

Persona Development Quiz:

Or “Why can't you answer questions that the village idiot would know the answers to?” This quiz is based on an article by Cariadoc of the Bow that was reprinted in “A Miscellany”. Its basic premise was that most SCAians can answer questions about their family tree (seven generations back!) but can't tell you the time of day. The purpose of the quiz was to raise consciousness about your persona. The more you know about the day-to-day details of your daily life, the easier staying in persona becomes. Now, take the test (no guessing and only historically-documentable answers allowed) and then stop at the library on the way home and get to know yourself. (Submitted by Lady Shoshonah Jehanne Ferch Emrys (who did just as badly with these questions as you undoubtedly will!))

1. How do you tell time? When does the day start- (dawn, midnight, etc...)
2. Who is your overlord? His title, name of estate/castle and your duties to him?
 - Who is your ultimate overlord? Is he/she popular with the class you are a member of?
3. Where do you live? Name the country or province you live in.
 - How far is it to the capital city? (in miles or unit of measure your persona would have used)
 - Have you been there?
4. What did you have for breakfast today? Are there any religious restrictions on your diet?
5. What are the spices you use (consistent with your pocketbook)? Are they imported?
6. What is the basic unit of money?
 - How much does a loaf of bread cost?
 - If you own one, how much is a riding horse cost?
 - How much did your home cost?
7. How do you support your lifestyle?
 - Do you work at a trade? Do you belong to a guild? What is your rank (does your work merit this rank?) Should you belong to a guild (i.e.- would have been required to be a guild member to practice what you do)?
 - For gentry, where does your money come from? Monopolies on certain trade? Which ones and how did your family obtain?
8. Can you read or write?
 - More than one language? Which ones? Why did you learn them?
 - How did you learn? (taught at home, church school, etc...)
9. What is your favorite drink?
 - Is it imported? Can your persona afford it in the quantities you drink at an event? How much does the drink cost vs. your income?
10. What wars have there been in your lifetime where you have lived?
 - How did they affect you (i.e.- lost your land, starved for a while, et..)?
 - Did your country win or lose them? How did this affect your family?
11. What diseases have you had?

- What was the method of treatment?
 - How many of your brothers or sisters died in infancy?
12. What “mythical” creatures do you believe in?
13. Do you have servants?
- How much are they paid? If not money, what did they earn?
 - What are their duties?
 - What are the arrangements with them- do they live in, are they serfs, etc...
14. What would you be doing on an average day? Assume that your country is at peace and you are at home. If you are military man, describe what you would be doing at your garrison or military “base”?
15. How many generations of your family would your persona really have been aware of? Most 20th century people can't get back farther than three generations.
16. Are there laws regarding what you should wear? What are they? Were they commonly followed? Would have been allowed to bribe your way around the laws?