

Landmarks in Drama and Performance

Drama & Performance · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Which ancient Greek playwright is credited with introducing the second actor to tragedy, thus enabling dialogue between characters?

- A) Aeschylus
- B) Sophocles**
- C) Euripides
- D) Aristophanes

2. The concept of the 'fourth wall' in theatrical staging, implying an invisible barrier between the audience and the performance space, is most closely associated with what dramatic movement?

- A) Absurdism
- B) Realism**
- C) Expressionism
- D) Noh theater

3. Who is widely regarded as the father of modern drama for his pioneering work in naturalism and his influential play 'A Doll's House'?

- A) Anton Chekhov
- B) August Strindberg
- C) Henrik Ibsen**
- D) Luigi Pirandello

4. The Globe Theatre, famously associated with William Shakespeare, was built in what year?

- A) 1599**
- B) 1603
- C) 1611
- D) 1588

5. Brecht's concept of 'Verfremdungseffekt' (alienation effect) aims to achieve what in the audience?

- A) Emotional immersion
- B) Intellectual engagement and critical reflection**
- C) Cathartic release
- D) Suspension of disbelief

6. The theatrical tradition known for its highly stylized masks, intricate costumes, and narrative focus on the supernatural and historical is:

- A) Kabuki
- B) Bunraku
- C) Noh**
- D) Peking Opera

7. Which theatrical convention, originating in ancient Rome, involves a protagonist speaking their thoughts aloud to the audience, unheard by other characters?

- A) Aside**
- B) Soliloquy
- C) Monologue
- D) Dramatic irony

8. The influential theatrical company, The Living Theatre, founded by Julian Beck and Judith Malina, is primarily known for its advocacy of what kind of performance?

- A) Commercial Broadway musicals
- B) Political and anarchist avant-garde theater**
- C) Classical Greek revivals
- D) Restoration comedy

9. The concept of 'mise en scène' in theater encompasses all of the following except:

- A) Set design
- B) Costume design
- C) Lighting design
- D) Audience reception**

10. Who is recognized as the creator of Commedia dell'arte, an improvisational theater form characterized by masked stock characters?

- A) Carlo Goldoni
- B) Luigi Pirandello
- C) Carlo Gozzi
- D) It is a collective, uncredited origin**

11. The Elizabethan era of English drama is most famously associated with which playwright?

- A) Christopher Marlowe
- B) Ben Jonson
- C) William Shakespeare**
- D) John Webster

12. The philosophical underpinnings of Theatre of the Absurd, as exemplified by playwrights like Samuel Beckett and Eugène Ionesco, often reflect a worldview shaped by:

- A) The Enlightenment
- B) Existentialism and post-war disillusionment**
- C) Romanticism
- D) The Renaissance humanism

13. Which ancient Greek dramatic genre was primarily characterized by satire, political commentary, and often featured a chorus with a phallus?

- A) Tragedy
- B) Dithyramb
- C) Satyr play
- D) Old Comedy**

14. The influential director and theorist Konstantin Stanislavski developed a system of acting that emphasized:

- A) External physicalization and exaggeration
- B) Emotional recall and truthful objective pursuit**
- C) Improvisational spontaneity
- D) Method acting based on psychological realism

15. The theatrical tradition of 'Butai' (stage) and 'Ayatsuri' (puppetry) is a defining characteristic of which country's traditional theater?

- A) China
- B) India
- C) Japan**
- D) Indonesia