Outline of principles for questions to TBZPT - The BuzZ ProjecT

Formalia

Buzz has a fixed format that we have to comply with. That means that questions have a 75 characters max! And answers have a max of 40 characters. Æøå do not work, so we have to use "ae", "o" and "aa".
All questions must be Multiple Choice with four options of which only one is the right answer.

Chronology is important - years are not

It is important to understand historical connections and that calls for a chronological overview. But singulair years are not that important. As an example: It is important to know that *Kanslergadeforliget* was a part of the 1930s' crisis politics, but it is not so important to know that is was agreed upon precisely in 1933.

No mere trick questions

Mere trick questions are fun for those who make them but not to the users and they are not really helping with anyone's understanding. The "wrong" answers need to be realistic answers, but not constructed as traps for people to fall into.

A good question has an important message and will make people think

The questions should be formulated in a way such that they carry import and relevant information. By contemplating the answer and then guessing you should learn something whether your answer is right or not. For example:

The Danish-German border was last revised in:
- **1920**
- 1864
- 1940
- 1945

It is not only the factual knowledge that is tested here, since the person who is answering is forced to ponder the occupation situation itself and in this way operationalize his or hers knowledge about the involvement of Denmark in both 1st and 2nd World War. If the options had been 1918, 1920, 1922 or 1924, it would have been a bad question.

Repetition enhances understanding

It is not a problem if questions are a lot alike since this has a series of positive effects. It makes simple rote learning harder, because the presence of these questions makes you have to read each question even when you think you know it. It also means that we can make more questions from the same material. An example could be the order of the five ages: Stone age, Bronze age, Iron age, Viking age and Middle age, which can be made

into 10 questions. Five about which came first with four of the options and five about which came last where we again mention four of the options.