

Opera Essentials

Opera · Practice Test · 15 Questions

1. What is the written text of an opera, which the singers follow during a performance, called?

- A) Libretto
- B) Score
- C) Aria
- D) Overture

2. Which Italian composer wrote the famous opera 'The Barber of Seville'?

- A) Giuseppe Verdi
- B) Gioachino Rossini
- C) Giacomo Puccini
- D) Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

3. In opera, what is the term for a solo vocal piece that expresses a character's emotional state?

- A) Recitative
- B) Chorus
- C) Aria
- D) Duet

4. Which famous opera house is located in Sydney, Australia?

- A) La Scala
- B) The Metropolitan Opera
- C) Royal Opera House
- D) Sydney Opera House

5. What is a 'prima donna' in the context of an opera company?

- A) The lead female singer
- B) The person who conducts the orchestra
- C) The designer of the costumes
- D) The writer of the libretto

6. Which vocal range is typically the lowest male voice in an opera?

- A) Tenor
- B) Baritone
- C) Bass
- D) Countertenor

7. Which famous Mozart opera features the character 'The Queen of the Night'?

- A) Don Giovanni
- B) The Magic Flute
- C) The Marriage of Figaro
- D) Così fan tutte

8. What is the instrumental piece that is played by the orchestra at the very beginning of an opera?

- A) Intermezzo
- B) Finale
- C) Cadenza
- D) Overture

9. Which country is widely considered the birthplace of opera in the late 16th century?

- A) France
- B) Germany
- C) Italy
- D) Austria

10. What is the term for the part of an opera where the singing follows the rhythm of natural speech to advance the plot?

- A) Recitative
- B) Aria
- C) Coloratura
- D) Libretto

11. Which composer is famous for the 'Ring Cycle', a series of four epic operas?

- A) Richard Wagner
- B) Johannes Brahms
- C) Franz Schubert
- D) Ludwig van Beethoven

12. In traditional opera terminology, what is a 'basso buffo'?

- A) A serious villain
- B) A comic bass character
- C) A high-pitched soprano
- D) A stage technician

13. What does the term 'coloratura' refer to in opera singing?

- A) The volume of the singer
- B) Fast, elaborate vocal ornamentation
- C) The color of the singer's costume
- D) The speed of the orchestra

14. Which opera features the famous 'Toreador Song'?

- A) Carmen
- B) Tosca
- C) Aida
- D) Turandot

15. Which instrument family typically dominates the orchestra pit in an opera house?

- A) Percussion
- B) Woodwinds
- C) Strings
- D) Brass