

In-Depth Fashion History Quiz

Fashion History · Answer Key · 19 Questions

1. Which Roman garment, typically made of wool, was a large semi-circular cloth draped over the body and often worn by citizens of status?

- A) Chiton
- B) Peplos
- C) Toga**
- D) Stola

2. The elaborate and restrictive corsets of the Victorian era were primarily constructed using which stiffening material?

- A) Silk
- B) Cotton
- C) Bone (whalebone or steel)**
- D) Leather

3. Which ancient Egyptian textile, derived from a marsh plant, was highly valued for its coolness and absorbency, making it ideal for warm climates?

- A) Wool
- B) Linen**
- C) Silk
- D) Cotton

4. The 'New Look' silhouette, characterized by a nipped-in waist, full skirt, and padded bust, was famously introduced by which French couturier in 1947?

- A) Coco Chanel
- B) Yves Saint Laurent
- C) Christian Dior**
- D) Hubert de Givenchy

5. During the Renaissance in Europe, which highly prized fabric, initially only accessible to royalty and the very wealthy, was produced from the cocoons of silkworms?

- A) Velvet
- B) Brocade
- C) Taffeta
- D) Silk**

6. The iconic 'flapper' style of the 1920s, featuring shorter hemlines, dropped waists, and a more boyish silhouette, was a direct reaction to the restrictive fashions of which preceding era?

- A) Edwardian Era
- B) Victorian Era**
- C) Regency Era
- D) Belle Époque

7. Which 18th-century French fashion icon is credited with popularizing the elaborate powdered hairstyles and extravagant gowns seen in rococo portraiture?

- A) Empress Josephine
- B) Marie Antoinette**
- C) Catherine the Great
- D) Queen Elizabeth I

8. The development of synthetic dyes in the mid-19th century, such as mauveine, had a significant impact on the availability and cost of what aspect of clothing production?

- A) Fabric weave
- B) Garment construction
- C) Color**
- D) Sizing

9. What was the primary purpose of the 'farthingale,' a stiffened hoop skirt worn in the 16th century, particularly in Spain and England?

- A) To provide warmth
- B) To create a wide, conical silhouette**
- C) To allow for easier movement
- D) To showcase embroidery techniques

10. Which influential British fashion designer, known for her bold geometric patterns and the 'Little Black Dress,' was a pioneer of 20th-century modern fashion?

- A) Vivienne Westwood
- B) Mary Quant
- C) Coco Chanel**
- D) Alexander McQueen

11. The distinctive 'poufs' and elaborate hairstyles of the late 18th century (circa 1770s-1780s) in France were heavily influenced by:

- A) Military uniforms
- B) Nautical themes
- C) Aristocratic extravagance and symbolism**
- D) Peasant clothing styles

12. What material, derived from flax, was commonly used for everyday clothing in ancient Greece and Rome due to its breathability and durability?

- A) Wool
- B) Cotton
- C) Silk
- D) Linen**

13. The 'Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of All Nations' held in London in 1851 showcased advancements in textile manufacturing. Which new technology was prominently featured, revolutionizing clothing production?

- A) The power loom
- B) The sewing machine**
- C) The spinning jenny
- D) The cotton gin

14. Which fashion trend of the 1960s, associated with youth culture and liberation, involved shorter hemlines and bold, often abstract, patterns?

- A) Mod**
- B) Hippie
- C) Punk
- D) Gothic

15. The 'Crusades' significantly influenced European fashion by introducing new textiles and dyes from the East. Which of these was a notable import that became highly sought after?

- A) Cotton**
- B) Linen
- C) Wool
- D) Denim

16. What was the primary function of the 'pannier,' a wide, hooped underskirt popular in the mid-18th century, particularly in France?

- A) To create a slender silhouette
- B) To support heavy embroidery
- C) To exaggerate the width of the hips**
- D) To provide pockets for storage

17. The iconic bias-cut dresses that draped and flowed elegantly, popularized by designers like Madeleine Vionnet, were a hallmark of which fashion decade?

- A) 1910s
- B) 1920s
- C) 1930s**
- D) 1940s

18. During the Edwardian era (early 20th century), the 'S-bend' silhouette was achieved through which undergarment that pushed the bust forward and the hips backward?

- A) Corset**
- B) Petticoat
- C) Bustle
- D) Crinoline

19. Which ancient civilization is renowned for its intricate beadwork, particularly in the creation of ornate necklaces and clothing embellishments, often made from materials like shells and semi-precious stones?

- A) Ancient Rome
- B) Ancient Greece
- C) Ancient Egypt
- D) Mesoamerica (e.g., Maya, Aztec)**