to get along, how to team up with other people.

Boomer. The population swell of the 1950s and 1960s overwhelmed school systems and colleges

3. I think there's a good reason you don't hear much "Oh, he's my hero" talk these days. I just don't think there are many heroes. There are people who are rich, famous, whatever, but not too many heroes.

Gen X. As a generation, Gen Xers tend to be more skeptical and cynical. When surveyed, many state they have no heroes as a generation. They are the only generation with that response.

4. The year I turned 15, the unemployment rate was nearly 25 percent.

Traditionalist. Incredible double-digit unemployment marked the Great Depression of the 1930s.

5. I was just old enough to learn how to drive when I heard about the Chernobyl accident in the Soviet Union. I don't think I quite understood the magnitude of that at the time. I do now.

Gen X. In 1986 the Chernobyl nuclear accident in the Ukraine was the result of a flawed reactor design and inadequately trained personnel. Some 31 people were killed, and there have since been 11 deaths from thyroid cancer and hundreds more seriously ill reportedly due to the accident.

6. Everybody talks about TV this and TV that; this show, that show. I don't really need it that much. There are plenty of other things to do.

Gen Y, maybe Traditionalist. Gen Ys are much more eclectic and are just as happy with video games, computers, and other active pursuits. They are not as devoted to TV as Gen Xers and Boomers are. Traditionalists did not grow up using TV as a primary source of information and entertainment. They, too, often find it easier to ignore the tube and do other things.

7. Morning routine: the newspaper and a cup of coffee. It's still hard to beat the newspaper for getting information about things, and a cup of coffee works for me any time of day.

Traditionalist. For the Traditionalist generation the newspaper has always been a primary source of information. Coffee, the drink of choice in their formative years, remains a favorite, often consumed at breakfast, lunch and dinner.

8. When I was a freshman in college, planning to major in political science, the Berlin Wall came down. I was in heaven!

Gen X. On November 9, 1989, the border separating West Germany and East Germany was opened and the famous Berlin Wall figuratively and literally crumbled. The Berlin Wall was built in 1961 and not only separated the residents of the city, but also became a prominent worldwide symbol of the Cold War.

9. When I was a kid the Battle of the Bulge was not a book about getting rid of the spare tire around your middle.

Traditionalist. During World War II, on December 16, 1944, the Germans started their Ardennes offensive, which became known in the U.S. forces' journals as the Battle of the Bulge. The battle unfolded during the coldest, snowiest weather in memory in the Ardennes Forest on the German/Belgian border. It involved more than a million men: 500,000 Germans, 600,000 Americans (more than fought at Gettysburg), and 55,000 British.

10. Some members of our generation were to be referred to as "yuppies," supposedly derived from "young, upwardly mobile professionals" or "young urban professionals." Whatever. I don't think it was generally meant as a compliment.

Boomer. The exact origin of the term is unknown and, no, it generally wasn't meant as a compliment.

Source: Motivating the "What's in it For Me?" Workforce, Cam Marston, 2007