Foundations of Phonetics History

Phonetics · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. Which 17th-century polymath authored 'De Loquela' (1604), often considered the first systematic attempt to describe the articulation of speech sounds in physiological terms?

A) John Wallis
B) Francis Mercury van Helmont
C) Hieronymus Fabricius
D) Johannes Amman

2. In 1779, the Imperial Academy of Sciences of St. Petersburg offered a prize for the best explanation of vowel formation; who won this prize by demonstrating that vowel quality is determined by the size and shape of the vocal tract cavity?

A) Christian Gottlieb Kratzenstein
B) Leonhard Euler
C) Wolfgang von Kempelen
D) Daniel Bernoulli

3. Who invented the 'Acoustic Vowel Synthesizer' in 1791, a mechanical bellows-driven machine capable of producing distinct vowel and consonant sounds?

A) Charles Wheatstone
B) Robert Willis
C) Wolfgang von Kempelen
D) Alexander Melville Bell

4. Alexander Melville Bell, the father of Alexander Graham Bell, introduced which revolutionary phonetic notation system in 1867, designed to represent every possible speech sound?

A) The International Phonetic Alphabet
B) Visible Speech
C) Glossic
D) The Oxford Phonetic Transcription

5. The first formal meeting of the Association Phonétique Internationale, which led to the creation of the IPA, occurred in which year?

A) 1886
B) 1890
C) 1897
D) 1901

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6. Who is credited with the 1857 invention of the 'Phonautograph', the earliest known device to mechanically record sound waves visually onto a rotating cylinder?

A) Thomas Edison
B) Édouard-Léon Scott de Martinville
C) Alexander Graham Bell
D) Charles Cros

7. In 1841, who published the first experimental acoustic analysis of vowel sounds by using a set of glass resonators, laying the groundwork for modern formant theory?

A) Hermann von Helmholtz
B) Robert Willis
C) Karl Ludwig
D) Lord Rayleigh

8. Daniel Jones, a pioneer of phonetics at University College London, coined which term to describe the stable set of reference points for vowel classification?

A) Cardinal Vowels
B) Phoneme Clusters
C) Acoustic Space
D) Vowel Triangles

9. Which scholar published 'The Elements of Speech' (1773), the first book to provide a detailed English-language classification of the articulatory mechanics of consonants and vowels?

A) John Walker
B) Joshua Steele
C) James Rush
D) Benjamin Franklin

10. The spectrograph, an essential tool for modern phonetic research, was developed at Bell Telephone Laboratories during which decade?

A) 1920s
B) 1930s
C) 1940s
D) 1950s

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