

## London St Pancras best railway station in Europe

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A railway station in London has been named as the best station in Europe for passengers. The station is London St Pancras, which is also called St Pancras International. It is an international station because the Eurostar trains to

France, Belgium and Holland start there. St Pancras was chosen as the best railway station in Europe by the Consumer Choice Centre. This organisation asks rail passengers every year about their opinions on different stations in Europe. Passengers answer questions on a survey about accessibility, cleanliness, connectivity, friendliness of staff, and the number of platforms. There is also a question about the number of days station staff went on strike throughout the year.

St Pancras was the only UK station in the top ten. Zurich Central Station was number two and Leipzig Central Station came in third. Five of the top ten stations were in Germany. They were Berlin, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Leipzig and Munich. A spokesman from the Consumer Choice Centre commented on the beauty of St Pancras, which was built in a gothic style and opened in 1868. The spokesman said: "London St Pancras does not just look like a station from another world, it also leads this index as Europe's best railway station." He added: "High points were awarded to the stations that offered great destinations around the continent and also had a healthy mix of shops, restaurants and conveniences."

Sources: [cityam.co](http://cityam.co) / [dailymail.co.uk](http://dailymail.co.uk) / [independent.co.uk](http://independent.co.uk)

## Writing

Rail is the best form of travel. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

London / railway station / international / France / Belgium / Holland / passenger / top ten / consumer / beauty / gothic / destination / continent / shops / restaurants

## True / False

- a) St Pancras in London was named the world's best railway station. T / F
- b) St Pancras is an international train station. T / F
- c) Passengers were asked about accessibility, cleanliness and connectivity. T / F
- d) A survey question was about how many days rail staff went on strike. T / F
- e) Five of Europe's top ten railway stations are in Germany. T / F
- f) The London St Pancras railway station was built in 1868. T / F
- g) A spokesman said St Pancras looked like any other railway station. T / F
- h) High points were given to stations for having multilingual staff. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. <b>start</b>      | a. questionnaire    |
| 2. <b>opinions</b>   | b. combination      |
| 3. <b>survey</b>     | c. for the whole of |
| 4. <b>staff</b>      | d. list             |
| 5. <b>throughout</b> | e. attractiveness   |
| 6. <b>top</b>        | f. thoughts         |
| 7. <b>beauty</b>     | g. given            |
| 8. <b>index</b>      | h. workers          |
| 9. <b>awarded</b>    | i. begin            |
| 10. <b>mix</b>       | j. best             |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) What is your favourite railway station?
- b) How important are railway stations?
- c) How important are 'best of' lists?
- d) What do you know about London railway stations?
- e) Are underground or over ground stations best?
- f) How friendly are staff at your nearest railway station?
- g) What questions should be on a survey about railway stations?
- h) What score out of ten would you give your nearest railway station?

## Phrase Match

1. named as the
  2. asks rail passengers every year
  3. Passengers answer questions on a
  4. the number of
  5. the number of days station staff went
  6. the only UK station in
  7. Five of the top
  8. built in a gothic
  9. like a station from
  10. great destinations around
- a. style
  - b. platforms
  - c. ten stations
  - d. about their opinions
  - e. the continent
  - f. survey
  - g. best station in Europe
  - h. another world
  - i. on strike
  - j. the top ten

## Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you think of travelling by rail?
- c) What railway journey around the world would you like to take?
- d) Why do you think so many German stations were on the list?
- e) What services do railway stations need?
- f) What railway station would you like to visit?
- g) What do you think of railway stations in space?
- h) What questions would you like to ask London St Pancras?

## Spelling

1. the best station in Europe for srsgenapes
2. their spiinono on different stations
3. a seyrvu about accessibility
4. friendliness of tsfaf
5. the number of tarfopmls
6. went on strike ugohtourth the year
7. the teybua of St Pancras
8. built in a citohg style
9. High points were rdaeawd to the stations
10. great iastinotsde around the continent
11. a eahlyht mix of shops
12. restaurants and invcecoenns

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. i	2. f	3. a	4. h	5. c
6. j	7. e	8. d	9. g	10. b

## Role Play

### Role A – Tokyo

You think Tokyo is the best destination. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their destinations. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Rio de Janeiro, London or Delhi.

### Role B – Rio de Janeiro

You think Rio de Janeiro is the best destination. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their destinations. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Tokyo, London or Delhi.

### Role C – London

You think London is the best destination. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their destinations. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Rio de Janeiro, Tokyo or Delhi.

### Role D – Delhi

You think Delhi is the best destination. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their destinations. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): Rio de Janeiro, London or Tokyo.

## Speaking – Destination

Rank these with your partner. Put the best destination at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- San Francisco
- London
- Delhi
- Nairobi
- Tokyo
- Sydney
- Rio de Janeiro
- Mexico City

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.