

Federation, New Years Day & Calendar Quiz

Question Sheet to be read out.

For school/children: Why observe Federation Day? [National Museum of Australia video](#).

The objection is sometimes made that New Year's Day is "already a holiday". However, people celebrate on New Year's **Eve**, not the first. Also, it's not well-known that Australia officially came into being as a nation on 1st January, 1901.

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.

National day is synonymous with independence day. But Australia's independence was an evolutionary process rather than a single event. It was conceived through negotiation and the ballot box, rather than by blood and war. This legacy of peace and stability has been the hallmark of Australian history. [Aaron Paul, ABC](#).

2. Does the Gregorian Calendar's 12 months align with the number of moon cycles in a year?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No.** It's a solar calendar. There are closer to 13 months in a year. The Fixed Calendar of Moses Cotsworth has 13 months of 28 days each and can be used every year because one day is set outside the weekday system. See conversion table.

Before Federation there were 6 colonies. Name them. (6 - South Australia included what is now the Northern Territory which was created in 1911 along with the ACT.) Before Federation... (Qs 3 - 8)

3. Did the 6 colonies have their own military forces before Federation? **Yes** They were land forces (army).
4. Before Federation, did people have to go through customs at the colonial borders? - **Yes**
5. Before Federation, 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. b & c
 - e. No one did

The coordinated defence of the continent concerned Federationists

6. Before Federation, were there tariffs between the colonies? - **Yes**

7. Did the colonies issue their own stamps before Federation? **Yes**

8. Before Federation, 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**

9. Before Federation, which of the six colonies did not have its own legislative assembly?
None of them

10. 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.*

11. "A nation for a continent and a continent for a nation." Was this the motto of the campaign to unite the colonies? **Yes**

12. Which of these men was the architect of the referenda process of Federation?
 - a. Alfred Deakin *2nd Prime Minister*
 - b. Edmund Barton *1st Prime Minister*
 - c. Samuel Griffith *Premier of Queensland*
 - d. **John Quick** *He 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.*

13. Five colonies had agreed to be included in the [Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act 1900](#) when it was passed. Which one didn't and is therefore not mentioned in the Constitution's preamble?
 - a. Queensland
 - b. **W.A.** *They held a referendum the month after and agreed – at the last minute.*
 - c. The Northern Territory
 - d. South Australia

14. 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**
 - d. Alfred Deakin and Edmund Barton

Griffith co-authored 1st draft of constitution with [Andrew Inglis Clarke](#), Tasmanian Attorney General

Kentucky, Virginia, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania use the word 'Commonwealth' in their state constitutions. Canada's official title is Dominion of Canada.

15. 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
- d. The Australian Federalists chose it.**

The word "commonwealth" meaning "political community for the common good" has no real legal significance. It dates from the 15th century English Interregnum. "Commonwealth" was first proposed as a term for a federation of the six Australian crown colonies at the 1891 constitutional convention in Sydney. 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.

16. Name the three geographically largest states at the time of Federation.

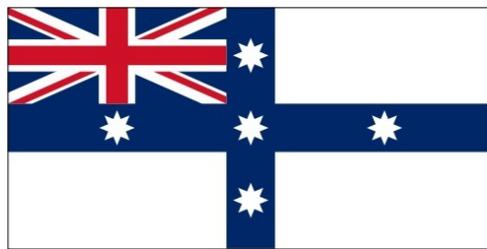
- a. W.A., Queensland and N.S.W.
- b. W.A., Queensland and South Australia.**
- c. W.A. Queensland and the Northern Territory
SA included current day Northern Territory until 1911 when the ACT was also created.

These four flags represented Australia at different times.

A



B



C



D



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

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

19. Spot the differences between C and D.

D was adopted in 1908. 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 and in the cross only the small and north star are the same – the east has 6 sides, the south has 9 and the west has 8 sides.

20. Which one was known as the Federation Flag? **B**

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.

21. Is Almighty God mentioned in the constitution's preamble? **Yes**

22. Did Federation see the creation of a national currency? - **No, not immediately:**

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.

The economic crisis in the early 1890s produced calls for a national or central bank, uniform banking laws and a national currency. The politics of Federation, however, were the main focus of those days and these banking and currency matters were left unresolved.

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 period following Federation.

