

Examination on Victorian Etiquette

Circle the answers that your etiquette classes have shown you to be correct.

1. What should a man do about his hat while indoors?
 - A. Leave the hat on
 - B. Remove the hat and hang it up
 - C. Remove the hat and keep it on his lap
2. If a woman is standing in a parlor, what should a man do?
 - A. Remain standing until she sits
 - B. Take his seat first
3. If someone wants to shake a lady's hand, what should she do?
 - A. Leave her gloves on
 - B. Remove her gloves
 - C. Not shake hands, because that's only for men to do.
4. True or false: It is unacceptable for a man to smoke in the presence of a lady.
 - A. True
 - B. False
5. True or False: Losing one's temper is acceptable because it gives others a glimpse of one's character.
 - A. True
 - B. False
6. True or False: It is unacceptable to discuss religion in the company of friends.
 - A. True
 - B. False
7. What is acceptable to do in the company of others?
 - A. Discuss financial matters
 - B. Look at someone's sketches
 - C. Read a novel
 - D. Quote Bible passages
8. True or False: Touching the decorations in a host's parlor is flattering, and shows that the guest admires the host's taste.
 - A. True
 - B. False
9. If you run into a friend on the street who is walking with someone you don't know, what should you do?
 - A. Apologize to the stranger
 - B. Ask for the stranger's last name
 - C. Nod, but keep walking
10. If a lady needs to walk over a puddle, what action would be considered disgraceful?
 - A. Raising her skirt with both hands
 - B. Raising her skirt with one hand
 - C. Asking a man for help



Mr. Hollingsworth takes it upon himself to correct the deplorable behavior of London's young whippersnappers.

11. What topic from the list below should **not** be a main focus of conversation?
 - A. Politics
 - B. Books
 - C. Traveling
 - D. Weather

12. What should you do in a conversation if you realize that you have more education than the other participants?
 - A. Invite children to do the talking
 - B. Enlighten them with your knowledge
 - C. Act as if you are their equals (don't show off your knowledge)

13. What should you do if you didn't hear what someone said?
 - A. Don't make it obvious that you didn't hear the comment.
 - B. Say, "Can you explain that in simpler terms?"
 - C. Apologize and say that you will be seeing the ear doctor soon, but until then, you need some things to be repeated.

14. What is the best custom for giving advice?
 - A. Give advice if you realize that you are wiser than the other person.
 - B. Only give advice if it is requested.
 - C. Never give advice.

15. What is the appropriate way to eat a dinner roll?
 - A. Don't eat dinner rolls; only the lower class makes them.
 - B. Nibble small pieces from it.
 - C. Cut it into small pieces with a knife and fork.
 - D. Break it into smaller morsels with your hand.

Scoring

13-15: Your exquisite manners show that you descend from a well-bred family. Perhaps you have some royal blood?

11-12: You are generally decent, but you may have missed some etiquette classes. Shame!

9-10: You are related to good people, but you are the country cousin who receives holiday party invitations out of pity.

0-8: You have the uncouth disposition of a chimney sweeper.

Are there any manners or expected behaviors from our time that you find ridiculous or strange? Explain.
