

Foundational Fashion History Quiz

Fashion History · Answer Key · 18 Questions

1. Which French designer is credited with popularizing the 'little black dress' in the 1920s?

- A) Christian Dior
- B) Yves Saint Laurent
- C) Coco Chanel**
- D) Elsa Schiaparelli

2. What significant change in women's fashion occurred in the 1920s, often referred to as the 'Roaring Twenties'?

- A) Return to corsetry
- B) Introduction of the crinoline skirt
- C) Shorter hemlines and dropped waistlines**
- D) Emphasis on voluminous gowns

3. The 'New Look' silhouette, characterized by a nipped-in waist and full skirt, was introduced by which designer after World War II?

- A) Hubert de Givenchy
- B) Christian Dior**
- C) Cristóbal Balenciaga
- D) Pierre Cardin

4. What historical garment, worn by men in ancient Rome, was a long, draped cloth that signified status and citizenship?

- A) Toga**
- B) Chiton
- C) Tunica
- D) Brogues

5. The invention of the sewing machine in the mid-19th century had a profound impact on fashion production. Which inventor is most associated with a successful sewing machine?

- A) Thomas Edison
- B) Alexander Graham Bell
- C) Isaac Singer**
- D) Charles Goodyear

6. Which era of fashion is known for its elaborate powdered wigs, corsets, and panniers (wide hoops)?

- A) Victorian Era
- B) Elizabethan Era
- C) Rococo/18th Century**
- D) Art Deco Era

7. What iconic 1960s fashion trend featured short skirts, bold geometric patterns, and a youthful, mod aesthetic?

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

8. This British designer is renowned for introducing the miniskirt and hot pants in the 1960s.

- A) Vivienne Westwood
- B) Mary Quant**
- C) Zandra Rhodes
- D) Stella McCartney

9. The invention of synthetic fabrics like nylon and rayon in the early to mid-20th century significantly impacted fashion. Which of these was one of the first commercially successful synthetic fibers?

- A) Polyester
- B) Rayon**
- C) Acrylic
- D) Spandex

10. What was the primary purpose of the corset for women in historical Western fashion, particularly from the 16th to early 20th centuries?

- A) To provide warmth
- B) To enhance physical comfort
- C) To achieve a specific silhouette and shape**
- D) To allow for greater mobility

11. Which Italian designer, known for his opulent and vibrant designs, rose to prominence in the late 20th century and became synonymous with glamour?

- A) Giorgio Armani
- B) Valentino Garavani
- C) Gianni Versace**
- D) Donatella Versace

12. The 'flapper' style of the 1920s is often associated with a rejection of traditional norms. What was a key characteristic of flapper fashion?

- A) Long, flowing hair and dresses
- B) Emphasis on elaborate hats and gloves
- C) Boyish silhouettes and short hair**
- D) High necklines and full skirts

13. What historical period saw the rise of the dandy, a man who placed significant emphasis on his appearance and elegant, refined clothing?

- A) Medieval Period
- B) Regency Era/Early 19th Century**
- C) Renaissance
- D) Ancient Greece

14. This influential Spanish designer was known for his sculptural and avant-garde creations, challenging conventional notions of shape and form.

- A) Christian Louboutin
- B) Cristóbal Balenciaga**
- C) Manolo Blahnik
- D) André Courrèges

15. What type of garment, particularly popular in the 1970s, became a symbol of counter-culture and individualism?

- A) Power Suit
- B) Bell-bottom Jeans**
- C) Poodle Skirt
- D) Flapper Dress

16. The development of prêt-à-porter (ready-to-wear) fashion significantly democratized style. Which decade is generally considered the period when ready-to-wear truly began to flourish?

- A) 1920s
- B) 1950s**
- C) 1970s
- D) 1990s

17. This Japanese designer revolutionized fashion in the late 20th century with his deconstructed, asymmetrical, and avant-garde designs, often using black.

- A) Issey Miyake
- B) Yohji Yamamoto
- C) Rei Kawakubo**
- D) Kenzo Takada

18. What was the primary significance of the invention of aniline dyes in the mid-19th century for the fashion industry?

A) It led to the decline of natural fibers.

B) It allowed for the creation of vibrant, synthetic colors.

C) It made clothing more expensive.

D) It exclusively produced muted earth tones.