

Advanced Numismatic Knowledge

Numismatics · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Which specific term refers to the vertical or decorative edges found on the perimeter of a coin?

- A) Obverse
- B) Reeding**
- C) Field
- D) Exergue

2. The 'Marie-Thérèse Thaler' has been minted with the same date (1780) for centuries; what is this type of coin production called?

- A) Restrike**
- B) Proof
- C) Pattern
- D) Token

3. Which Roman official was responsible for the oversight of the minting process in the ancient Roman Republic?

- A) Centurion
- B) Praetor
- C) Triumvir Monetalis**
- D) Quaestor

4. What does the 'S' mint mark on a United States coin signify?

- A) St. Louis
- B) San Francisco**
- C) Savannah
- D) Seattle

5. In numismatics, what is a 'bracteate'?

- A) A coin made of pure gold
- B) A thin, one-sided coin stamped from a single metal sheet**
- C) A large bronze coin from the Byzantine Empire
- D) A counterfeit coin made of lead

6. Which metallurgical term describes the process of checking a coin's metal content using its density?

- A) Specific Gravity test**
- B) X-ray Fluorescence
- C) Acid etching
- D) Spectroscopy

7. What is the primary function of the 'Exergue' on an ancient coin?

- A) To indicate the coin's weight
- B) To house the mint mark or date**
- C) To protect the coin from wear
- D) To hold the image of the ruler

8. The term 'obverse' refers to which side of a coin?

- A) The side featuring the denomination
- B) The side featuring the primary design or portrait (heads)**
- C) The side with the mint mark
- D) The side depicting the national emblem

9. What was the 'Maria Theresa Thaler' primarily used for during the 19th and 20th centuries?

- A) Domestic European commerce
- B) International trade in the Middle East and Africa**
- C) Investment for the wealthy
- D) Emergency currency during war

10. In the grading scale used by the Professional Coin Grading Service (PCGS), what is the highest possible numerical grade?

- A) 60
- B) 70**
- C) 80
- D) 100

11. Which alloy is traditionally used in the creation of 'electrum' coins found in Ancient Lydia?

- A) Gold and Copper
- B) Silver and Tin
- C) Gold and Silver**
- D) Copper and Nickel

12. What is the name for a coin that was struck using the wrong planchet (the blank metal disc)?

- A) Off-center strike
- B) Wrong planchet error**
- C) Die crack
- D) Double die

13. Which historical coinage system was based on the 'talent' as the largest unit of currency?

- A) Ancient Greek**
- B) Medieval English
- C) Modern Japanese
- D) Aztec

14. What does the acronym 'MS' stand for in coin grading terminology?

- A) Mint State**
- B) Maximum Standard
- C) Master Striking
- D) Metallic Surface

15. Which major event led to the 'Great Recoinage' in England under Isaac Newton's supervision?

- A) The Black Death
- B) The debasement of the silver coinage**
- C) The discovery of new gold mines
- D) The transition to a decimal system