



International Geography Championships

2022 Human Geography Examination

Name _____

School _____

Grade _____

Instructions – Mark your answers on the scantron provided. Correct answers are worth 2 points. Incorrect answers are worth –1 point. Questions left blank are worth 0 points.

Questions 1-10 are about agriculture.

1. France leads the world in the production of what crop?

- A. soybeans
- B. grapes
- C. mangoes
- D. sheep

2. What country leads the world in sugarcane production, much of which is used to make ethanol?

- A. Brazil
- B. Japan
- C. South Africa
- D. Canada

3. Which of these is the most valuable agricultural crop in the world, in addition to being the most important food crop for humans?

- A. wheat
- B. potatoes
- C. tomatoes
- D. rice

4. The United States leads the world in the production of all of these EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. buffalo milk
- B. cow's milk
- C. chicken
- D. cattle

5. Which of these US states leads the country in agricultural production?

- A. Kentucky
- B. Ohio
- C. California
- D. Washington

6. Due to their ties to a certain crop, midwestern states like Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Nebraska form a region of the US known by what name?

- A. the Cotton Belt
- B. the Corn Belt
- C. the Orange Belt
- D. the Banana Belt

7. Jethro Tull's seed drill, Eli Whitney's cotton gin, and Cyrus McCormick's mechanical reaper were all significant inventions leading to which of these?

- A. increased reliance on subsistence farming
- B. the return to slash-and-burn techniques
- C. mechanization of agriculture
- D. increased use of sustainable practices

8. Which of these is the term for an area that produces large quantities of food for a region or country, due to advantageous climate or soil or other factors?

- A. a breadbasket
- B. a farmer's market
- C. an industrial farm
- D. a feedlot

9. In agriculture, CAFOs are associated with which of the following?

- A. organic farming
- B. intensive farming of livestock
- C. use of ancient farming techniques
- D. large-scale cotton production

10. Which of these is NOT an environmental impact of CAFOs?

- A. production of large amounts of greenhouse gases
- B. production of disease-causing organisms
- C. extremely strong odors
- D. diversion of water from rivers like the Amu Darya and Nile

Questions 11-20 are about economic development.

11. Which of the following best describes outsourcing?

- A. the process of industrialization in a developing nation
- B. the process of only employing workers living in one's nation
- C. the process of moving industries to external regions usually for cheaper labor
- D. the process of taxing imports to support domestic industry

12. Rachel Carson's Silent Spring explored which of the following environmental harms?

- A. depletion
- B. deforestation
- C. pollution
- D. desertification

13. Which of these is NOT a form of environmental sustainability?
- A. crop rotation
 - B. renewable energy
 - C. waste management
 - D. unregulated logging
14. Though the global wage gap has declined in recent years, women still earn on average what percentage of the earnings of men?
- A. 34%
 - B. 52%
 - C. 76%
 - D. 93%
15. Literacy rates measure which of the following as an indicator of a nation's level of development?
- A. the percent of a society that can read or write
 - B. the percent of a society that are healthy
 - C. the percent of a society that is married
 - D. the percent of a society that lives under the poverty line
16. Which of the following commodities is meant to drive economic development in many African nations but instead has fostered conflict and civil wars?
- A. titanium
 - B. platinum
 - C. diamonds
 - D. gold
17. The process of a society acquiring characteristics of more developed societies is referred to as which of the following?
- A. regression
 - B. modernization
 - C. stagnation
 - D. retrogradation
18. What percentage of people live in poverty globally according to the World Bank?
- A. 29%
 - B. 23%
 - C. 15%
 - D. 9%
19. Which of these boasts the largest economy in Africa?
- A. Nigeria
 - B. Benin
 - C. Senegal
 - D. Rwanda
20. What region hosts duty free and tariff-free factories called maquiladoras?
- A. Southeast Asia
 - B. Central Asia
 - C. Eastern Europe
 - D. Latin America

Questions 21-30 are about climate and energy.

