



International Geography Championships

2026 Battery Examination - Part 2 High School and Middle 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 agriculture.

1. Which of these best describes what subsistence farmers grow?

- A. large quantities of a single crop to sell in national and international markets
- B. a variety of luxury foods such as coffee, cacao, and spices for export
- C. only livestock and dairy products for local markets
- D. just enough food to feed their family with little or nothing left over to sell

2. Shifting cultivation is a farming practice in which farmers do which of these?

- A. grow the same crop on the same land for many generations
- B. raise livestock without large feedlots
- C. clear and farm a plot of land, then move to a new area when the soil is exhausted
- D. use large machines and chemical fertilizers to maximize crop yields

3. Cotton is a key crop needed for the production of which of the following?

- A. food and cooking oil
- B. paper and cardboard
- C. textiles and clothing
- D. medicines and pharmaceuticals

4. Brazil and the Caribbean islands are among the world's leading producers of which crop?

- A. pumpkins
- B. sugarcane
- C. barley
- D. soybeans

5. Which of these crops were brought FROM the Americas TO Europe as part of the Columbian Exchange?

- A. tomatoes and potatoes
- B. wheat and barley
- C. rice and sugarcane
- D. coffee and tea

6. Mediterranean agriculture, practiced in Southern Europe and California, is best known for producing which of these crops?

- A. wheat, corn, and soybeans
- B. rice, tea, and cotton
- C. sugar, cocoa, and bananas
- D. olives, grapes, and citrus fruits

7. Farming, fishing, and forestry are all part of which sector of the economy?

- A. primary
- B. secondary
- C. tertiary
- D. quaternary

8. Rice is the dominant staple crop in parts of Asia with monsoon climates for which of these reasons?

- A. the flat desert landscapes ideal for large-scale machinery
- B. the region's warm temperatures and abundant seasonal rainfall
- C. the cool dry winters that prevent crop disease
- D. the short growing season that suits fast-maturing varieties

9. Plantation agriculture is best described as which of these?

- A. small-scale family farming focused on producing food for personal consumption
- B. large-scale farming of a single export crop, typically in tropical regions, using low-wage labor
- C. the raising of livestock across large areas of dry grassland
- D. community-run farming where all profits are shared equally among workers

10. Nomadic pastoralism is a way of life in which people do which of these?

- A. migrate with their herds of livestock to find water and fresh grazing land
- B. grow crops in one location and sell the surplus at market
- C. raise animals in large enclosed feedlots near urban areas
- D. cultivate the same plot of land using traditional tools and no machinery

Questions 11-20 are about rivers.

11. Rivers provide all of these benefits to human communities EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. a source of fresh drinking water
- B. transportation routes for trade
- C. frequent flooding that destroys homes and crops
- D. habitat for fish and other food sources

12. Which of the following is NOT a major source of river pollution?

- A. ocean waves
- B. agricultural fertilizer runoff
- C. factory discharge
- D. sewage from cities

13. Which of these is NOT a way that healthy rivers benefit the natural environment?

- A. transporting nutrients to coastal areas
- B. increasing greenhouse gas emissions
- C. providing habitats for plants and animals
- D. recharging underground water supplies

14. Deforestation along a river's banks and drainage basin makes flooding worse mainly because which of these happens?

- A. the extra sunlight heats the river and causes it to evaporate more quickly
- B. tree roots no longer absorb rainwater, so more water runs directly into the river
- C. trees release water vapor that increases rainfall over the river
- D. the removal of shade causes ice to melt and fill the river

15. The strip of vegetation growing along a riverbank, which filters pollutants and provides wildlife habitat, is known as what?

