

World History Essentials

History · Practice Test · 25 Questions

1. Which Mesopotamian civilization is credited with developing the first known system of writing, known as cuneiform?

- A) Sumerians
- B) Akkadians
- C) Babylonians
- D) Assyrians

2. The Edict of Milan, issued in 313 AD, was a landmark document for which of the following reasons?

- A) It ended the Punic Wars
- B) It established Christianity as the official state religion of Rome
- C) It legalized Christianity within the Roman Empire
- D) It divided the Roman Empire into East and West

3. During the feudal system in Medieval Europe, what was the primary obligation of a vassal to his lord?

- A) Paying taxes in gold currency
- B) Providing military service and loyalty
- C) Managing the local church tithes
- D) Manufacturing iron tools for the manor

4. Which influential document, signed in 1215, established the principle that the monarch is subject to the law?

- A) The Bill of Rights
- B) The Edict of Worms
- C) The Magna Carta
- D) The Treaty of Verdun

5. What was the primary purpose of the 'Hanseatic League' in Northern Europe during the Middle Ages?

- A) To spread the Protestant Reformation
- B) To organize a collective military crusade
- C) To protect commercial interests and trade monopolies
- D) To establish a unified educational curriculum

6. In Ancient Egypt, which pharaoh is famous for the discovery of his nearly intact tomb in the Valley of the Kings?

- A) Ramses II
- B) Tutankhamun
- C) Akhenaten
- D) Thutmose III

7. What was the significance of the Battle of Tours in 732 AD?

- A) It marked the end of the Viking Age
- B) It halted the Umayyad Caliphate's expansion into Western Europe
- C) It led to the fall of the Byzantine Empire
- D) It secured the independence of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms

8. Which invention by Johannes Gutenberg in the mid-15th century fundamentally transformed the spread of information in Europe?

- A) The steam engine
- B) The magnetic compass
- C) The movable type printing press
- D) The telescope

9. Who was the primary author of the 'Ninety-five Theses', which sparked the Protestant Reformation in 1517?

- A) John Calvin
- B) Martin Luther
- C) Henry VIII
- D) Ulrich Zwingli

10. The Silk Road was an ancient network of trade routes that primarily connected China to which region?

- A) The Americas
- B) Sub-Saharan Africa
- C) The Mediterranean world
- D) The Australian continent

11. Which empire was governed by the 'Code of Hammurabi', one of the earliest legal codes in history?

- A) Old Babylonian Empire
- B) Neo-Assyrian Empire
- C) Hittite Empire
- D) Persian Empire

12. What title was given to the absolute monarchs of the Russian Empire before the 1917 revolution?

- A) Kaiser
- B) Sultan
- C) Tsar
- D) Shah

13. During the Industrial Revolution, which resource was most critical as the primary fuel source for the first steam engines?

- A) Petroleum
- B) Natural gas
- C) Coal
- D) Charcoal

14. Which explorer led the first expedition to successfully circumnavigate the globe, although he died before completing the trip?

- A) Christopher Columbus
- B) Vasco da Gama
- C) Ferdinand Magellan
- D) Amerigo Vespucci

15. The 'Great Schism' of 1054 resulted in the division of which two branches of Christianity?

- A) Catholic and Protestant
- B) Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox
- C) Anglican and Lutheran
- D) Coptic and Methodist

16. What major architectural feature was central to the culture and religious life of the Maya civilization?

- A) Stepped pyramids
- B) Gothic cathedrals
- C) Hypostyle halls
- D) Domed basilicas

17. Which document issued in 1789 defined the individual and collective rights of all the estates of the realm as universal in France?

- A) The Napoleonic Code
- B) Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen
- C) The Treaty of Versailles
- D) The Edict of Nantes

18. What was the primary cause of the 'Black Death' pandemic that devastated Europe in the 14th century?

- A) A water-borne cholera outbreak
- B) A bacterial infection transmitted by fleas on rodents
- C) A respiratory virus spread through trade ships
- D) A widespread famine caused by climate change

19. Which ancient Greek city-state was known for its emphasis on military training and discipline?

- A) Athens
- B) Corinth
- C) Thebes
- D) Sparta

20. What did the 'Treaty of Tordesillas' in 1494 accomplish?

- A) It ended the Hundred Years' War
- B) It divided newly discovered lands between Spain and Portugal
- C) It established the borders of the Holy Roman Empire
- D) It granted independence to the Netherlands

21. The 'Pax Romana' refers to a period of relative peace and stability in which empire?

- A) Ottoman Empire
- B) Mongol Empire
- C) Roman Empire
- D) British Empire

22. Which dynasty is often considered the 'Golden Age' of China, known for advancements in poetry and art?

- A) Qin Dynasty
- B) Han Dynasty
- C) Tang Dynasty
- D) Ming Dynasty

23. What was the main motivation for the construction of the Great Wall of China during the Qin Dynasty?

- A) To establish borders for trade
- B) To control floodwaters of the Yellow River
- C) To protect against nomadic invasions from the north
- D) To display the emperor's immense wealth

24. Which scientific theory, proposed by Nicolaus Copernicus, challenged the prevailing view that the Earth was the center of the universe?

- A) Heliocentrism
- B) Evolutionary theory
- C) Plate tectonics
- D) Germ theory

25. What was the primary role of a 'scribe' in Ancient Egyptian society?

- A) To farm the land along the Nile
- B) To serve as a high priest in the temple
- C) To record government transactions and maintain documents
- D) To lead the army in battle