

History of Magic and Illusion

History Of Magic · Practice Test · 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

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 Hofzinsler
- C) Breslaw
- D) Philip Breslaw

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

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

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