- A. discharge margin
- B. lacustrine corridor
- C. backswamp buffer
- D. riparian zone

16. A meander in a river system is best described as which of the following?

- A. a point where a river meets the sea
- B. a flat area of land beside a river that floods
- C. a wide curve or bend in the course of a river
- D. a narrow rocky channel where water flows fast

17. A tributary is a stream or river that does which of these?

- A. flows into a larger river
- B. does not ever flow into an ocean or larger body of water
- C. forms a kettle or finger lake
- D. forms when a meander is cut off

18. An oxbow lake forms when which of these events occurs on a river?

- A. a tight meander loop is cut off from the main river channel
- B. a river deposits sediment at its mouth to create new land
- C. a river overflows its banks and floods the surrounding plain
- D. erosion by a river creates a steep-sided valley or gorge

19. Which of these is NOT a feature of a river's lower course near its mouth?

- A. wide meanders
- B. steep V-shaped valleys
- C. a broad floodplain
- D. a delta or estuary

20. A waterfall forms where a river flows over which of these?

- A. a wide flat plain where the water spreads and slows
- B. a curved bend in the river where erosion undercuts the bank
- C. a point where two rivers meet and increase in volume
- D. a sudden drop in the height of the riverbed over hard rock

Questions 21-30 are about cities.

21. In the concentric zone model, which zone is located at the very center of the city?

- A. Central Business District
- B. working-class housing
- C. commuter zone
- D. factory zone

22. Homer Hoyt's sector model shows that cities grow outward in what shape?

- A. wedge shapes
- B. perfect circles
- C. a grid pattern
- D. random clusters

23. Which of these best describes an edge city?

- A. the historical core of a city
- B. a city that has declined economically
- C. a neighborhood inside a major downtown area
- D. a large suburban area with offices, malls, and jobs of its own

24. The multiple nuclei model suggests that cities have more than one what?

- A. river
- B. center of activity
- C. national border
- D. highway system

25. What term describes the growth of a city outward into surrounding rural areas?

- A. urban decay
- B. urban renewal
- C. urban sprawl
- D. urban primacy

26. A primate city is one that is far larger than any other city in its country and does what?

- A. has no suburbs around it
- B. is located at the coast of a country
- C. dominates its country economically and culturally
- D. always serves as a national capital

27. A megalopolis is formed when multiple large cities grow together and merge into what?

- A. one massive continuous urban region
- B. a series of separate city-states
- C. an independent country
- D. a network of small villages

28. A smart city uses technology and data to improve which of these?

- A. the number of cars on its roads
- B. city services and the quality of life for residents
- C. the number of factories built
- D. the height of its buildings

29. A green belt is an area of protected open land around a city designed to do what?

- A. generate electricity for the city
- B. attract industrial development
- C. create more housing for commuters
- D. limit urban sprawl and preserve open spaces

30. Which of these urban models was specifically designed to describe cities in Latin America?

- A. Griffin-Ford model
- B. concentric zone model
- C. sector model
- D. multiple nuclei model

Questions 31-40 are about forests.

31. Forests help slow climate change by doing which of the following?

- A. reflecting sunlight back into space and cooling the planet
- B. producing oxygen that traps heat and warms the air
- C. absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and storing it in trees and soil
- D. releasing water vapor that thickens the ozone layer

32. The leading cause of deforestation around the world is the clearing of forests for which of these purposes?

- A. building roads and highways
- B. construction of new cities
- C. agriculture and farming
- D. mining for coal and oil

33. Which of the following is NOT a typical consequence of large-scale deforestation?

- A. increased soil erosion and loss of topsoil
- B. an increase in forest biodiversity as new species colonize cleared areas
- C. a reduction in the amount of carbon absorbed from the atmosphere
- D. disruption of local water cycles and rainfall patterns

34. Cutting down a forest increases the risk of soil erosion mainly because which of these happens?

- A. tree roots no longer hold the soil in place, so rain washes it away
- B. the absence of shade causes the soil to bake and crack in the sun
- C. trees normally produce a chemical that hardens the soil around them
- D. logging equipment compresses the soil so tightly that water cannot enter

35. Which of the following is NOT true of tropical rainforests?

- A. they contain an enormous variety of plant and animal species
- B. they are found near the equator where it is hot and wet
- C. they are threatened by deforestation for farming and logging
- D. they are found mainly in cold, dry climates near the poles

