80s and 90s music trivia questions and answers

50 questions in 5 rounds. The answer key is on the last page.

Round 1: Artists and bands

1. Which singer released the 1984 album Like a Virgin?

A. Madonna
B. Cyndi Lauper
C. Whitney Houston
D. Janet Jackson

2. Which band did Phil Collins sing and drum for while also having a solo career in the 1980s?

A. Yes
B. Genesis
C. Supertramp
D. Dire Straits

3. Which Seattle band released Nevermind in 1991?

A. Pearl Jam
B. Nirvana
C. Soundgarden
D. Alice in Chains

4. Which group's members were nicknamed Scary, Sporty, Baby, Ginger and Posh?

A. Spice Girls
B. All Saints
C. TLC
D. En Vogue

5. Which Irish band has Bono as its lead singer?

A. The Cranberries
B. Thin Lizzy
C. The Pogues
D. U2

6. Which artist is known as the King of Pop?

A. Prince
B. George Michael
C. Michael Jackson
D. Lionel Richie

7. Which duo had a 1986 number one with West End Girls?

A. Pet Shop Boys
B. Eurythmics
C. Wham!
D. Erasure

8. Which Minneapolis musician starred in the 1984 film Purple Rain?

A. Lenny Kravitz

B. Rick James
C. Prince
D. Stevie Wonder

9. Which Britpop band released (What's the Story) Morning Glory? in 1995?

A. Oasis
B. Blur
C. Pulp
D. Suede

10. Which Canadian singer released Jagged Little Pill in 1995?

A. Celine Dion
B. Sarah McLachlan
C. Shania Twain
D. Alanis Morissette

Round 2: Hit songs

11. Which singer had a hit with Girls Just Want to Have Fun?

A. Madonna
B. Cyndi Lauper
C. Pat Benatar
D. Belinda Carlisle

12. Which band recorded Don't Stop Believin' in 1981?

A. Foreigner
B. Toto
C. Journey
D. Boston

13. Which band had a 1986 hit with Livin' on a Prayer?

A. Bon Jovi
B. Def Leppard
C. Poison
D. Mötley Crüe

14. Rob Thomas sang on Santana's 1999 hit Smooth. Which band was he in?

A. Counting Crows
B. Matchbox Twenty
C. Third Eye Blind
D. Train

15. Which singer released ...Baby One More Time in 1998?

A. Britney Spears
B. Christina Aguilera
C. Jessica Simpson
D. Mandy Moore

16. Which duo had a 1984 hit with Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go?

A. Duran Duran
B. Wham!
C. Spandau Ballet

D. Culture Club

17. Which band recorded Sweet Child o' Mine?

A. Guns N' Roses
B. Aerosmith
C. Van Halen
D. Mötley Crüe

18. Which band recorded Under the Bridge?

A. Pearl Jam
B. Faith No More
C. Red Hot Chili Peppers
D. Rage Against the Machine

19. Which country is the band a-ha, who sang Take On Me, from?

A. Sweden
B. Denmark
C. Finland
D. Norway

20. Which trio had a 1995 US number one with Waterfalls?

A. En Vogue
B. TLC
C. Destiny's Child
D. SWV

Round 3: Albums

21. Which 1982 Michael Jackson album contains Billie Jean and Beat It?

A. Bad
B. Off the Wall
C. Thriller
D. Dangerous

22. Who released the 1984 album Born in the U.S.A.?

A. Billy Joel
B. Bob Seger
C. John Mellencamp
D. Bruce Springsteen

23. Which 1985 Dire Straits album contains Money for Nothing?

A. Making Movies
B. Brothers in Arms
C. Love Over Gold
D. On Every Street

24. Which band released the 1997 album OK Computer?

A. Radiohead
B. Blur
C. Oasis
D. Travis

25. Which rapper and producer released the 1992 album The Chronic?

A. Snoop Dogg
B. Ice Cube
C. Eazy-E
D. Dr. Dre

26. Who released the 1998 album The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill?

