



International Geography Championships

2026 Battery Examination - Part 1 Elementary School Division

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 maps and cartography.

1. What does the term 'legend' mean when it appears on a map?
 - A. a guide explaining what symbols and colors on the map represent
 - B. a list of the distances between major cities
 - C. the title given to an important historical map
 - D. a set of rules for reading compass directions
2. The symbol printed on many maps to show directions like north and south is known by what term?
 - A. isocline
 - B. scale bar
 - C. graticule
 - D. compass rose
3. A geographer wanting to show the location of mountain ranges and rivers in a country would most likely use which of these?
 - A. choropleth map
 - B. physical map
 - C. transit map
 - D. road map
4. A political map is designed primarily to show which of these things?
 - A. how to get from place to place on a subway or tram
 - B. a route an airplane might take to fly between countries
 - C. boundaries of units like countries, states, or counties
 - D. comparisons of the size of populations of many nations
5. The term 'thematic map' describes which of these?
 - A. a map focused on a single topic such as climate or population
 - B. a map showing ocean currents, tides, and water depth
 - C. a map of a city showing all the parks, bus stops, schools, and businesses
 - D. a map used for navigating roads and highways

6. What are the small pictures and shapes on a map that stand for real-world features called?
 - A. glossary and index
 - B. map symbols
 - C. contour values
 - D. coordinates
7. Which of these is best shown on an isoline map, which connects points of equal value with lines?
 - A. political boundaries
 - B. the shortest route between two cities
 - C. population growth over time
 - D. values like temperature or elevation across an area
8. Which type of map projection is designed to show all landmasses at their correct size relative to each other?
 - A. conformal projection
 - B. azimuthal projection
 - C. equal-area projection
 - D. oblique projection
9. Which of these is true of the Robinson projection?
 - A. it makes countries near the poles look much larger than they are
 - B. it shows all ocean distances with complete accuracy
 - C. it is widely used because it balances size, shape, distance, and direction
 - D. it is used mainly for navigating ships across oceans
10. A person trying to plan a hike on the Appalachian Trail would find which of these maps most useful?
 - A. elevation map
 - B. a globe
 - C. highway map
 - D. dot map

Questions 11-20 are about glaciers and glacial landforms.

11. When a glacier retreats, it means the glacier is doing which of the following?
 - A. physically moving in reverse up the mountain
 - B. becoming thicker as it gains more ice
 - C. splitting into two separate glaciers
 - D. melting faster than new snow accumulates, causing its front edge to move backward
12. Which of these countries is NOT known for having notable fjords along its coastline?
 - A. Egypt
 - B. Norway
 - C. New Zealand
 - D. Chile
13. The world's largest ice sheet, covering about 98 percent of the continent beneath it, is found in which of these places?
 - A. Greenland
 - B. Canada
 - C. Antarctica
 - D. Siberia

14. Which of these is NOT a process by which glaciers erode the landscape?

- A. abrasion of bedrock by embedded rocks
- B. plucking of rock fragments from the ground
- C. evaporation of bedrock minerals
- D. gouging of river valleys

15. The ridge of rock and sediment deposited at the farthest point a glacier has advanced is called which of these?

- A. lateral moraine
- B. terminal moraine
- C. recessional ridge
- D. push moraine

16. A long, winding ridge of sand and gravel deposited by a stream flowing beneath a glacier is known as which of these?

- A. esker
- B. kame terrace
- C. cirque
- D. fluvioglacial delta

17. A shallow lake or pond that forms when a buried block of glacial ice melts is called which of these?

- A. kettle lake
- B. dammed lake
- C. proglacial lake
- D. lagoon

18. A valley with a flat floor and steep, nearly vertical sides carved by a glacier is described as which type of valley?

- A. B-shaped valley
- B. U-shaped valley
- C. delta
- D. rift valley

19. A large boulder that has been transported far from its place of origin by a glacier is known by what name?

- A. bedrock outcrop
- B. a nunatak
- C. ice sheet
- D. glacial erratic

20. The flat plain of sorted sand and gravel deposited by meltwater streams beyond a glacier's terminus is called what?

- A. a floodplain
- B. a moraine field
- C. an outwash plain
- D. a glacial lake plain

Questions 21-30 are about political geography.

21. Redistricting is the process of redrawing electoral boundaries to reflect which of these?

- A. changes in population as measured by a census
- B. the wishes of the current political party in power
- C. the geographic size of a state
- D. the number of registered voters in each party

22. In political geography, a nation is best described as which of the following?

- A. a country with an elected government
- B. any territory with clearly marked borders
- C. a state that controls its own military
- D. a group of people sharing a common identity, culture, or history

23. A failed state is one that has lost the ability to do which of these?

- A. win international sporting competitions
- B. provide basic government services and maintain order
- C. attract foreign investment
- D. build large military bases

24. Which of these is NOT required to be a recognized state?

- A. having a defined territory
- B. being a member of the United Nations
- C. having a permanent population
- D. having a functioning government

