

Modern History Quiz

Select the best answer for each question below.

1. Why did modern emerge as a major dance technique?
 - a. there were not enough ballerina positions available so people had to find work
 - b. Vaudeville had become popular and were creating positions for modern dancers
 - c. dancers thought ballet was too restrictive and they wanted to dance about real life issues
 - d. modern dance reflected the social dance genre of the 1950s

2. What is one characteristic of modern dance?
 - a. intricate costuming
 - b. regulated exercises that were centered on the use of breath
 - c. long and lean dancers with high arches
 - d. use of parallel position

3. In its initial stages, what was the focus of modern dance?
 - a. expressing the artist rather than appealing to an audience
 - b. performing pieces that created interest in costuming and intricate sets
 - c. create beautiful pieces that took people out of reality of real life
 - d. to entertain the middle class rather than the nobility

4. During the time period of the “big four,” what were the major themes of their works? Remember...this was Martha Graham, Doris Humphrey, Charles Weidman and Hanya Holm.
 - a. a deviation from ballet
 - b. the American spirit
 - c. dance in its most imaginative form.
 - d. dance as an extension of self

5. During the second generation of dance, the big four broke out on their own. How did this affect modern dance?
 - a. modern dance stayed the same as their students taught exactly what they had learned
 - b. modern dance declined in the amount of people being interested in it
 - c. modern dance became more developed and more modern techniques were developed
 - d. modern dance evolved into what is now considered lyrical

6. How did the post-modernists react to modern dance?
 - a. they rejected the techniques and theories of modern dance
 - b. they continued to teach modern as their teachers had taught
 - c. they became more developed and more modern techniques were developed
 - d. they brought modern back to its original days

7. What did the post-modernists claim about modern dance?
 - a. dance happened very thoughtfully and intentionally
 - b. dance had to tell a story
 - c. that any movement was considered dance, even pedestrian movement
 - d. all dance had to be performed in unison and choreographed without parts

8. What did internationalism claim about dance?
 - a. all dancers should have the same body type and structure
 - b. dance should only come from Italy, France, and Russia
 - c. it should only be performed by female principal dancers
 - d. dance has no particular cultural face

Match the following dancers with the questions below:

- a) Isadora Duncan b) Ruth St. Denis/Ted Shawn c) Martha Graham
 d) Doris Humphrey e) Merce Cunningham f) Charles Weidman g) Hanya Holm
 h) Erick Hawkins i) Jose Limon j) Alvin Ailey k) Twyla Tharp l) Mark Morris

9. Which dancer was the founder of modern dance?
10. Which dancer developed the theory of fall and recovery?
11. Which dancer was more athletic in his technique, focusing on somatic techniques?
12. Which dancer developed the theory of contraction and release?
13. Which dancer developed an African American company of contemporary dancers?
14. Which dancer focused on “chance dance” and on linear shapes?
15. Which dancer created the use of pantomime in modern dance?
16. Which dancer choreographed a great deal of Broadway choreography?
17. Which dancers created the school of Denishawn?
18. Which dancer studied dance at the Humphrey- Weidman school; practiced the principle of fall and recovery and the principle of pantomime and expression.
19. Which dancer incorporated the use of silence into modern choreography?
20. Which dancer collaborated with Baryshnikov to establish the White Oak Dance Project contemporary dance company.