



**Answer 1.**

b) As a young woman, Vanga lost her eyesight in an accident falling into a bush. Allegedly, this jump-started her abilities in healing sick people and foreseeing the future.

**Answer 2.**

b) Peter Dunov is a spiritual teacher and the founder of Danovism and paneurythmy. Both teachings are related to anthroposophy. He was not accepted by the communist government and even persecuted. In the middle of August, Dunov's followers meet at dawn in the Rila Mountains to dance in gigantic circles – practicing paneurythmy.

**Answer 3.**

d) The writer of Jewish ancestry was born in the city of Russe in 1905. After his studies in Austria, Germany and Switzerland he began writing in 1930. Canetti was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1981.

**Answer 4.**

d) Christo Vladimirov Javachev probably is one of the most famous Bulgarians and contemporary artists worldwide. In his home country, communist censorship curbed his artistic expression, so after he had finished his art studies in Sofia, he immigrated to Prague in 1956 and later to Paris, where he met his wife and partner Jeanne-Claude.

**Answer 5.**

a) In 1903, John Vincent Atanasoff was born in the US the son of Bulgarian immigrants. He studied electrical engineering and received his doctorate in theoretical physics in 1930. In 1939, assisted by Clifford Edward Berry, he began developing the ABC, as they called their first digital computer.

**Answer 6.**

c) In Bulgaria, March is dedicated to "Baba Marta". In the beginning of the month, the Bulgarians start wearing red and white threads, the so-called Marteniza. Red symbolizes health and White the good and the pure. The traditional Marteniza also often includes blue stones, silver or gold coins, horsehair, rings and amulets.

**Answer 7.**

b) Kukeri are mostly young men dressed in furs, masks and large bells. With noise, they chase away evil spirits from the houses and the village. This ritual shall provide for a rich harvest and make sickness and evil ghosts go away.



**Answer 8.**

d) Bare-foot dancing on blazing coals is a very old, mystic fertility ritual – it allegedly has its roots in Dionysian rites. The fire dance is committed at the day of the Saints Constantine and Elena on May, 21<sup>st</sup>, also called the *Nestinarstvo* celebration.

**Answer 9.**

b) Vidin is one of the oldest settlements lying at the Danube's shores in Bulgaria. Due to its picturesque location on a hill with the Danube flowing below, the medieval castle Baba Vida is a popular place for excursions. The fortress was constructed on Roman ruins in the 10<sup>th</sup> century.

**Answer 10.**

c) Bulgarians value German cars. Wealthy Bulgarians like driving a BMW or a Mercedes Benz. Especially blessed fellow Bulgarians like to treat themselves to a Maybach, of which there are about twenty in Sofia.

**Answer 11.**

c) Monasteries not only played a major role in the political resistance during the Ottoman Empire, but did also serve as the major refuge for Bulgarian culture and traditions.

**Answer 12.**

d) In Persian language the directions are symbolically depicted by different colors. The name "Black" in this case means "Northern".

**Answer 13.**

c) In Bulgaria, Chubritza is also called "colorful salt". It consists of many ingredients such as salt, pepper, red paprika and oregano. It is delicious with cheese, pepperoni, ham, or simply on a slice of bread and it is a "must" in every Bulgarian kitchen.

**Answer 14.**

b) The Bulgarian capital Sofia has an estimated 1.2 Million inhabitants. Each year, this figure increases. Many Bulgarians move into the big cities from the countryside to profit from "modern life".

**Answer 15.**

a) Clement of Ochrid, a student of the Saints Cyril and Methodius, the two "Slavic Apostles", developed the Cyrillic alphabet at the court of the Bulgarian king Simeon the Great and dedicated it to his teacher St. Cyril. Its basis was the ancient Glagolitic alphabet.



**Answer 16.**

c) The "Istoriaja slavjanobulgarskaja" (Slavic-Bulgarian History) was written by the monk Paisij Chilandarski in 1762 and became the manifesto of independent Bulgarian Culture and Literature.

**Answer 17.**

d) In the World Championships in 1994, which took place in the USA, the Bulgarian soccer team beat the German team in the quarter finals. For months, the Bulgarians did not recede in celebrating their "heroes".

**Answer 18.**

b) When asked a question, Bulgarians show their approval by shaking their heads. A nod on the other hand signifies "no". The use of these two gestures causes much confusion to foreigner in Bulgaria, but it also creates difficulties for Bulgarians who go abroad.

**Answer 19.**

c) The "Rhapsody Vardar" originated in Berlin in the year 1922, while Pancho Vladigerov was a student there. The piece undisputedly is one of the most famous Bulgarian compositions.

**Answer 20.**

c) The Bulgarian folk song "Izlel e Deljo Haidutin", sung by the singer Valja Balkanska, floats in space aboard the spacecrafts Voyager I & II along with Beethoven's 9th Symphony – as a musical message to aliens.

**Answer 21.**

c) Until 1989, Bulgaria was the most important producer of hard- and software for the former Soviet Union. Because of this, the country's economic potential lies especially in the development of IT technologies.

**Answer 22.**

d) The Bulgarians usually drink coffee or tea, as well as beer and red wine. But the most traditional drink accompanying every rich meal is plum schnapps. Often, it is drunk during the main course and it sometimes has as many as 80 percent by volume.

**Answer 23.**

c) Rose oil and tobacco were and still are important export goods. The Bulgarian rose has an excellent quality and tobacco has been cultivated for many decades. The export of those two plants prevented an economic disaster in Bulgaria during WW II.



**Answer 24.**

d) Bulgaria is a parliamentary republic with the president as head of state. The current constitution was passed in July 1991.

**Answer 25.**

d) Some Bulgarians believe in curing a hangover by eating a soup of innards spiced with garlic, vinegar and paprika pepper. Most Bulgarians are big fans of "natural medicine".

**Answer 26.**

c) Mineral and hot springs are very common geological features everywhere in the Balkans. So there is as many as ca. 1600 mineral springs in Bulgaria, providing for a healthy recreational option.

**Answer 27.**

b) Ferdinand of Coburg-Gotha was a Bulgarian prince and declared Bulgaria's independence from the Ottoman Empire. Later, he took the title „Tsar of Bulgaria“

**Answer 28.**

c) Bulgarian names usually consist of three parts; the individual first name, the father's name and the family's name. The name's ending is -ov/ -ev for males and -ova/-eva for females.

**Answer 29.**

d) The Bulgarian grade system for schools and universities has six grades. The scale starts with 6 as the best grade and ends with 2 as the worst. A "1" is given only for cheating or not attending.

**Answer 30.**

b) On an overall length of 380 kilometers, the Bulgarian Black Sea coast has a lot to offer: about 160 km of finest sandy beaches, small romantic coves, fishing villages and larger modern holiday resorts. No wonder the Black Sea is a favorite spot for Bulgarians as well as foreigners.

**Answer 31.**

a) The Danube passes about 471 km of Bulgarian land, but despite its length, the river is just of little economic relevance. This is because the Danube flows along the Romanian border in the less densely settled north of the country.