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# Melbourne Cup Fun Quiz

Your name: .....

**INSTRUCTIONS:** For each of the 10 questions, circle the letter that indicates the most correct answer.

1. For safety reasons the maximum number of horses that may run in the Melbourne Cup is –

- a. 16
- b. 20
- c. 24

2. The length of the Melbourne Cup race is –

- a. 3200 kilometres
- b. 3200 metres
- c. 3200 centimetres

3. The Melbourne Cup is promoted as –

- a. “The race that stops a nation”
- b. “The health food of a nation”
- c. “The race against time”



Image from clker.com, supplied by OCAL

4. The winner keeps the Melbourne Cup trophy. The amount of gold in the trophy is in the range –

- a. 0.5 to 1 kilogram
- b. 1 to 2 kilograms
- c. 2 to 5 kilograms

5. In 1965, British model Jean Shrimpton created a sensation at the Melbourne Cup Carnival and caused much discussion around Australia when she displayed –

- a. no interest in horse racing and its place in Australian history.
- b. a placard supporting animal rights and freedom for horses.
- c. her knees.

***The questions continue on the next page...***

6. Today's Melbourne Cup race distance is shorter than the distance of 1861, because –
- today's thoroughbred horses have longer legs.
  - the process of continental drift has moved the finishing line slightly further away from the start.
  - with the introduction of the metric system in the 1970s the converted distance was rounded down.

7. New Zealand horse Phar Lap won the Melbourne Cup in 1930 and is now on display in the Melbourne Museum. Phar Lap is perhaps the most famous horse to win the Melbourne Cup. He would be unable to win the next Cup because he is –

- born overseas
- too old
- stuffed

8. If you backed a horse at 10 to 1 to win the Melbourne Cup, you would regard the horse as a loser if it –

- finished first
- finished ahead of the other horses
- finished at half past five

9. Horses in the Melbourne Cup are 'handicapped' by being required to carry different amounts of lead as weights, in order to slow down the better horses. This makes the race fairer for those horses with a less successful racing history. The term 'handicap' originates –

- from a 17th century lottery game called 'hand-in-cap' in which players' money was placed into a cap.
- from the large caps that were a handy way for top jockeys to hide their identity in the early days of racing.
- from an old practice of setting a limit or 'cap' on the number of hands in a horse's height, in order to make the race fairer by eliminating the biggest horses.

10. The Melbourne Cup is run at the Flemington Racecourse, the largest racecourse in Australia. The name 'Flemington' originates –

- from the Flemington Estate, Scotland, the hometown of the wife of the owner of the land through which the original approach road to the racecourse passed.
- from the practice of encouraging horses to sneeze out as much phlegm as possible before a very long race, after it was discovered that horses ran slightly faster when such "flemming" was undertaken immediately before a long race.
- from "flemington", the shortened form of "for a lemon lamington", the name of the first prize in an early regularly-held horse race between friends at the site.