

Historical Linguistic and Vocabulary Milestones

Linguistics History · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. Which document, signed in 1215, significantly influenced the formalization of English legal terminology and grammar?

- A) The Magna Carta**
- B) The Domesday Book
- C) The Bill of Rights
- D) The Treaty of Paris

2. The word 'robot' was introduced to the English vocabulary through which 1920 science fiction play by Karel Capek?

- A) Metropolis
- B) R.U.R.**
- C) Solaris
- D) The Time Machine

3. In which century did the 'Great Vowel Shift' begin to drastically alter the pronunciation of English words?

- A) 12th Century
- B) 14th Century**
- C) 16th Century
- D) 18th Century

4. Which language served as the primary administrative and scholarly 'lingua franca' in England following the Norman Conquest of 1066?

- A) Latin
- B) Old Norse
- C) Anglo-Norman**
- D) High German

5. The term 'sandwich' was named after John Montagu, the 4th Earl of Sandwich, during which century?

- A) 16th Century
- B) 17th Century
- C) 18th Century**
- D) 19th Century

6. Samuel Johnson's 'A Dictionary of the English Language', a landmark for English vocabulary, was published in which year?

A) 1755

B) 1789

C) 1801

D) 1825

7. Which Germanic tribe is historically credited with providing the foundation for the 'Old English' language during the 5th century?

A) The Goths

B) The Angles

C) The Vandals

D) The Franks

8. The word 'boycott' originated from the treatment of Captain Charles Boycott, a land agent in which country during the 1880s?

A) Scotland

B) Wales

C) Ireland

D) England

9. Which of these inventions is responsible for the term 'computer' initially referring to a human profession in the 17th century?

A) The Steam Engine

B) The Printing Press

C) The Loom

D) The Calculator

10. The word 'assassin' is derived from the Arabic 'hashshashin', a group that gained notoriety during which historical period?

A) The Roman Empire

B) The Crusades

C) The Napoleonic Wars

D) The Industrial Revolution