21. Which of these is NOT one of the four biggest areas driving demand for oil worldwide?
- A. transportation
 - B. medicine
 - C. industrial
 - D. commercial
22. Which of these has resulted in the most growth in oil use in the last 20 years?
- A. agriculture
 - B. computer chip manufacturing
 - C. making lithium-ion batteries
 - D. vehicles with internal combustion engines
23. Which of these happened with global oil use due to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 as compared to 2019?
- A. it rose by over 10 million barrels a day
 - B. it rose by about 2 million barrels a day
 - C. it stayed about the same
 - D. it fell by about 10 million barrels a day
24. Which of these countries uses the MOST oil per day per person?
- A. Saudi Arabia
 - B. Somalia
 - C. South Africa
 - D. India
25. Which of these countries is the world's largest consumer of oil?
- A. Great Britain
 - B. China
 - C. Russia
 - D. the United States
26. Which of these is NOT a source of 'unconventional oil'?
- A. oil sands
 - B. nuclear fission reactions
 - C. oil shale
 - D. conversion of coal to liquid petroleum
27. Which of these countries has the largest proven oil reserve in the world?
- A. Brazil
 - B. Mexico
 - C. Venezuela
 - D. Kazakhstan
28. Which of these is NOT a sustainable alternative to gasoline-powered vehicles?
- A. hydrogen
 - B. diesel
 - C. biofuels
 - D. electrification

29. Which of these is true of global coal use?
- A. it peaked in 1955 and has stayed steady since
 - B. it peaked in 2013 and has declined slightly in the last decade
 - C. it leveled off briefly in 2020 but has risen since
 - D. it has grown rapidly since 2016

30. Which of these is NOT true of coal-fired power plants?
- A. they are the largest single cause of climate change in the world
 - B. they are extremely inefficient
 - C. they discharge heavy metals like arsenic, mercury and lead
 - D. they release harmful particulates along with sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide

Questions 31-40 are about geographical concepts.

31. Which of these best describes map projection?
- A. transferring locations on Earth's surface to a flat map
 - B. predicting the migrations of people to new areas
 - C. altering the shapes of nations to express data
 - D. using graphs to study population trends

32. The Geographic Information System stores information about the world in what format?
- A. graphs
 - B. diagrams
 - C. layers
 - D. tables

33. McDonald's selling veggie burgers in India to maintain their popularity is an example of which of the following?
- A. set diffusion
 - B. stiff diffusion
 - C. rigid diffusion
 - D. stimulus diffusion

34. Which of these is NOT an abiotic system of Earth?
- A. hydrosphere
 - B. biosphere
 - C. hemisphere
 - D. atmosphere

35. What climate is found at the highest latitudes?
- A. tropical
 - B. polar
 - C. dry
 - D. temperate

36. What modern technology is used in remote sensing to collect data about Earth's surface?
- A. satellites
 - B. cargo containers
 - C. pendulum
 - D. anemometer

37. Which of the following defines a random pattern of distribution?
- A. the distribution lies in concentric circles
 - B. the distribution forms an organized grid
 - C. the distribution lies along straight lines
 - D. no regular distribution can be observed

38. The Prime Meridian passes through all of the following nations EXCEPT?
- A. Algeria
 - B. North Korea
 - C. Spain
 - D. United Kingdom

39. More than half of the world's population lives within what region?
- A. Tropic of Cancer
 - B. North Pole
 - C. Arctic Circle
 - D. South Pole

40. Which of these is not used to present map scales?
- A. graphic scale
 - B. written scale
 - C. parallels
 - D. ratio

Questions 41-50 are about culture and religion.

41. The caste system has been used to organize what nation's society for centuries?
- A. India
 - B. Germany
 - C. Paraguay
 - D. Japan

42. Which of the following systems does NOT include aspects of reincarnation?
- A. Jainism
 - B. Hinduism
 - C. Buddhism
 - D. Catholicism

43. Which of the following best describes cultural diffusion?
- A. the isolation of a specific population from the rest of the world
 - B. the spreading of culture from one group to another
 - C. the elimination of a specific culture
 - D. the evolution of culture over time

44. Taoism is often attributed to what 6th century BCE Chinese philosopher?
- A. Lao Tzu
 - B. Confucius
 - C. Bahauallah
 - D. Mahavira

45. Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are named collectively for what biblical patriarch?

- A. Abraham
- B. Matthew
- C. John
- D. Mark

46. Which of the following is the largest linguistic family in sub-Saharan Africa?

- A. Slavic
- B. Germanic
- C. Bantu
- D. Uralic

47. Which of the following groups have experienced multiple forced diasporas since their exile from Israel in the 8th century BCE?

