

Advanced Drama & Performance Knowledge

Drama & Performance · Practice Test · 10 Questions

1. Which playwright is credited with popularizing the concept of the 'fourth wall' in Western theatre, though it was more of an unspoken convention than a literal wall?

- A) William Shakespeare
- B) Henrik Ibsen
- C) Anton Chekhov
- D) Molière

2. The theatrical movement known as 'Epic Theatre,' which aimed to provoke critical thought rather than emotional involvement, is most closely associated with which director and playwright?

- A) Peter Brook
- B) Jerzy Grotowski
- C) Bertolt Brecht
- D) Ariane Mnouchkine

3. In ancient Greek theatre, the chorus served multiple functions, including providing exposition and commentary. What was the name of the leader of the chorus?

- A) Archon
- B) Choregus
- C) Dionysus
- D) Koryphaios

4. Which theatrical convention, originating in Kabuki theatre, involves actors freezing in a dramatic pose at a moment of high tension or revelation?

- A) Noh
- B) Bunraku
- C) Mise-en-scène
- D) Pliés

5. Stanislavski's 'Method Acting' emphasizes the actor's inner life and emotional recall. Which of his early exercises involved recreating the sensory details of a past experience?

- A) The Magic If
- B) Emotional Memory
- C) Sense Memory
- D) The Given Circumstances

6. Absurdist theatre, often characterized by illogical plots and characters speaking in nonsensical dialogue, emerged in the post-World War II era. Who is considered a foundational playwright of this movement?

- A) Tennessee Williams
- B) Arthur Miller
- C) Samuel Beckett
- D) Eugene O'Neill

7. What term refers to the practice in Elizabethan theatre where actors, often playing female roles, were young boys whose voices had not yet broken?

- A) Boy Actors
- B) Apprentices
- C) Masters of the Revels
- D) Hapax Legomenon

8. The concept of 'Verfremdungseffekt' (alienation effect) in theatre, designed to make the audience critically aware of the artificiality of the performance, is a key component of which theatrical style?

- A) Realism
- B) Naturalism
- C) Epic Theatre
- D) Symbolism

9. In Commedia dell'arte, which stock character is a foolish old man, often the master of the house, characterized by his greed and boastfulness?

- A) Harlequin
- B) Pulcinella
- C) Pantalone
- D) Scaramouche

10. The 'theatre of the absurd' often depicts characters trapped in meaningless situations. Which play by Eugène Ionesco famously features characters gradually transforming into rhinoceroses?

- A) Waiting for Godot
- B) Endgame
- C) The Bald Soprano
- D) Rhinoceros