

Historical Linguistic and Vocabulary Milestones

Linguistics History · Practice Test · 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