

Drama & Theatre History Quiz

Theatre History · Answer Key · 25 Questions

1. In what year did the original Globe Theatre in London burn down during a performance of Henry VIII?

- A) 1599
- B) 1613**
- C) 1642
- D) 1660

2. How many plays are traditionally attributed to the ancient Greek playwright Sophocles?

- A) 7
- B) 12
- C) 45
- D) 120**

3. Who wrote the play 'A Raisin in the Sun', which premiered on Broadway in 1959?

- A) August Wilson
- B) Lorraine Hansberry**
- C) Langston Hughes
- D) James Baldwin

4. The 'Three Unities' of drama (time, place, and action) were largely derived from the interpretation of which philosopher's work?

- A) Plato
- B) Socrates
- C) Aristotle**
- D) Epicurus

5. How many acts are typically found in a standard Shakespearean tragedy?

- A) 3
- B) 4
- C) 5**
- D) 6

6. The Comédie-Française, one of the oldest active theatre companies, was founded in Paris in which year?

- A) 1680**
- B) 1715
- C) 1750
- D) 1789

7. Which playwright is the author of 'The Importance of Being Earnest', first performed in 1895?

A) George Bernard Shaw

B) Oscar Wilde

C) J.M. Barrie

D) Noel Coward

8. The Tony Awards, which honor Broadway theatre, were first presented in which year?

A) 1940

B) 1947

C) 1952

D) 1960

9. How many performers are traditionally required to be on stage for a 'monologue'?

A) 1

B) 2

C) 3

D) 4

10. Henrik Ibsen's play 'A Doll's House' was first published in which year?

A) 1865

B) 1879

C) 1890

D) 1901

11. Who is known as the 'Father of Russian Realism' for his plays like 'The Seagull' and 'The Cherry Orchard'?

A) Leo Tolstoy

B) Anton Chekhov

C) Fyodor Dostoevsky

D) Maxim Gorky

12. The National Theatre of Great Britain was established in London under the leadership of which actor in 1963?

A) John Gielgud

B) Laurence Olivier

C) Richard Burton

D) Ralph Richardson

13. In technical theatre, what is the standard term for the horizontal curtain used to mask the lighting rig above the stage?

A) Cyclorama

B) Teaser

C) Tormentor

D) Scrim

14. How many lines are in a traditional English (Shakespearean) sonnet, a form often referenced in dramatic prologues?

A) 10

B) 12

C) 14

D) 16

15. Eugene O'Neill is the only American playwright to receive how many Pulitzer Prizes for Drama?

A) 2

B) 3

C) 4

D) 5

16. The 'Great White Way' is a common nickname for which famous theatre district?

A) West End

B) Broadway

C) Off-Broadway

D) Piccadilly Circus

17. Which playwright authored 'Waiting for Godot', which premiered in Paris in 1953?

A) Samuel Beckett

B) Jean-Paul Sartre

C) Albert Camus

D) Eugene Ionesco

18. What is the name of the narrow platform projecting from the stage into the audience, often used in fashion shows and musical theatre?

A) Apron

B) Thrust

C) Catwalk

D) Proscenium

19. Bertolt Brecht developed the concept of 'Verfremdungseffekt' (alienation effect) in what decade?

A) 1920s

B) 1930s

C) 1940s

D) 1950s

20. In Kabuki theatre, what is the raised passage that runs through the audience to the stage called?

A) Hanamichi

B) Kuroko

C) Mie

D) Kumadori

21. Arthur Miller's 'Death of a Salesman' won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in what year?

A) 1945

B) 1949

C) 1953

D) 1955

22. How many members usually make up the Chorus in a typical play by Aeschylus?

A) 12

B) 15

C) 20

D) 25

23. The Sydney Opera House, an iconic theatrical venue, officially opened in which year?

A) 1968

B) 1973

C) 1977

D) 1980

24. Who wrote the 18th-century play 'The School for Scandal'?

A) Richard Brinsley Sheridan

B) Oliver Goldsmith

C) William Congreve

D) John Gay

25. What is the term for a play that consists of only one act?

- A) Farce
- B) Monodrama
- C) One-act play**
- D) Interlude