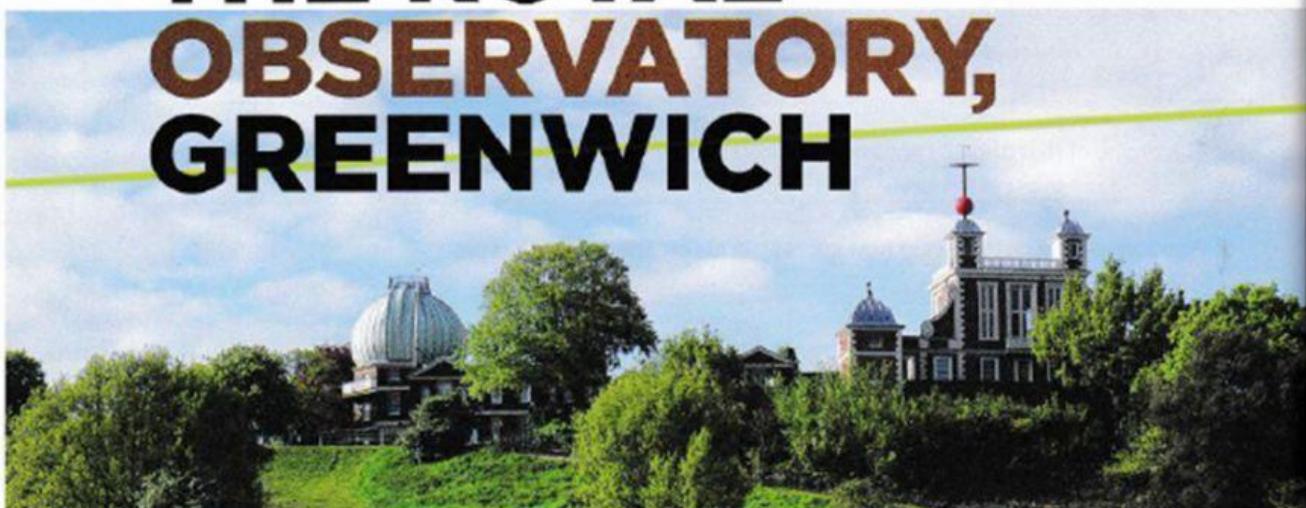


A

Read the text below. For questions (1-5) choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY, GREENWICH

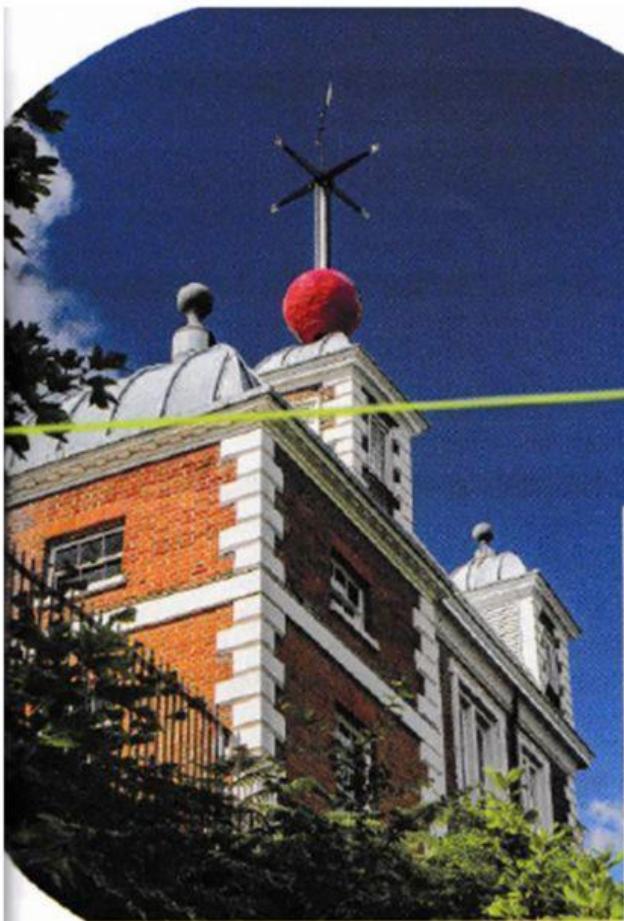


In London's Greenwich Park, next to the Thames, you'll find the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, a building which has an important place in the history of astronomical research. It is best known for marking the location of the prime meridian, a line that runs from the North Pole to the South Pole.

The observatory was commissioned by King Charles II and the building was completed in 1676.

Designed by Sir Christopher Wren, it was the first scientific research facility built in Britain. The first director of the observatory was John Flamsteed and the first building was named after him. Flamsteed was in charge of studying and mapping the stars, mainly so they could be used by sailors to avoid accidents at sea. In 1957, scientific work was moved to a different location; since 1960, the Greenwich site has been used as a museum.





Visitors to the museum can see a metal line on the ground which shows the path of the prime meridian. Between the years 1848 and 1972, all the world's major countries started using time zones which were based on Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), which is the local time at the prime meridian. For example, people in the UK often say GMT+1 for the time zone which is one hour ahead of the UK. However, it is more common in the rest of the world to use the term Universal Time, which is written UTC+1. To help people in London set their clocks and watches a time ball was installed on the roof of the observatory, which still drops every day at exactly 1 p.m.

It is popular for visitors to take pictures of each other with one foot on either side of the prime meridian line—that is, with one foot in the east and the other foot in the west. Since 1999, a green laser has shone across the London night sky, following the prime meridian north across the city. If you continued the line south, it would pass through the UK, France, Spain, Algeria, Mali, Burkina Faso, Togo, Ghana and end in Antarctica.

1. What happened to the observatory in 1960?
A. It was closed to the public.
B. It became a place for scientific work.
C. It was used to help prevent accidents.
D. It was turned into a museum.
2. What is the time difference between GMT and UTC?
A. GMT is one hour ahead.
B. GMT is one hour behind.
C. UTC is one hour behind.
D. There is no difference.
3. Why does a ball drop every day on top of the observatory?
A. to remind people of the history of the observatory
B. to help people know the correct time
C. to remind people to eat lunch
D. to show people why GMT is important
4. What do the countries mentioned in the last paragraph have in common?
A. They are considered part of the east and the west.
B. They are lit by a green laser.
C. They all share the prime meridian line.
D. They are in the GMT+1 time zone.
5. What is the significance of the green laser light shining across London?
A. It represents the prime meridian line.
B. It reminds people of the presence of the observatory.
C. It helps people determine their location.
D. It leads people to the observatory from wherever they are in the city.