

Fashion History Mastery

Fashion History · Practice Test · 25 Questions

1. Which 19th-century garment was notorious for containing high levels of Scheele's Green, a pigment derived from arsenic?

- A) Crinoline skirts
- B) Top hats
- C) Victorian corsets
- D) Frock coats

2. Who is credited with creating the 'New Look' in 1947, which redefined women's silhouettes after the restrictions of WWII?

- A) Hubert de Givenchy
- B) Christian Dior
- C) Pierre Balmain
- D) Cristobal Balenciaga

3. During the 1920s, what was the primary purpose of the 'flapper' dress silhouette, characterized by its dropped waist?

- A) To highlight the natural corset shape
- B) To promote movement for jazz dancing
- C) To save on fabric costs during the depression
- D) To mimic traditional military attire

4. What innovation did Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis patent in 1873 to strengthen work trousers for miners?

- A) Triple-stitched seams
- B) Copper rivets
- C) Heavyweight canvas fabric
- D) Double-denim layering

5. Which fabric was famously promoted as 'artificial silk' when it was first commercially introduced in the late 19th century?

- A) Polyester
- B) Rayon
- C) Nylon
- D) Acetate

6. The 'Hobble skirt,' popular briefly around 1910, was designed to do what?

- A) Allow for faster running
- B) Restrict a woman's stride to tiny steps
- C) Create a flared Victorian silhouette
- D) Hold heavy petticoats in place

7. In the 18th century, what was the primary function of a 'pochette' or pocket worn underneath a skirt?

- A) To store sewing needles
- B) To serve as a detachable bag
- C) To hide contraband items
- D) To provide structural padding for the hips

8. Which designer is widely recognized for popularizing the 'Little Black Dress' (LBD) as a staple of chic, minimalist fashion?

- A) Elsa Schiaparelli
- B) Coco Chanel
- C) Jean Patou
- D) Madeleine Vionnet

9. What was the 'Great Masculine Renunciation,' a pivotal shift in Western male fashion during the late 18th century?

- A) The adoption of military uniforms for civilians
- B) The abandonment of bright colors and ornate decoration for dark suits
- C) The shift from boots to formal leather shoes
- D) The rejection of top hats in favor of berets

10. The 'zoot suit,' popular in the 1930s and 40s, was characterized by which features?

- A) High-waisted, wide-legged trousers and a long coat
- B) Slim-fit trousers and a short jacket
- C) Denim construction with leather patches
- D) A lack of lapels and minimal tailoring

11. What is the historical significance of the 'bias cut' technique perfected by Madeleine Vionnet?

- A) It creates garments that hang and drape to follow the body's curves
- B) It allows for mass-production in assembly lines
- C) It makes fabric significantly more waterproof
- D) It eliminates the need for any internal support structures

12. Which synthetic fiber was unveiled at the 1939 New York World's Fair, becoming the first to be marketed as stronger than steel?

- A) Polyester
- B) Nylon
- C) Acrylic
- D) Spandex

13. In the context of Renaissance fashion, what were 'slashing' and 'puffing'?

- A) Techniques to waterproof leather boots
- B) Decorative cuts in outer fabric to reveal a contrasting lining
- C) Methods of weaving complex silk patterns
- D) Methods of tightening corsets using rope

14. What was the primary function of the 'farthingale' in 16th-century European fashion?

- A) To provide warmth in drafty castles
- B) To support the shape of the skirt using a hoop structure
- C) To store personal items
- D) To indicate rank through elaborate embroidery

15. Which garment was originally known as the 'Union Suit' before evolving into modern thermals?

- A) Trench coat
- B) One-piece long underwear
- C) A type of heavy wool cloak
- D) The standard navy service uniform

16. The 'Mod' subculture of the 1960s was famously associated with which London shopping district?

- A) Savile Row
- B) Carnaby Street
- C) Bond Street
- D) Knightsbridge

17. What item of clothing did the 'sans-culottes' of the French Revolution refuse to wear as a political statement?

- A) The tricolor cockade
- B) Knee-breeches worn by the aristocracy
- C) Leather work boots
- D) Velvet waistcoats

18. Which designer introduced the 'Space Age' collection in 1964, utilizing materials like plastic, metal, and vinyl?

- A) André Courrèges
- B) Yves Saint Laurent
- C) Mary Quant
- D) Givenchy

19. What was a 'cravat,' the precursor to the modern necktie, originally used for?

- A) A decorative scarf for women
- B) A military neck cloth worn by Croatian mercenaries
- C) A symbol of religious status
- D) A way to keep collars attached to shirts

20. In the 1970s, which fabric became the hallmark of the disco era due to its stretch and synthetic finish?

- A) Wool gabardine
- B) Polyester double-knit
- C) Pure linen
- D) Raw silk

21. The 'Gibson Girl' was an iconic 1890s illustration style that popularized which feminine ideal?

- A) The boyish, short-haired flapper
- B) The tall, athletic, and sophisticated woman with an 'S-bend' silhouette
- C) The Victorian woman in a rigid hoop skirt
- D) The 1920s minimalist avant-garde woman

22. Which accessory became mandatory for men in public throughout most of the 19th and early 20th centuries?

- A) A head covering
- B) A pair of silk gloves
- C) A walking cane
- D) A decorative brooch

23. The 'dirndl' is a traditional folk costume associated with which cultural region?

- A) Scandinavia
- B) The Alpine regions of Austria and Bavaria
- C) The Mediterranean coast
- D) Eastern European plains

24. Which 1960s fashion item was named after the Russian spacecraft 'Sputnik' in a tribute to the Space Race?

- A) The shift dress
- B) The go-go boot
- C) The pillbox hat
- D) The space-age helmet mask

25. What was the primary material used to create the stiffening for high-fashion 'stays' or corsets prior to the invention of plastic?

- A) Tree bark
- B) Whalebone (baleen)
- C) Pressed cardboard
- D) Thickened animal hide