

ITALIAN CULTURAL IQ QUIZ

Source: *Heritage Italian-American Style* by Leon J. Radomile

1) (Science) *The most famous mathematical equation* on earth, $E = MC^2$, was actually formulated and published by an Italian from Vicenza two years before Albert Einstein's major paper in 1905. This Italian did not discover the theory of relativity, but there is no doubt that he was the first to use the equation while speculating about ether in the life of the universe. *Identify this forgotten Italian.

a) Olinto De Pretto b) Umberto Bartocci c) Michele Besso d) Francesco Redi

La formula matematica più famosa del mondo, $E=MC^2$, fu postulata e pubblicata da un vicentino due anni prima quella di Einstein nel 1905. Questo italiano non scoprì la teoria della relatività ma è fuori di dubbio che fosse stato il primo ad usare questa equazione nelle sue speculazioni sull'etere nella vita dell'universo. *Identificate questo scienziato dimenticato.

a) Olinto De Pretto b) Umberto Bartocci c) Michele Besso d) Francesco Redi

2) (U.S. History) *His parents emigrated in the 1730's* from the Italian city of Siena to Maryland, where he was born on October 30, 1740. In July 1776, he was one of four Maryland representatives who signed the Declaration of Independence. In 1789, President Washington appointed him a federal judge for the state of Maryland, a position he held until his death in 1799. *Identify this Italian-American signer of the Declaration of Independence.

a) Philip Mazzei b) Willian Paca c) Henry Tonti d) Francis Vigo

I genitori di questo illustre italiano emigrarono nel 1730 dalla città di Siena nello stato del Maryland, dove egli nacque il 30 ottobre 1740. Nel luglio del 1776 egli fu uno dei quattro rappresentanti del Maryland che firmarono la dichiarazione d'indipendenza. Nel 1789 il presidente Washington lo nominò giudice federale per lo stato del Maryland, posizione che mantenne fino alla morte avvenuta nel 1799. *Identificate questo italiano firmatario della dichiarazione d'indipendenza.

a) Philip Mazzei b) Willian Paca c) Henry Tonti d) Francis Vigo

3) (Cuisine) *With Julia Child*, this man founded the prestigious *American Institute of Wine and Food*. His California winery, established in 1966, is still one of California's largest wine producers, exporting wines all over the world. *Who was this respected entrepreneur whose family is from the Marche region of Italy?

a) Paolo Rossi b) Ernest Gallo c) Robert Mondavi d) August Sebastiani

Insieme a Julia Child, quest'uomo ha fondato il prestigioso American Institute of Wine and Food. La sua azienda vinicola della California, fondata nel 1966, è ancora una delle maggiori dello stato, ed esporta vini in tutto il mondo. *Chi è questo celebre imprenditore la cui famiglia è originaria delle Marche?

a) Paolo Rossi b) Ernest Gallo c) Robert Mondavi d) August Sebastiani

4) (Entertainment/singer) *He was nominated* for an Oscar for his portrayal of a shell-shocked G.I. in the 1964 movie, *Captain Newman, M.D.* *Who was this 1960 Grammy winner?

a) Fabian b) Frankie Valli c) Bobby Darin d) Frankie Avalon

Fu candidato a un Oscar nel 1964 per la sua interpretazione dell'ispettore reduce di guerra nel film *Captain Newman, M.D.* *Chi è questo attore vincitore di un Grammy nel 1960?

a) Fabian b) Frankie Valli c) Bobby Darin d) Frankie Avalon

5) (Business) *They are the first family of pyrotechnics.* Over the past decade, they have produced all the major firework programs in the United States including six consecutive US Presidential Inaugurations to the spectacular grand openings of the Bellagio and Atlantis hotels in Las Vegas. *Who is this family that has redefined the art of pyrotechnics?

a) Rozzi Family b) Polo Family c) Grucci Family d) Zambelli Family

Questa è la prima famiglia di pirotecnici. Nello scorso decennio, sono stati loro a produrre i maggiori programmi di fuochi d'artificio negli Stati Uniti, compresi le inaugurazioni presidenziali e le inaugurazioni degli hotel Bellagio e Atlantis a Las Vegas. *Qual'è questa famiglia che ha ridefinito la pirotecnica?

