

Foundations of Circus Arts

Performing Arts · Answer Key · 25 Questions

1. Which term refers to the art of balancing on a thin wire or rope?

A) Contortion

B) Tightrope walking

C) Juggling

D) Acrobatics

2. What is the primary physical discipline used in aerial silks?

A) Vertical apparatus

B) Ground tumbling

C) Equilibrium

D) Clown logic

3. In circus terminology, what is a 'bunker' or 'base' in an acrobatic formation?

A) The person on top

B) The person holding the weight

C) The audience member

D) The ringmaster

4. Which historical figure is credited with modernizing the circus in 1768 by creating the standard 42-foot ring?

A) P.T. Barnum

B) Philip Astley

C) Cirque du Soleil

D) Jean-Baptiste Auriol

5. What is the objective of the 'diabolo' prop?

A) To balance on a pole

B) To spin a spool on a string

C) To ride a unicycle

D) To walk on stilts

6. Which circus discipline involves the manipulation of multiple objects in the air?

A) Juggling

B) Tightwire

C) Trapeze

D) Hand balancing

7. What is the primary function of a 'safety net' in aerial performances?

- A) To add aesthetic flair
- B) To catch performers in the event of a fall**
- C) To store props
- D) To divide the stage

8. What is the term for a performer who specializes in extreme body flexibility?

- A) Acrobat
- B) Contortionist**
- C) Mime
- D) Juggler

9. Which circus apparatus consists of two ropes hanging from a bar used for swinging?

- A) Aerial hoop
- B) Static trapeze
- C) Flying trapeze**
- D) Cyr wheel

10. What defines a 'static' trapeze performance?

- A) The trapeze does not swing**
- B) The performer is blindfolded
- C) The performer uses no music
- D) The apparatus is made of wood

11. Which piece of equipment is commonly used for solo balance and rotation?

- A) Cyr wheel**
- B) Trampoline
- C) Teeterboard
- D) Chinese pole

12. What is the primary role of the 'ringmaster' in a traditional circus?

- A) To perform acrobatics
- B) To announce acts and manage the show flow**
- C) To design the costumes
- D) To train the animals

13. Which of these is a traditional ground-based acrobatic discipline?

- A) Aerial silks
- B) Tumbling**
- C) Trapeze
- D) Cloud swing

14. What is a 'human pyramid' primarily testing in a circus context?

- A) Vocal range
- B) Balance and coordination**
- C) Speed
- D) Acting

15. What is the primary purpose of a 'spotter' during training?

- A) To record the session
- B) To provide physical assistance and safety**
- C) To choreograph the routine
- D) To operate the lights

16. Which circus discipline utilizes a single-wheeled cycle?

- A) Bicycling
- B) Unicycling**
- C) Tightrope
- D) Acrobalance

17. What is the 'aerial hoop' commonly known as in the circus industry?

- A) Lyra**
- B) Silks
- C) Hammock
- D) Trapeze

18. Which circus prop is typically made of wood or plastic and manipulated by the feet?

- A) Foot juggling**
- B) Clubs
- C) Rings
- D) Balls

19. What material is used to provide friction for aerial performers on silks?

- A) Oil
- B) Chalk**
- C) Water
- D) Sand

20. What is the 'teeterboard' designed to do?

- A) Launch a performer into the air**
- B) Balance objects
- C) Spin a performer
- D) Walk across a gap

21. Which circus discipline is most closely associated with the use of 'clown white' makeup?

A) Acrobatics

B) Clowning

C) Tightwire

D) Juggling

22. What is the primary focus of 'Chinese Pole' performance?

A) Dancing on a flat floor

B) Climbing and performing moves on a vertical pole

C) Walking on a wire

D) Swinging on ropes

23. In acrobatics, what does the term 'tuck' describe?

A) A fully extended body position

B) A position with knees pulled to the chest

C) A split jump

D) A slow rotation

24. Which circus discipline involves walking on extended wooden poles?

A) Stilt walking

B) Unicycling

C) Tightrope walking

D) Juggling

25. What is the name of the vertical fabric apparatus used for climbing and drops?

A) Aerial silks

B) Rope

C) Trapeze

D) Net