36. Trees in a temperate deciduous forest do which of these in autumn?

- A. shed their leaves as temperatures drop
- B. grow new leaves to absorb extra sunlight
- C. stop producing oxygen until spring arrives
- D. release seeds that sprout immediately in cold soil

37. Cloud forests are unique mountain forests characterized by which of the following?

- A. very high temperatures that cause clouds to form above the canopy
- B. a complete absence of rainfall, relying only on cloud water
- C. persistent low clouds and mist that keep them constantly wet
- D. seasonal droughts followed by brief periods of intense flooding

38. Forests protect watersheds by doing which of these to rainfall?

- A. blocking clouds from entering valleys where rivers begin
- B. slowing its runoff into rivers and filtering it through the soil
- C. evaporating rainfall before it reaches the ground
- D. directing all rainfall into underground aquifers permanently

39. Climate change is making forest wildfires more frequent and severe mainly by doing which of the following?

- A. increasing rainfall that encourages more trees to grow and burn
- B. producing more lightning strikes in areas without any previous fires
- C. cooling the upper atmosphere and trapping smoke near the ground
- D. creating hotter, drier conditions that make forests easier to ignite

40. Which of the following best describes a primary, or old-growth, forest?

- A. a forest that has grown back after being cut down
- B. a forest that has never been significantly cleared or logged by humans
- C. a forest planted by humans to replace native trees
- D. a forest that is managed for timber production

Questions 41-50 are about geographic concepts.

41. A pilot planning a flight route from one city to another would most likely use which type of projection, since it shows true direction from a central point?

- A. conformal projection
- B. azimuthal projection
- C. cylindrical projection
- D. interrupted projection

42. Airline pilots often fly routes that follow a great circle because this type of path does which of these?

- A. avoids all time zone changes during the flight
- B. keeps the aircraft at a constant altitude throughout the trip
- C. follows a straight line on a Mercator projection map
- D. represents the shortest distance between two points on the globe

43. Geographers study 'spatial interaction' to understand which of the following?

- A. how people, goods, and ideas move and connect between different locations
- B. how the physical features of an area formed over millions of years
- C. how governments divide land into political units
- D. how populations grow or decline over time

44. What does the term 'sense of place' describe?

- A. the mathematical coordinates used to locate a place on a map
- B. the physical characteristics that make a landscape distinctive
- C. the emotional and personal meaning that people attach to a specific location
- D. the political boundaries that define a country's territory

45. Countries, states, and counties are all examples of which type of region?

- A. physical regions
- B. perceptual regions
- C. administrative regions
- D. economic regions

46. An area where the characteristics of one region gradually blend into those of a neighboring region is known as which of these?

- A. transition zone
- B. boundary zone
- C. buffer region
- D. administrative district

47. Which of these is NOT true of a formal region?

- A. it is defined by a measurable, shared characteristic
- B. it can be based on language, climate, or political control
- C. it can be as small as a school district or as large as a continent
- D. its boundaries are often vague and based on personal perception

48. A GPS receiver determines your exact location by communicating with what?

- A. cell towers and local Wi-Fi networks
- B. a network of satellites orbiting the Earth
- C. GIS databases stored on remote servers
- D. radio towers broadcasting from major cities

49. In GIS, data stored as points, lines, and polygons representing features like roads and boundaries is called what?

- A. raster data
- B. vector data
- C. remote sensing data
- D. satellite imagery data

50. A large-scale map of a single city neighborhood would show which of these compared to a small-scale map of an entire country?

- A. more detail but a smaller geographic area
- B. less detail but a larger geographic area
- C. the same level of detail in less space
- D. fewer features because scale reduces complexity

Questions 51-60 are about economic geography and development.

51. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) measures which of the following in a given country?