a) Rozzi Family b) Polo Family c) Grucci Family d) Zambelli Family

6) (Romans) *Vesta was the virgin goddess* and the center of Roman mythology. She was custodian of the sacred fire, which was never allowed to be extinguished, lest a national calamity should follow. *The sacred fire was brought by Aeneas from what city, claimed to be the origin of Rome and its people?

a) Athens b) Troy c) Sparta d) Olympia

Vesta era la dea vergine di Roma e figura centrale della mitologia romanica. Era lei a custodire il fuoco sacro che non si doveva mai lasciar spegnere per non scatenare calamità nazionali. *Il sacro fuoco fu portato a Roma da Enea da quale città?

a) Athens b) Troy c) Sparta d) Olympia

7) (Sports) *In 1920*, New York Yankees center fielder, Francesco Stephano Pezzolo, nicknamed his friend and teammate George Herman Ruth, 'The Bambino,' which thousands of Ruth fans immediately adopted. Pezzolo, a Genoese Italian American from San Francisco, was ironically forced to change his Italian name and was known to baseball fans by what other name?

a) Lefty O'Mally b) Frank "Ping" Bodie
c) Kam MacLeod d) Bob "The Moose" Meusel

Nel 1920 il centrocampista degli Yankees di New York, Francesco Pezzolo, diede al suo compagno di squadra George Herman Ruth il soprannome 'il bambino', che i fan di Ruth adottarono subito con simpatia. Pezzolo, italo Americano genovese di San Francisco, fu invece ironicamente costretto a cambiare il proprio nome. *Con quale nome lo conoscevano i suoi fan?

a) Lefty O'Mally b) Frank "Ping" Bodie
c) Kam MacLeod d) Bob "The Moose" Meusel

8) (Entertainment/actor) *Who was the wrestler* and actor vividly remembered as the thug, Luca Brazzi, in the movie, *The Godfather*?

a) Pasquale Tarantino b) Vito Antonelli c) Lenny Montana d) Joe Ciampi

Chi era il lottatore e l'attore che impersonava il malvivente Luca Brazzi nel film // padrino?

a) Pasquale Tarantino b) Vito Antonelli c) Lenny Montana d) Joe Ciampi

9) (History) *Who said the following:* "Since love and fear can hardly exist together, if we must choose between them, it is far safer to be feared than loved."

a) Julius Ceasar b) Niccolò Machiavelli c) Benito Mussolini d) Vince Lombardi

Chi pronunciò la seguente frase: "Siccome amore e paura non possono

coesistere, se proprio dobbiamo scegliere, è meglio essere temuti che amati”.

a) Julius Ceasar b) Niccolò Machiavelli c) Benito Mussolini d) Vince Lombardi

10) (Literature) Italian professor Martino Iuvara claims that his exhaustive research indicates that this world renowned playwright's real name was Michelangelo Crollanza and furthermore, that he was born in the Sicilian port city of Messina. *Identify the playwright.

a) Christopher Marlowe b) Ben Jonson c) William Shakespeare d) John Webster

Il professore italiano Martino Iuvara sostiene che il vero nome di questo scrittore teatrale famoso nel mondo sia Michelangelo Crollanza e che, inoltre, egli sia nato a Messina. *A quale scrittore si riferisce Iuvara?

a) Christopher Marlowe b) Ben Jonson c) William Shakespeare d) John Webster

Answers

1) a) Olinto De Pretto (1857 - 1921) was an Italian industrialist and physicist from Schio, Vicenza, Italy.

2) b) William Paca (October 31, 1740 – October 13, 1799) Elected to the Maryland legislature in 1771 and appointed to the Continental Congress 1774. He was reelected, serving until 1779, when he became chief justice of the state of Maryland. In 1782 he was elected governor of Maryland and in 1789, became federal district judge for the state of Maryland until his death in 1799.

3) c) Robert Gerald Mondavi (June 18, 1913 – May 16, 2008) graduated Phi Sigma Kappa from Stanford University in 1937 with a degree in economics and business administration.

