

Advanced Opera Knowledge

Opera · Practice Test · 20 Questions

1. Which operatic term refers to a self-contained piece for one voice, usually with orchestral accompaniment?

- A) Recitative
- B) Aria
- C) Libretto
- D) Overture

2. What is the Italian term for the text or script of an opera?

- A) Score
- B) Partitura
- C) Libretto
- D) Cadenza

3. Which composer is credited with creating the 'Gesamtkunstwerk' (total work of art) concept?

- A) Richard Wagner
- B) Giuseppe Verdi
- C) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
- D) Giacomo Puccini

4. In which city is the famous La Scala opera house located?

- A) Rome
- B) Venice
- C) Naples
- D) Milan

5. What is the vocal classification for a very high female voice, often characterized by rapid runs and trills?

- A) Mezzo-soprano
- B) Contralto
- C) Coloratura soprano
- D) Dramatic soprano

6. Which of these operas was composed by Georges Bizet and is set in Seville, Spain?

- A) Tosca
- B) Carmen
- C) Rigoletto
- D) Fidelio

7. What does the term 'Bel Canto' literally translate to in English?

- A) Beautiful singing
- B) Bold expression
- C) Fast pacing
- D) Heavy drama

8. Which Mozart opera features the character Papageno, a bird-catcher?

- A) The Marriage of Figaro
- B) Don Giovanni
- C) The Magic Flute
- D) Così fan tutte

9. Who wrote the libretto for many of W.A. Mozart's most famous operas, including 'The Marriage of Figaro'?

- A) Lorenzo Da Ponte
- B) Metastasio
- C) Arrigo Boito
- D) Hugo von Hofmannsthal

10. What is the name of the 'death aria' sung by the protagonist in Puccini's 'Tosca'?

- A) Vesti la giubba
- B) E lucevan le stelle
- C) Nessun dorma
- D) Che gelida manina

11. Which operatic voice part is the lowest male voice range?

- A) Baritone
- B) Tenor
- C) Countertenor
- D) Bass

12. In the 'Ring Cycle' by Richard Wagner, what is the 'Ring' forged from?

- A) Gold stolen from the Rhine maidens
- B) A fallen star
- C) The sword of Wotan
- D) Dragon scales

13. Which opera by Giuseppe Verdi features the famous 'Anvil Chorus'?

- A) La Traviata
- B) Aida
- C) Il Trovatore
- D) Otello

14. What is a 'leitmotif' in the context of Wagnerian opera?

- A) A type of stage prop
- B) A recurring musical theme associated with a character or idea
- C) The conductor's baton
- D) A specific seating arrangement

15. Which opera contains the famous soprano aria 'Un bel dì vedremo'?

- A) Madama Butterfly
- B) La Bohème
- C) Turandot
- D) Manon Lescaut

16. What is the vocal range that sits between a soprano and a contralto?

- A) Baritone
- B) Tenor
- C) Mezzo-soprano
- D) Bass-baritone

17. Which 17th-century composer is considered the 'father of opera' for his work 'L'Orfeo'?

- A) Claudio Monteverdi
- B) Henry Purcell
- C) Jean-Baptiste Lully
- D) Antonio Vivaldi

18. The Sydney Opera House was designed by which Danish architect?

- A) Alvar Aalto
- B) Jørn Utzon
- C) Frank Lloyd Wright
- D) Oscar Niemeyer

19. What is the purpose of a 'synopsis' in an opera program?

- A) List of orchestra members
- B) Summary of the plot
- C) Biography of the composer
- D) Technical specifications of the stage

20. Which musical technique involves a singer performing rapid, decorative notes?

- A) Legato
- B) Staccato
- C) Melisma
- D) Vibrato