23. Who was Australia's first Prime Minister? **Edmund Barton**

24. The Federation Drought started in 1895. When did it break? **c) 1903**

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

26. Has Australia ever had a colony of its own? **Yes Papua New Guinea**

In 1883 Queensland annexed New Guinea (south eastern half of the island) fearing the German presence, but the UK revoked this and assumed direct control, calling on the Australian colonies to federate to finance control of it. In 1906 British New Guinea was transferred to Australia as the Territory of Papua. In 1920 the League of Nations mandated New Guinea (the northern part) and Nauru as territories to Australia. Nauru was conquered by the Japanese and the both Nauru, Papua and New Guinea became U.N. Trusts for a while. They became Australian territories until Papua New Guinea became an independent state in 1975. In 1933 the U.K. transferred a large part of its claim in Antarctica to Australia.

Answer sheet

1. Why 1st of January, 1901?
 - a) It's the start of the financial year.
 - b) It was the first day of the new year of the new century.
 - c) The British parliament decided it was convenient and simple.
 - d) Too late for 1900 and January 26th was seen as inappropriate.

2. 12 moon cycles? Y/N

Before Federation... (Qs 3 - 9)

3. Colonies had their own military? Y/N

4. Customs at the colonial borders? Y/N

5. Who patrolled ocean borders?
 - a) Each colony patrolled its own coastline
 - b) The Royal Navy (UK)
 - c) A coordinated navy of all 7 colonies (including NZ)
 - d) b & c
 - e) No one did

6. Did colonies have tariffs? Y/N

7. Colonies issue their own stamps? Y/N

8. What was used as currency?
 - a) UK currency (pounds, shilling & pence)
 - b) a haphazard combination 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

9. Which colony had no legislative body?
 - a) Western Australia
 - b) Tasmania
 - c) South Australia
 - d) Queensland
 - e) None of them

10. Who instigated the Federalist campaign?
 - a) Alfred Deakin
 - b) Edmund Barton
 - c) Andrew Inglis Clarke

d) Henry Parkes

11. Motto of the Federalist campaign? Y/N

12. Who was the architect of Federation?
 - a) Alfred Deakin
 - b) Edmund Barton
 - c) Samuel Griffith
 - d) John Quick

13. Which colony wasn't in the 1900 Act?

- a) Queensland
- b) W.A.
- c) The Northern Territory
- d) South Australia

14. Who wrote the Constitution's 1st draft?

- a) Henry Parkes & Alfred Deakin
- b) Henry Parkes & Edmund Barton
- c) Samuel Griffith and Andrew Inglis Clarke
- d) Alfred Deakin and Edmund Barton

15. Why a 'Commonwealth'? 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
- d) The Australian Federalists chose it.

16. 3 largest states at the time of Federation?

- a) W.A., Queensland and N.S.W.
- b) W.A., Queensland and South Australia.
- c) W.A. Queensland and the Northern Territory

These four flags represented Australia at different times. (See over. Qs. 17 - 20)

17. Which flag flown in January, 1901?

18. Which flag won the 1901 competition?

19. Spot the differences between C and D.

20. Which was known as the Federation Flag?

21. Is God in the constitution? Y/N

22. Did Federation create one currency? Y/N

b) 1902

23. First Prime Minister?

- a) Alfred Deakin
- b) Edmund Barton
- c) Samuel Griffith
- d) Henry Parkes
- e) Andrew Fisher

c) 1903

d) 1904

25. Popular Federation colours on buildings?

- a) red, white and blue
- b) green, red and yellow
- c) green, white and yellow
- d) red, yellow and blue

24. When did the Federation Drought break?

- a) 1901

26. Has Australia had a colony? Y/N

Questions 17 – 20

A



B



C



D



THE FIXED CALENDAR

Month	1 st WEEK							2 nd WEEK							3 rd WEEK							4 th WEEK							No 5 th or 6 th WEEK	GREGORIAN MONTHS end dates
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
Jan	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	Jan 1 - Apr 7 Apr 8 - Sol 14 Sol 15 - Sept 21 Sept 22 - Dec 28	Jan 28
Feb	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		Feb 25
Mar	1	2	3	4*	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		Mar 25
Apr	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	Apr 22	
May	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	May 20	
June	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29*	June 17
Sol	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	New month	July 15
July	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	**Leap Day'	Aug 12
Aug	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	every 4th year	Sept 9
Sept	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	except years	Oct 7
Oct	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	divisible by	Nov 4
Nov	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	100 but not by	Dec 2
Dec	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	400	29 'Year Day'