

Fundamentals of Heraldry

History · Answer Key · 18 Questions

1. What is the term for the central shield in a coat of arms upon which the primary charges are displayed?

A) Escutcheon

B) Torse

C) Mantling

D) Crest

2. In heraldry, which of the following is classified as a 'metal' rather than a 'color'?

A) Gules

B) Azure

C) Or

D) Sable

3. Which heraldic rule dictates that a color cannot be placed upon a color, nor a metal upon a metal?

A) The Rule of Tincture

B) The Law of Arms

C) The Doctrine of Precedence

D) The Ordinance of Fields

4. What is the purpose of the 'torse' in a traditional achievement of arms?

A) To shield the knight's face

B) To hold the crest onto the helmet

C) To signify the rank of a duke

D) To divide the shield into quarters

5. Which heraldic color is represented by the term 'Gules'?

A) Blue

B) Red

C) Green

D) Black

6. What does the 'motto' in a coat of arms typically represent?

A) The family's geographical origin

B) A short expression of guiding principles

C) The year the armiger was born

D) The name of the smith who forged the armor

7. Which of the following is considered a 'fur' in heraldry?

- A) Chevron
- B) Ermine**
- C) Fess
- D) Pale

8. What is the 'dexter' side of a shield from the perspective of the person holding it?

- A) The right side**
- B) The left side
- C) The top
- D) The bottom

9. Which heraldic shape is a horizontal band that crosses the center of the shield?

- A) Chevron
- B) Fess**
- C) Saltire
- D) Bend

10. What is the 'crest' in a formal heraldic achievement?

- A) The entire coat of arms
- B) The motto inscribed at the base
- C) The figure placed above the helmet**
- D) The pattern on the shield

11. What does the term 'cadency' refer to in heraldry?

- A) The method of distinguishing members of the same family**
- B) The process of awarding new arms
- C) The manufacturing of heraldic banners
- D) The study of ancient seals

12. Which of these is a common 'ordinary' in heraldic design?

- A) Rose
- B) Lion
- C) Chevron**
- D) Sword

13. What is 'mantling' in a coat of arms?

- A) Decorative drapery flowing from the helmet**
- B) The border around the shield
- C) The supporter figures on the sides
- D) The metal studs on the armor

14. Which heraldic term describes a lion standing on its hind legs?

- A) Passant
- B) Rampant**
- C) Sejant
- D) Couchant

15. What are the 'supporters' in a coat of arms?

- A) The shield-bearers
- B) Figures standing on either side of the shield**
- C) The historical ancestors listed below the motto
- D) The decorative leaves surrounding the crest

16. In English heraldry, what is the 'College of Arms' responsible for?

- A) Training knights in combat
- B) Managing heraldic records and grants**
- C) Collecting taxes for the monarchy
- D) Manufacturing metal shields

17. What is a 'saltire' in heraldic design?

- A) A vertical stripe
- B) A diagonal cross**
- C) A circular border
- D) A star-shaped charge

18. Which heraldic color is equivalent to 'Sable'?

- A) Black**
- B) Yellow
- C) Purple
- D) White