**Masonic Trivia Quiz no. 2**

Part 1 – General information on Prince Hall Masonry

Taken from Masonic program presented by brothers of African Lodge # 459 March 31, 2001 and Coils Masonic Encyclopedia.

1. **Who was Prince Hall?**
2. First Grand Master of Prince Hall Masonry
3. First Master of African Lodge # 1
4. Past Grand Master of England
5. Son of King Henry V and a black servant

*Answer* ;

In 1775 Prince Hall was initiated a Mason in an Irish registry Lodge. In 1776 African Lodge #1 was organized with Prince Hall as its Master.It was not a regular **L**odge but a Lodge under permit. On May 6, 1787, African Lodge #459 was formally organized.

**When did African Grand Lodge actually begin?**

1. 1776
2. 1787
3. 1808
4. 1775

*Answer;*

African Grand Lodge was organized December 27, 1808, according to African Lodge #459 minutes. Nero Prince was elected first Grand Master.

1. **Where did the first Black men in America become Masons?**
2. The Green Dragon Tavern in Boston
3. Castle William Island in Boston harbor.
4. William Pitt Tavern
5. Henry Knox Lodge in Boston

*Answer;*

b. “Prince Hall accomplished many “firsts” among Blacks in America, but by far, the greatest of these was when he led fourteen men of color to Castle William Island in Boston harbor, there to receive the secrets of freemasonry as many a worthy brother has done before. They were the first Blacks made Masons in America. This one act would grow to three hundred thousand with forty five Black Grand Lodges.”

1. **What were some of the many “firsts” accomplished by Prince Hall?**

a. Petitioned John Hancock and Joseph Warren asking permission for blacks to join the Army

1. Petitioned the legislature to free all slaves in Massachusetts.
2. Petitioned the Grand Lodge of England for a warrant or charter.
3. Petitioned legislature to support a “back to Africa” movement.

*Answer;*

All the above

1. **When may we admit a first time visitor, who professes to be a member of Prince Masonry, into our Lodge?**
2. When producing a current dues card
3. The Lodge that he belongs to is posted in the Grand Lodge of Maine’s “Book of Lodges”
4. Upon examination by the Senior Warden or his appointee
5. Upon examination of the committee appointed by the Master

*Answer;*

The answer is a, b, and d. As The Grand Lodge of Maine recognizes all Prince Hall Grand Lodges who recognize us, we treat their members as from any other Grand Lodge. One of the prerogatives of the Master is to appoint all committees. None other may appoint the committee. When avouching for a first time visitor, we may approach or avouch the membership of the visitor to the Senior Warden.

**Part 2. On the Constitution, Rules and Regulations**

1. **How many members of a Lodge must be present to ballot on an application for initiation or membership?**
2. Three or more
3. Nine
4. Seven
5. five

*Answer;*

C. Section 132 of the Standing Regulations states “No Lodge, in the absence of the Master and Wardens, shall initiate, craft or raise a candidate, unless a Past Master is present to preside; and no ballot shall be taken for initiation or membership, unless there are at least seven members of the Lodge present.”

**7. A Lodge may suspend a member from the rights of Masonry for non-payment of Dues?**

1. Yes
2. No
3. By vote of the Lodge
4. By declaration of the Master

*Answer;*

B - No. Rules and Regulations section 51 pg. 1-27 states in part “No Lodge shall suspend or expel a member from the rights of Masonry for non-payment of dues. The penalty for such delinquency shall be forfeiture or suspension of membership. ….”

**8. If a brother is either a Master, Warden or proxy of two Lodges at the same time, does he have a vote in Grand Lodge for both Lodges?**

a. Yes if the two lodges vote to let him do so.

b. Yes

c. No

d. with the permission of the Grand Master

*Answer;*

C - No Section 80 on page 1-35 of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations states, “Every Lodge represented by proxy in Grand Lodge shall issue the commission annually. All commissions of proxies of the Grand Lodge shall expire with the closing of the Grand Lodge at its next annual communication after such appointment, and no brother shall represent more than one Lodge at the same time, either as a representative or proxy.”

**9. If a brother looses his Master Mason diploma due to a fire, may a new one be re-issued to him?**

1. Yes
2. No
3. Yes by vote of the Lodge
4. Yes with vote of the Lodge and petitioning the Grand Secretary

*Answer;*

B - No. Page 1-38 section 90.3 of the Constitution states, “Each Lodge shall be entitled to receive as many diplomas from the Grand Lodge as it makes Master Masons. No duplicate of a diploma shall be issued. In the event that the original diploma is lost by fire or other unavoidable circumstance, a diploma certificate may be issued by the Grand Secretary.”

