

Literary Milestones and Innovations

Literature · Practice Test · 15 Questions

1. Which 8th-century text is widely recognized as the world's earliest dated printed book, commissioned by Wang Jie?

- A) The Diamond Sutra
- B) The Epic of Gilgamesh
- C) The Tale of Genji
- D) The Vedas

2. Who is credited with inventing the movable type printing press in Europe around 1440, revolutionizing the mass production of literature?

- A) William Caxton
- B) Johannes Gutenberg
- C) Aldus Manutius
- D) Nicolas Jenson

3. Which work is universally considered the first modern novel, published in two parts in 1605 and 1615?

- A) Robinson Crusoe
- B) Don Quixote
- C) The Pilgrim's Progress
- D) Pamela

4. The 'Epic of Gilgamesh', originating from ancient Mesopotamia, is composed on which writing medium, marking one of the earliest forms of recorded literature?

- A) Papyrus scrolls
- B) Palm leaf manuscripts
- C) Clay tablets
- D) Vellum codex

5. Which author is credited with writing the first detective story, 'The Murders in the Rue Morgue', in 1841?

- A) Arthur Conan Doyle
- B) Wilkie Collins
- C) Edgar Allan Poe
- D) Charles Dickens

6. In which century was the 'codex'--the precursor to the modern book format with bound pages--first widely adopted to replace the scroll?

- A) 1st century AD
- B) 4th century BC
- C) 8th century AD
- D) 12th century AD

7. Which 1922 publication by T.S. Eliot is often cited as the definitive turning point marking the beginning of High Modernist poetry?

- A) The Cantos
- B) The Waste Land
- C) Hugh Selwyn Mauberley
- D) Ulysses

8. What is the title of the first known autobiography written in English, penned by Margery Kempe in the 15th century?

- A) The Book of Margery Kempe
- B) The Revelations of Divine Love
- C) The Cloud of Unknowing
- D) The Mirror of Simple Souls

9. Which 19th-century author is widely credited with writing the first science fiction novel, 'Frankenstein', in 1818?

- A) H.G. Wells
- B) Jules Verne
- C) Mary Shelley
- D) Edgar Allan Poe

10. The first official 'national bibliography'--a comprehensive catalog of a country's literary output--was pioneered in which country in the 16th century?

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

11. Which ancient civilization developed the first phonetic alphabet, which served as the foundation for the Greek and Latin scripts used in Western literature?

- A) Sumerian
- B) Phoenician
- C) Hittite
- D) Akkadian

12. Who published 'The Tale of Genji', often considered the world's first psychological novel, in the early 11th century?

- A) Murasaki Shikibu
- B) Sei Shonagon
- C) Basho
- D) Lady Nijo

13. In the history of children's literature, which 1658 publication by John Amos Comenius is regarded as the first true picture book?

- A) Orbis Pictus
- B) Aesop's Fables
- C) Mother Goose
- D) The New England Primer

14. What was the first novel to be published in a serialized format, starting a trend that dominated 19th-century Victorian literature?

- A) The Pickwick Papers
- B) Vanity Fair
- C) Oliver Twist
- D) Hard Times

15. The first translation of the Bible into a vernacular language that had a massive impact on the standardization of a European language was authored by whom?

- A) John Wycliffe
- B) Martin Luther
- C) William Tyndale
- D) Desiderius Erasmus