

Pioneers of the Written Word

Literature · Practice Test · 20 Questions

1. Which ancient Sumerian work is widely recognized by scholars as the world's earliest known great work of literature?

- A) The Enuma Elish
- B) The Epic of Gilgamesh
- C) The Myth of Etana
- D) The Instructions of Shuruppak

2. Who is credited with writing the first novel in the English language, 'Robinson Crusoe' (1719)?

- A) Samuel Richardson
- B) Daniel Defoe
- C) Henry Fielding
- D) Jonathan Swift

3. The 'Tale of Genji', often cited as the world's first psychological novel, was written by which 11th-century Japanese noblewoman?

- A) Sei Shonagon
- B) Izumi Shikibu
- C) Murasaki Shikibu
- D) Ono no Komachi

4. In which city was the first printed book with a movable metal type, the 'Jikji', produced in 1377?

- A) Seoul, Korea
- B) Kyoto, Japan
- C) Beijing, China
- D) Gyeongju, Korea

5. Which writer is credited with inventing the modern detective story through the publication of 'The Murders in the Rue Morgue' in 1841?

- A) Arthur Conan Doyle
- B) Wilkie Collins
- C) Edgar Allan Poe
- D) Charles Dickens

6. The first known signed literary work, an epic poem from ancient Mesopotamia, was composed by which high priestess?

- A) Enheduanna
- B) Puabi
- C) Kubaba
- D) Sammu-ramat

7. Which 19th-century author is widely considered to have written the first science fiction novel, 'Frankenstein'?

- A) Mary Shelley
- B) H.G. Wells
- C) Jules Verne
- D) Bram Stoker

8. What is the title of the first complete Bible printed using movable metal type in Europe, completed in 1455?

- A) The Complutensian Polyglot
- B) The Gutenberg Bible
- C) The Wycliffe Bible
- D) The Erasmus Bible

9. Which poet is known for inventing the sonnet form in Italy during the 13th century?

- A) Francesco Petrararch
- B) Dante Alighieri
- C) Giacomo da Lentini
- D) Giovanni Boccaccio

10. What is the first known work of Western literature to use a 'frame narrative' structure?

- A) The Odyssey
- B) The Iliad
- C) The Golden Ass
- D) The Canterbury Tales

11. Who is the author of the first picaresque novel, 'Lazarillo de Tormes', published anonymously in 1554?

- A) Miguel de Cervantes
- B) Mateo Alemán
- C) Francisco de Quevedo
- D) Unknown

12. The term 'utopia' as a literary genre was established by which author's 1516 book?

- A) Francis Bacon
- B) Thomas More
- C) Tommaso Campanella
- D) Erasmus

13. Which play is recognized as the first tragedy in the English language?

- A) Gorboduc
- B) The Spanish Tragedy
- C) Tamburlaine
- D) Doctor Faustus

14. What was the first literary work to be copyrighted under the Statute of Anne in 1710?

- A) A Treatise on the Art of Poetry
- B) An Essay on Criticism
- C) The History of the Works of the Learned
- D) The Gentleman's Magazine

15. Which author's work 'Pamela' (1740) is widely regarded as the first novel to use the epistolary form extensively in English?

- A) Samuel Richardson
- B) Henry Fielding
- C) Laurence Sterne
- D) Tobias Smollett

16. Who is credited with creating the first modern 'stream of consciousness' technique in literature through the novel 'Les Lauriers sont coupés'?

- A) James Joyce
- B) Édouard Dujardin
- C) Virginia Woolf
- D) Marcel Proust

17. What is considered the first 'hacker' novel, featuring themes of digital subculture and AI long before the term existed?

- A) Neuromancer
- B) The Shockwave Rider
- C) True Names
- D) Stand on Zanzibar

18. Which English author published the first professional literary journal, 'The Review', in 1704?

- A) Joseph Addison
- B) Richard Steele
- C) Daniel Defoe
- D) Samuel Johnson

19. The first autobiography written in the English language is attributed to which 15th-century mystic?

- A) Julian of Norwich
- B) Margery Kempe
- C) Hildegard of Bingen
- D) Catherine of Siena

20. Which 1922 publication by T.S. Eliot is often cited as the first 'high modernist' poem of the 20th century?

- A) The Hollow Men
- B) The Waste Land
- C) Prufrock and Other Observations
- D) Ash Wednesday