

Advanced Studies in Heraldic Science

Heraldry · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. In heraldry, what is the technical term for the background color of a shield?

- A) Field**
- B) Base
- C) Chief
- D) Charge

2. Which of the following is considered one of the two 'metals' used in the tinctures of heraldry?

- A) Gules
- B) Azure
- C) Or**
- D) Sable

3. What is the rule of 'tincture' in classical heraldry regarding the placement of colors?

- A) Metal must never be placed on metal
- B) Color must never be placed on metal
- C) Color must never be placed on color**
- D) Metals may be placed on metals if charged

4. A 'bordure' in heraldry describes which specific design element?

- A) A horizontal stripe across the middle
- B) A border around the edge of the shield**
- C) A diagonal band from dexter chief to sinister base
- D) A small shield placed in the center of the main shield

5. Which term describes a shield divided into four equal quarters?

- A) Party per pale
- B) Quarterly**
- C) Tierced in fess
- D) Gyronny

6. In the 'blazon' of a coat of arms, which side is referred to as 'dexter'?

- A) The viewer's right
- B) The top
- C) The bottom
- D) The wearer's right**

7. What is a 'cadency mark' used to indicate in a family coat of arms?

- A) The rank of the knight
- B) The number of battles fought
- C) The relative seniority of a son**
- D) The location of the fiefdom

8. Which animal is traditionally depicted 'rampant' when standing on one hind leg with both forepaws raised?

- A) Lion**
- B) Eagle
- C) Boar
- D) Stag

9. What is the heraldic term for a chevron that has been inverted?

- A) Chevronel
- B) Chevron inverted**
- C) Chevronny
- D) Pall

10. An 'escutcheon of pretence' is used to signify what historical event in genealogy?

- A) The inheritance of an heiress's arms**
- B) The conquest of a foreign land
- C) The knighting of a commoner
- D) The formation of a guild

11. Which of the following is an example of a 'fur' tincture?

- A) Ermine**
- B) Vert
- C) Purpure
- D) Argent

12. The heraldic 'fess' is characterized by which orientation?

- A) A vertical stripe
- B) A diagonal line
- C) A horizontal stripe**
- D) A circular emblem

13. What does the heraldic term 'displayed' specifically describe regarding an eagle?

- A) Wings spread and facing forward**
- B) Perched on a branch
- C) Head turned to the side
- D) Claws holding a sword

14. In heraldic terminology, what is a 'torse'?

- A) A helmet crest
- B) A wreath of twisted silk**
- C) A decorative banner
- D) A clasp for a cloak

15. Which of these describes a 'saltire'?

- A) A cross with pointed ends
- B) A diagonal cross in the shape of an X**
- C) A square border
- D) A series of wavy lines

16. What is the 'mantling' in a full heraldic achievement?

- A) The animal supporters
- B) The ornamental foliage draping the helmet**
- C) The motto at the base
- D) The crown atop the crest

17. The 'chief' is an ordinary that occupies which position on the shield?

- A) The bottom third
- B) The diagonal center
- C) The top third**
- D) The right vertical third

18. Which of these terms describes a shield divided vertically into two equal parts?

- A) Per pale**
- B) Per fess
- C) Per bend
- D) Per chevron

19. In blazonry, what does the term 'proper' denote?

- A) The arms are of royal origin
- B) The charge is depicted in its natural colors**
- C) The coat of arms is ancient
- D) The crest is missing

20. What is an 'athelings' coronet in heraldry?

- A) A specific rank of duke
- B) A royal insignia of early Anglo-Saxon nobility**
- C) A ecclesiastical ornament
- D) The mark of a bastard line