

Advanced Drama and Theatre Knowledge

Theatre Arts · Practice Test · 12 Questions

1. Which ancient Greek playwright is credited with introducing the second actor to the stage, thereby shifting drama from monologues to dialogue?

- A) Sophocles
- B) Aeschylus
- C) Euripides
- D) Aristophanes

2. In the context of the Globe Theatre, what was the 'tiring house' used for?

- A) Housing the musicians
- B) Changing costumes and storing props
- C) Selling refreshments to the groundlings
- D) Raising the flag to signal a performance

3. Which Commedia dell'arte stock character is traditionally depicted wearing a mask with a long, hooked nose and carrying a slapstick?

- A) Pantalone
- B) Il Dottore
- C) Arlecchino
- D) Pulcinella

4. What is the primary function of a 'gobo' in professional stage lighting?

- A) To change the color of the beam
- B) To break up the light to create patterns or textures
- C) To dim the intensity of high-voltage lights
- D) To focus the beam on a specific performer

5. In Stanislavski's system of acting, what is the 'Magic If'?

- A) A method for memorizing lines
- B) A technique for physical warm-ups
- C) A way to imagine oneself in the circumstances of the character
- D) The moment an actor breaks the fourth wall

6. Which play by Samuel Beckett famously consists of two acts where nothing happens, twice?

- A) Endgame
- B) Waiting for Godot
- C) Happy Days
- D) Krapp's Last Tape

7. What is a 'proscenium arch' in theatre architecture?

- A) The underground area where machinery is kept
- B) The frame that separates the stage from the auditorium
- C) The seating area located behind the stage
- D) The revolving portion of the stage floor

8. Who wrote the 1891 play 'Spring Awakening', known for its controversial depiction of adolescent sexuality and suicide?

- A) Henrik Ibsen
- B) August Strindberg
- C) Frank Wedekind
- D) Anton Chekhov

9. In Japanese Kabuki theatre, what is the 'hanamichi'?

- A) A specialized vocal technique
- B) A raised platform used for scenery changes
- C) A walkway extending through the audience to the stage
- D) A mask worn by female impersonators

10. What is the theatrical term for a play that is performed without any intermission?

- A) One-act play
- B) Continuous drama
- C) Cyclical play
- D) Single-frame performance

11. The 'V-effekt' (Verfremdungseffekt), or alienation effect, is a central tenet of which playwright's epic theatre?

- A) Arthur Miller
- B) Bertolt Brecht
- C) Tennessee Williams
- D) Eugene O'Neill

12. Which theatre company, founded in 1897, became the primary home for the plays of W.B. Yeats and Lady Gregory?

- A) The Royal Shakespeare Company
- B) The Moscow Art Theatre
- C) The Abbey Theatre
- D) The Old Vic