History of Public Speaking

Public Speaking · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. Who is widely credited as the author of the earliest known handbook on public speaking, titled 'Ars Rhetorica'?

A) Aristotle
B) Plato
C) Socrates
D) Cicero

2. What device, first used in the mid-20th century, allowed speakers to read prepared scripts while maintaining eye contact with an audience?

A) Microphone
B) Teleprompter
C) Megaphone
D) Projector

3. In which ancient city did the practice of 'rhetoric' as a formal discipline of public speaking first emerge?

A) Athens
B) Rome
C) Cairo
D) Babylon

4. Which invention in the 1920s allowed public speakers to project their voices to massive crowds for the first time?

A) The Printing Press
B) The Loudspeaker
C) The Television
D) The Telegraph

5. What was the name of the first recorded collection of speeches in Western history, attributed to Thucydides?

A) The Iliad
B) History of the Peloponnesian War
C) The Republic
D) Meditations

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6. Which 19th-century invention allowed the first long-distance transmission of the human voice for public address?

A) Telephone
B) Radio
C) Gramophone
D) Phonograph

7. Who is known in Roman history for delivering the 'Philippics', a famous series of speeches against Mark Antony?

A) Julius Caesar
B) Cicero
C) Augustus
D) Nero

8. What media platform, launched in 2006, introduced the 'TED Talk' format to a global digital audience?

A) YouTube
B) MySpace
C) Facebook
D) Twitter

9. What was the primary method of amplifying sound for public speakers in ancient outdoor Roman amphitheaters?

A) Acoustic architecture
B) Electronic speakers
C) Copper horns
D) Water pipes

10. The first public 'webinar' or online presentation was enabled by which invention in the early 1990s?

A) The World Wide Web
B) The Floppy Disk
C) The Laser Printer
D) The Walkman

11. Which ancient orator was the first to emphasize the importance of 'ethos' (credibility) in public speaking?

A) Aristotle
B) Epicurus
C) Pythagoras
D) Herodotus

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12. What audio recording invention in 1877 first allowed public speakers to document and replay their speeches?

A) Phonograph

B) Compact Disc

C) Magnetic Tape

D) Radio