25. A government system in which elected representatives make decisions on behalf of citizens is called what?

- A. a republic
- B. a dictatorship
- C. an oligarchy
- D. a confederation

26. A theocracy is a government in which political power is held by which of these?

- A. a small group of military officers
- B. elected representatives of the people
- C. religious leaders or institutions
- D. a single royal family

27. A buffer zone between two countries or factions generally serves what purpose?

- A. a meeting point for trade negotiations
- B. to provide military bases for the larger of the two powers
- C. to reduce direct contact and potential conflict between them
- D. a neutral financial and banking center

28. Which of these is NOT a characteristic of a democracy?

- A. citizens vote to choose their leaders
- B. there are protections for individual rights and freedoms
- C. multiple political parties are allowed to compete
- D. a single leader holds power indefinitely with no elections

29. A satellite state is one that is formally independent but in practice does which of these?

- A. follows the political and military direction of a more powerful patron state
- B. provides military bases to multiple foreign powers simultaneously
- C. operates under direct occupation by a foreign military force
- D. has surrendered its seat in international organizations to another country

30. In American electoral geography, the concept of a 'swing state' refers to which of these?

- A. a state that always votes for the same party and is therefore ignored by campaigns
- B. a state whose outcome in an election is uncertain because voters are roughly equally divided between parties
- C. a state whose large population gives it a disproportionate share of electoral votes
- D. a state that has recently changed its electoral boundaries through gerrymandering

Questions 31-40 are about coastal landforms.

31. Which of these best describes a coral reef?

- A. a ridge of sand and pebbles deposited parallel to a coastline
- B. an underwater structure built up by tiny animals that produce limestone
- C. a flat rocky shelf left behind when cliffs are eroded
- D. a long thin island formed from sediment

32. The Great Barrier Reef, the world's largest coral reef system, is located off the coast of which country?

- A. Brazil
- B. Indonesia
- C. Australia
- D. the Philippines

33. The term delta refers to which type of coastal feature?

- A. a fan-shaped deposit of sediment at a river mouth where the river flows into the sea
- B. a broad shallow bay partially blocked by a sand ridge
- C. a tidal flat exposed between the high and low tide lines
- D. a triangular headland jutting into the sea between two bays

34. The term sea stack describes which of these coastal landforms?

- A. an isolated pillar of rock left standing after a sea arch collapses
- B. a low platform of rock uncovered at low tide
- C. a narrow arm of sand extending from the coast into the sea
- D. a rocky ridge built up by coral organisms underwater

35. Which of the following best describes a sea cliff?

- A. a flat platform of rock exposed at low tide
- B. a raised mound of sand blown by wind above the high tide line
- C. a long narrow ridge of sand deposited across a bay mouth
- D. a steep rock face formed where waves erode the base of coastal land

36. The White Cliffs of Dover in England are famous coastal cliffs made of which type of rock?

- A. pumice
- B. chalk
- C. limestone
- D. obsidian

37. Coastal deposition happens when waves lose energy and do which of these?

- A. drop the sediment they are carrying onto the shore
- B. erode the base of cliffs more rapidly
- C. increase in height and break with greater force
- D. change direction and bend around a headland

38. What is the term for the process by which waves move sediment along a coastline in a zigzag path?

- A. wave refraction
- B. coastal erosion
- C. longshore drift
- D. sediment transfer

39. Which of these is a long narrow island running parallel to the mainland coast, usually separated by a shallow lagoon?

- A. cay
- B. barrier island
- C. tombolo
- D. oxbow

40. A spit forms when a ridge of sand or shingle extends beyond which type of feature?

- A. a river mouth in a delta
- B. the edge of a coral reef
- C. an offshore barrier island
- D. a bend or curve in the coastline

Questions 41-50 are about languages.

41. English belongs to which branch of the Indo-European language family?

- A. Slavic
- B. Celtic
- C. Germanic
- D. Baltic

42. Tamil and Telugu are languages belonging to which family, found mainly in southern India?

- A. Dravidian
- B. Indo-European
- C. Sino-Tibetan
- D. Austronesian

43. Guaraní is a co-official language alongside Spanish in which South American country?

- A. Uruguay
- B. Bolivia
- C. Argentina
- D. Paraguay

44. Proto-Indo-European is the name for which of these?

- A. the first written language of ancient Rome
- B. the ancient ancestor language from which most European and South Asian languages descended
- C. a modern constructed language used by scholars
- D. the oldest surviving written text in the world

45. The main difference between a dialect and a language is that a dialect is which of these?

- A. a regional variety of a language with its own accent or vocabulary
- B. a completely separate language from a different family
- C. a language used only for religious purposes
- D. a form of writing rather than speaking

46. A language is considered endangered when which of these things is happening?

- A. it is being spoken in more countries than before
- B. it is gaining many new loanwords from other languages
- C. it is being written down for the first time
- D. fewer and fewer people speak it and it risks dying out

47. A creole language is best described as which of these?

- A. a fully developed language that grew from a pidgin and became a native tongue
- B. a simplified trade language with no native speakers
- C. a language used only for writing and formal occasions
- D. a language that has borrowed words from many other languages

48. Tok Pisin, an English-based creole, is an official language of which Pacific nation?

- A. Fiji
- B. Vanuatu
- C. Papua New Guinea
- D. Solomon Islands

49. Which of these is NOT a result of contact between different language groups?

- A. pidgin
- B. language isolate
- C. creole
- D. loanword

50. A logographic writing system, like Chinese characters, represents which of these?

- A. individual sounds or letters
- B. words or morphemes rather than individual sounds
- C. syllables only
- D. numbers and mathematical concepts

Questions 51-55 are about oceans.

