

# New Timers

There's no going back, the 1990s are upon us. You've survived 10 years of the Tories, the greening of the reds and blues, the parting of the iron curtain and the decade of designer diktat: what shape are you in at the end of the 80s? Complete our multiple-choice self-test quiz and find out if you are ready for the New Times of the 1990s

**1. What is your work status?**

- a. Full-time worker or student
- b. Part-time
- c. Early-retirement scheme
- d. Paternity leave
- e. Unemployed

**2. In which of the following institutions are you, or would you be most keen to become, active?**

- a. Friends of the Earth
- b. The Communist Party
- c. A Grey Power action group
- d. The Football Supporters Association
- e. Marriage

**3. What do you value most highly?**

- a. Co-operation
- b. Personal success
- c. Punctuality
- d. Inner peace
- e. Your credit card

**4. Which of the following do you encounter most frequently?**

- a. An accountant
- b. An acupuncturist
- c. An alkaliser
- d. Anne Diamond

**J. Which of the following statements best describes your attitude to television?**

- a. It's a good source of information but I wish they would ditch the adverts

**b. It's an unwelcome intrusion and overpriced at £65 a year**

- c. It's a heavenly chaos and I love talking about it
- d. Terrestrial tv is ok but I want to watch more Malaysian talk shows and Soviet quiz programmes
- e. I wish I had a bank of tvs and a satellite dish. Then I could just enjoy the riot of colours and contrasts

**6. What is your most frequent mode of transport?**

- a. Train
- b. Bus
- c. Bicycle
- d. Your own car
- e. Meditation

**7. Your local vicar calls at your home collecting for a New Year jumble sale for the church restoration fund. What is your most likely response?**

- a. You'd like to help but all your old clothes have already gone to the local Greens for recycling
- b. You explain that you only give things away to good causes
- c. Whatever Gorbachev might say, religion is the opium of the masses and anyway you don't believe in giving things to jumble sales
- d. You offer him some matt black accessories and pair of ripped 501s

**8. Tick each of the following that you have read in the last 12 months:**

- a. Harpers & Queen
- b. Moscow News
- c. Country Living
- d. Le Monde
- e. Tarot cards
- f. An interview with Kenneth Branagh

**9. Your employer offers automatic participation in a private health scheme to all employees. What do you do with the policy documents?**

- a. Keep them, telling yourself that you will be helping the under-resourced NHS by taking part in the scheme
- b. Keep the documents and welcome them as another nail in the coffin of the welfare state
- c. Vow never to take advantage of the scheme and tear up the documents
- d. Vow never to take advantage of the scheme and put the documents at the back of a drawer

**10. Tick each of the following that you own:**

- a. A portable telephone
- b. An ansaphone
- c. A home fax
- d. A black, bakelite, 1920s retro telephone
- e. A phone card



Illustration: Simon Rees

11. Which of the following films would you choose to see at the cinema tonight?
- When Sally Met Harry ...
  - Cry Freedom
  - The latest in the Tarkovsky season at your local arts centre
  - You never go to the cinema
  - You never go to the cinema preferring to watch videos at home on your high-definition tv screen
12. With which of these partners are you most familiar?
- Hope and Michael
  - Gilbert & George
  - George & Mildred
  - Marks & Spencer
  - The Dog And Duck
13. Which of the following is most likely to be the city of the future?
- Buenos Aires
  - Tokyo
  - Milton Keynes
  - Berlin
  - Atlantis
14. Which of the following are you likely to have with you when you leave the house?
- Cigarettes
  - A condom
  - A digital watch
  - Quartz crystals
  - Your passport
15. If friends called round unexpectedly on a Sunday afternoon, what would they be most likely to find you doing?
- Watching television
  - T'ai chi
  - Spending quality time with your loved ones
  - Working
  - Hiding. You discourage unexpected visitors

