Conspiracy Theories & Critical Thinking

Media Literacy · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. What is the scientific consensus regarding the 1969 Apollo 11 Moon landing?

A) It was filmed in a Hollywood studio
B) It was a hoax designed to win the Cold War
C) It was a genuine human mission that successfully landed on the Moon
D) It was staged by the United Nations

2. What is the primary purpose of a 'fact-check' in journalism?

A) To confirm the accuracy of claims using verifiable evidence
B) To ensure an article is long enough
C) To promote a specific political opinion
D) To hide information from the public

3. Which of these is a common characteristic of a 'conspiracy theory'?

A) It is always based on peer-reviewed scientific data
B) It relies on claims that lack verifiable, empirical evidence
C) It is widely accepted by global government agencies
D) It is easily proven by simple experiments

4. What actually caused the 'Area 51' location in Nevada to be established by the U.S. government?

A) To house captured extraterrestrial beings
B) To test classified aircraft and military technology
C) To store secret gold reserves
D) To film science fiction movies

5. What is 'confirmation bias' in the context of information consumption?

A) Seeking only information that supports what you already believe
B) Believing everything you read on the internet
C) Changing your mind based on new evidence
D) Asking experts for their advice

6. Which organization provides official, peer-reviewed data regarding Earth's climate and global warming?

A) NASA
B) Social media influencers
C) Random blog authors
D) Anonymous internet forums

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7. What is the best way to determine if a website is a reliable source of information?

A) Check if it uses all capital letters in the title
B) Look for evidence of citations and expert credentials
C) See if it is shared by many people on social media
D) Check if the design looks modern

8. What does the term 'debunking' mean?

A) Creating a new conspiracy theory
B) Proving a claim to be false using evidence
C) Sharing a secret with a friend
D) Ignoring all news sources

9. Which of these historical events is often the subject of false 'inside job' conspiracy theories, despite extensive investigations?

A) The invention of the lightbulb
B) The 1969 Moon Landing
C) The sinking of the Titanic
D) The 1999 introduction of the Euro currency

10. What is the 'Scientific Method' primarily designed to do?

A) Win arguments on social media
B) Explain complex ideas without evidence
C) Test claims through observation and experimentation
D) Keep scientific discoveries secret

11. Why is it important to verify the date of an article before sharing it?

A) To ensure the information is still current and relevant
B) To make sure the author is a teenager
C) To calculate how many people have read it
D) To see if it is translated into other languages

12. What is the 'Occam's Razor' principle often used in logic?

A) The most complex explanation is usually the correct one
B) The simplest explanation that fits the facts is usually correct
C) Only trust information found in printed books
D) Believe everything you hear on the news

13. Which of the following is a key component of 'media literacy'?

A) Believing everything you see in videos
B) Accepting all information without questioning
C) Analyzing sources and evaluating the quality of evidence
D) Avoiding all news platforms

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14. Why do many conspiracy theories thrive on the internet?

A) Because algorithms prioritize sensational and emotional content

B) Because they are all verified by government scientists

C) Because they are required to be taught in schools

D) Because they are based on complex mathematics

15. What does the term 'misinformation' refer to?

A) Fact-based educational content

B) Information that is false or inaccurate, regardless of intent

C) Direct interviews with government officials

D) Scientific data published in journals