

Historical Foundations of Magic and Illusion

History Of Magic · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Which 19th-century illusionist is credited with the invention of the 'Pepper's Ghost' optical illusion, although it was named after another researcher?

- A) John Henry Pepper
- B) Henry Dircks**
- C) Jean-Eugène Robert-Houdin
- D) Gustave Adolphus Davenport

2. In 1875, the Royal Polytechnic Institution in London hosted the debut of which famous levitation illusion, originally engineered by John Nevil Maskelyne?

- A) The Psycho**
- B) The Floating Lady
- C) The Levitation of Princess Karnac
- D) The Astral Body

3. What was the specific name of the 17th-century 'miracle' trick performed by Isaac Fawkes that involved the rapid production of eggs and ribbons from empty containers?

- A) The Egg Bag
- B) The Multiplying Egg
- C) The Fawkes Feat
- D) The Inexhaustible Bottle**

4. Jean-Eugène Robert-Houdin was sent to Algiers by the French government in 1856 to perform magic for what specific political purpose?

- A) To establish a French school of magic
- B) To weaken the influence of Marabout religious leaders**
- C) To entertain the French colonial garrison
- D) To recruit local informants

5. What mechanical apparatus did John Nevil Maskelyne use in his 'Psycho' illusion, which allowed it to play chess against audience members?

- A) A concealed human operator
- B) A pneumatic air-driven system
- C) A series of clockwork gears and weights**
- D) A magnetized board controlled from offstage

6. The illusionist known as 'The Great Lafayette' (Sigmund Neuberger) died in a catastrophic fire in 1911 at which specific venue?

A) The Hippodrome in London

B) The Empire Theatre in Edinburgh

C) The Winter Garden in Berlin

D) The Orpheum in San Francisco

7. Which seminal work, published in 1584, is considered the first English-language book to reveal the secrets behind sleight-of-hand tricks?

A) The Discoverie of Witchcraft

B) Hocus Pocus Junior

C) Natural Magick

D) The Art of Conjuring

8. Harry Houdini's 'Chinese Water Torture Cell' was first performed in 1912 under what original title?

A) The Upside-Down Jail

B) The Water-Filled Coffin

C) The Suspended Torture Cell

D) The Underwater Escape

9. Adelaide Herrmann, known as the 'Queen of Magic,' became the first woman to perform which dangerous theatrical illusion after the death of her husband?

A) Sawing a Woman in Half

B) The Bullet Catch

C) The Burning of a Woman

D) The Vanishing Elephant

10. What is the historical significance of the 'Egyptian Hall' in Piccadilly, London, regarding the history of magic?

A) It was the site of the first magic convention

B) It was the primary venue for England's 'Home of Mystery'

C) It was the birthplace of the Magic Circle

D) It was where Houdini first performed in Europe

11. Which illusionist was known for the creation of the 'Kellar Rope Tie' and was a major influence on the early stagecraft of Harry Houdini?

A) Alexander Herrmann

B) Harry Kellar

C) Chung Ling Soo

D) Buatier de Kolta

12. Chung Ling Soo, a famous stage persona, was actually an American magician whose real name was what?

A) William Ellsworth Robinson

B) Charles Joseph Carter

C) Herbert Albin

D) Horace Goldin

13. The illusion 'Metamorphosis,' involving a trunk and a swap between two people, was popularized by which duo in the late 19th century?

A) The Davenport Brothers

B) The Herrmann Brothers

C) The Maskelyne Brothers

D) The Zancigs

14. What scientific principle is utilized in the 'Black Art' stage technique, which allows objects to appear and disappear in plain view?

A) Polarized light reflection

B) Strict control of ambient light and matte black surfaces

C) High-frequency vibration

D) Visual persistence of vision

15. Who was the French magician, often cited as the 'Father of Modern Magic,' who moved magic from street fairs to formal theatrical settings?

A) Jean-Eugène Robert-Houdin

B) Bartolomeo Bosco

C) Philippe Talon

D) Henri Decrémps