A. Erykah Badu
B. Mary J. Blige
C. Aaliyah
D. Lauryn Hill

27. Who released the 1986 album Graceland?

A. Paul Simon
B. Peter Gabriel
C. Sting
D. Phil Collins

28. Which singer released the 1987 album Faith?

A. Prince
B. Rick Astley
C. George Michael
D. Lionel Richie

29. Which singer released the 1997 album Come On Over?

A. Faith Hill
B. LeAnn Rimes
C. Shania Twain
D. Celine Dion

30. Which band released the 1991 debut album Ten?

A. Soundgarden
B. Stone Temple Pilots
C. Alice in Chains
D. Pearl Jam

Round 4: One-hit wonders

31. Which duo had a 1996 US number one with Macarena?

A. Gipsy Kings
B. Los del Río
C. Santana
D. Los Lobos

32. Who had a 1999 hit with Mambo No. 5 (A Little Bit of...)?

A. Ricky Martin
B. Marc Anthony
C. Enrique Iglesias
D. Lou Bega

33. Which British band sang I get knocked down, but I get up again?

A. Madness

B. Chumbawamba
C. Blur
D. Space

34. Which band had a 1982 hit with Come On Eileen?

A. Madness
B. Haircut 100
C. Dexys Midnight Runners
D. Spandau Ballet

35. Which German band had a 1983 hit with 99 Luftballons?

A. Kraftwerk
B. Scorpions
C. Nena
D. Alphaville

36. Which Austrian singer topped the US charts in 1986 with Rock Me Amadeus?

A. Nena
B. Peter Schilling
C. Falco
D. Klaus Nomi

37. Which singer and choreographer had a 1982 hit with Mickey?

A. Pat Benatar
B. Cyndi Lauper
C. Belinda Carlisle
D. Toni Basil

38. Which Canadian had a 1993 hit with Informer?

A. Vanilla Ice
B. Snow
C. MC Hammer
D. Young MC

39. Which 1990 Vanilla Ice hit samples the bassline of Under Pressure?

A. U Can't Touch This
B. Pump Up the Jam
C. Ice Ice Baby
D. Rump Shaker

40. Which Swedish group had a 1994 hit with Cotton Eye Joe?

A. Roxette
B. Ace of Base
C. Europe
D. Rednex

Round 5: Soundtracks and MTV

41. In which year did MTV launch in the US?

A. 1981
B. 1979
C. 1983

D. 1985

42. Which song was the first video shown on MTV?

A. Video Killed the Radio Star
B. Rio
C. Heart of Glass
D. Don't Stop Believin'

43. Which singer performed the title song of the 1984 film Footloose?

A. Lionel Richie
B. Michael Sembello
C. Huey Lewis
D. Kenny Loggins

44. Which band had the Top Gun hit Take My Breath Away?

A. Heart
B. Berlin
C. Foreigner
D. Cutting Crew

45. Who sang the title song of the 1984 film Ghostbusters?

A. Ray Parker Jr.
B. Huey Lewis
C. Lionel Richie
D. Stevie Wonder

46. Which singer had the 1997 hit My Heart Will Go On from Titanic?

A. Whitney Houston
B. Celine Dion
C. Mariah Carey
D. Sarah McLachlan

47. Which 1987 film features (I've Had) The Time of My Life?

A. Footloose
B. Dirty Dancing
C. Flashdance
D. Fame

48. Who directed the 1983 Thriller music video?

A. John Landis
B. Martin Scorsese
C. David Fincher
D. Spike Jonze

49. Which 1992 comedy sent Bohemian Rhapsody back up the charts?

A. Beetlejuice
B. Ferris Bueller's Day Off
C. Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey
D. Wayne's World

50. Which Whitney Houston hit from The Bodyguard was written by Dolly Parton?

A. I Wanna Dance with Somebody

B. Greatest Love of All
C. I Will Always Love You
D. How Will I Know

Answer key

Round 1: Artists and bands

1. A. Madonna (It was her second studio album.)
2. B. Genesis (His solo debut, Face Value, came out in 1981.)