- A. Arabs
- B. Christians
- C. Goths
- D. Jews

48. What international body designated genocide an international crime in 1948?

- A. World Health Organization
- B. United Nations
- C. World Bank
- D. North Atlantic Treaty Organization

49. Which of the following best describes an evangelical religion?

- A. a religion dedicated to the worship of animals
- B. a religion that can only be practiced in silence
- C. a religion that believes in a pantheon of gods
- D. a religion focused on spreading faith to others

50. The oldest written language in existence is what Mesopotamian dialect?

- A. Sumerian
- B. Turkish
- C. Gallic
- D. Hebrew

Questions 51-60 are about cities.

51. Boston, Seattle, and Chicago are all undergoing what process that displaces low-income communities when properties are bought by wealthier families?

- A. zoning
- B. gentrification
- C. revitalization
- D. hierarchy

52. Which of these is NOT considered a world city at the top of the global urban hierarchy?

- A. London
- B. New York City
- C. Tokyo
- D. Canberra

53. Which of these represents the difference in temperature between city centers and surrounding country due to the Urban Heat Island phenomenon?

- A. 3-5 degrees
- B. 7-9 degrees
- C. 12-15 degrees
- D. 18-20 degrees

54. Shanghai is an example of a metacity because it has surpassed what total population?

- A. 5 million
- B. 20 million
- C. 30 million
- D. 35 million

55. Agricultural density is measured by dividing the total amount of farmers by which of the following?

- A. the access to industrial goods
- B. the relative size of the market
- C. the amount of arable land
- D. the total population

56. Nur-Sultan is the forward capital of what Central Asian nation whose previous capital was Almaty?

- A. Suriname
- B. Kazakhstan
- C. Moldova
- D. Central African Republic

57. Which of these uses quantitative data to study changes in urban areas every 10 years?

- A. census
- B. survey
- C. appraisal
- D. inspection

58. In what form of urban planning are streets organized at right angles to each other?

- A. organic planning
- B. loose planning
- C. radial planning
- D. grid planning

59. Which of the following is the purpose of municipal land-use planning?

- A. local government and law enforcement
- B. manufacturing plants and warehouses
- C. retail shops and office buildings
- D. apartments and condominiums

60. Which of these is NOT a characteristic of an urban city that distinguishes it from a rural area?

- A. homogenous populations
- B. large size
- C. high population density
- D. social stratification

Questions 61-70 are about population and demographics.

61. An inverted population pyramid indicates that a society has a large percentage of which of these?

- A. women
- B. children
- C. men
- D. elderly people

62. What stage of the Demographic Transition Model contains no countries currently?

- A. 5
- B. 4
- C. 3
- D. 1

63. A person forced to leave their country is referred to as which of the following?

- A. hostile
- B. refugee
- C. belligerent
- D. immigrant

64. Which of these is NOT a consequence of an aging population?

- A. politics may be dominated by issues like health care
- B. society invests more in retirement homes
- C. cities grow as populations increase
- D. workforces can shrink and cause lower production

65. What percentage of Egypt's population lives within 5 miles of the Nile River?

- A. 5%
- B. 35%
- C. 65%
- D. 95%

66. What 20th century event resulted in 12-15 million people migrating across a single South Asian border?

- A. Partition of India
- B. Opium Wars
- C. Iranian Revolution
- D. October Revolution

67. Most of the world's population lives in what climate?

- A. tundra
- B. polar
- C. tropical
- D. arid

68. An estimated 90% of the world's population lives north of what latitude?

- A. the equator
- B. the Prime Meridian
- C. the North Pole
- D. International Date Line

69. The Epidemiological Transition Model studies the fluctuations in which of these?

- A. literacy rates
- B. death rates
- C. migration rates
- D. maturation rates

70. Which of these nations used the one child policy to regulated population growth?

- A. Afghanistan
- B. Mali
- C. Guatemala
- D. China

Questions 71-80 are about political geography.

71. The first appearances of organized states appeared in which of the following forms?

- A. city-state
- B. metropolis
- C. megacity
- D. conurbation

72. Which of these was NOT a motivation for colonization?

- A. to spread religion
- B. to extract natural resources
- C. to expand political power
- D. to gain new trading partners

73. Imperialism in the 20th century was focused on what geographic regions?

- A. South America
- B. Western Europe
- C. Asia and Africa
- D. North America

74. Which of these is not considered an elongated state?

- A. Malawi
- B. Vietnam
- C. Chile
- D. Uganda

75. The Commonwealth of Nations is an intergovernmental organization composed mostly of states that share what former colonizer?

