Wedding Traditions and History

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. What color was the satin train Queen Victoria wore at her wedding in 1840?
   - A. White
   - B. Crimson
   - C. Gold
   - D. Pale blue

   Correct answer: A. White
   The Victoria and Albert Museum records that Queen Victoria chose a white satin train edged with orange blossom.

2. The Jewish Museum describes a German Jewish wedding in an 1866 painting by Moritz Daniel Oppenheim. What term does the museum use for the canopy above the couple?
   - A. Tallit
   - B. Ketubah
   - C. Huppah
   - D. Menorah

   Correct answer: C. Huppah
   The huppah is the marriage canopy in the painting. The museum also identifies a separate prayer shawl called a tallit.

3. The Metropolitan Museum of Art holds a wooden bird of a type presented at Joseon-period weddings. Which bird does the carving represent?
   - A. A crane
   - B. A goose
   - C. A peacock
   - D. A magpie

   Correct answer: B. A goose
   The museum identifies it as a wedding goose. Its account describes a carved goose taking the place of a live bird in the ceremony.

4. Japan House describes san-san-kudo in traditional Japanese weddings. What set of vessels does its account describe for the sake?
   - A. Four small cups of the same size
   - B. Two tall glasses of the same size
   - C. One large bowl and two pitchers
   - D. Three lacquered cups of different sizes

   Correct answer: D. Three lacquered cups of different sizes
   The account describes a small, medium, and large lacquered cup used together in the ceremony.

5. A University of Alberta exhibit on Ukrainian Canadian weddings shows an elaborately decorated food called korovai. What is it?

A. A stuffed cabbage dish
B. A ceremonial bread
C. A bowl of fruit soup
D. A platter of dumplings

Correct answer: B. A ceremonial bread
Korovai is a wedding bread in the exhibit. The examples can feature decorations such as flowers or dough birds.

6. Te Papa describes Samoan fine mats called ‘ie tōga as gifts at weddings and other important occasions. What plant supplied the weaving material for the mat in its account?

A. Pandanus
B. Bamboo
C. Flax
D. Banana

Correct answer: A. Pandanus
Te Papa identifies a variety of pandanus called lau‘ie. Its leaves supplied the strips woven into this fine mat.

7. The Powerhouse Museum records matching outfits worn at a 1997 wedding in Lagos, Nigeria. Which fabric detail did the two outfits share?

A. Linen printed with a repeating design
B. Velvet made from a single wide piece
C. Felt cut from a sheet of wool
D. Heavy cotton woven in narrow strips

Correct answer: D. Heavy cotton woven in narrow strips
The matching outfits used the same heavy cotton cloth. The Yoruba textile is woven in long, narrow strips.

8. The Bata Shoe Museum holds a pair of silver nalin, or tall bath sandals, given as part of a wedding present in Istanbul around 1900. Which other object was part of that gift?

A. A tray for carrying flowers
B. A small mirror with a folding handle
C. A matching bowl for pouring water
D. A box for storing sewing needles

Correct answer: C. A matching bowl for pouring water
The museum records a matching bowl with the sandals. The bowl was used to pour water at the hammam.

9. Winterthur Museum’s report describes the gown Jacqueline Bouvier wore at her 1953 wedding. Which designer’s name appears on the gown’s label?

A. Ann Lowe
B. Claire McCardell
C. Elizabeth Hawes
D. Pauline Trigère

Correct answer: A. Ann Lowe
Ann Lowe designed the gown. Winterthur notes that her name appears on its label, an unusual detail among her surviving gowns.

10. Spencer Museum of Art describes a pair of Maasai necklaces used at two different milestones. How does its label say the two pieces were worn together at the wedding?

A. The smaller necklace hung as a pendant from the wider collar.
B. The wider collar fit inside a smaller necklace worn at engagement.
C. The two necklaces were joined end to end to make one long strand.
D. The smaller necklace fit inside the wider collar worn at engagement.

Correct answer: D. The smaller necklace fit inside the wider collar worn at engagement.
The museum identifies the wider collar with engagement. The smaller piece was added at the wedding and fit inside it.

11. A Smithsonian entry titles a single object Wedding Sash/Rain Sash. Which combination of community and material belongs on a display label for that object?

A. Diné and cotton yarn
B. Hopi Pueblo and wool felt
C. Hopi Pueblo and cotton yarn
D. Zuni Pueblo and silk thread

Correct answer: C. Hopi Pueblo and cotton yarn
The National Museum of the American Indian associates the sash with Hopi Pueblo and records cotton yarn as its material. Its place record identifies Songoopavi on Second Mesa.

12. A U.S. Catholic bishops’ record uses the Spanish terms arras and lazo for two optional wedding customs. Which pair of object labels matches those terms in order?

A. A wedding cord and coins
B. Coins and a wedding cord
C. Rings and a prayer book
D. A veil and candles

Correct answer: B. Coins and a wedding cord
The record identifies arras as coins and lazo as a wedding cord. It describes both customs as optional in the rite it discusses.

13. A Greek marble grave marker at the Met takes the shape of a vessel called a loutrophoros. What use of that vessel shape connects it with weddings?

A. Holding grain to give to guests
B. Pouring wine at a wedding feast
C. Storing olive branches for a crown
D. Carrying water for a ceremonial bath

Correct answer: D. Carrying water for a ceremonial bath
The marble object is a grave marker. Its shape recalls a vessel that could carry water for a bridal bath as well as for funerary rites.

14. A Punjabi wedding phulkari in the Philadelphia Museum of Art has a large embroidered triangle and a band on the opposite edge. Where would those two details fall when the bride wore it as the museum describes?

A. The triangle over the forehead and the band across the back
B. The band over the forehead and the triangle across the back
C. The triangle at the waist and the band across one elbow
D. The triangle across one shoulder and the band across the other

Correct answer: A. The triangle over the forehead and the band across the back
The museum describes the triangle falling over the forehead like an ornament. The band on the opposite edge would show across the back.

15. A program lists wedding marches by Richard Wagner and Felix Mendelssohn. Which pairing correctly identifies the larger work each piece came from?

A. The Magic Flute by Wagner and Roméo et Juliette by Mendelssohn
B. A Midsummer Night’s Dream by Wagner and Lohengrin by Mendelssohn
C. Lohengrin by Wagner and A Midsummer Night’s Dream by Mendelssohn
D. The Nutcracker by Wagner and The Flying Dutchman by Mendelssohn

Correct answer: C. Lohengrin by Wagner and A Midsummer Night’s Dream by Mendelssohn
The Library of Congress traces Wagner’s familiar wedding music to Lohengrin. Mendelssohn wrote his Wedding March as part of the incidental music for A Midsummer Night’s Dream.