16. What is Department X?
- The secret wing of the Department of Social Security
  - The place where you would like to buy most of your clothes
  - Your favourite television programme
  - A place you might visit as part of an Open University course on post-Fordism
17. Where are your most intimate moments like; to be?
- In your bed
  - In a stranger's bed
  - At a family therapy session
  - On the telephone
18. What comes closest to your ideal holiday?
- An all-in package deal to Portugal
  - A week spent finding yourself in a remote Hebridean cottage
  - A weekend break in Milan
  - A week by the sea in Blackpool
19. Which of the following is like; to be most frequently on your mind in 1990?
- The impact of the greenhouse effect on your allotment
  - The impact of the recession on your mortgage repayments
  - The fate of Gorbachev's perestroika
  - The outcome of the World Cup
20. Who came closest to being your political role model of the 80s?
- Edwina Currie
  - Richard Branson
  - Jane Fonda
  - Derek Hatton
  - Sheila Grant
  - Katharine Hamnett
  - Prince
  - Prince Charles

**Now check your scores:**

- a. 1, b. 2, c. 4, d. 5, e. 2.
- a. 3, b. 0, c. 5, d. 4, e. 4.
- a. 5, b. 2, c. 1, d. 4, e. 0.
- a. 1, b. 4, c. 2, d. 1.
- a. 2, b. 1, c. 3, d. 5, e. 4.
- a. 3, b. 2, c. 5, d. 1, e. 4.
- a. 2, b. 1, c. 0, d. 3.
- a. -1, b. 1, c. 1, d. 1, e. 1, f. -1.
- a. 1, b. -1, c. 1, d. 2.
- a. 2, b. 1, c. 2, d. -1, e. 2.
- a. 4, b. 2, c. 1, d. 0, e. 5.
- a. 5, b. 4, c. 1, d. 2, e. 1.
- a. 5, b. 4, c. 1, d. 3, e. 3.
- a. 0, b. 3, c. 0, d. 2, e. 3.
- a. 1, b. 3, c. 4, d. 0, e. 2.
- a. 0, b. -1, c. 0, d. 3.
- a. 2, b. 1, c. 3, d. 4.
- a. 0, b. 3, c. 1, d. 4.
- a. 2, b. 1, c. 3, d. 0.
- a. 2, b. 1, c. 2, d. 0, e. 3, f. 2, g. 2, h. 3.

## Analysis

### 0-20 Sleeping Beauty

OK, so you enjoyed the 70s and things ain't what they used to be. The 80s seem to have passed you by. Open your Sleeping Beauty eyes to what's going on beyond the fortress of your prejudices and dogmas and you might even find something you like about the 1990s. If you insist on sticking to your well-worn patterns there might just be a late-90s backlash concealed in the New Times kaleidoscope of history which would put you back in the mainstream. But whatever happens, you must do something about that quaint leftist-puritanism and stop going on about the 'primary contradiction' and the death throes of capitalism.

### 21-40 Me-First

If you're hoping to be a 'now' person of the new decade you have a lot of catching up to do. You have been brushed by the fresh breeze of the late-80s but this hardly prepares you for the gale-force of the 90s. Those shoulder pads aren't impressing anyone anymore. Open your mind to flexibility and ecophilosophy. Get the psychological residue of the 'me' decade under control and you will find a place in the New Times - even if you do insist on leaving your bicycle at home and arriving in a cloud of lead-laden exhaust fumes and an Armani suit.

### 41-60 Really Green

You are carefully and methodically picking your way through the New Times. You came to life in the 80s, welcoming their challenges, engaging with the new dilemmas and joining in the mass ditching of dogma. You probably have a Gorbachev t-shirt tucked away in your cupboard at home. You display a high degree of flexibility and adaptability. A Green realist, you welcome the prospect of a new decade of international co-operation and environmental concern. Sort out your ambiguous relationship with your filofax, carry on cycling and recycling and the 90s are yours to keep.

### 61-80 Aquarius Rising

You are a serious New Times person displaying many of the positive signs of the times. But you tend also to get carried away by millennial extremism - the sectarianism of the 21st century. Be a little more discerning, New Times is about posing difficult questions not being told all the answers. Curb your wish to place all your trust in Russell Grant's predictions and bear in mind that yoga and flotation tanks are for relaxation - not a career. Only then will you be able to direct your creative energy into the warming of human relations, globally and locally, in the 1990s. •

