

Fashion History Essentials

Fashion History · Practice Test · 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