51. Which of these is the largest ocean on Earth?

- A. Pacific Ocean
- B. Atlantic Ocean
- C. Indian Ocean
- D. Southern Ocean

52. El Niño is a climate event caused by the warming of ocean waters in which area?

- A. the northern Atlantic Ocean
- B. the Indian Ocean near Australia
- C. the Arctic Ocean near Greenland
- D. the central and eastern Pacific Ocean

53. The photic zone is the part of the ocean where which of these occurs?

- A. water is too deep and cold for any life to exist
- B. ocean currents are strongest and fastest
- C. the ocean floor is closest to the surface
- D. sunlight penetrates and allows photosynthesis

54. The thermohaline circulation, sometimes called the ocean conveyor belt, is driven by differences in which two factors?

- A. wind speed and wind direction
- B. temperature and salinity
- C. depth and tidal force
- D. sunlight and pressure

55. Upwelling is the process by which cold, nutrient-rich water does which of the following?

- A. sinks from the surface to the ocean floor
- B. flows horizontally along the ocean surface
- C. rises from the ocean depths to the surface
- D. evaporates from the ocean surface into the atmosphere

Questions 56 to 75 refer to Image 1 in the resource section at the end of the exam.

56. Number 8 on the map shows a body of water named for what US state?

- A. Maine
- B. California
- C. Idaho
- D. New York

57. The body of water at number 3 on the map is named for what English explorer who sighted it in 1610?

- A. Henry Hudson
- B. Afonso de Albuquerque
- C. Fabian von Bellingshausen
- D. Sebastian Cabot

58. What largest freshwater lake by surface area in the world is shown at number 16 on the map?

- A. Lake Erie
- B. Lake Huron
- C. Lake Champlain
- D. Lake Superior

59. Which Russian lake, containing just over 20% of the fresh surface water in the world, is larger by volume than the one shown at number 16?

- A. Lake Lucerne
- B. Lake Baikal
- C. Lake Como
- D. Lake Victoria

60. What highest mountain in North America is shown at number 11 on the map?

- A. Pike's Peak
- B. Mount Washington
- C. Mount Mitchell
- D. Denali (Mount McKinley)

61. Which of these is true of the area in which number 11 is located?

- A. it is a Canadian province
- B. it is a US state that is also an exclave
- C. it is a territory of the US but not a state
- D. it is a Russian territory

62. What river that forms much of the border between the US state of Texas and Mexico is shown at number 17 on the map?

- A. Arkansas
- B. MacKenzie
- C. Rio Grande
- D. Delaware

63. What major North American river has its mouth at number 7 on the map?

- A. Mississippi
- B. Potomac
- C. Hudson
- D. East

64. The river shown at number 7 empties into what body of water?

- A. Gulf of Panama
- B. Gulf of St. Lawrence
- C. Gulf of Mexico
- D. Davis Strait

65. The strait at number 6 on the map is named for what US state directly to its north?

- A. Washington
- B. Oregon
- C. Illinois
- D. Florida

66. Which of these nations is separated from the US by the strait at number 6?

- A. Anguilla
- B. Aruba
- C. Bermuda
- D. Cuba

67. The island at number 10 shares its name with what major western Canadian city?

- A. Vancouver
- B. Toronto
- C. Ottawa
- D. Montreal

68. What major North American fault line is shown at number 9 on the map?

- A. Húsavík-Flatey Fault
- B. Alpine Fault
- C. San Andreas Fault
- D. Sagaing Fault

69. What two tectonic plates meet at the fault shown at number 9?

- A. Cocos and Nazca
- B. African and South American
- C. North American and Pacific
- D. Australian and Antarctic

70. The Bering Sea is shown at what number on the map?

- A. 2
- B. 1
- C. 4
- D. 5

71. Which of these is true of the area shown at 14 on the map?

- A. it is part of the United States
- B. it is an independent nation
- C. it is a territory of Russia
- D. it is an autonomous territory of Denmark

72. The Mid-Atlantic Ridge passes closest to what number on the map?

- A. 13
- B. 15
- C. 16
- D. 17

73. Number 12 on the map shows what 'autonomous okrug' of Russia?

- A. Chechnya
- B. Chukotka
- C. Dagestan
- D. Ingushetia

74. What bay, often studied by geographers and oceanographers, is located at number 5 on the map?

- A. Galveston Bay
- B. Chesapeake Bay
- C. the Bay of Fundy
- D. Baffin Bay

75. The bay shown at number 5 is often studied because it has one of the most extreme examples of which of the following in the world due to its funnel-shaped basin?

- A. tides
- B. wind speeds
- C. salt content of its water
- D. rainfall

Image 1 (Questions 56-75)

