



Grand Royal Arch Chapter

of the State of Illinois

IN-CONVOCATION ACTIVITY: CAPITULAR TIC-TAC-TOE

INTENTION/GOAL

An activity that tests the Companions knowledge of Capitular ritual, procedures, historic significance, and experience in both meetings and during degrees. The included questions are from the Red Ritual Book, however, coming up with other questions is encouraged.

NEEDS

Large (2' by 3' or even larger – the larger the better) dry-erase board, poster board, or sheet of paper; large, thick marker (either permanent or dry-erase, depending on board type), timer (can be timer app on cell phone), prizes for the winner.

RULES

The Companions present are divided into two teams. Using the standard 3-by-3 matrix, the traditional tic-tac-toe game is played with teams answering questions correctly placing an "X" or "O" in desired spaces on the matrix in order to get three in a row (horizontally, vertically or diagonally). You may wish to play a "best two out of three" games to increase interaction and interest during the game.

A team earns the right to place an "X" on the board by answering one of the following questions correctly. The order of answering a question is one team first and, should that team answer incorrectly, the other team may have the opportunity to answer and take control of the game. Order of play is back and forth (regardless of which team answers a question correctly).

Each question should be asked in its entirety (there's no advantage to answering quickly or before the question is completely stated). The Quiz Master may (and should) skip around the questions (they are stated below in relative order according to our red ritual book).



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WINNING

Depending on the timing of the first game, you may wish to do two-out-of-three games for the winner to be determined. Awarding some small prize to the winners is encouraged.

QUESTIONS

1. When opening Chapter, what are the first instructions the High Priest gives to the Royal Arch Captain? (Answer: "You will see that the Sentinel is at his post and close the doors.")
2. When the High Priest declares the Chapter open, does he indicate the purpose for which the Chapter is opened? (Answer: Yes)
3. Is the Pledge of Allegiance given a) before opening the Chapter, b) after the Chaplain's prayer or c) once the Royal Arch Captain has reported that the Sentinel is informed of the opening? (Answer: C)
4. During the Mark Master degree, whom does the candidate represent during the ritual? (Answer: One of the craftsmen employed at the building of King Solomon's Temple)
5. What type of work is wanted for the building of the Temple and that the Master Overseer has orders to receive? (Answer: Good work, true work, square work)
6. When the candidate tries to receive wages in the first part of the Mark Master degree, he is seen as an imposter, unable to indicate the correct manner to receive wages. He is brought before the Right Worshipful Master who asks him to prove that he is something. What is it that he is asked to prove? (Answer: He is asked if he is a Fellowcraft and to give the due guard and sign of a Fellowcraft)
7. What is the penalty of an imposter attempting to collect wages that are not due him? (Answer: To have his right hand struck off)



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8. What is the password in the Mark Master degree? (Answer: JOPPA)
9. What instruments are made use of by Mark Master Masons to cut, carve, mark and engrave their work, or, conversely, to make use of them to engrave the principles of morality and virtue on the mind, the recollection of which should make a deep and lasting impression on your future life and conduct. (Answer: The chisel and mallet)
10. A Lodge of Mark Master is erected to whom and dedicated to whom? (Answer: "Him" or God, and Hiram Abiff)
11. What does a Brother taking the obligation of a Mark Master Mason first promise and swear that he will never do? (Answer: "...cheat, wrong or defraud a Lodge of Mark Masters")
12. When a Mark Master receives a worthy Brother Mark Master's Mark when offered as a pledge and asked to grant his request if within his power, the first Mark Master may return it to the second to apply to another only with what in return? (Answer: The price thereof, which is a Jewish half-shekel of silver, equal in value to the fourth part of a dollar)
13. In the Mark Master degree, whom does a Brother presenting his Mark and craving assistance represent AND whom does a Brother receiving the Mark and granting assistance represent? (Answer: Our Grand Master Hiram Abiff, a poor man, yet eminently distinguished among the Craft for his great skill in the arts and sciences AND King Solomon, who was a rich man and noted for his liberality)
14. Written on the Keystone are eight letters, H.T.W.S.S.T.K.S. What do these letters mean, what did they once represent and what do they now represent? (Answer: Hiram Tyrian Widows Son Sent To King Solomon, which was the private mark of our Grand Master Hiram Abiff and is now the general mark of this degree)



