Theatre Brief 11th edition Cohen Test Bank

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Chapter 02
What Is a Play

1. What is a play?
A. a story in dialogue form written in a book
B. a single oral performance of a story
C. an action framed and focused around a particular conflict, which gives the action significance
D. performance on a stage using live actors and musical accompaniment

2. The word "drama" comes from the Greek *dran,* which means
A. to make.
B. to play.
C. to do.
D. to dance.

3. In Greek tragedy, the central character
A. undergoes a change that leads to his or her demise due to a tragic flaw in their character.
B. never interacts with the lesser characters.
C. always descends from the gods.
D. always has the option of avoiding conflicts.

4. The purging or cleansing of the audience's pity and terror at the climax of a tragedy is called
A. hamartia.
B. exposition
C. containment
D. catharsis.

5. Which of the following is true about the differences between tragedy and comedy?
A. Tragedy typically deals with great people, whereas comedy deals with ordinary people.
B. Tragedy leads to the audience feeling disgusted about going to the theatre at all.
C. Tragedy is always about the Gods, whereas comedies are only about mortals.
D. Tragedy is about soap-opera types of.whereas comedy is usually about a new major social and political awareness.

6. Tragic suffering differs from pathetic or maudlin feelings in that
A. the cause of tragic suffering is narrated rather than dramatized.
B. tragic suffering is incapable of connecting to divinity.
C. the tragic hero takes on a bold and heroic dimension because he or she faces huge odds.
D. the tragic hero's greatest. is laughable.

7. Why do comedies typically go out-of-date more quickly than tragedies?
A. Comedies were historically written on parchment, whereas tragedies were inscribed on stone.
B. Comedies used the common slang of the time, whereas tragedies are written in more refined language
C. Comedies are more topical and deal with ordinary life at the time they are written.
D. Comedies utilize more stagecraft and precise timing than tragedies.

8. The play, The Laramie Project can be classified as
A. a documentary drama.
B. a melodrama.
C. a history play.
D. a musical.

9. Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* is different than its classically tragic ancestors because it
A. contains scenes of absurd humor.
B. does not contain Gods, but rather contemporary forces.
C. Willy Loman was a rich beaurocrat.
D. there is more than one major tragic character.

10. The Greek term for the "carrier of the action" in a tragedy is
A. antagonist.
B. protagonist.
C. catharsis.

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D. hamartia.

11. A play that dramatizes the key events in the life of a king or head of state, such as Shakespeare's *Henry IV*, is called
A. a history play.
B. tragicomedy.
C. a farce.
D. a burlesque.

12. Ultimately, the practice of dividing plays into genre is
A. not helpful to an audience member in deciding which play to go see.
B. is of no interest to the production team of actors, designers and producers.
C. always subjective because each play is unique.
D. only observed for high scholarly writings to be analyzed.

13. Which dramatic genre purports to be serious but, in fact, deals with human issues on only the most superficial level, embellished with spectacular staging, flamboyant dialogue, and highly suspenseful and contrived plotting?
A. documentary drama
B. tragicomedy
C. melodrama
D. farce

14. Which dramatic genre offers a wild, hilarious treatment of a trivial theme, usually based on a stock component like identical twins, switched identities, lovers in closets, and might include full-stage chases, misheard instructions, various disrobings, discoveries, and disappearances?
A. dark comedy
B. melodrama
C. farce
D. tragicomedy

15. Which one of the following is part of the horizontal axis of dramaturgy?
A. pre-play
B. conventions
C. plot
D. theme

16. The six components of a play which Aristotle lists, in order of importance, are
A. script, stage, actor, playwright, choral leader, and government support.
B. plot, character, theme, diction, music, and spectacle.
C. irony, pastoral, idyll, satire, drama, and humor.
D. reversal, tragic flaw, recognition, catharsis, inciting incident and subplots.

17. What is the difference between *plot* and *story*?
A. The terms are synonymous.
B. Plot refers to the structure of events; story refers to a narrative of what happens in a play.
C. A plot has a moral; a story has suspense.
D. A plot can be turned into a play, but a story is usually too private to be performed publicly.

18. Which element of drama refers not only to the pronunciation of spoken dialogue but also to the literary nature of the play's text, including its tone, imagery, articulation, and use of such literary forms as verse, rhyme, metaphor, jest, apostrophe, and epigram?
A. episodic discourse
B. theme
C. diction
D. alliteration

19. Which element describes the play's use of rhythm and sounds, either by way of instrumental composition or the orchestration of such noises as muffled drumbeats, gunshots, special effects, and vocal tones?
A. sound notes
B. syllabic counterpoint
C. music
D. orchestra

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20. The visual aspect of the play, including the scenery, costumes, lighting, make-up, and the over-all look of the stage are included in the element known as
A. allusion.
B. intermezzo.
C. cortina magica.
D. spectacle.

21. The unspoken agreements between the audience and the actor, which includes a whole set of traditional understandings surrounding the theatrical event is called
A. music.
B. convention.
C. theme.
D. denouement

22. Background information, presented within the play, that the audience must possess in order to understand the action of the play is called
A. recognition.
B. exposition.
C. denouement.
D. paraphrase.

23. Which of the following offers a way that the playwright can present a play's exposition?
A. director's notes
B. a spoken prologue that directly provides information right before the main action
C. a talk show during which the actor relays information to the viewing audience
D. post show gossip

24. In play construction, the single action that initiates the major conflict of the play is called the
A. exposition.
B. inciting incident.
C. characterization.
D. denouement.

25. A play's final scene, action, or lines that indicate the end of conflicts, and possibly even bring about resolution, is called the
A. pathos.
B. theme.
C. anagnorisis.
D. denouement.

26. *Genre* means category or kind.
TRUE

27. The central character in any type of drama is always called the tragic hero.
FALSE

28. The modern play that challenges Aristotle's definition of tragedy because the lead character is a "low man" is Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*.
TRUE

29. Aristotle's list of 6 components of a tragedy is not really respected or used today.
FALSE

30. In a Greek play, the lead character, the protagonist, moves the action forward and is opposed by a figure called the antagonist.
TRUE

31. According to Aristotle, it is impossible to break down the elements that make tragedy effective.
FALSE

32. When an actor turns to speak directly to the audience, unheard by the other characters, it is known as an "aside".
TRUE

33. Characters' potency is measured by our interest in them as people.

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TRUE

34. The *theme* of *The Bourgeois* Gentleman is the foolishness of pretense.
TRUE

35. The audience is not a part of the definition of conventions of the theatre.
FALSE

36. Apply Aristotle's elements of drama to a modern play with which you have read or seen. Does Aristotle's elements make any difference to the play you watched or read, if so how? Which ones and why?
Answers will vary

37. Define *convention* and explain how conventions function in a play or theatrical performance with which you are familiar. Consider what misunderstandings or confusions might arise in someone unfamiliar with such conventions.
Answers will vary

38. Discuss pre-play activities that are relevant today. List and discuss the kinds of activities that you have engaged in and how social media might play into this convention.
Answers will vary

39. Consider you are wanting to impress a friend with your knowledge of theatre. Your friend thinks going to see a tragedy is a waste of time. Explain to them what a tragedy is and the benefits for an audience member to attend a tragedy. Give examples from famous tragedies such as *Oedipus.*
Answers will vary

40. The curtain call functions as an important convention in the drama. Explain its importance, especially in terms of the actor's paradox. What are your expectations of a curtain call? Do you have any memorable ones you can recount?
Answers will vary

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