

Test Your Opera Knowledge

Match the plot with the opera. For extra credit, sing your favourite aria from the opera you select as your answer.

Answer key is at the end of the quiz.

1. A slave girl of royal birth tricks her boyfriend into betraying his country and spends the rest of her life with him in the basement.
 - a. *L'Africaine*
 - b. *Aida*
 - c. *Armide*
 - d. *L'Amore dei tre Re*

2. Amorous count enlists the aid of a factorum to win the hand of a fair maiden who is held cloistered by her lecherous guardian.
 - a. *The Barber of Seville*
 - b. *Fra Diavolo*
 - c. *The Bartered Bride*
 - d. *La Gioconda*

3. Starving French author falls for his sick and starving neighbour; their relationship has its ups and downs; poor girl dies in the end.
 - a. *Herodiade*
 - b. *La Favorita*
 - c. *La Bohème*
 - d. *The Girl of the Golden West*

4. A Gypsy girl lures an infatuated hick soldier into a life of crime; leaves him for a bullfighter; she meets a bad end.
 - a. *Ariane et Barbe-Bleu*
 - b. *Elektra*
 - c. *Dinorah*
 - d. *Carmen*

5. Country bumpkin woos local hotty but needs help from “Dr. Feelgood” who cons him. A couple of bottles later, the rube wins the lass by a twist of fate.

- a. *The Elixir of Love*
- b. *Forza Del Destino*
- c. *Ernani*
- d. *Le Prophète*

6. Faithful cross-dressing wife frees political prisoner husband.

- a. *Zampa*
- b. *L'Amico Fritz*
- c. *Fidelio*
- d. *Don Pasquale*

7. Asian military bride loses sailor husband to his American wife; gives up child; gives up life.

- a. *Lakmè*
- b. *Thais*
- c. *Manru*
- d. *Madama Butterfly*

8. Manservant's future wife is pursued by the Count while the Countess, yearning for the Count, is being chased by a teenage boy who is also after another servant girl. Manservant, his bride, the Countess, and the boy entrap the Count in a rendezvous.

- a. *Martha*
- b. *The Marriage of Figaro*
- c. *Navarraise*
- d. *Zaza*

9. Double-crossed henchman plots revenge on his libertine master but pays the price with the life of his daughter.

- a. *Mignon*
- b. *Robert Le Diable*
- c. *Rigoletto*
- d. *Werther*

10. Druid high priestess is thrown over by Roman boyfriend and vows revenge. In the end, both are burned up.

- a. *The Queen of Sheeba*
- b. *Semiramide*
- c. *Linda De Chamounix*
- d. *Norma*

Answers:

1. **b. *Aida***

So, the reference to the "basement" is cryptic. Aida and Radames might have lived longer in the tomb if they hadn't used up all the air by singing so much.

2. **a. *The Barber of Seville***

It's a close shave, but Count Almaviva wins out!

3. **c. *La Bohème***

This time most of the coughing is on stage, not in the audience.

4. **d. *Carmen***

In this case, it wasn't cigarettes that were hazardous to Carmen's health, it was her 'matches'.

5. **a. *The Elixir of Love***

So, Nemorino came by two of the most powerful aphrodisiacs known to humankind. Love and money!

6. **c. *Fidelio***

Well, it was good enough for two titles and four overtures!

7. **d. *Madama butterfly***

This one has the original 'One Fine Day'... and it isn't the Doo-Wop version.

8. **b. *The Marriage of Figaro***

What a plot – as complicated as the music is beautiful!

9. **c. *Rigoletto***

Makes the mob look tame.

10. **d. *Norma***

Don't worry! Auntie Aldagisa took care of the kids.

Opera trivia courtesy of www.funtrivia.com.