

Fashion History Essentials

Fashion History · Answer Key · 25 Questions

1. Which 1920s fashion icon is widely credited with popularizing the 'little black dress'?

- A) Coco Chanel**
- B) Elsa Schiaparelli
- C) Jeanne Lanvin
- D) Madeleine Vionnet

2. The 'New Look' silhouette, characterized by cinched waists and voluminous skirts, was launched in 1947 by which designer?

- A) Hubert de Givenchy
- B) Christian Dior**
- C) Pierre Balmain
- D) Cristobal Balenciaga

3. What is the name of the traditional Japanese garment that became a major influence on Western fashion in the late 19th century?

- A) Hanfu
- B) Kimono**
- C) Ao Dai
- D) Sari

4. During the 18th century, what was the name of the wide, basket-like frame worn under skirts to extend them at the hips?

- A) Bustle
- B) Farthingale
- C) Pannier**
- D) Crinoline

5. Which synthetic fiber, first introduced at the 1939 New York World's Fair, revolutionized the hosiery industry?

- A) Polyester
- B) Nylon**
- C) Rayon
- D) Acrylic

6. What garment, originating from the 19th-century French navy, was standardized by Coco Chanel for civilian women's fashion?

- A) Trench coat
- B) Breton stripe shirt**
- C) Peacoat
- D) Beret

7. The 'power suit' of the 1980s was defined by which prominent design feature?

- A) Bell bottoms
- B) Padded shoulders**
- C) Drop waists
- D) Corsetry

8. Which item of clothing, named after a Crimean War general, became a staple of men's knitwear?

- A) Trench coat
- B) Cardigan**
- C) Blazer
- D) Parka

9. In the 1960s, which designer is credited with creating the 'space age' aesthetic and the go-go boot?

- A) André Courrèges**
- B) Yves Saint Laurent
- C) Mary Quant
- D) Paco Rabanne

10. What is the term for the stiffened fabric insert used to shape the bodice of historical gowns?

- A) Busk**
- B) Gorget
- C) Peplum
- D) Jabot

11. Which fabric, historically reserved for royalty due to its labor-intensive production, is made from the cocoons of mulberry silkworms?

- A) Velvet
- B) Silk**
- C) Brocade
- D) Taffeta

12. Who was the first fashion designer to be referred to as a 'couturier' in the modern sense, opening his house in 1858?

A) Paul Poiret

B) Charles Frederick Worth

C) Jacques Doucet

D) Jean Patou

13. The 'miniskirt' is most famously associated with the 'Swinging London' scene of which decade?

A) 1940s

B) 1950s

C) 1960s

D) 1970s

14. What 19th-century garment was originally worn by men for horseback riding before becoming a functional piece of women's outerwear?

A) Spencer jacket

B) Trench coat

C) Chesterfield coat

D) Frock coat

15. Which historical accessory was used by men in the 17th and 18th centuries to display social status and keep hair away from the face?

A) Cravat

B) Periwig

C) Stocking

D) Waistcoat

16. What is the specific name of the 19th-century structure worn under a skirt to create volume at the back?

A) Crinoline

B) Bustle

C) Pannier

D) Hobble skirt

17. Which designer introduced the 'bias cut' in the 1920s to allow fabric to drape fluidly over the body?

A) Madeleine Vionnet

B) Claire McCardell

C) Elsa Schiaparelli

D) Bonnie Cashin

18. What was the primary purpose of the 'trench coat' when it was first developed for soldiers in WWI?

A) Waterproofing

B) Warmth

C) Identification

D) Camouflage

19. Which decade saw the rise of 'Grunge' fashion, characterized by flannel shirts and distressed denim?

A) 1970s

B) 1980s

C) 1990s

D) 2000s

20. The 'Zoot suit,' known for its high-waisted, wide-legged trousers, gained prominence in which community during the 1940s?

A) Jazz musicians

B) British aristocracy

C) French artists

D) Italian tailors

21. What type of lace, characterized by its needle-made patterns, originated in Venice and became a luxury good in Europe?

A) Point de Venise

B) Chantilly

C) Tatting

D) Macramé

22. Which designer is famous for the 'wrap dress,' which became an iconic symbol of women's liberation in the 1970s?

A) Diane von Furstenberg

B) Halston

C) Bill Blass

D) Geoffrey Beene

23. Before the zipper became standard in the 1930s, how were most garments primarily fastened?

A) Buttons

B) Velcro

C) Buckles

D) Snaps

24. What is the name of the traditional Scottish woolen fabric with a checkered pattern associated with specific clans?

A) Houndstooth

B) Tartan

C) Glen Plaid

D) Herringbone

25. Which historical figure is often cited as the person who popularized the wearing of trousers for women in the 19th century?

A) Amelia Bloomer

B) Queen Victoria

C) Florence Nightingale

D) Susan B. Anthony