

Global Typography and Script History

Typography · Answer Key · 25 Questions

1. Which 15th-century region is credited with the development of the 'Fraktur' typeface, which remained the standard for printed German language texts until the mid-20th century?

- A) Bavaria
- B) Saxony**
- C) Prussia
- D) Swabia

2. The 'Inuktitut' syllabary, used in Northern Canada, was primarily adapted from a system originally devised for which other language group by James Evans in the 1840s?

- A) Cree**
- B) Ojibwe
- C) Inuinnaqtun
- D) Dene

3. In the history of Japanese typography, what is the name of the 'Mincho' style's predecessor, which was introduced by Catholic missionaries in Nagasaki in the late 16th century?

- A) Gothic-style moveable type**
- B) Katakana woodblock
- C) Hiragana print
- D) Kinjiro script

4. Which script, used for the Amharic language of Ethiopia, is unique among African writing systems for being a 'abugida' that evolved from the ancient Ge'ez script?

- A) Tifinagh
- B) N'Ko
- C) Ethiopic**
- D) Vai

5. The 'Armenian' alphabet, which significantly influenced the development of early Georgian typography, was created in 405 AD by which scholar?

- A) Mesrop Mashtots**
- B) Gregory the Illuminator
- C) Vardan Mamikonian
- D) Eznik of Kolb

6. Which South Asian script, derived from the Brahmi script, serves as the primary basis for the typography of modern Thai and Lao languages?

A) Khmer script

B) Devanagari

C) Pahlavi

D) Sogdian

7. The 'Tifinagh' alphabet, currently official in Morocco for the Berber language, is a direct modern descendant of which ancient North African script?

A) Libyco-Berber

B) Phoenician

C) Carthaginian

D) Hieratic

8. Which mid-19th-century invention allowed for the mass production of the 'Naskh' and 'Nastaliq' calligraphic styles in the Ottoman Empire's printing presses?

A) Lithography

B) Linotype

C) Phototypesetting

D) Woodburytype

9. The 'Hangul' alphabet, created by King Sejong the Great in 1443, was specifically designed to be distinct from which foreign writing system that dominated Korean academic literature at the time?

A) Hanzi

B) Kana

C) Siddham

D) Phags-pa

10. Which region in the Caucasus is home to the 'Aghvan' script, an extinct writing system rediscovered in the 20th century in a palimpsest at St. Catherine's Monastery?

A) Caucasus Albania

B) Circassia

C) Abkhazia

D) Dagestan

11. The 'Baybayin' script was a traditional writing system used in the Philippines before it was largely displaced by the Latin alphabet during which era?

A) Spanish colonial period

B) British occupation

C) Dutch East Indies era

D) Portuguese maritime expansion

12. Which distinct typeface, known as 'Glagolitic', was developed in the 9th century to represent the sounds of Old Church Slavonic in Moravia?

A) Cyril and Methodius

- B) Pannonia scholars
- C) Bulgarian Tsardom
- D) Byzantine diplomats

13. What is the name of the indigenous writing system of the Mende people in Sierra Leone, developed in the 1940s and known for its tonal notation?

- A) Vai script
- B) N'Ko

C) Mende Kikakui

- D) Bassa Vah

14. The 'Ogham' alphabet, found on stone monuments throughout Ireland and western Britain, is characterized by its reliance on which geometric structural feature?

A) Vertical stem-line

- B) Circular clusters
- C) Triangular brackets
- D) Spiral motifs

15. Which ancient writing system, discovered in the Indus Valley, remains one of the world's most significant undeciphered scripts, preventing the modern classification of its typography?

A) Indus script

- B) Linear A
- C) Proto-Elamite
- D) Vinca script

16. The 'Deseret' alphabet, a phonetic writing system for English, was developed in the 1850s in which US territory?

A) Utah

- B) Oregon
- C) California
- D) Colorado

17. Which ancient script used by the Maya civilization is technically categorized as a logosyllabic system rather than a purely alphabetic one?

A) Mayan hieroglyphs

- B) Zapotec script
- C) Isthmian script
- D) Mixtec script

18. The 'Syriac' alphabet, which branched off from the Aramaic script, is historically significant for being the liturgical language of which geographical region's Christian communities?

A) Mesopotamia

- B) Anatolia
- C) Levant
- D) Persia

19. Which 19th-century inventor from the Cherokee Nation created a syllabary that allowed for the rapid spread of literacy among the Cherokee people in North America?

A) Sequoyah

- B) John Ross
- C) Major Ridge
- D) Elias Boudinot

20. The 'Batak' script of Sumatra, Indonesia, is a direct descendant of which ancient script family that migrated via maritime trade routes?

A) Pallava script

- B) Gupta script
- C) Kharosthi
- D) Brahmi

21. Which historical region is the birthplace of the 'Cuneiform' script, which transitioned from pictographic signs to abstract wedge-shaped characters?

A) Sumer

- B) Assyria
- C) Babylon
- D) Elam

22. The 'Canadian Aboriginal Syllabics' are primarily used for which language family, characterized by their high degree of structural symmetry?

A) Algonquian

- B) Athabaskan
- C) Salishan
- D) Siouan

23. Which script, used for the Tibetan language, was modeled on the Indian Brahmi-derived scripts during the 7th century?

A) Uchen script

- B) Phags-pa
- C) Lepcha
- D) Newa

24. The 'Javanese' script, or 'Hanacaraka', shares structural similarities with which other Southeast Asian island script tradition?

A) Balinese

B) Tagalog

C) Cham

D) Burmese

25. The 'Old Italic' scripts, including Etruscan, served as the primary typographical precursor to the alphabet used by which major European power?

A) Roman Republic

B) Greek City-States

C) Phoenician colonies

D) Carthaginian Empire