

Public Speaking: Notable Firsts and Inventions

Public Speaking · Practice Test · 18 Questions

1. Who is often credited with developing the first systematic approach to public speaking, outlining principles of invention, arrangement, and delivery in ancient Greece?

- A) Socrates
- B) Plato
- C) Aristotle
- D) Demosthenes

2. What ancient Roman orator and statesman is renowned for his eloquent speeches and influential writings on rhetoric, such as 'De Oratore'?

- A) Julius Caesar
- B) Augustus
- C) Cicero
- D) Seneca

3. The invention of what technology in the 19th century revolutionized public speaking by allowing for amplified sound, making it easier for larger audiences to hear speakers?

- A) Printing press
- B) Telegraph
- C) Microphone
- D) Radio

4. Who is famously associated with the invention of the 'power of the people' speech delivery technique, emphasizing directness and emotional connection with the audience, often seen in early American oratory?

- A) Abraham Lincoln
- B) Patrick Henry
- C) Daniel Webster
- D) Frederick Douglass

5. The development of what visual aid in the mid-20th century provided speakers with a new way to present information visually and support their spoken words?

- A) Overhead projector
- B) Chalkboard
- C) Whiteboard
- D) Flip chart

6. Which ancient philosopher wrote extensively on the art of persuasion, including the ethical use of rhetoric, in works like 'Gorgias' and 'Phaedrus'?

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

7. The invention of what device by Thomas Edison in the late 19th century allowed for the recording and playback of sound, which could then be used for speech analysis and practice?

- A) Camera
- B) Phonograph
- C) Automobile
- D) Telephone

8. Who delivered the iconic 'I Have a Dream' speech in 1963, which is widely considered a masterpiece of modern public speaking and a pivotal moment in the Civil Rights Movement?

- A) Malcolm X
- B) Rosa Parks
- C) Martin Luther King Jr.
- D) John Lewis

9. What early form of mass communication, popularized in the early 20th century, allowed political leaders and public figures to broadcast their speeches to a national audience for the first time?

- A) Newspaper
- B) Television
- C) Radio
- D) Cinema

10. Which ancient Greek rhetorician is known for his ten 'Philippic' orations, a powerful example of persuasive public speaking aimed at rallying citizens against Philip II of Macedon?

- A) Isocrates
- B) Lysias
- C) Demosthenes
- D) Aeschines

11. The invention of what digital presentation software in the late 20th century transformed how speakers create and deliver visual aids, becoming a ubiquitous tool in modern public speaking?

- A) Microsoft Word
- B) Adobe Photoshop
- C) Microsoft PowerPoint
- D) Adobe Illustrator

12. Who was the first woman to deliver a public speech to the United States Congress, advocating for abolition and women's rights in the mid-19th century?

- A) Sojourner Truth
- B) Susan B. Anthony
- C) Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- D) Lucretia Mott

13. What influential Roman orator and educator is credited with establishing a formal school of rhetoric and influencing the development of public speaking in the Roman Empire?

- A) Quintilian
- B) Virgil
- C) Horace
- D) Ovid

14. The invention of what communication device in the 19th century enabled near-instantaneous delivery of messages, impacting the speed and reach of public announcements and speeches?

- A) Pony Express
- B) Steam engine
- C) Telegraph
- D) Printing press

15. What early 20th-century invention allowed for the synchronized recording and playback of sound and moving images, fundamentally changing the impact and accessibility of public speeches through film?

- A) Radio
- B) Television
- C) Talkies (sound film)
- D) Stereo sound

16. Who is recognized as the 'father of modern public speaking' for his extensive work on speech composition, delivery, and the psychological impact of oratory, particularly in the early 20th century?

- A) Dale Carnegie
- B) James Winans
- C) John Dewey
- D) Alfred Korzybski

17. The rise of what technology in the late 20th and early 21st centuries has created new platforms for public speaking, allowing individuals to share their ideas and speeches globally through video sharing?

- A) Social media
- B) Fax machines
- C) CD-ROMs
- D) Dial-up internet

18. What ancient Greek city-state is considered a birthplace of public speaking and democracy, where citizens debated and decided public policy through oral discourse?

- A) Sparta
- B) Corinth
- C) Athens
- D) Thebes