

English Literary History: Unveiling the Past

English Literature · Practice Test · 12 Questions

1. Which 16th-century English playwright, besides Shakespeare, is documented as having his plays performed at court for Queen Elizabeth I on multiple occasions, including a significant performance of 'The Spanish Tragedy' in 1592?

- A) Christopher Marlowe
- B) Ben Jonson
- C) Thomas Kyd
- D) John Lyly

2. The Great Fire of London in 1666 had a direct and documented impact on the architectural descriptions within which foundational work of English satire, whose revised edition appeared shortly after the event?

- A) John Milton's 'Paradise Lost'
- B) Samuel Pepys's 'Diary'
- C) Jonathan Swift's 'Gulliver's Travels'
- D) Aphra Behn's 'Oroonoko'

3. Which influential literary critic, whose essays were compiled posthumously in 'Selected Essays', was notably an early and vocal proponent of William Wordsworth's poetry, even before Wordsworth's own fame solidified?

- A) Samuel Taylor Coleridge
- B) Charles Lamb
- C) William Hazlitt
- D) Leigh Hunt

4. The publication of 'Lyrical Ballads' in 1798, a landmark in English Romanticism, was co-authored by William Wordsworth and which other poet, with their preface providing a manifesto for the movement?

- A) Lord Byron
- B) Percy Bysshe Shelley
- C) John Keats
- D) Samuel Taylor Coleridge

5. Which Victorian novelist, known for her social realism, was also an active suffragette and was arrested for her participation in a protest outside the Houses of Parliament in 1910, an event that influenced her later writings?

- A) George Eliot
- B) Elizabeth Gaskell
- C) E. M. Forster
- D) Mrs. Humphry Ward

6. The experimental novel 'Ulysses' by James Joyce, published in its entirety in 1922, faced censorship and obscenity trials in which country before its widespread acceptance?

- A) United Kingdom
- B) United States
- C) Ireland
- D) France

7. Which 18th-century poet, celebrated for his 'Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard', also served as a deputy muster-master for the county of Suffolk, a documented administrative role he held for many years?

- A) Alexander Pope
- B) Thomas Gray
- C) William Collins
- D) Oliver Goldsmith

8. The novel 'Wuthering Heights', published in 1847 under the pseudonym 'Ellis Bell', was written by which of the three Brontë sisters, known for her passionate and often bleak prose?

- A) Charlotte Brontë
- B) Emily Brontë
- C) Anne Brontë
- D) Agnes Grey

9. Which influential literary movement, prominent in the late 19th century, was characterized by a focus on subjective experience, aestheticism, and a rejection of conventional morality, with Oscar Wilde as a key figure?

- A) Romanticism
- B) Victorianism
- C) Aestheticism
- D) Modernism

10. The publication of 'Pride and Prejudice' in 1813 marked a significant moment for which early 19th-century female novelist, whose works often explored social manners and economic realities of the English gentry?

- A) Mary Shelley
- B) Jane Austen
- C) Fanny Burney
- D) Maria Edgeworth

11. The English Civil War (1642-1651) had a profound effect on the literary output of the period, notably influencing the political and theological allegories found in the epic poem 'Paradise Lost' by which author?

- A) John Donne
- B) Andrew Marvell
- C) John Milton
- D) George Herbert

12. Which Anglo-Saxon epic poem, the earliest surviving piece of major English literature, recounts the deeds of a Danish hero and is preserved in a single manuscript now housed in the British Library?

- A) The Canterbury Tales
- B) Beowulf
- C) Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
- D) The Old English Hexateuch