Legal Landmarks and Jurisprudential Milestones

History Of Law · Answer Key · 25 Questions

1. Which ancient Mesopotamian ruler commissioned the first known written legal code that utilized the 'lex talionis' principle?

A) Hammurabi
B) Urukagina
C) Lipit-Ishtar
D) Ur-Nammu

2. What is the name of the oldest surviving written code of laws, predating the Code of Hammurabi by approximately 300 years?

A) Code of Eshnunna
B) Code of Ur-Nammu
C) Laws of Manu
D) The Twelve Tables

3. In which year did the Magna Carta receive its first formal seal by King John at Runnymede?

A) 1215
B) 1225
C) 1199
D) 1297

4. The 'Twelve Tables' (Lex Duodecim Tabularum) formed the foundation of the legal system of which ancient civilization?

A) Greece
B) Byzantium
C) Rome
D) Egypt

5. Which English monarch is historically credited with the formalization of the 'common law' system during the 12th century?

A) Alfred the Great
B) Edward the Confessor
C) Henry II
D) William the Conqueror

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6. The first known use of 'fingerprinting' for judicial identification in a criminal case occurred in which country in 1892?

A) United Kingdom
B) Argentina
C) United States
D) France

7. What was the first international court established to adjudicate disputes between sovereign states?

A) Permanent Court of Arbitration
B) International Court of Justice
C) Nuremberg Tribunal
D) International Criminal Court

8. The first formal 'Bill of Rights' restricting the power of a monarch and protecting the rights of Parliament was enacted in which country?

A) United States
B) France
C) England
D) Netherlands

9. Which 19th-century legal invention introduced the 'Torrens title' system, revolutionizing property law and land registration?

A) Robert Richard Torrens
B) John Marshall
C) Oliver Wendell Holmes
D) Jeremy Bentham

10. The first 'Public Defender's Office' in the United States was established in which city in 1914?

A) New York
B) Los Angeles
C) Chicago
D) Boston

11. Which 19th-century German philosopher was the first to formalize 'Legal Positivism' as a distinct jurisprudential theory?

A) John Austin
B) Hans Kelsen
C) Lon Fuller
D) Immanuel Kant

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12. In 1899, which city hosted the first international conference specifically aimed at codifying laws of war and peaceful settlement of disputes?

A) Geneva
B) The Hague
C) Vienna
D) Paris

13. What is the term for the first systematic compilation of Roman law commissioned by Emperor Justinian I?

A) Codex Justinianus
B) Corpus Juris Civilis
C) Pandectae
D) Institutiones

14. Which jurisdiction was the first to grant women the right to vote in national parliamentary elections in 1893?

A) Australia
B) New Zealand
C) Finland
D) Norway

15. The 'Habeas Corpus Act' of 1679 was a landmark statute in which parliamentary system?

A) France
B) England
C) Scotland
D) United States

16. What was the first formal legal document to use the term 'Human Rights' in a foundational sense?

A) Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen
B) Universal Declaration of Human Rights
C) Magna Carta
D) Treaty of Westphalia

17. The first 'Small Claims Court' in the United States was established in which state to provide simplified justice?

A) New York
B) California
C) Massachusetts
D) Kansas

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18. Which legal invention allowed for the 'Discovery' process in modern civil litigation to expand during the 1938 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure?

A) Deposition
B) Interrogatories
C) Subpoena duces tecum
D) Summary Judgment

19. The first 'Jury' of twelve men, known as the 'Assize of Clarendon', was established by which monarch?

A) Henry II
B) Richard the Lionheart
C) John of England
D) Edward I

20. Which country passed the first 'Freedom of Information' legislation in the world in 1766?

A) Sweden
B) United Kingdom
C) Denmark
D) France

21. The first electronic 'Legal Research' database to be made commercially available to lawyers was which system?

A) LEXIS
B) Westlaw
C) HeinOnline
D) JSTOR

22. Which legal doctrine, first established in 'Marbury v. Madison', allows courts to nullify unconstitutional legislative acts?

A) Stare Decisis
B) Judicial Review
C) Habeas Corpus
D) Qualified Immunity

23. The first 'International Human Rights Treaty' to be adopted by the United Nations was which document?

A) Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide
B) Universal Declaration of Human Rights
C) International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
D) Rome Statute

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24. Which city-state is credited with creating the first 'Democracy' that included a formal judicial system based on citizen juries?

A) Athens
B) Sparta
C) Rome
D) Corinth

25. The 'Code Napoléon' (1804) was the first modern legal code to influence the civil law systems of which continent?

A) Europe
B) South America
C) Africa
D) Asia