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15. In the Past Master degree, the Right Worshipful Master advises that the Brother make the Holy Bible or Great Light in Masonry what? (Answer: ...the man of our counsels and the meditation of your heart.)
16. Masonic tradition informs us that when King Solomon reigned nearly forty years over Israel, he had become so old and feeble that he was unable to seat himself or to rise from his chair without the assistance of whom? (Answer: Two Giblimate)
17. At the beginning of the Most Excellent Master degree, what is the candidate received on? (Answer: The keystone, because it completed King Solomon's Temple)
18. During the Most Excellent Master degree, the Senior Deacon takes the candidate around the Lodge room and stops somewhere with comments. Where does he stop and why? (Answer: Before the vacated Junior Warden's chair, which is draped with a black cloth in mourning of our fallen Grand Master Hiram Abiff)
19. Describe the grip of a Most Excellent Master and how it relates to the obligation the candidate takes during the degree. (Answer: The thumb of the right or gripping hand overlays the knuckles of the recipient's right or gripping hand, referring to the part in the obligation which states, "...I will cover and conceal the faults and imperfections of a Worthy Brother of this Degree....")
20. In the Most Excellent Master degree, how many strands does the candidate's cable tow have? (Answer: Six)
21. According to the Most Excellent Master degree, how many people could King Solomon's Temple hold? (Answer: 300,000)



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22. At the completion of King Solomon's Temple, he went in to inspect the work, came out and caught the Grand Architect by the hand, exclaiming what? (Answer: "Hail Rabonai," the grip and word of a Most Excellent Master)
23. In completing the Temple of King Solomon, the candidate raises the keystone to the top of the arch, seats it and then applies three instruments to the keystone. What are they? (Answer: Square, level and plumb)
24. During the Most Excellent Master degree, the candidates observe a sign being given by the Brothers, most especially the Right Worshipful Master. This sign alludes to the wonder and admiration exhibited by those of our ancient brethren who were permitted to view that magnificent edifice which King Solomon had erected. What is this sign called (and/or how is the sign made)? (Answer: The sign of admiration, made by extending both arms overhead and motioning from left to right, keeping the arms straight)
25. In the Holy Royal Arch degree, the candidates first enter the Chapter room traveling under what and how is it made/by whom? (Answer: The candidates enter and are received under a Living Arch, formed by the interlocked and raised hands of the three Masters of the Veils)
26. Early in the Holy Royal Arch degree, the Principal Sojourner is leading the candidates on a journey. They stop, according to the ritual, at "...the back side of the desert," their blinders are taken off or opened and what is revealed to them in its burning glory? (Answer: The burning bush, not consumed by fire)
27. In the Holy Royal Arch degree, as the candidates are traveling to Jerusalem, they encounter a number of obstacles. Name three of them. (Answer: a rocky road, a trembling bridge, the River Jordan and a two caravans engaged in combat)



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28. In the Holy Royal Arch degree, when the Principal Sojourner asks the Captain of the Host what the captives should say unto the Children of Israel, what is his response (meaning, when the captives say the God of their Fathers has sent them, the Children of Israel will ask His name)? (Answer: "I Am That I Am...I Am has sent us unto you")
29. As the captives approach the Tabernacle, who do they encounter and, later, in what order do those they encounter speak to them? (Answer: The three Veilsmen (or Guards) along with the Royal Arch Captain are encountered and speak to them in the order of: First Veilsmen, Second Veilsmen, Third Veilsmen and Royal Arch Captain)
30. As the captives attempt to gain access to the fourth or white veil, something must be presented to the person guarding the veil before admittance. What is it? (Answer: The True signet of Zerubbabel, which is Truth)
31. What are the proper working tools of a Royal Arch Mason, as given to the workmen by the Captain of the Host for clearing of the rubble? (Answer: The crow, pick and spade)
32. After the workmen return from the rubble, what three things do they present to the Grand Council? (Answer: The keystone of a Mark Master, the three squares or jewels of our ancient Grand Masters and the Ark of the Covenant (or an imitation thereof))
33. The Ark of the Covenant holds four things. What are they? (Answer: The Holy Bible or Book of the Law, a pot of manna, Aaron's rod and a key to the mysterious symbols on the top and sides of the box)



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34. On the sides of the Ark are written what? (Answer: The names of our ancient Grand Masters, Solomon, King of Israel, Hiram, King of Tyre, and Hiram Abiff, as well as the date when this deposit was made by them into the Ark)
35. After the key is used or explained, what is to be done with it, as promised in the obligation of a Royal Arch Mason? (Answer: It is to be destroyed once the purpose for which is what made has been accomplished)
36. What are the primary working tools of a Royal Arch Mason? (Answer: The square and compasses. The crow, pick and spade are also considered working tools.)
37. The tabernacle the workmen passed through were divided by four veils. What were their colors, from back to front? (Answer: Blue, purple, scarlet and white)
38. The High Priest wears a breastplate, called the Oracle of Urum and Thummin. On it are twelve stones which allude or represent what? (Answer: The twelve tribes of the Children of Israel)
39. The equilateral triangle, held in high esteem by Royal Arch Masons, with three equal sides and three equal angles, alludes to what three attributes of Deity? (Answer: omnipotence, omniscience and omnipresence)
40. According to the red ritual books, what are the final words uttered at the end of a Chapter meeting before the sound of the final gavel and who says them? (Answer: "Excellent High Priest, the Sentinel is informed," stated by the Royal Arch Captain)