Ancient Egypt

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Which river's floods watered fields and deposited fertile soil in ancient Egypt?
   A. Nile
   B. Euphrates
   C. Jordan
   D. Tigris
   Correct answer: A. Nile
   The Nile's floodwaters spread across low ground and left sediment that helped sustain farming in the valley.

2. Which plant supplied the inner material for the writing sheets we call papyrus?
   A. Flax
   B. Date palm
   C. Papyrus sedge
   D. Barley
   Correct answer: C. Papyrus sedge
   Makers cut strips from the inner stem of the papyrus plant and pressed overlapping layers into sheets.

3. In 1922 an excavation in the Valley of the Kings uncovered the tomb called KV62. Which ruler had been buried there?
   A. Khufu
   B. Tutankhamun
   C. Ramesses II
   D. Akhenaten
   Correct answer: B. Tutankhamun
   KV62 is Tutankhamun's tomb. Its burial chambers held an unusually well-preserved set of royal burial goods.

4. Which woman ruled as a New Kingdom pharaoh, took the throne name Maatkare, and had statues made wearing the king’s headcloth?
   A. Nefertari
   B. Tiye
   C. Cleopatra VII
   D. Hatshepsut
   Correct answer: D. Hatshepsut
   Hatshepsut ruled as king in Egypt's Eighteenth Dynasty. Her statues use royal symbols that tied her to the office.

5. What did a set of canopic jars typically hold during preparation for an ancient Egyptian burial?

A. Food for the people attending the burial
B. Internal organs removed during mummification
C. Water for painting the coffin
D. Papyrus rolls listing the deceased person's family

Correct answer: B. Internal organs removed during mummification
Canopic equipment protected organs that had been removed and preserved during mummification.

6. Small figures in Nauny’s tomb were meant to work on her behalf in the afterlife. Which kind of object are they?

A. A shabti figure
B. A canopic lid
C. A scribe's palette
D. A foundation tablet

Correct answer: A. A shabti figure
A worker shabti was intended to answer a call for labor on the deceased person's behalf in the afterlife.

7. A curator finds an amulet whose rounded back and carved legs resemble a dung beetle. Which object type fits that shape?

A. Ankh
B. Wedjat eye
C. Djed pillar
D. Scarab

Correct answer: D. Scarab
The scarab's beetle form was associated with the rising sun and renewal. People wore beetle-shaped amulets of this kind.

8. A scribe needs a flowing script for an ink text on papyrus. Which script was a cursive counterpart to Egyptian hieroglyphs?

A. The Greek alphabet
B. Cuneiform
C. Hieratic
D. The Latin alphabet

Correct answer: C. Hieratic
Hieratic adapted Egyptian signs into forms suited to writing with ink. Scribes used it for many texts on papyrus and other materials.

9. The Narmer Palette shows the same ruler on both sides. What changes between his two appearances?

A. He wears the White Crown on one side and the Red Crown on the other.
B. He is shown holding a papyrus roll on one side and a stylus on the other.
C. He wears a royal crown on one side and no headgear on the other.
D. He wears the same crown on both sides but faces opposite directions.

Correct answer: A. He wears the White Crown on one side and the Red Crown on the other.
The palette associates Narmer with two crowns traditionally linked to Upper and Lower Egypt. That contrast is visible in the object itself.

10. Which ruler founded Akhetaten, the city now called Amarna, as a new seat of government and worship?

A. Amenhotep III
B. Ramesses II
C. Thutmose III
D. Akhenaten

Correct answer: D. Akhenaten
Akhenaten founded Akhetaten in the Eighteenth Dynasty. The city was associated with his royal emphasis on the Aten.

11. A limestone fragment from Deir el-Medina lists workers, days, and reasons they missed work. What does this record document most directly?

A. Every worker received the same payment.
B. All Egyptian workers followed the same schedule.
C. Someone kept track of attendance and absences for that crew.
D. The workers themselves chose the crew's overseer.

Correct answer: C. Someone kept track of attendance and absences for that crew.
The inscribed record documents instances of absence and their recorded reasons. It offers local evidence about how a crew was administered.

12. The Papyrus of Ani depicts scales with a person's heart in one pan and a feather in the other. What idea does the scene represent?

A. A measurement of taxes paid by the deceased
B. A judgment of the deceased person's conduct
C. A test of the quality of a burial cloth
D. An estimate of the person's age at death

Correct answer: B. A judgment of the deceased person's conduct
The feather is associated with Maat, the principle of truth and order. Weighing the heart represents a judgment in the afterlife.

13. A museum label puts the northern Nile Delta in Upper Egypt. Which correction reflects the way the regions were named?

A. The delta is in Lower Egypt because it lies south of Upper Egypt.
B. The delta is in Upper Egypt, upstream from Lower Egypt.
C. The delta is in Upper Egypt because it is farther north.
D. The delta is in Lower Egypt, downstream from Upper Egypt.

Correct answer: D. The delta is in Lower Egypt, downstream from Upper Egypt.
The Nile flows north to its delta. Upper Egypt lies upstream to the south, and Lower Egypt lies downstream in the north.

14. A surviving silver coin shows Cleopatra VII on one face and Mark Antony on the other. Which conclusion is supported by that design?

A. The people who issued this coin paired the two leaders in a public image.
B. Cleopatra and Antony always held the same official titles.
C. This coin established the borders of the territories they controlled.
D. Everyone who handled the coin supported both leaders.

Correct answer: A. The people who issued this coin paired the two leaders in a public image.
The two portraits are direct evidence of how the issuers represented the leaders together. The coin alone cannot establish how its users felt.

15. A relief in the Temple of Dendur shows the Roman emperor Augustus in the role of an Egyptian pharaoh making offerings. What conclusion does this detail best support?

A. A relief shows that Augustus ended earlier Egyptian worship.
B. The temple predates Roman rule because it uses Egyptian imagery.
C. Egyptian religious imagery persisted under Roman rule.
D. Egyptian builders stopped using local religious forms once Rome took control.

Correct answer: C. Egyptian religious imagery persisted under Roman rule.
The Roman-period temple represents Augustus using familiar Egyptian royal and religious forms. The artwork shows their continued use after a change in government.