

Drama & Theatre History Quiz

Theatre History · Practice Test · 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