Shakespeare

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. In which English town was William Shakespeare born?
   - A. Stratford-upon-Avon
   - B. Canterbury
   - C. Bath
   - D. Cambridge

   Correct answer: A. Stratford-upon-Avon
   Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon. The house associated with his birth stands on Henley Street.

2. Which kingdom is Prince Hamlet's home and the main setting of Hamlet?
   - A. Norway
   - B. Scotland
   - C. Denmark
   - D. France

   Correct answer: C. Denmark
   Hamlet is a Danish prince. Most of the play takes place at or around the royal court in Denmark.

3. Which Shakespeare play dramatizes the assassination of a Roman leader on the Ides of March?
   - A. Coriolanus
   - B. Julius Caesar
   - C. Antony and Cleopatra
   - D. Titus Andronicus

   Correct answer: B. Julius Caesar
   Julius Caesar depicts the plot against Caesar and the conflict that follows his assassination.

4. In which play does the exiled Duke of Milan, Prospero, use magic on an island?
   - A. As You Like It
   - B. The Winter's Tale
   - C. A Midsummer Night's Dream
   - D. The Tempest

   Correct answer: D. The Tempest
   The Tempest opens after Prospero and his daughter have lived in exile on the island.

5. Which play appears among the comedies in the 1623 First Folio?

A. Macbeth
B. Twelfth Night
C. Othello
D. King Lear

Correct answer: B. Twelfth Night
The First Folio grouped Twelfth Night with the comedies. It placed the other three plays among the tragedies.

6. What was the name of the open-air theater that Shakespeare's company opened in Southwark in 1599?

A. The Globe
B. Blackfriars
C. The Rose
D. The Curtain

Correct answer: A. The Globe
The company's original Globe opened in 1599 on the south bank of the Thames.

7. A character alone onstage gives a sustained speech that reveals their private thoughts. What is that kind of speech called?

A. An epilogue
B. An aside
C. A prologue
D. A soliloquy

Correct answer: D. A soliloquy
A soliloquy lets the audience hear what a character is thinking as the character speaks their thoughts aloud.

8. How many plays did the 1623 First Folio bring together?

A. 30
B. 26
C. 36
D. 42

Correct answer: C. 36
The First Folio gathered 36 plays under the headings comedies, histories, and tragedies.

9. After the main action of The Tempest, Prospero addresses the audience. What is this closing address called in editions of the play?

A. Epilogue
B. Prologue
C. Interlude
D. Dedication

Correct answer: A. Epilogue
The play ends with an epilogue spoken by Prospero after the final scene.

10. Which two members of Shakespeare's company helped gather his plays for the First Folio after his death?

A. Thomas Kyd and John Webster
B. Richard Burbage and William Kempe
C. Christopher Marlowe and Ben Jonson
D. John Heminge and Henry Condell

Correct answer: D. John Heminge and Henry Condell
Heminge and Condell helped prepare the collected plays and are credited in the volume's prefatory material.

11. Which Shakespeare history dramatizes the English victory at Agincourt in 1415?

A. Henry IV, Part 1
B. Richard II
C. Henry V
D. Richard III

Correct answer: C. Henry V
Henry V follows the English king's campaign in France, including the Battle of Agincourt.

12. What name did Shakespeare's acting company take under the patronage of King James I in 1603?

A. The Lord Chamberlain's Men
B. The King's Men
C. The Admiral's Men
D. The Queen's Men

Correct answer: B. The King's Men
James I granted royal patronage in 1603. The company formerly known as the Lord Chamberlain's Men became the King's Men.

13. Which work, in Thomas North's English translation, supplied source material for Shakespeare's Julius Caesar?

A. Homer's Iliad
B. Livy's History of Rome
C. Virgil's Aeneid
D. Plutarch's Lives

Correct answer: D. Plutarch's Lives
North's translation of Plutarch's Lives provided biographical accounts of the Roman figures used in the play.

14. How many numbered sonnets appeared in the 1609 collection of Shakespeare's Sonnets?

A. 154
B. 134
C. 140
D. 168

Correct answer: A. 154
The volume printed a sequence of 154 numbered sonnets. It also included the longer poem A Lover's Complaint.

15. Which play was added to the First Folio after its printed table of contents had already been set, leaving the work unlisted there?

A. Antony and Cleopatra
B. Measure for Measure
C. Troilus and Cressida
D. Coriolanus

Correct answer: C. Troilus and Cressida
The publishers secured printing rights to Troilus and Cressida late. The play appears in the volume even though it is absent from the printed contents.