**10. When a Lodge is open and conducts business in the E.A. Degree, may an Entered Apprentice debate on issues before the Lodge?**

1. No
2. Yes
3. Yes, but only with the permission of the Worshipful Master
4. Yes with an affirmative vote of the Lodge

*Answer;*

Page 1-39 section 94 states, “All general business, such as the election and installation of officers, the discussion of questions relating to the general interest of the Fraternity and the local affairs of the Lodge, may be transacted in a Lodge of Entered Apprentices, Fellow Crafts or Master Masons, except that which may relate specifically to a particular degree, at the discretion of the Worshipful Master. Provided however, that only Master Masons who are members of the Lodge may vote or hold office and those below the degree of Master Mason may debate only with the permission of the Worshipful Master”.

**11. Who may be permitted to have a cipher open during a Lodge meeting?**

1. Any lodge member or visitor
2. Only Lodge officers
3. Only the prompter
4. Only the prompter or Master

*Answer;*

Only the prompter may have a cipher opened during a meeting. To do so is considered a violation of Lodge room etiquette. Even to follow the degree work is especially wrong, as to do so it may appear to the officers doing the work are being scrutinized and interfere with the work. Just bad manners.

**12. When the Senior Deacon has been ordered by the Worshipful Master to prepare the ballot box for a vote on an application for the degrees of Masonry and subsequently the J.W., S.W. and Master inspect the ballot box prior to the vote being taken, What are they all verifying?**

1. At least seven black cubes present
2. At least seven black cubes and enough white balls for each Lodge member present
3. At least six black cubes and enough white balls for each Lodge member present
4. That there are no black cubes present

*Answer;*

C Page 2-8 Resolution number 32 states “That it shall be the duty of the Masters and Wardens of lodge to see that the ballot box, when presented for use, shall contain as many white balls as there are members of the Lodge present, and in addition at least six black cubes.”

The Senior Deacon makes sure the ballot box is prepared for their inspection.

**13. If a ballot when taken has one black cube, must a new ballot be taken?**

a. Yes

b. no

*Answer;*

a - Yes. C.R.s & Regs. sect 124-1, page 1-44 states “There shall be but one ballot taken for all the degrees, which must be free and secret; and in balloting for the degrees for membership, if more than one negative vote appear, the balloting shall cease and the candidate be declared rejected. However, if on the first ballot one negative only appears, a second balloting shall immediately take place, and if a negative vote shall appear, the candidate shall be declared rejected. In balloting upon the application for degrees or membership, the ballot shall be taken upon each applicant separately.”

**14. May Masonic Lodges themselves conduct games of chance such as raffles, beano or bingo?**

a. Yes

b. No

*Answer;*

B - No. Standing Regulation number 61, page 2-13 of the C. R.& R states in part “Resolved, Masonic Lodges themselves may not conduct enterprises such as raffles, beano, bingo, and any game of chance. However, Masons who are members of any club or any other organization whose membership is conditioned in whole or in part, upon membership in or affiliation with, the Masonic craft may conduct the above mentioned enterprises.

These enterprises may be conducted in a Masonic building but may not be conducted in the Lodge room or rooms. ……” Note: See complete reg.

**15. If an application has been properly delivered to and signed by a committee of inquiry and the application mislaid or otherwise not present, may it be voted upon anyway?**

1. **No**
2. **Yes**
3. **Up to the discretion of the Master**
4. **Only by vote of the Lodge**

*Answer;*

B - Yes. Page 4-3 Digest of Decisions, Proceedings of 1871, page 223 states “After an application has been referred and delivered to the Committee of Inquiry, it may be reported and balloted upon although mislaid and not present at the time.”

**In Conclusion**

**These questions and answers are meant to familiarize you with only some of the most common things that we run into in our Masonic journey.**

**In most cases they are not complete answers, but only a part thereof. They are intended to just cover a little of each part to show that a study of the complete Constitution Rules and Regulations in all its parts is necessary.**

**The particular parts that are of special interest to you, I recommend to you further study especially if you are or will be in a position of responsibility within your Lodge.**

**There is a vast array of customs, protocol and Lodge Room behavior that are *passed* down rather than *written* down. Learning these are where our older Masonic Brethren are most valuable as our mentors. Get to know them! Use them to obtain valuable knowledge for yourself that you may sometime pass that knowledge on to your successors.**

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