- A. the total value of all goods and services produced in a year
- B. the total amount of money the government collects in taxes
- C. the average wage earned by workers across all industries
- D. the total value of all natural resources still in the ground

52. Manufacturing and processing raw materials into finished goods is the focus of which economic sector?

- A. extractive
- B. secondary
- C. consumptive
- D. informal

53. A tariff is best described as which of these?

- A. a ban on trading with a specific country
- B. a subsidy paid to domestic industries by the government
- C. an agreement between two countries to trade freely
- D. a tax charged on goods imported from other countries

54. High literacy rates in a country are generally associated with which of the following outcomes?

- A. lower GDP because educated workers demand higher wages
- B. faster population growth due to better health education
- C. higher levels of economic development and better job opportunities
- D. increased exports of raw materials to wealthier countries

55. Many early factories were built alongside rivers because rivers provided which essential resource?

- A. water power to run machines and a route for transporting goods
- B. fertile land to grow food for factory workers
- C. natural barriers protecting factories from competition
- D. fresh drinking water not available in cities

56. The Industrial Revolution began in Britain rather than elsewhere in Europe primarily because Britain had which combination of factors?

- A. the largest army in Europe and the most advanced system of roads and bridges
- B. accessible coal and iron deposits, navigable rivers, colonial markets, and available labor from enclosures
- C. the world's most educated workforce and the most advanced university system
- D. a centralized government that could direct industrial investment across the nation

57. Mercantilism gave way to free-market capitalism partly because which of these occurred?

- A. colonial uprisings made it impossible to enforce mercantilist trade restrictions
- B. economists like Adam Smith demonstrated that free trade creates more total wealth than zero-sum bullion accumulation
- C. gold and silver became so abundant that they lost their value as measures of wealth
- D. industrialization made raw material imports so cheap that trade restrictions were no longer needed

58. A company that builds a factory in a developing country to take advantage of lower wages is engaging in which of the following?

- A. portfolio investment
- B. offshore financial transfer
- C. foreign direct investment
- D. bilateral aid

59. Import substitution industrialization strategies often fail in developing countries mainly because which of these happens?

- A. foreign companies flood the market with cheaper goods before industries can establish
- B. workers move from manufacturing back to agriculture as wages equalize
- C. governments lose tax revenue and cannot fund the required infrastructure
- D. protected domestic industries become inefficient without competition, raising consumer costs

60. Dependency theory argues that developing countries remain poor primarily because of which of these?

- A. their failure to adopt the democratic institutions that drive capitalist growth
- B. geographic factors like landlocked terrain and disease-prone climates
- C. high population growth that outpaces any gains from industrialization
- D. their structural integration into the global economy on unfavorable terms set by wealthy nations

Questions 61-70 are about artificial landforms.

61. Dams are built across rivers for which of these purposes?

- A. draining wetlands to create new farmland
- B. marking boundaries between countries or regions
- C. creating artificial beaches for tourism
- D. storing water, generating electricity, and controlling floods

62. The Three Gorges Dam, the world's largest hydroelectric dam, is located on which river in China?

- A. Yellow River
- B. Pearl River
- C. Yangtze River
- D. Mekong River

63. A reservoir is best described as which of the following?

- A. an artificial lake created by building a dam across a river
- B. a tunnel dug beneath a river to carry water to a city
- C. a raised wall built along the edge of a flood-prone river
- D. a large flat field flooded to grow crops like rice

64. An artificial levee built alongside a river is designed to do which of these?

- A. channel water from the river into surrounding farmland
- B. raise the riverbank to prevent the river from flooding nearby land
- C. slow the river's current to make it easier for boats to navigate
- D. filter pollution from river water before it reaches a city

65. The Palm Islands, the world's largest artificial islands, were constructed off the coast of which city?

- A. Baghdad
- B. Dubai
- C. Doha
- D. Cairo

66. Agricultural terraces are especially common in mountainous parts of Asia because they solve which farming problem?

- A. they protect crops from cold mountain winds by creating sheltered growing areas
- B. they increase rainfall in highland areas where water is scarce
- C. they make it possible to grow crops on steep slopes that would otherwise be unusable
- D. they allow large farm machinery to work on land that is too rocky otherwise

