

Landmarks in Law and Justice: Firsts, Inventions, and Discoveries

Law & Justice · Practice Test · 18 Questions

1. What ancient legal code, predating the Roman Twelve Tables, is recognized as one of the earliest written compilations of law, famously containing provisions on theft and property?

- A) The Edicts of Ashoka
- B) The Laws of Hammurabi
- C) The Gortyn Code
- D) The Nebuchadnezzar Code

2. The development of the concept of *habeas corpus*, a writ requiring a person under arrest to be brought before a judge, is widely attributed to the emergence of which legal document in medieval England?

- A) The Magna Carta
- B) The Petition of Right
- C) The Bill of Rights 1689
- D) The Statute of Westminster

3. Which landmark English case in 1772 effectively abolished slavery in England and Wales, establishing the principle that a slave brought to England became free?

- A) Donoghue v. Stevenson
- B) Marbury v. Madison
- C) Somerset v Stewart
- D) Dred Scott v. Sandford

4. The invention of the polygraph, often used in forensic investigations, is primarily credited to which American inventor and law enforcement officer in the early 20th century?

- A) Alphonse Bertillon
- B) Cesare Lombroso
- C) William Moulton Marston
- D) Francis Galton

5. The principle of *stare decisis*, meaning to stand by things decided, is a foundational concept in common law systems. Its formalization is often traced to the development of what legal practice in England?

- A) Writs of Certiorari
- B) Case Reporting and Law Digests
- C) Equity Courts
- D) Jury Trials

6. The establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC) represented a significant advancement in global justice. In what year was its founding treaty, the Rome Statute, adopted?

- A) 1945
- B) 1948
- C) 1998
- D) 2002

7. The first recorded use of fingerprinting for criminal identification in a major case occurred in India during the colonial era, leading to the development of a system attributed to which British officer?

- A) Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- B) Sir William Herschel
- C) Henry Faulds
- D) Alphonse Bertillon

8. The concept of *mens rea* (guilty mind) as a crucial element in criminal liability was significantly developed within which legal tradition?

- A) Roman Law
- B) Civil Law
- C) Islamic Law
- D) Common Law

9. Which early 20th-century invention revolutionized forensic science by allowing for the analysis and comparison of trace evidence, such as fibers and paint chips?

- A) The Microscope
- B) The Spectrophotometer
- C) The Electron Microscope
- D) The Gas Chromatograph

10. The idea of a 'public defender' system, providing legal representation to indigent defendants, gained significant traction in the United States following which landmark Supreme Court decision?

- A) Gideon v. Wainwright
- B) Miranda v. Arizona
- C) Mapp v. Ohio
- D) Tinker v. Des Moines

11. The development of DNA profiling as a forensic tool, a major breakthrough in criminal investigations, is largely credited to the pioneering work of which scientists in the 1980s?

- A) Watson and Crick
- B) Franklin and Wilkins
- C) Jeffreys and Wilson
- D) Mendel and Darwin

12. The concept of the 'social contract' as a justification for government and law, articulated by philosophers like Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau, profoundly influenced the legal and political thought leading to which major historical event?

- A) The Industrial Revolution
- B) The French Revolution
- C) The American Civil War
- D) The Reformation

13. The earliest known jury system originated in which ancient civilization, where citizens were summoned to hear evidence and render verdicts?

- A) Ancient Rome
- B) Ancient Egypt
- C) Ancient Greece
- D) Mesopotamia

14. The establishment of the Nuremberg Trials after World War II was a groundbreaking event in international law, primarily for what legal innovation?

- A) Trial by jury for war crimes
- B) Prosecution of individuals for crimes against humanity
- C) Use of *ex post facto* laws
- D) Establishment of international extradition treaties

15. The invention of the lie detector, or polygraph, by John Augustus Larson in 1921 was a significant early attempt to incorporate physiological measurements into legal proceedings. What scientific principle did it aim to exploit?

- A) Brainwave patterns
- B) Pupil dilation
- C) Changes in blood pressure and respiration
- D) Muscle tremors

16. The concept of 'due process of law', guaranteeing fair treatment through the normal judicial system, finds early textual evidence in which historical legal document?

- A) The Code of Justinian
- B) The Magna Carta
- C) The Twelve Tables
- D) The Corpus Juris Civilis

17. The development of the concept of 'strict liability' in tort law, where a defendant can be held liable for damages regardless of fault, is often traced to which foundational English common law case involving a "flourishing trade"?

- A) Rylands v. Fletcher
- B) Donoghue v. Stevenson
- C) Slater v. May
- D) Scott v. Shepherd

18. The systematic classification and codification of laws, a cornerstone of modern legal systems, was greatly advanced by the monumental work commissioned by which Byzantine Emperor?

- A) Constantine the Great
- B) Theodosius II
- C) Justinian I
- D) Heraclius