1) **About what time of story is the today’s Festival?**

Shingen lived from 1521 through 1573. It was when Renaissance and the Reformation of Christianity were harshly going on in Europe. Europe was the center of the world then and immigration to America had not yet begun in a large scale. It was about the time as well when the fire-arm delivered from Portuguese made the way of Samurai battle dramatically.

2) **In a word, what kind of samurai warrior was Shingen?**

Shingen was a person of much ingeniousness, the very first flush toilet in Japan was actually invented and used by him, and it must have been much earlier than in the U.S...

Also, he was a great administrator other than a strategic Samurai warrior. He made the most importance of his subordinates and people living in his domain. He believed his subordinates and people are exactly the castle itself, this is why he did not construct any huge and imposing castle like so many other Samurai warriors. Instead, he lived in a flat Samurai residence which turned to be the Takeda Shrine now.

3) **With whom did Shingen compete?**

His rivals were all renowned historical figures. Tokugawa Ieyasu who established the Edo military Government continuing for 270 years, Toyotomi Hideyoshi who unified whole the country, Oda Nobunaga who destroyed the Muromachi military government. Shingen perished by some health problem amid the winning battle with the rivals mentioned above. If only had he lived 10 more years, I bet Kofu would have been a capital during the feudal eras.
4) Who was Shingen’s biggest rival?

His biggest rival was Uesugi Kennshin who governed the Echigo (Niigara Pref. now.)
The 2 Samurais warriors battled as many as 5 times to gain the futile rice cultivating fields in Shinano (Nagano Pref. now) located between kai (Yamanashi Pref. now) and Echigo.
Today’s parade recreates the scene of Shingen’s going into battle with Uesugi Kenshin.

5) What major subordinates of Shingen were like?

He selected his subordinates regardless of their original social rankings, but by their abilities. He regarded his subordinates exactly as stonewalls or castles themselves, so the relationship between Shingen and his subordinates were very closely tied with trust. Today’s parade procession consists of 24 troops, this is because 24 great subordinates warriors subjected deeply to Shingen then.

6) What’s Houtou?

It is sort of a thick and wide wheat noodle which is miso-tasted.
It’s also said Houtou was the battlefield–meal developed by Shingen. What an indigenous Samurai warrior he might have been!
Houtou is a typical local cuisine in Yamanashi today as well as Torimotsu which won the championship in B-Class-gourmet Competition.
Houtou is full of vegetable-ingredients and so healthy, although it’s a little bit soy. Why don’t you try!
7) **Any relationship with the movie by the Director Akira Kurosawa “Kagemusha”?**

As you may know, world-famous movie director “Akira Kurosawa” made the movie “Kagemusha (double of a general)”. The movie is based on the fact that the very double of shingen after Shingen’s death significantly protected Kai (Yamanashi Pref. now) from the invasions of strong and vigorous Samurai warriors surrounding him 3 years after his death. This fact shows us how Samurai warriors around Shingen seriously feared him.

8) **What does that mean the phrase “Sending salt to enemy”?**

As kai (Yamanashi Pref. now) has no sea, the salt, indispensable to human life, had to be circulated from the area where facing to sea. The biggest rival of Shingen was kind of a high-spirited warrior and sticks to so-called the code of Samurai. Uesugi Kenshin, his biggest rival, whose domain faces sea did not impose on any embargo of circulating salt to Kai (Yamanashi Pref. now), although other Samurai warriors stopped the circulation of salt to Shingen’s domain, here in Yamanashi prefecture.

9) **What does that mean the Chinese characters “Furinkazan”?**

Fu-rin-ka-zan literally means wind-forest-fire-mountain. This phrase expresses clearly the battle-stance of Shingen’s corps. As speedily as Winds during battles, as quietly as forests until battles begin, as powerfully as fire when invading enemies, as imposing as mountains when defending.