

Historical Milestones in Linguistics

Linguistics · Practice Test · 8 Questions

1. Which scholar is credited with the 1786 proposal that Sanskrit, Greek, and Latin descended from a common source, later known as Proto-Indo-European?

- A) William Jones
- B) Franz Bopp
- C) Rasmus Rask
- D) August Schleicher

2. The decipherment of Egyptian hieroglyphs was made possible primarily through the analysis of which artifact discovered in 1799?

- A) The Behistun Inscription
- B) The Rosetta Stone
- C) The Phaistos Disc
- D) The Code of Hammurabi

3. In 1822, which scholar published the first systematic formulation of the sound change now known as Grimm's Law?

- A) Jacob Grimm
- B) Karl Verner
- C) Hermann Grassmann
- D) Rasmus Rask

4. The 'Voynich manuscript', a codex written in an unknown script, has been carbon-dated to approximately which time period?

- A) 11th century
- B) 15th century
- C) 17th century
- D) 19th century

5. Which language family was first officially classified as a distinct genetic group by the 19th-century linguist Matthias Castrén?

- A) Austronesian
- B) Uralic
- C) Altaic
- D) Dravidian

6. The 'Great Vowel Shift' was a massive sound change affecting which language, occurring roughly between 1350 and 1700?

- A) Old French
- B) Middle English
- C) High German
- D) Old Norse

7. Who published 'Cours de linguistique générale' in 1916, a work that founded the structuralist approach to linguistics?

- A) Noam Chomsky
- B) Roman Jakobson
- C) Ferdinand de Saussure
- D) Leonard Bloomfield

8. The Behistun Inscription, which provided the key to deciphering Babylonian cuneiform, was carved under the orders of which Achaemenid King?

- A) Cyrus the Great
- B) Darius the Great
- C) Xerxes I
- D) Artaxerxes II