- A. Portugal
- B. Great Britain
- C. Spain
- D. the Netherlands

76. Which of the following is not a requirement for statehood?

- A. a relative idea of territorial boundaries
- B. a settled population
- C. a politically organized government
- D. the recognition of other nations

77. Which of the following is the most appropriate term for a state like Singapore?

- A. military junta
- B. empire
- C. microstate
- D. federated nation

78. Alaska is the world's largest example of which of these?

- A. enclave
- B. exclave
- C. territory
- D. buffer

79. What form of government loosely combines democracy and dictatorship?

- A. republic
- B. oligarchy
- C. autocracy
- D. anocracy

80. Which of the following is not an example of a periphery country?

- A. Haiti
- B. Japan
- C. Chad
- D. Philippines

Questions 81-90 are about languages.

81. Which of these is not a Romance language?

- A. Persian
- B. Spanish
- C. French
- D. Italian

82. Which of these is an official language of Pakistan?

- A. Portuguese
- B. Bulgarian
- C. Arcadian
- D. Pashto

83. Though it predates them, Quechua was used as the language of what pre-Columbian civilization?

- A. Mlabri
- B. Ahtakakoop
- C. Inca
- D. Giraavaru

84. Maori is spoken by a group indigenous to what island nation?

- A. New Zealand
- B. Mauritius
- C. Greenland
- D. Nova Scotia

85. Maya is still spoken in all of the following nations EXCEPT?

- A. Guatemala
- B. Honduras
- C. Morocco
- D. El Salvador

86. Which of the following is the closest approximation of English speakers in the world?

- A. 500 million
- B. 1.5 billion
- C. 3 billion
- D. 5 billion

87. Which of the following is NOT an Indo-European language?

- A. Welsh
- B. Dutch
- C. Danish
- D. Uralic

88. What language family includes Hebrew, Arabic, and Akkadian?

- A. Celtic
- B. Baltic
- C. Semitic
- D. Greek

89. Which of these was the origin of the first phonetic alphabet?

- A. Phoenicia
- B. Harappa
- C. Lanzhou
- D. Alexandria

90. Which of these is NOT included in the Indic language family?

- A. Umbrian
- B. Hindi
- C. Gujarati
- D. Bengali

Questions 91-100 are about economic development.

91. Which of these is not considered a means of industrial transportation?

- A. airplane
- B. train
- C. truck
- D. wagon

92. Which of the following nations is the largest producer of coffee in the world at more than 30% of international production?

- A. Turkmenistan
- B. Brazil
- C. France
- D. Algeria

93. Alfred Weber's theory of economic growth states that the locations of the market and two raw materials form what shape geographically?

- A. diamond
- B. hexagon
- C. triangle
- D. pentagon

94. What economic system involved colonizers pushing more exports than imports in order to accumulate wealth and state power?

- A. communism
- B. mercantilism
- C. Marxism
- D. monetarism

95. The automobile industry is the basic industry of which of these pairs of cities?

- A. Stuttgart, Germany and Detroit, Michigan, USA
- B. Bursa, Turkey and Varanasi, India
- C. San Francisco, California, USA and Beijing, China
- D. Vienna, Austria and Havana, Cuba

96. Human, social, economic, and environmental are the four pillars of what process of protecting and preserving resources?

- A. endangerment
- B. sustainability
- C. contamination
- D. integration

97. Wangari Maathai's Green Belt Movement worked to combat deforestation in what African nation?

- A. Laos
- B. Timor Leste
- C. Kenya
- D. Andorra

98. Which of these is considered the largest company in the world based on revenue?

- A. Huawei
- B. Verizon
- C. Honda
- D. Walmart

99. Which of the following groups is uses loans and grants to help developing nations progress and end global poverty?

- A. World Bank
- B. UNESCO
- C. Food and Agricultural Organization
- D. African Union

100. The Spanish caused hyperinflation during the Age of Exploration by introducing large amounts of what resource into the global economy?

- A. copper
- B. maize
- C. silver
- D. cotton