

Opera Essentials

Opera · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. What is an opera primarily?

- A) A play with spoken dialogue only
- B) A drama set entirely to music**
- C) A ballet performance
- D) A silent film with live accompaniment

2. In which country did opera originate around the end of the 16th century?

- A) France
- B) Germany
- C) Italy**
- D) England

3. What is the text or script of an opera called?

- A) Score
- B) Synopsis
- C) Libretto**
- D) Program

4. What is a principal solo song in an opera, often expressing a character's emotions, called?

- A) Chorus
- B) Duet
- C) Aria**
- D) Recitative

5. Which of the following is the highest female vocal range in opera?

- A) Mezzo-soprano
- B) Alto
- C) Soprano**
- D) Contralto

6. Which of the following is the highest male vocal range in opera?

- A) Baritone
- B) Bass
- C) Tenor**
- D) Countertenor

7. What is the instrumental piece played at the beginning of an opera, before the curtain rises, called?

- A) Coda
- B) Interlude
- C) Overture**
- D) Finale

8. Giuseppe Verdi is a famous composer primarily known for his works in which musical genre?

- A) Symphonies
- B) Chamber music
- C) Operas**
- D) Ballets

9. Which of these famous operas was composed by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart?

- A) La bohème
- B) Carmen
- C) The Marriage of Figaro**
- D) Rigoletto

10. What is the term for speech-like singing in opera that moves the plot forward, often with minimal musical accompaniment?

- A) Chorus
- B) Aria
- C) Duet
- D) Recitative**

11. Which term describes a style of operatic singing that emphasizes beauty of sound, brilliant technique, and agility?

- A) Sprechgesang
- B) Verismo
- C) Bel Canto**
- D) Leitmotif

12. The famous opera "Carmen" was composed by which French composer?

- A) Claude Debussy
- B) Georges Bizet**
- C) Maurice Ravel
- D) Hector Berlioz