QUESTION SHEET

NBA and Basketball Trivia Questions

4 rounds · 30 questions · about 45 min

ROUND 1 — Origins, Rules & Equipment

1. Who invented the game of basketball in 1891?
   - A Amos Alonzo Stagg
   - B Luther Gulick
   - C James Naismith
   - D Walter A. Brown
2. What objects served as the very first basketball 'hoops' in 1891?
   - A Wooden barrels
   - B Peach baskets
   - C Metal buckets
   - D Fishing nets on poles
3. How many original rules of basketball did James Naismith write down?
   - A 13
   - B 17
   - C 11
   - D 9
4. How many players from each team are on the court at the same time in a standard basketball game?
   - A 4
   - B 7
   - C 6
   - D 5
5. What is the standard height of a basketball rim above the floor?
   - A 9 feet (2.74 m)
   - B 11 feet (3.35 m)
   - C 10 feet (3.05 m)
   - D 12 feet (3.66 m)
6. How long is one quarter in an NBA regular-season game?
   - A 8 minutes
   - B 12 minutes
   - C 10 minutes
   - D 15 minutes

7. How long is a single overtime period in the NBA?

- A 10 minutes
- B 3 minutes
- C 7 minutes
- D 5 minutes

8. How many personal fouls does it take for a player to foul out of an NBA game?

- A 6
- B 4
- C 5
- D 7

9. In which year did the NBA introduce the 24-second shot clock?

- A 1961
- B 1970
- C 1954
- D 1946

10. As of 2026, how many seconds does an NBA team have to advance the ball past midcourt after gaining possession in its backcourt?

- A 8 seconds
- B 6 seconds
- C 10 seconds
- D 5 seconds

11. In which season did the NBA first use the three-point line?

- A 1986–87
- B 1979–80
- C 1972–73
- D 1967–68

12. As of 2026, how far is the NBA three-point line from the basket at the top of the arc?

- A 22 feet 0 inches
- B 22 feet 6 inches
- C 24 feet 3 inches
- D 23 feet 9 inches

13. How many points is a successful free throw worth?

- A 2 points
- B 1 point
- C It depends on the foul
- D 3 points

ROUND 2 — Franchises, the Finals & Trophies

14. Which NBA franchise plays its home games at Madison Square Garden?

- A Brooklyn Nets
- B Philadelphia 76ers
- C Boston Celtics
- D New York Knicks

15. Which rival league merged with the NBA in 1976, sending four of its teams into the NBA?

- A The ABA (American Basketball Association)
- B The ABL (American Basketball League)
- C The NBL (National Basketball League)
- D The CBA (Continental Basketball Association)

16. What is the name of the trophy awarded to the NBA champion?

- A The Naismith Cup
- B The Commissioner's Cup
- C The Larry O'Brien Championship Trophy
- D The Maurice Podoloff Trophy

17. Since 2009, the NBA Finals MVP award has officially been named after which legendary player?

- A Wilt Chamberlain
- B Bill Russell
- C Jerry West
- D Oscar Robertson

18. The first game in the history of the Basketball Association of America (the league that became the NBA) was played on November 1, 1946, in which city?

- A Toronto
- B New York
- C Boston
- D Chicago

19. The silhouette in the NBA's logo is widely reported to be based on which player?

- A Elgin Baylor
- B Oscar Robertson
- C Jerry West
- D Bob Cousy

ROUND 3 — Legends, Coaches & Terminology

20. Which jersey number is most associated with Michael Jordan during his years with the Chicago Bulls?

- A 12
- B 33
- C 6
- D 23

21. In which year did Wilt Chamberlain score 100 points in a single NBA game?

- A 1962
- B 1958
- C 1967
- D 1971

22. Which player's signature shot was the unblockable 'skyhook'?

- A Patrick Ewing
- B Kareem Abdul-Jabbar
- C Hakeem Olajuwon
- D Bill Walton

23. Which coach led the Boston Celtics to their run of championships in the late 1950s and 1960s and famously lit a victory cigar on the bench?

- A John Kundla
- B Alex Hannum
- C Red Auerbach
- D Red Holzman

24. Who coached the Los Angeles Lakers' 'Showtime' teams to multiple titles in the 1980s?

- A Jack Ramsay
- B Chuck Daly
- C Phil Jackson
- D Pat Riley

25. In which city is the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame located?

- A Chicago, Illinois
- B Springfield, Massachusetts
- C Lawrence, Kansas
- D Indianapolis, Indiana

26. In basketball terminology, what is a 'triple-double'?

- A Double figures in three statistical categories in one game
- B Scoring 30 or more points in three straight games
- C Three made three-pointers in a row
- D Three consecutive double-overtime games

ROUND 4 — The Olympics & the 1992 Dream Team

27. In which city did the 1992 USA 'Dream Team' win Olympic gold?

- A Atlanta
- B Seoul
- C Los Angeles
- D Barcelona

28. Who was the head coach of the 1992 USA Olympic 'Dream Team'?

- A Bobby Knight
- B Pat Riley
- C Chuck Daly
- D Lenny Wilkens

29. Which member of the 1992 Dream Team was still a college player at the time of selection?

- A Shaquille O'Neal
- B Christian Laettner
- C Grant Hill
- D Alonzo Mourning

30. In which Olympic Games did men's basketball first appear as an official medal sport?

- A 1924 Paris
- B 1904 St. Louis
- C 1948 London
- D 1936 Berlin