3. B. Nirvana (Its first single was Smells Like Teen Spirit.)
4. A. Spice Girls (Their debut single, Wannabe, came out in 1996.)
5. D. U2 (The band formed in Dublin in 1976.)
6. C. Michael Jackson (His 1982 album Thriller is among the best-selling albums ever.)
7. A. Pet Shop Boys (It topped the charts in both the UK and the US in 1986.)
8. C. Prince (The film's soundtrack album shares its name.)
9. A. Oasis (The album includes Wonderwall.)
10. D. Alanis Morissette (The album includes You Oughta Know.)

Round 2: Hit songs

11. B. Cyndi Lauper (It was on her 1983 debut album, She's So Unusual.)
12. C. Journey (It comes from their album Escape.)
13. A. Bon Jovi (It is on the album Slippery When Wet.)
14. B. Matchbox Twenty (Smooth won Record of the Year at the 2000 Grammys.)
15. A. Britney Spears (It was her debut single.)
16. B. Wham! (It reached number one in both the UK and the US.)
17. A. Guns N' Roses (It was their only number one on the US Hot 100.)
18. C. Red Hot Chili Peppers (It comes from the album Blood Sugar Sex Magik.)
19. D. Norway (The song is known for its pencil-sketch music video.)
20. B. TLC (The trio's name comes from its members' initials.)

Round 3: Albums

21. C. Thriller (It is one of the best-selling albums of all time.)
22. D. Bruce Springsteen (Seven of its singles reached the US top ten.)
23. B. Brothers in Arms (It was one of the first albums to sell a million copies on CD.)
24. A. Radiohead (The album includes Paranoid Android.)
25. D. Dr. Dre (It introduced Snoop Dogg to a wide audience.)
26. D. Lauryn Hill (It won five Grammy Awards in 1999.)
27. A. Paul Simon (It was recorded partly with South African musicians.)
28. C. George Michael (It was his first solo album after Wham!.)
29. C. Shania Twain (It is one of the best-selling albums ever by a woman.)
30. D. Pearl Jam (It includes Alive and Jeremy.)

Round 4: One-hit wonders

31. B. Los del Río (It spent 14 weeks at number one in the US.)
32. D. Lou Bega (It is based on a 1949 song by Pérez Prado.)
33. B. Chumbawamba (The song is called Tubthumping and came out in 1997.)
34. C. Dexys Midnight Runners (It reached number one in the UK in 1982 and in the US in 1983.)
35. C. Nena (An English version is called 99 Red Balloons.)
36. C. Falco (The song is about Mozart.)
37. D. Toni Basil (Its video features cheerleader outfits.)

38. B. Snow (It spent seven weeks at number one in the US.)
39. C. Ice Ice Baby (Under Pressure is by Queen and David Bowie.)
40. D. Rednex (The song mixes banjo and fiddle with dance beats.)

Round 5: Soundtracks and MTV

41. A. 1981 (It began broadcasting at 12:01 a.m. on August 1.)
42. A. Video Killed the Radio Star (It was by The Buggles.)
43. D. Kenny Loggins (It reached number one on the US Hot 100.)
44. B. Berlin (It won the Oscar for Best Original Song.)
45. A. Ray Parker Jr. (It topped the US Hot 100 in 1984.)
46. B. Celine Dion (It won the Oscar for Best Original Song.)
47. B. Dirty Dancing (The song won an Oscar and a Grammy.)
48. A. John Landis (Martin Scorsese directed the video for Bad.)
49. D. Wayne's World (It features a famous headbanging scene in a car.)
50. C. I Will Always Love You (It spent 14 weeks at number one on the US Hot 100.)