4) c) Bobby Darin (May 14, 1936 – December 20, 1973) born Walden Robert Cassotto, very popular during the 50s and 60s as a night club, big band and rock and roll performer.

5) c) Grucci family – pyrotechnic tradition began in 1850 in Bari, Puglia, Italy. Was the first American company to win the prestigious Monte Carlo fireworks competition in 1979. Family immigrated to United States and began Fireworks by Grucci on Long Island in 1929.

6) b) Troy – Aeneas was a Trojan hero and son of the goddess Venus. With the fall of Troy to the Greeks, Aeneas escaped to Italy with his followers and became the progenitors of the Romans.

7) b) Frank “Ping” Bodie (Oct. 8, 1887 – Dec. 17, 1961) Francesco Stephano Pezzolo was born in San Francisco. One of the most feared sluggers in the 1910s, Bodie was nicknamed "Ping" for the sound made when his fifty-two-ounce bat crashed into the "dead" ball of his era.

8) c) Lenny Montana (March 13, 1926 – May 12, 1992) born Leonardo Passofaro in Brooklyn, N.Y. American actor/professional wrestler was best known for his role of feared assassin Luca Brasi in *The Godfather*.

9) b) Niccolò Machiavelli (3 May 1469 – 21 June 1527) was a philosopher, writer, and politician and is considered one of the main founders of modern political science. A prime example of the Renaissance Man, he was also a poet, musician, playwright, diplomat and political philosopher.

10) c) William Shakespeare – True or not, you must admit that Shakespeare loved to write about Italians, e.g. **HYPERLINK** "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romeo_and_Juliet" lo

"*Romeo and Juliet*" *Romeo and Juliet*, [HYPERLINK](#)
["http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Midsummer_Night%27s_Dream"](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Midsummer_Night%27s_Dream) \o "*A Midsummer Night's Dream*" *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, [HYPERLINK](#)
["http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Taming_of_the_Shrew"](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Taming_of_the_Shrew) \o "*The Taming of the Shrew*"
The Taming of the Shrew, [HYPERLINK](#)
["http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julius_Caesar_%28play%29"](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julius_Caesar_%28play%29) \o "*Julius Caesar (play)*" *Julius Caesar*, [HYPERLINK](#) "["http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Othello"](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Othello) \o "*Othello*" *Othello*,
[HYPERLINK](#) "["http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Tempest_%28play%29"](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Tempest_%28play%29) \o "*The Tempest (play)*" *The Tempest*, [HYPERLINK](#)
["http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twelfth_Night,_or_What_You_Will"](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twelfth_Night,_or_What_You_Will) \o "*Twelfth Night, or What You Will*" *Twelfth Night, and* [HYPERLINK](#)
["http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Merchant_of_Venice"](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Merchant_of_Venice) \o "*The Merchant of Venice*" *The Merchant of Venice*.

10 correct (100%)	PhD in Italic Culture Awareness / Congratulations!
9 correct (90%)	MA in Italic Culture Awareness / Congratulations!
7 - 8 correct (70% to 80%)	BA in Italic Culture Awareness / Congratulations!
0 – 6 correct (0% to 60%)	No degree issued. Summer School recommend! Your Study Textbook – <i>Heritage Italian American Style</i>

What Columbus Started

by Bill Dal Cerro

It has been more than 500 years since **Cristoforo Colombo (Christopher Columbus)** traveled to the Americas. Considering that he was, in a way, the 'first' Italian immigrant to these shores, what kind of an influence have his Italian brothers and sisters had on the US ever since? Let's consider a typical 'American' day. Brrring! Your alarm clock radio goes off. (**Guglielmo Marconi** perfected wireless transmission.) The first thing you do is turn on the lights. (The three-way light bulb was invented by **Alessandro Dandini**.) As you wash yourself in the shower (plumbing, a concept perfected by the **Romans**), you sing a few songs to yourself. '*Chattanooga Choo-Choo*' (written by **Salvatore Guaragna**, aka Harry Warren) or '*Moon River*' (**Henry Mancini**). Or maybe you prefer a Bruce Springsteen song (his maternal family name is **Zirilli**), or something by Madonna (born **Madonna Louise Ciccone**). At the breakfast table, you usually opt for an espresso or cappuccino (**Italian coffees**), but today you're in a hurry and make some good, old-fashioned American instant coffee. (**Vince Marotta** invented the 'Mr. Coffee' machines, which were popularized by their famous spokesman, baseball great, **Joe DiMaggio**.) Your throat feels a little scratchy, so on your way out the door you pop a small lozenge in your mouth.

