

History of Magic and Illusion

History Of Magic · Practice Test · 25 Questions

1. Which 18th-century illusionist is widely credited as the 'Father of Modern Magic' for moving performances from marketplaces to theaters?

- A) Jean Eugène Robert-Houdin
- B) Jean-Eugène Robert-Houdin
- C) Jean-Nicolas Ponsin
- D) Jean-Baptiste Philibert de Castil-Blaze

2. The illusion known as 'Pepper's Ghost,' popularized in 1862, relies on which optical principle?

- A) Refraction through liquid prisms
- B) Polarization of light waves
- C) Reflection using a large glass pane
- D) Diffraction through a mesh screen

3. In 1910, which famous escape artist performed a daring escape from a packing crate submerged in the East River?

- A) Harry Houdini
- B) The Great Lafayette
- C) Chung Ling Soo
- D) Max Malini

4. What was the real name of the performer known as 'Chung Ling Soo,' who famously died during a bullet-catch stunt in 1918?

- A) William Ellsworth Robinson
- B) Stanislaw Sulkowski
- C) Herbert Albin
- D) Charles Joseph Carter

5. The 'Metamorphosis' illusion, involving a trunk and a substitution, was famously perfected by which duo?

- A) The Herrmanns
- B) The Davenport
- C) The Maskelynes
- D) The Bambergers

6. Which professional magician was also a dedicated psychic researcher who authored 'A Magician Among the Spirits'?

- A) Howard Thurston
- B) Harry Houdini
- C) David Devant
- D) Alexander Herrmann

7. The 'Automaton Chess Player' (The Turk), which toured Europe in the 18th century, was eventually revealed to be what?

- A) A magnet-controlled mechanism
- B) A clockwork computer
- C) A human-operated puppet
- D) A purely optical illusion

8. What was the primary method used by John Nevil Maskelyne to expose the fraudulent 'mediums' of the Victorian era?

- A) Stealth photography
- B) Public debunking stage shows
- C) Chemical testing of ectoplasm
- D) Use of forensic accountants

9. Which illusionist was known for the 'Floating Lady' act, performed with the assistance of a hidden support bar?

- A) Guy Jarrett
- B) P.T. Selbit
- C) David Copperfield
- D) Kalanag

10. The 'Bullet Catch' trick, historically one of the most dangerous, was first attributed to which early performer?

- A) Girolamo Scotto
- B) Johann Nepomuk Hofzinser
- C) Breslaw
- D) Philippe Talon

11. Which magician authored 'The Expert at the Card Table' in 1902, a seminal text on gambling sleight of hand?

- A) S.W. Erdnase
- B) Dai Vernon
- C) Martin Gardner
- D) Ed Marlo

12. The 'Burning at the Stake' illusion, involving a fire-safe compartment, was a signature feat of which early 20th-century magician?

- A) Harry Kellar
- B) Carl Hertz
- C) Servais Le Roy
- D) Okito

13. Before becoming a professional magician, Jean Eugène Robert-Houdin was trained in what profession?

- A) Watchmaking
- B) Architecture
- C) Blacksmithing
- D) Bookbinding

14. Which illusion, patented in 1921, involves a woman being sawn into two separate pieces, revolutionized by P.T. Selbit?

- A) The Zig-Zag Girl
- B) The Sawing in Half
- C) The Asrah Levitation
- D) The Mummy Case

15. What was the significance of the 'Egyptian Hall' in Piccadilly, London, regarding magic history?

- A) It was the first dedicated theater for magic
- B) It was the site of the first magic convention
- C) It was where the first magic wand was patented
- D) It served as the headquarters for the Magic Circle

16. Which magician was known as the 'King of Cards' and famous for his 'Card Fountain' technique?

- A) Cardini
- B) Fred Kaps
- C) Slydini
- D) Tony Slydini

17. The 'Asrah' levitation, invented by Servais Le Roy, utilizes which visual concept to hide the assistant?

- A) A hidden mirror system
- B) A black cloth on a black background
- C) A pneumatic lifting device
- D) A holographic projection

18. Who was the first magician to appear on the cover of 'Time' magazine?

- A) David Copperfield
- B) Harry Houdini
- C) Doug Henning
- D) Penn & Teller

19. The 'Okito Box,' used in coin magic, is named after which magician's stage name?

- A) Theodore Bamberg
- B) Fu Manchu
- C) T. Nelson Downs
- D) Chung Ling Soo

20. Which magician specialized in 'micro-magic' and was famous for his 'Cigarette Magic'?

- A) Slydini
- B) Albert Goshman
- C) Al Flosso
- D) Eddie Fechter

21. The 'Linking Rings' illusion was popularized in the West by which performer during the early 20th century?

- A) Okito
- B) Chung Ling Soo
- C) Harry Kellar
- D) Dai Vernon

22. Which historical magician was nicknamed 'The Unmasker' due to his television specials exposing trade secrets?

- A) Val Valentino
- B) Harry Blackstone Jr.
- C) Lance Burton
- D) Criss Angel

23. The 'Cups and Balls' trick is considered the oldest known magic routine, with evidence dating back to what era?

- A) Ancient Egypt
- B) Renaissance Italy
- C) Victorian England
- D) Ancient Rome

24. What is the 'Black Art' principle in magic?

- A) The use of UV light to hide objects
- B) The use of black velvet to conceal objects
- C) The practice of stage hypnosis
- D) A method of forced card selection

25. Which magician was famous for his 'Broomstick' levitation, which he performed at the World's Fair in 1893?

- A) Harry Kellar
- B) Alexander Herrmann
- C) Howard Thurston
- D) Carl Hertz