The railway system of Great Britain is one of the oldest in the world. The first steam locomotive was used in Britain’s nation, and is has become a paramount feature of contemporary society.

The arrival of railways has subsequently contributed to the dramatic growth in Industrialisation during the nineteenth century, and has ultimately had profound impacts on social and economical changes. The railway ‘filled a void’ in what other means of transport could not. Railways were able to provide an efficient, fast, cost effective and environmentally friendly service that catered for the needs of many people.

The history of the railways in Great Britain is remarkable. To see the incredible changes over hundreds of years is remarkable and can only be described as the ‘transformation of transport’. In 1804, the first successful steam locomotive runs on wheels, and was used to transport iron across a track of nine miles. Built by Richard Trevithick’s, the locomotive – ‘the Penydarren’, was the World’s first steam engine to run on rails.

Since the early 19th century, railways have continued to develop and are now a strong infrastructure within hundreds of societies. During the First World War, the Government took over and run the railways until 1921, when private railway companies regained control. During 1921, an Act was passed in Parliament which submerged four railway companies: known simply as the ‘British Rail’.

During 1940 in the Second World War, the companies effectively worked together to help Britain’s war efforts, and in the late 1940’s, these railways were nationalised and formed the ‘British Railways’, which was implemented under the Transport Act. In the 50’s, society saw a modernised change in regards to railway services. Diesel and electrical trains were introduced and started to replace the steam locomotive trains.

In 1960, the railways were re-organised in hope to make money. Secondary routes and branch lines closed. As rationalisation took hold at this time, one-third of the pre-1948 networks had closed. A giant leap was undertaken in the 70’s, and saw the introduction of the ‘high-speed diesel-electric’ service trains, and by 1990 both main coastal express routes, the East and West
Coast Main Lines had been electrified between central Scotland and London.

In 1994, the Channel Tunnel opened and began the service from England to France. This exponential growth in regards to the railway services has considerably changed over the years, and is believed to continue to adapt.

In 2011, the number of journeys in Great Britain between 2010 and 2011 reaches a record breaking 1.16 billion, and by 2013, the railways are believed to be the second safest in Europe (after Luxembourg), and ultimately delivers a modernised service or both local and national railway routes.
Question 1
Where was the first steam locomotive train used?

A – China
B – Germany
C – France
D – Britain
E – Spain

Answer

Question 2
The railway was able to do what, that other transportation methods could not?

A – Create profits
B – Fill a void
C – Reduce carbon emissions
D – Help industrialise society
E – Create transport for the middle classes

Answer

Question 3
In what year was the first running steam locomotive train made?

A – 1800
B – 1901
C – 1821
D – 1804
E – 1904

Answer
Question 4
What was the name of the ‘mechanical genius’ who built the first steam locomotive train?
Answer

Question 5
What was the first steam locomotive train called?
Answer

Question 6
In 1921, the railway service an Act in Parliament was implemented and saw the introduction of...
A – ‘British Railways’
B – ‘Great British Railways’
C – ‘The four rails’
D – ‘British Rail’
E – Cannot be determined
Answer

Question 7
What was the name of the Act in 1940 that nationalised the four railways?
A – Transportation Act
B – Local Transport Act
C – Transport Act
D – National Transport Act
E – Cannot be determined
Answer
Question 8
What fraction of the pre-1948 services closed in 1960?
A – One half
B – One quarter
C – One fifth
D – One third
E – Three thirds
Answer

Question 9
What type of trains were introduced in 1970?
A – High speed
B – Diesel
C – Electrical
D – Steam
E – All of the above
Answer

Question 10
What opened in 1994?
A – Medway Tunnel
B – Bradway Tunnel
C – The Channel Tunnel
D – Redhill Tunnel
E – Dartford Tunnel
Answer
**Question 11**
Between 2010 and 2011, the number of journeys reached a record breaking...

A – 1.61 billion  
B – 1.16 billion  
C – 1.66 billion  
D – 1.16 million  
E – 6.16 billion

**Answer**

**Question 12**
What is the safest railway in Europe?

**Answer**

**Question 13**
What service does the Channel Tunnel offer? I.e. England to...?

**Answer**

**Question 14**
In what year did private train companies regain control of the railway services?

A – 1984  
B – 1904  
C – 1911  
D – 1927  
E – 1921

**Answer**
ANSWERS

Q1.  D = Britain
Q2.  B = fill a void
Q3.  D = 1804
Q4.  Richard Trevithick
Q5.  ‘The Penydarren’
Q6.  D = British Rail
Q7.  C = Transport Act
Q8.  D = one third
Q9.  A = high speed
Q10. C = the Channel Tunnel
Q11. B = 1.16 billion
Q12. Luxembourg
Q13. France
Q14. E = 1921