(The cough drop was created by **Vincent R. Ciccone**.) As you sprint to your car, you nearly trip over the Radio Flyer red wagon left in your driveway by a neighbor's kid. (**Antonio Pasin** invented that wagon in 1917.) You hop into your Chrysler (businessman **Lee Iacocca** saved the company in the '80s), and turn your radio on again (**Marconi**). There is talk of diplomatic peace efforts in the Middle East. (**Anthony Zinni** is the current, four-star general overseeing US troops in the Persian Gulf.) You make a quick call to work on your cell phone. (**Antonio Meucci** invented an early-model telephone years before Alexander Graham Bell.) You tell them you'll be a little late, since you remembered to pick up an office report from a print shop in a mall. (The American shopping mall was created by two developers: **William Cafaro and Edward J. DeBartolo Sr.**) While at the mall, you make a quick visit to Barnes and Noble (built by CEO **Leonard Riggio** into the nation's largest upscale bookstore). You're a fan of Ed McBain's mystery novels (McBain's real name is **Salvatore Lombino**), so you decide to buy one to read while flying out for a business meeting next week in Detroit (city founded by explorer **Alfonso Tonti**). You run to the print shop to pay for your report; however, all you have is change, so you have to use a few US 'peace dollar' coins. (**Theresa De Francisci** served as the model for Miss Liberty's face.) You remind yourself that you need to get to the bank. (Banking was codified in **Renaissance Italy**; also, **A.P. Giannini** created the Bank of America and branch banking.) While at work, you pound away on your computer. (Entrepreneur **Frank Sordello** created the tachometer, the device that speeds up information.) Lunch finally arrives. Some co-workers choose to run outside to a Subway store (created by **Frank De Luca**). Others prefer going to McDonald's for a Big Mac (created by franchise owner **Jim Delligatti**). You, however, are going the diet route: broccoli (developed by the **Broccoli** family of Italy), some peanuts (Planters company founded by **Amedeo Obici**), and maybe a low-fat ice cream cone (**Italo Marcioni**). You eat light so you can use your remaining lunchtime to work out at the company's health facility. (**The Romans** started the concept of health clubs; also, fitness expert Charles Atlas was born **Angelo Siciliano**.) Time to go home! You drive down well-paved roads (**the Romans** set the standard). You pass by a federal office building with an American flag displayed outside, recalling those famous words from the Declaration of Independence, 'all men are created equal' (words suggested to Thomas Jefferson by his best friend and neighbor, Italian political writer **Filippo Mazzei**). There is nothing but junk mail when you get home, though some of the letters do feature a stamp honoring World War II's famous 'Rosie the Riveter' (**Rosie Bonavita**). There is a telephone message from your little niece, asking you to buy her a videotape of 'Snow White' for her birthday (featuring **Adriana Caselotti's** voice as the heroine). It has been a long, hard day, so you just want to relax in your Jacuzzi (courtesy of the **Jacuzzi** family). You might complement the experience by drinking Italian wine, from Italy or California, or by listening to some jazz (**Nick LaRocca** and his New Orleans band played the first 'jazz' record). Before going to bed, you pay a few outstanding bills, making sure your checkbook balances. (**Luca Pacioli** invented double-entry bookkeeping.) Your television drones on quietly, featuring footage of Congress debating a new

initiative. (America's Founding Fathers borrowed the concept of a Senate from the **Romans**.) A commercial promotes travel to the Midwestern states (which were purchased for the US by fur trader **Francesco Vigo**). You turn off the television and climb into bed, feeling safe and secure in living in one of the greatest nations on earth, America (named after explorer **Amerigo Vespucci**).
ore di **Amerigo Vespucci**).