

Numismatic Knowledge Challenge

Numismatics · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. What is the technical term for the edge of a coin, often featuring ridges or lettering?

- A) Obverse
- B) Reeded edge**
- C) Serration
- D) Mint mark

2. Which ancient civilization is widely credited with the invention of the first official state-issued metal coins around 600 BCE?

- A) Romans
- B) Egyptians
- C) Lydians**
- D) Greeks

3. What does the term 'numismatics' specifically refer to in its broadest academic sense?

- A) The study of paper money only
- B) The practice of coin collecting and the study of currency**
- C) The manufacturing process of metal alloys
- D) The history of banking systems

4. On a United States coin, what is the 'mint mark' used to indicate?

- A) The face value of the coin
- B) The year of production
- C) The specific facility where the coin was struck**
- D) The artist who designed the portrait

5. What is the name for the 'front' side of a coin, which usually depicts the primary portrait or image?

- A) Obverse**
- B) Reverse
- C) Exergue
- D) Flan

6. Which metal was historically used to make the 'Denarius,' the standard silver coin of the Roman Republic?

- A) Gold
- B) Copper
- C) Silver**
- D) Bronze

7. What is a 'proof' coin in modern minting?

- A) A coin found in general circulation
- B) A specially struck, high-quality coin intended for collectors**
- C) A coin that has been counterfeit tested
- D) A coin made of pure gold

8. What is the 'flan' in the context of coin production?

- A) The machine that stamps the design
- B) The metal blank piece that is struck to create a coin**
- C) The waste metal trimmed from the coin
- D) The protective casing for rare coins

9. Which term describes a coin that has been struck with the wrong die or has a physical error from the minting process?

- A) Restrike
- B) Proof
- C) Error coin**
- D) Commemorative

10. What is the 'reverse' of a coin commonly referred to in everyday language?

- A) Heads
- B) Tails**
- C) The rim
- D) The field

11. What was the primary purpose of 'milled' or ridged edges on coins during the 18th century?

- A) To make them look decorative
- B) To prevent 'clipping' or shaving metal off the edges**
- C) To help the visually impaired identify the value
- D) To allow coins to stack higher

12. Which type of coin is specifically produced to honor a person, place, or event, rather than for general circulation?

- A) Bullion
- B) Commemorative**
- C) Circulating
- D) Denominational

13. In numismatics, what does the term 'mintage' represent?

- A) The total weight of all coins produced
- B) The total number of a specific coin issue produced by a mint**
- C) The chemical purity of the coin's metal
- D) The name of the coin's designer

14. What is the 'exergue' on a coin?

- A) The area below the main design, often containing the date**
- B) The metal alloy used for the core
- C) The ridges on the side
- D) The portrait of the monarch

15. What is the purpose of a 'die' in the coin-making process?

- A) To melt the metal
- B) To cut the coin into a circle
- C) To imprint the design onto the metal blank**
- D) To polish the final product