

Tax quiz

Window tax

This tax was first introduced in England in 1696. It was intended to be quite a liberal tax as those with smaller houses would pay less or be exempt.

Pet tax-False

A **hat tax** was introduced in 1784 and was aimed at raising revenue for the government in a way that would mostly correspond to a person's wealth.

At this point in history, it was the rich who could afford numerous hats, whereas the poor might have one cheap hat, or none at all.

Cowardice tax

From around 1100, English medieval knights could opt out of fighting a war by paying for the privilege. Its official name was 'Scutage' but was commonly known as 'cowardice tax'. It would enable one to be let out of military service to the King.

Swearing tax - False

Playing cards tax

Yes, believe it or not people were taxed for playing cards!

This was in force from as early as the 16th century. Furthermore, in 1710, the English government increased the tax on playing cards and dice. Inevitably, this led to mass forgeries of playing cards. The tax was not removed until 1960.

Urine tax

This tax was introduced in Ancient Rome. Back then, human urine was viewed as a valuable commodity. It had many uses: tanning, laundering, and even teeth brushing.

Wallpaper tax

Brought out in 1712, Britain taxed anyone who bought patterned, painted, or printed wallpaper. This tax was introduced into Britain due to the fact that wallpaper provided a cheap alternative to tapestry or panelling, so the government saw a new opportunity to raise revenue.

This was a tax?

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True or False?

	True	False
Window Tax		
Pet Tax		
Hat Tax		
Cowardice Tax		
Swearing Tax		
Playing Cards Tax		
Urine Tax		
Wallpaper Tax		

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