History of Magic and Illusion

History Of Magic · Answer Key · 25 Questions

1. Which 19th-century illusionist was the first to popularize the 'Pepper's Ghost' effect, which uses glass plates and lighting to create spectral images?

A) John Henry Pepper
B) Jean-Eugène Robert-Houdin
C) Gustave Adolphus
D) David Devant

2. The 'Metamorphosis' illusion, involving a quick exchange between two people in a locked trunk, was perfected by which duo?

A) The Great Lafayette
B) Houdini and his wife Bess
C) Chung Ling Soo
D) Kellar and Dante

3. Jean-Eugène Robert-Houdin, often called the 'father of modern magic', famously performed a trick in 1856 to help France suppress a revolt in which country?

A) Vietnam
B) Algeria
C) Morocco
D) Tunisia

4. William Ellsworth Robinson, an American magician, performed under which stage name while masquerading as a Chinese illusionist?

A) Chung Ling Soo
B) Fu Manchu
C) The Great Raymond
D) Okito

5. What was the original name of the 'Bullet Catch' trick when it was performed in the 16th century?

A) The Musketeer's Gambit
B) The Marksman's Defiance
C) The Bullet Trick
D) The Decoy's Death

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6. Which famous illusionist authored 'The Unmasking of Robert-Houdin' (1908), a book written to critique his predecessor?

A) Harry Kellar
B) Harry Houdini
C) Howard Thurston
D) Alexander Herrmann

7. In 1910, which illusionist died on stage in Edinburgh after a fire broke out during his 'The Lion's Bride' performance?

A) The Great Lafayette
B) Blackstone
C) Carter the Great
D) Frederick Bancroft

8. Which magician is credited with inventing the 'Sawing a Woman in Half' illusion, which debuted in 1921?

A) P.T. Selbit
B) Guy Jarrett
C) Horace Goldin
D) Harry Blackstone Sr.

9. Before becoming a world-renowned illusionist, Harry Houdini performed as a 'King of Cards' and specialized in what specific type of act?

A) Mentalism
B) Handcuff escapes
C) Lock picking
D) Metamorphic transformations

10. The 18th-century illusionist Chevalier Pinetti was famous for his mechanical automatons, but which other feat did he perform regularly?

A) Levitation
B) The Second Sight
C) The decapitation act
D) Water walking

11. Which magician was the first to perform the 'Bullet Catch' with a real firearm?

A) Girolamo Scotto
B) Johann Nepomuk Hofzinser
C) Breslaw
D) Philip Breslaw

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12. What device did stage magicians use in the 19th century to create the illusion of levitation without wires?

A) Electromagnets
B) The hidden hydraulic lift
C) The mirror box
D) The smoke screen

13. The illusion known as 'Asrah Levitation' was first created and performed by whom?

A) Servais Le Roy
B) Talisman the Great
C) Max Malini
D) Carl Hertz

14. Which illusionist was known for the 'Asrah' levitation and the 'Triple Levitation' in the early 20th century?

A) Ionia
B) Thurston
C) Goldin
D) Maskelyne

15. What was the primary method used in the 'Sphinx' illusion, popularized by Colonel Stodare in 1865?

A) Mirrors
B) Pneumatic air pressure
C) Hidden trapdoors
D) Optical projection

16. Which female magician was a contemporary of Houdini and became known as the 'Queen of Magic'?

A) Adelaide Herrmann
B) Ionia the Enchantress
C) Madame de Granville
D) Princess Zulieka

17. Who was the first magician to perform a full-scale 'Vanishing Elephant' on stage in 1918?

A) Harry Houdini
B) Howard Thurston
C) P.T. Barnum
D) Charles Carter

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18. The 'Floating Lady' illusion was improved and modernized by which magician in the mid-20th century?

A) Harry Blackstone Sr.
B) Doug Henning
C) David Copperfield
D) Richiardi

19. Which English magician, a member of the Royal Society, wrote the 'Modern Magic' textbook in 1876?

A) Professor Hoffmann
B) John Nevil Maskelyne
C) David Devant
D) Walter Jeans

20. The 'Egg Bag' trick, a staple of close-up magic, is historically attributed to whom?

A) Henry Hatton
B) Dr. Lynn
C) David Devant
D) Max Malini

21. Which magician was the first to successfully perform an underwater escape from a sealed crate?

A) Harry Houdini
B) Franz Polgar
C) The Great Dante
D) Cante

22. The 'Goldin's Sawing' was a variation of P.T. Selbit's act; who created the version where the victim's head and feet protruded from the box?

A) Horace Goldin
B) Howard Thurston
C) Harry Blackstone
D) Kellar

23. Which magician performed the famous 'Decapitation' trick in the late 19th century using a real person on a guillotine?

A) Alexander Herrmann
B) Benson Berg
C) Carl Hertz
D) Ramsay

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24. What was the name of the 'automaton' created by Wolfgang von Kempelen that fooled many into believing it could play chess?

A) The Mechanical Turk
B) The Clockwork Sultan
C) The Chess Wizard
D) The Automaton Player

25. In what year did the Society of American Magicians hold its first meeting at Martinka's magic shop in New York?

A) 1902
B) 1910
C) 1895
D) 1920

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