

PGI MOUNT ATHOS — EDUCATIONAL QUIZ

New 20 question questionnaire — history, geography, wine identity & culture. Cross-referenced with external sources (see end).

Quiz — 20 questions

Choose the single correct answer (a–d). One point per question. The answer key with brief explanations follows.

1. On which of the three Halkidiki peninsulas is Mount Athos located?

- a) The western one (Kassandra)
- b) The central one (Sithonia)
- c) The eastern one (Athos / Akti)
- d) None — it is an island

2. What is the elevation of the peak of Mount Athos?

- a) 1,407 m
- b) 2,033 m
- c) 2,917 m
- d) 1,200 m

3. In which year did organised monastic life begin, with the founding of the Great Lavra by Athanasios the Athonite?

- a) 843 AD
- b) 963 AD
- c) 1054 AD
- d) 1204 AD

4. The first Typikon of Mount Athos, which also regulated wine, is known as:

- a) The Tragos
- b) The Nomocanon
- c) The Chrysobull
- d) The Avaton

5. Under the Tragos, selling wine was forbidden beyond which boundary?

- a) The river Zygos
- b) The walls of Karyes
- c) The port of Daphne
- d) The Xerxes Canal

6. Which indigenous red grape — the oldest recorded Greek variety — is the emblematic grape of Mount Athos?

- a) Agiorgitiko
- b) Limnio
- c) Mavrodaphne
- d) Kotsifali

7. The PGI Mount Athos vineyards lie at altitudes of approximately:

- a) 0–50 m
- b) 10–400 m
- c) 500–800 m

d) 900–1,200 m

8. Which traditional vine-training forms are used on Mount Athos?

- a) Santorini-style circular basket (kouloura)
- b) Gobelet , unilateral or bilateral
- c) High pergola only
- d) Geneva double curtain

9. The soils of Mount Athos vineyards are mainly:

- a) Pure volcanic ash
- b) Limestone and chalk
- c) Sandy-loam and sandy-clay over a granite subsoil
- d) Red clay over slate

10. Which white varieties are typically grown on Mount Athos?

- a) Savatiano and Roditis only
- b) Assyrtiko, Athiri, Roditis and Chardonnay
- c) Riesling and Gewürztraminer
- d) Only Sauvignon Blanc

11. Why do Mount Athos vineyards retain good acidity despite warm summers?

- a) Permanent refrigeration of grapes
- b) High day–night (diurnal) temperature variation near the sea
- c) Daily night harvesting
- d) Addition of tartaric acid

12. Since which year has Mount Athos been a UNESCO World Heritage Site?

- a) 1972
- b) 1988
- c) 1994
- d) 2001

13. Which ancient philosopher, born in nearby Stageira, is said to have planted a model vineyard?

- a) Plato
- b) Aristotle
- c) Theophrastus
- d) Socrates

14. How many Holy Monasteries are there on Mount Athos?

- a) 12
- b) 20
- c) 24
- d) 7

15. The special permit required to enter Mount Athos is called:

- a) Diamonitirion
- b) Avaton
- c) Typikon
- d) Chrysobull

16. Under the rule of the avaton, entry to the territory of the Autonomous Monastic State is forbidden to:

- a) Foreigners
- b) Women
- c) The non-Orthodox
- d) Merchants

17. Approximately how many monks live on Mount Athos today?

- a) ~500
- b) ~1,400
- c) ~5,000
- d) ~10,000

18. Around which year did phylloxera trigger a shift in the varietal composition of Mount Athos?

- a) 1830
- b) 1878
- c) 1925
- d) 1980

19. In which year did a new generation of monks begin the systematic revival of the vineyards?

- a) 1912
- b) 1950
- c) 1980
- d) 2004

20. Besides dry wines, which traditional sweet styles are produced on Mount Athos?

- a) Ice wine and vermouth
- b) Sun-dried (liastos) and fortified (vin doux) wines
- c) Sparkling only
- d) None

Answer key (with brief rationale)

#	Answer	Why
1	c) The eastern one (Athos / Akti)	Athos is the easternmost of Halkidiki's three peninsulas.
2	b) 2,033 m	The marble peak rises to 2,033 m at the southern tip.
3	b) 963 AD	The Great Lavra was founded in 963 with the support of Nikephoros Phokas.
4	a) The Tragos	The first Typikon (the "Tragos", 972 AD) regulated monastic life and wine commerce.
5	a) The river Zygos	Selling wine beyond the river Zygos (outside Athos) was forbidden; sales to visiting pilgrims were allowed.
6	b) Limnio	Limnio is the dominant indigenous variety and the oldest recorded Greek grape.
7	b) 10–400 m	The official PGI zone extends from 10 to 400 m, according to the current product specification.

8	b) Gobelet , unilateral or bilateral	Athos uses goblet/cup, unilateral or bilateral training — not the Santorini kouloura.
9	c) Sandy-loam and sandy-clay over a granite subsoil	Soils are sandy-loam to sandy-clay with a granite subsoil that aids deep rooting.
10	b) Assyrtiko, Athiri, Roditis and Chardonnay	Athonite whites include Assyrtiko, Athiri, Roditis and Chardonnay (plus Sauvignon Blanc, Muscat).
11	b) High day–night (diurnal) temperature variation near the sea	Cool nights and sea influence create a wide diurnal range that preserves acidity.
12	b) 1988	Mount Athos was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1988.
13	b) Aristotle	Aristotle, born in Stageira, reportedly planted a model vineyard; his student Theophrastus recorded viticultural observations.
14	b) 20	Mount Athos comprises 20 Holy Monasteries, alongside sketes and cells.
15	a) Diamonitirion	Entry requires the special permit, the diamonitirion, issued by the pilgrim offices.
16	b) Women	Under the avaton, entry to the territory of the Autonomous Monastic State is forbidden to women.
17	b) ~1,400	The monastic population is approximately 1,400 monks.
18	c) 1925	A shift in varietal composition followed the phylloxera outbreak around 1925.
19	c) 1980	By 1980 a new generation of monks began systematic replanting and revival.
20	b) Sun-dried (liastos) and fortified (vin doux) wines	Alongside dry wines, sun-dried and fortified sweet wines are produced for feasts.

Sources

The questions draw on the educational material and the following verified reference sources:

- European Commission / EUR-Lex — Official product specification for PGI “Mount Athos” (2022): geographical area, altitude, grape varieties and production rules.
- Hellenic Ministry of Rural Development and Food — National product specification for PGI «Άγιο Όρος».
- UNESCO World Heritage Centre — Mount Athos (World Heritage List, Ref. 454): historical, cultural and institutional context.
- Encyclopædia Britannica — “Mount Athos” and “Aristotle”: supplementary geographical and historical cross-checking.
- PGI “Mount Athos” educational booklet (2026) — consolidated learning material used for the question set.

