

Fundamentals of Heraldry

History · Practice Test · 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