Pioneers of English Letters

English Literature · Practice Test · 18 Questions

1. Which work is widely considered to be the first novel written in the English language?

A) Robinson Crusoe
B) Pamela
C) Oroonoko
D) Moll Flanders

2. Who is credited with introducing the printing press to England in 1476?

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

3. Which English author is credited with inventing the 'stream of consciousness' technique in literature?

A) James Joyce
B) Virginia Woolf
C) Dorothy Richardson
D) Samuel Beckett

4. What is the title of the first English-language dictionary, compiled by Robert Cawdrey in 1604?

A) A Table Alphabeticall
B) The English Expositor
C) Glossographia
D) The Dictionarie of the English Tongue

5. Which poem is recognized as the first major work of English literature to use the heroic couplet?

A) The Canterbury Tales
B) Chaucer's Troilus and Criseyde
C) The Legend of Good Women
D) Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

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6. Which writer is often called the 'father of the English mystery novel' for his 1868 work 'The Moonstone'?

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

7. In which century was the first English-language newspaper, 'The London Gazette', founded?

A) 15th
B) 16th
C) 17th
D) 18th

8. Which play is the first known English drama to feature blank verse?

A) Gorboduc
B) Ralph Roister Doister
C) Gammer Gurton's Needle
D) The Spanish Tragedy

9. What was the first work of literature to use the term 'science fiction' in a modern sense?

A) Frankenstein
B) The Time Machine
C) The Last Man
D) Astounding Science Fiction

10. Who wrote 'The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman', considered the first postmodern English novel?

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

11. Which English poet was the first to use the sonnet form, having brought it from Italy?

A) Philip Sidney
B) Thomas Wyatt
C) Henry Howard
D) Edmund Spenser

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12. What is the first known autobiography written in the English language?

A) The Book of Margery Kempe
B) Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners
C) Confessions of an English Opium-Eater
D) The Diary of Samuel Pepys

13. Which author is credited with inventing the genre of the 'Gothic novel' with 'The Castle of Otranto'?

A) Ann Radcliffe
B) Matthew Lewis
C) Horace Walpole
D) Mary Shelley

14. The first literary magazine in English, 'The Gentleman's Magazine', was first published in which year?

A) 1711
B) 1731
C) 1751
D) 1771

15. Which English writer is known for creating the first collection of literary fairy tales published in English?

A) Charles Perrault
B) Joseph Jacobs
C) Andrew Lang
D) Lewis Carroll

16. What was the first English novel to be serialized in a newspaper?

A) Pickwick Papers
B) The Mystery of Edwin Drood
C) Vanity Fair
D) Clarissa

17. Which author published the first English 'grammar' book for schools in 1586?

A) William Bullokar
B) Richard Mulcaster
C) John Hart
D) Alexander Hume

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18. Which classic English novel is considered the first 'epistolary novel' (told through letters)?

A) Pamela
B) Evelina
C) Dangerous Liaisons
D) Humphry Clinker

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