

Human Anatomy and Health in Heraldry

Heraldry · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. In heraldry, what does the depiction of a 'dexter hand' specifically refer to in anatomical terms?

- A) The left hand
- B) The right hand**
- C) A hand holding a weapon
- D) A severed hand

2. Which part of the human anatomy is represented by the heraldic term 'couped at the shoulders'?

- A) The head
- B) The torso**
- C) The arms
- D) The legs

3. In blazonry, what is a 'human heart' typically depicted as when it is shown with drops of blood, a status known as 'goutté de sang'?

- A) A diseased organ
- B) A wounded heart**
- C) A heart with wings
- D) A stylized heart shape

4. When a heraldic achievement features 'proper' human eyes, what does this indicate regarding their color?

- A) They must be painted blue
- B) They must be painted brown
- C) They must be painted in their natural color**
- D) They must be painted gold

5. The heraldic 'maunch' is a stylized representation of what clothing item that covers the human arm?

- A) A glove
- B) A sleeve**
- C) A cloak
- D) A breastplate

6. When a 'skull' appears in heraldry, it is most commonly intended to serve as a symbolic reminder of what biological inevitability?

A) Human mortality

- B) A medical discovery
- C) The strength of bone
- D) Ancestral lineage

7. What does the term 'habited' mean when describing a human figure in a coat of arms?

A) The figure is nude

B) The figure is wearing clothing

- C) The figure is holding a shield
- D) The figure is depicted in profile

8. In heraldic terms, an 'arm embowed' describes an arm bent at which specific joint?

- A) The wrist
- B) The shoulder

C) The elbow

D) The knuckles

9. What is a 'human head' called in heraldry when it is depicted with a wreath around the temples?

A) A crowned head

B) A wreathed head

- C) A bound head
- D) A capped head

10. What does the 'hand of justice' (main de justice) in heraldic iconography typically symbolize?

A) The surgeon's skill

B) Divine authority and law

- C) A gesture of healing
- D) A prayer for health

11. A 'leg coupé at the thigh' is a specific heraldic charge. What does 'coupé' mean in this anatomical context?

A) Cut off cleanly

- B) Twisted
- C) Bent at the knee
- D) Enlarged

12. When a human figure is depicted as 'incarnate' in heraldic blazon, what color is the flesh usually painted?

A) White

B) Pinkish or natural flesh tone

C) Red

D) Yellow

13. The 'teeth' of a human skull depicted in a crest are often specified in blazon when they are of what color?

A) Black

B) Silver

C) Gold

D) Red

14. What does the term 'dexter' represent in relation to the human body when looking at a shield from the bearer's perspective?

A) The right side

B) The left side

C) The bottom side

D) The top side

15. In heraldry, what is a 'bearded man's head' often referred to as if the beard is of a contrasting color?

A) A marked head

B) A masked head

C) A bearded head

D) A proper head