

Historical Milestones in World Literature

Literature · Practice Test · 15 Questions

1. Which 14th-century work is widely credited with establishing the Tuscan dialect as the standard literary language of Italy?

- A) The Decameron
- B) The Divine Comedy
- C) Canzoniere
- D) Il Filostrato

2. In 1605, the first part of Don Quixote was published in Madrid; what was the full title of this original publication?

- A) El ingenioso hidalgo don Quijote de la Mancha
- B) La Galatea
- C) Novelas ejemplares
- D) Los trabajos de Persiles y Sigismunda

3. Which author became the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913?

- A) W.B. Yeats
- B) Rabindranath Tagore
- C) Lu Xun
- D) Naguib Mahfouz

4. The first printing press in the English colonies of North America was established in which city in 1638?

- A) Boston
- B) Cambridge
- C) Philadelphia
- D) Jamestown

5. Which 18th-century work is often cited as the first 'modern novel' in the English language, published in 1719?

- A) Moll Flanders
- B) Robinson Crusoe
- C) Pamela
- D) Gulliver's Travels

6. Who was the first woman to be elected to the Académie Française, breaking a tradition dating back to 1635?

- A) Simone de Beauvoir
- B) Marguerite Yourcenar
- C) Françoise Sagan
- D) Colette

7. The epic poem 'Beowulf' is recorded in which single surviving manuscript, dating to approximately 975-1025 AD?

- A) Nowell Codex
- B) Vercelli Book
- C) Exeter Book
- D) Junius Manuscript

8. Which Russian author's works were famously confiscated by the KGB during the 'Samizdat' era, leading to the secret publication of 'Doctor Zhivago'?

- A) Leo Tolstoy
- B) Fyodor Dostoevsky
- C) Boris Pasternak
- D) Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

9. The 'Epic of Gilgamesh' was rediscovered in the 19th century through the excavation of which historical library?

- A) Library of Alexandria
- B) Library of Ashurbanipal
- C) Library of Pergamum
- D) House of Wisdom

10. In 1922, which landmark modernist text was first published in its entirety in the journal 'The Criterion'?

- A) Ulysses
- B) The Waste Land
- C) Mrs. Dalloway
- D) The Sound and the Fury

11. Which Japanese author's 11th-century work 'The Tale of Genji' is historically considered the world's first novel?

- A) Murasaki Shikibu
- B) Sei Shonagon
- C) Matsuo Basho
- D) Ihara Saikaku

12. What was the first book printed using movable metal type in Europe, completed by Johannes Gutenberg in 1455?

- A) The Canterbury Tales
- B) The Vulgate Bible
- C) The Divine Comedy
- D) Summa Theologica

13. Which historical figure's diary, published posthumously in 1947, provided a primary account of life during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands?

- A) Corrie ten Boom
- B) Anne Frank
- C) Etty Hillesum
- D) Diet Eman

14. The 19th-century literary movement known as 'Romanticism' was significantly influenced by the publication of which collaborative 1798 poetry collection?

- A) Lyrical Ballads
- B) Songs of Innocence
- C) The Prelude
- D) Christabel

15. Which author's 19th-century novel 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' was the second best-selling book of its century, surpassed only by the Bible?

- A) Louisa May Alcott
- B) Harriet Beecher Stowe
- C) Nathaniel Hawthorne
- D) Emily Dickinson