

Southeast Asian Magic, Illusion, and Human Health

Magic & Illusion History · Answer Key · 8 Questions

1. In traditional Thai healing, which of the following amulets was believed to possess properties to ward off illness and physical harm, often worn close to the skin for maximum efficacy?

- A) Phra Phrom (Four-Faced Buddha) amulets
- B) Phra Somdej amulets
- C) Phra Pidta (Melted Face Buddha) amulets**
- D) Kru-Kruang (spirit houses) amulets

2. The practice of 'jamu' in Indonesia, often involving herbal concoctions, was historically linked to spiritual beliefs. Which common jamu ingredient was believed to improve circulation and vitality, indirectly impacting physical well-being?

- A) Turmeric (Kunyit)**
- B) Ginger (Jahe)
- C) Galangal (Lengkuas)
- D) Lemongrass (Sereh)

3. In ancient Khmer practices, what physical component of the human body was considered a focal point for channeling spiritual energy and influencing health, often manipulated through rituals and incantations?

- A) The liver
- B) The heart**
- C) The lungs
- D) The spine

4. Some animistic beliefs in the Philippines involved the use of 'anting-anting' (talismans) to protect against diseases. Which specific type of natural material was frequently incorporated into these talismans for its perceived protective and healing aura?

- A) Feathers from a peacock
- B) Teeth from a wild boar
- C) Shells from a specific sea snail**
- D) Bark from a sacred banyan tree

5. Burmese traditional medicine, intertwined with spiritual practices, utilized 'Loka-niti' aphorisms. Which physical ailment was commonly addressed through a combination of herbal remedies and ritualistic appeasement of malevolent spirits believed to cause it?

- A) Cataracts
- B) Leprosy
- C) Goiter
- D) Rheumatism**

6. In Vietnamese folk magic, certain amulets (bùa ho menh) were designed to influence the 'qi' (vital energy). Which organ was particularly believed to be strengthened or protected by these talismans to promote overall health and longevity?

- A) The spleen
- B) The kidneys**
- C) The stomach
- D) The bladder

7. The practice of 'Bumiputra' healing in Malaysia, drawing on indigenous knowledge, often involved incantations to realign bodily humors. Which elemental imbalance was most commonly associated with fever and inflammation in these traditions?

- A) Excess of 'earth' element
- B) Deficiency of 'water' element
- C) Excess of 'fire' element**
- D) Deficiency of 'air' element

8. Laotian spirit healers (Mo Phi) sometimes employed elaborate rituals involving specific symbolic gestures. Which anatomical feature was often the target of these gestures to expel 'evil' influences causing physical maladies like paralysis?

- A) The earlobes
- B) The fingertips**
- C) The kneecaps
- D) The collarbones