67. Which of the following is NOT a typical purpose of an embankment built from soil or rock?

- A. carrying a railway line over low or uneven ground
- B. holding back water in a reservoir behind a dam
- C. raising a road above a floodplain to keep it dry
- D. extracting minerals such as gold or copper from underground deposits

68. A breakwater is an artificial structure built at the edge of a harbor to do which of these?

- A. protect ships and the shore from the force of waves
- B. guide ships into a harbor by marking the safe channel
- C. filter saltwater to make it safe for drinking
- D. raise the level of the seabed so boats can dock at low tide

69. Which of these is the main purpose of building a groyne out from a beach and into the sea?

- A. trap sand moved by waves and currents to build up the beach
- B. prevent ships from running aground on shallow coastal sandbars
- C. protect coral reefs from damage caused by boats and swimmers
- D. reduce the strength of tidal currents near river mouths

70. A polder, a type of reclaimed land found especially in the Netherlands, is created by doing which of the following?

- A. filling a harbor with sand and rock to create a new artificial island
- B. cutting terraces into coastal cliffs to create farmland near the ocean
- C. draining an area of sea or lake using dikes and pumps to create usable land
- D. planting grasses on sandy beaches to build up dunes over time

Questions 71-80 are about population and demographics.

71. Neo-Malthusian theorists differ from Malthus primarily in arguing that which of these can offset population pressure?

- A. technological innovation and resource efficiency
- B. voluntary emigration to less densely populated regions
- C. government rationing of food and essential resources
- D. natural disasters that periodically reduce population

72. Replacement-level fertility is higher in developing countries with than in developed nations primarily because which of these is true?

- A. developing countries have younger populations that require more children per household
- B. more births are needed to ensure enough children survive to adulthood and reproduce
- C. high-mortality countries typically have larger land areas that need more settlers
- D. cultural and religious traditions mandate family sizes well above replacement

73. Which of the following is NOT well-supported by evidence on the effectiveness of pro-natalist policies?

- A. paid parental leave can modestly increase birth rates
- B. affordable childcare reduces the economic cost of having children
- C. combining housing subsidies with family benefits has had some positive effect in France and Scandinavia
- D. financial incentives alone reliably raise total fertility rates to replacement level

74. A region can be considered overpopulated even with low population density when which of these conditions exists?

- A. the birth rate is higher than the global average
- B. a majority of the population is under age fifteen
- C. the region has more people than neighboring regions
- D. the population exceeds the region's carrying capacity given its resource base

75. The demographic dividend refers to the period of accelerated economic growth that can occur when which of these conditions exists?

- A. a country transitions from Stage 1 to Stage 2 of the DTM
- B. a country receives large flows of working-age immigrants
- C. a large working-age population relative to dependents following declining fertility
- D. death rates fall and birth rates remain high, expanding the labor force

76. Which of the following is NOT typically identified as a primary driver of the rapid decline in death rates during Stage 2 of the DTM?

- A. improved sanitation and clean water supply
- B. rapid industrialization raising average incomes above subsistence level
- C. advances in medicine and vaccines
- D. better nutrition from agricultural improvements

77. Population momentum explains why a country's total population continues to grow even after which of these has occurred?

- A. its total fertility rate has fallen to or below replacement level
- B. its immigration rate has dropped to zero
- C. its government has implemented strict anti-natalist policies
- D. it has entered Stage 4 of the Demographic Transition Model

78. Zelinsky's Mobility Transition Model predicts that as countries develop, migration patterns shift in which of these ways?

