

Historical Foundations of Creative Writing

Creative Writing · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. The Sumerian Epic of Gilgamesh, considered one of the earliest surviving works of literature, was primarily inscribed on what medium?

- A) Parchment scrolls
- B) Clay tablets**
- C) Papyrus sheets
- D) Stone slabs

2. Which ancient Greek poet is traditionally credited with composing the epic poems 'The Iliad' and 'The Odyssey', foundational texts in Western literature?

- A) Sophocles
- B) Euripides
- C) Homer**
- D) Aeschylus

3. The invention of the printing press by Johannes Gutenberg in the 15th century had a profound impact on the dissemination of creative writing. What was its primary consequence for authors and readers?

- A) Increased cost of book production, limiting access
- B) Standardization of language and spelling**
- C) Decreased demand for handwritten manuscripts
- D) Shifted literary focus exclusively to oral tradition

4. During the Renaissance, the development of Humanism significantly influenced creative writing. What literary convention did Humanism strongly encourage?

- A) Strict adherence to religious allegory
- B) Focus on classical learning and human potential**
- C) Emphasis on medieval chivalric romances
- D) Prominence of fantastical and mythical narratives

5. The establishment of literary salons in 17th and 18th century France served what primary purpose for creative writers?

- A) To censor controversial works
- B) To facilitate scholarly debate and patronage**
- C) To exclusively publish government propaganda
- D) To promote the translation of foreign texts

6. The Romantic movement, emerging in the late 18th century, reacted against which prevailing literary and philosophical era?

- A) The Middle Ages
- B) The Enlightenment**
- C) The Victorian era
- D) The Baroque period

7. In the development of the novel as a literary form, which 18th-century author is often cited for pioneering psychological depth and realistic portrayal of everyday life in works like 'Pamela'?

- A) Jonathan Swift
- B) Daniel Defoe
- C) Samuel Richardson**
- D) Henry Fielding

8. The Beat Generation, active in the mid-20th century, is recognized for challenging conventional literary forms and subject matter. Which of these authors was a prominent figure associated with the movement?

- A) Ernest Hemingway
- B) William Faulkner
- C) Jack Kerouac**
- D) F. Scott Fitzgerald

9. The rise of literary journals and magazines in the 19th century played a crucial role in the publication and popularization of short fiction. What was a significant advantage they offered to emerging writers?

- A) Guaranteed immediate book deals
- B) A platform for serialized novels and shorter pieces**
- C) Exclusion of avant-garde or experimental styles
- D) Sole focus on poetry and drama

10. Which of the following historical periods saw a significant increase in the use of vernacular languages in written literature, moving away from Latin as the dominant scholarly tongue?

- A) The Classical Antiquity
- B) The Early Middle Ages
- C) The Late Middle Ages and Renaissance**
- D) The Byzantine Empire

11. The Elizabethan era in English literature, marked by figures like Shakespeare, is notable for its flourishing in which specific dramatic form?

- A) Opera
- B) Musical Theatre
- C) Tragedy and Comedy (Plays)**
- D) Pantomime

12. The Surrealist movement in the early 20th century encouraged creative writing that explored dreams and the unconscious. Which specific technique did they often employ to access this realm?

- A) Strict adherence to rational thought
- B) Automatism (automatic writing)**
- C) Objective reporting of facts
- D) Logical deduction and analysis

13. The Harlem Renaissance, a cultural and artistic explosion in the 1920s and 1930s, saw a significant contribution to American literature primarily from which demographic group?

- A) Irish immigrants
- B) Italian laborers
- C) African Americans**
- D) Jewish intellectuals

14. During the period of Neoclassicism (roughly 17th and 18th centuries), literary works often adhered to specific rules and models derived from which historical source?

- A) Medieval folklore
- B) Ancient Greek and Roman writers**
- C) Indigenous oral traditions
- D) Early Christian scriptures

15. The development of the 'stream of consciousness' technique in modernist literature, exemplified by authors like Virginia Woolf, aimed to represent what?

- A) External societal pressures
- B) The unfiltered flow of a character's thoughts and feelings**
- C) Objective historical accounts
- D) The structured progression of dialogue