

Historical Foundations of English Literature

English Literature History · Practice Test · 15 Questions

1. Which printer established the first printing press in England in 1476?

- A) Wynkyn de Worde
- B) William Caxton
- C) Richard Pynson
- D) John Day

2. In which year was the first complete authorized English translation of the Bible, the King James Version, first published?

- A) 1604
- B) 1607
- C) 1611
- D) 1623

3. The 'Beowulf' manuscript, known as the Nowell Codex, is physically housed in which institution?

- A) The Bodleian Library
- B) The British Library
- C) The National Library of Scotland
- D) Trinity College Dublin

4. Who was the first Poet Laureate to be officially appointed by letters patent in 1668?

- A) John Dryden
- B) Ben Jonson
- C) Thomas Shadwell
- D) William Davenant

5. Which 18th-century work is widely credited as the first English novel to be published in serial form?

- A) Pamela
- B) Robinson Crusoe
- C) Tristram Shandy
- D) Clarissa

6. The 'Lyrical Ballads', which marked the start of the English Romantic movement, was a collaboration between William Wordsworth and which other poet?

- A) Percy Bysshe Shelley
- B) Lord Byron
- C) Samuel Taylor Coleridge
- D) Robert Southey

7. Which author's estate successfully challenged the copyright of 'Ulysses' in the United States, leading to the landmark 1934 court case?

- A) James Joyce
- B) T.S. Eliot
- C) Virginia Woolf
- D) Ezra Pound

8. The 'Stationers' Register', a primary source for dating Elizabethan plays, began its official recording of book entries in which year?

- A) 1550
- B) 1557
- C) 1588
- D) 1603

9. Which Victorian novelist served as a parliamentary reporter for the 'Morning Chronicle' before achieving literary fame?

- A) William Thackeray
- B) Anthony Trollope
- C) George Eliot
- D) Charles Dickens

10. The 'Roxburghe Ballads' comprise a collection of broadside ballads primarily collected by which 17th-century figure?

- A) Samuel Pepys
- B) John Selden
- C) Robert Harley
- D) John Evelyn

11. Who wrote the 'Biographia Literaria', a seminal work of literary criticism published in 1817?

- A) William Hazlitt
- B) Thomas De Quincey
- C) Samuel Taylor Coleridge
- D) John Keats

12. Which poet served as the editor of the 'London Magazine' during its most influential period in the 1820s?

- A) John Keats
- B) John Scott
- C) Leigh Hunt
- D) Charles Lamb

13. The first performance of 'The Importance of Being Earnest' took place in which London theatre in 1895?

- A) The Haymarket Theatre
- B) The Lyceum Theatre
- C) The Savoy Theatre
- D) The St James's Theatre

14. Which 17th-century poet was appointed Latin Secretary to the Council of State under Oliver Cromwell?

- A) Andrew Marvell
- B) John Milton
- C) John Donne
- D) George Herbert

15. The 'Oxford English Dictionary' began its publication process in 1884 under the original title of what?

- A) A New English Dictionary on Historical Principles
- B) The Universal English Dictionary
- C) The Great Dictionary of the English Language
- D) The Historical Dictionary of English