- A. from international migration toward declining mobility as urbanization completes
- B. from forced migration to voluntary migration as political stability increases
- C. from rural-to-urban internal migration toward international and circular migration
- D. from out-migration to in-migration as wages converge with wealthier nations

79. Which of these challenges does the epidemiological transition create for many developing countries today?
- A. declining death rates so rapid that healthcare systems cannot track causes of mortality
 - B. a complete elimination of infectious disease before chronic disease becomes significant
 - C. rapid aging that outpaces the government's ability to fund pensions and elder care
 - D. facing both infectious disease burdens and rising chronic disease simultaneously

80. In the Epidemiological Transition Model, Stage 3 is characterized by which of these shifts in mortality patterns?
- A. degenerative and man-made diseases become the leading causes of death as life expectancy rises
 - B. infectious diseases cause massive epidemics that dramatically reduce the population
 - C. receding pandemics lead to rapidly falling death rates for the first time
 - D. delayed degenerative diseases emerge as medical technology extends life beyond 80 years

Questions 81 to 100 refer to Image 1 in the resource section at the end of the exam.

81. What capital and largest city of Tamil Nadu is shown at number 9 on the map?

- A. Chennai
- B. Rajpur
- C. Puducherry
- D. Bengaluru

82. What Vietnamese financial center shown at number 20 on the map was once known as Saigon?

- A. Ho Chi Minh City
- B. Hanoi
- C. Da Nang
- D. Haiphong

83. Which of the following is the most practiced religion in the nation indicated by number 15?

- A. Buddhism
- B. Christianity
- C. Hinduism
- D. Islam

84. What resort town indicated by the number 19 serves as the primary gateway to the ruins in Angkor?

- A. Lhasa
- B. Kathmandu
- C. Siem Reap
- D. Mandalay

85. In 2021, the Taliban regained control of what nation shown at number 1 on the map?

- A. Afghanistan
- B. Kuwait
- C. Jordan
- D. Turkmenistan

86. What number on the map indicates Chittagong, the busiest container port in the Bay of Bengal?

- A. 9
- B. 11
- C. 5
- D. 4

87. Which of the following is the second most populous city in the nation indicated by number 18?

- A. Lop Buri
- B. Phuket
- C. Hat Yai
- D. Chiang Mai

88. The nation indicated at number 16 is home to which of these UNESCO World Heritage sites?

- A. Mount Fuji
- B. Borobudur
- C. Luang Prabang
- D. Kinabalu Park

89. What Himalayan region indicated at number 2 has been the target of geopolitical disputes since 1947?

- A. Kashmir
- B. Dokdo
- C. Rakhine
- D. Golan

90. What nation shown at number 3 on the map has the world's second largest Muslim population?

- A. Iran
- B. Algeria
- C. Indonesia
- D. Pakistan

91. As of June 2026, Ram Chandra Paudel serves as the president of what nation indicated by number 13 on the map?

- A. Cambodia
- B. Nepal
- C. Iraq
- D. Turkiye

92. The Ashoka Chakra lies at the center of the flag that represents what nation indicated by number 6?

- A. China
- B. India
- C. Japan
- D. Mongolia

93. What city located at number 4 on the map is the largest of its nation but does not serve as its capital?

- A. Kabul
- B. Karachi
- C. Islamabad
- D. New Delhi

94. Which of the following serves as the legislative capital of the nation indicated by the number 8?

- A. Ulaanbaatar
- B. Krung Thep
- C. Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
- D. Bandar Seri Begawan

95. Male is the capital city of what island nation indicated by the number 7 on the map?

- A. Brunei
- B. Taiwan
- C. Philippines
- D. Maldives

96. Until 2022, the Gross National Happiness was used to measure the well-being of what nation shown at number 14?

- A. Madagascar
- B. Egypt
- C. Bhutan
- D. Qatar

97. What number on the map indicates Maharashtra's capital city which was once known as Bombay?

- A. 5
- B. 12
- C. 4
- D. 11

98. What "Chicken's Neck" chokepoint shown at number 10 on the map connects its nation's mainland to eight northeastern states?

- A. Great Wall of China
- B. Khyber Pass
- C. Strait of Malacca
- D. Siliguri Corridor

99. What state indicated by number 12 on the map has a population of 243 million as of 2026?

- A. Tibet
- B. Karbala
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Punjab

100. What nation formerly known as Burma is shown at number 17 on the map?

- A. Myanmar
- B. Singapore
- C. Nepal
- D. Cambodia

Image 1 (Questions 81-100)

