



International Geography Championships

2026 Battery Examination - Part 3 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 culture.

1. Which of the following best defines cultural diffusion?
 - A. the spread of culture traits from one place or group to another
 - B. the isolation of a culture from outside influences over time
 - C. the gradual extinction of a culture due to natural disasters
 - D. the deliberate rejection of foreign cultural practices
2. A cultural hearth is best described as which of these?
 - A. a place of origin from which culture, ideas, or innovations spread outward
 - B. a location where two cultures come into conflict with each other
 - C. a region where cultural practices have died out completely
 - D. a boundary separating two groups with different languages
3. Contagious diffusion describes which of the following types of cultural spread?
 - A. spread of culture from the most powerful groups to less powerful ones
 - B. spread of culture through the movement of people from one place to another
 - C. rapid spread of a trait to all nearby people regardless of social status
 - D. spread of a cultural idea that is modified as it moves to new areas
4. Which of these is the best example of material culture?
 - A. a belief in life after death
 - B. the tradition of fasting on religious holidays
 - C. a set of social rules about greeting strangers
 - D. a handwoven rug made using traditional techniques
5. The study of place names and their origins and meanings is called which of these?
 - A. cartography
 - B. toponymy
 - C. stratigraphy
 - D. demography

6. Which of these best describes the process of assimilation?
 - A. two cultures of equal power exchanging practices to form a new blended culture
 - B. a culture resisting outside influence in order to preserve its traditions
 - C. a minority group gradually adopts the culture and norms of the dominant surrounding culture
 - D. a powerful culture forcibly eliminating another culture through warfare
7. Syncretism in cultural geography refers to which of the following?
 - A. the blending of elements from two or more cultures into a new hybrid form
 - B. the process by which one culture completely replaces another
 - C. the rejection of foreign cultural influences to preserve tradition
 - D. the spread of a dominant culture across international borders
8. Ethnocentrism is the tendency of people to do which of these things?
 - A. celebrate and study the customs of cultures different from your own
 - B. judge other cultures as inferior using one's own culture as the standard
 - C. adopt the beliefs and practices of cultures you admire
 - D. measure development using economic data rather than cultural practices
9. Cultural ecology is a field that examines the relationship between culture and which of these?
 - A. the economic systems that support a culture's survival and growth
 - B. the physical and natural environment in which a culture develops
 - C. the political structures that govern how a culture makes decisions
 - D. the languages and writing systems a culture uses to communicate
10. Which of these is NOT considered one of the world's ancient cultural hearths?
 - A. the Nile Valley
 - B. the Indus Valley
 - C. Mesopotamia
 - D. the Mississippi Delta

Questions 11-20 are about migration and population.

11. The term 'push factor' describes which of the following?
 - A. an attractive feature that draws migrants to a new place
 - B. a condition in a home area, like war or drought, that drives people to leave
 - C. the rate at which a population grows each year
 - D. a government policy that encourages immigration

12. What term do geographers use when a country's population gradually shifts from living in rural areas to living in cities?

- A. gentrification
- B. reverse migration
- C. modernization
- D. urbanization

13. Which of these is NOT typically a reason people move from rural areas to cities?

- A. availability of jobs in cities
- B. better access to hospitals and schools
- C. greater access to markets and services
- D. availability of cheap land

14. Internal migration refers to which of these types of movement?

- A. people moving within the same country
- B. people crossing international borders to live in a new country
- C. people temporarily leaving their country for work
- D. people displaced by conflict and unable to return home

15. The term 'brain drain' refers to which of these migration patterns?

- A. the movement of rural populations into major cities
- B. the return of migrants to their home country after working abroad
- C. the emigration of highly educated or skilled workers from their home country
- D. the immigration of unskilled laborers into wealthier nations

16. Remittances are best described as which of the following?

- A. government aid sent to developing countries by wealthier nations
- B. taxes collected from immigrant workers by the host country
- C. money sent back to their home country by migrants living abroad
- D. loans provided to migrants by international organizations

17. The sex ratio of a population measures which of the following?

- A. the number of males relative to females in the population
- B. the percentage of women who are of childbearing age
- C. the difference in life expectancy between men and women
- D. the ratio of births to deaths in a given year

18. A constrictive population pyramid, which is narrower at the base than in the middle, indicates what about the population of a country?

- A. a rapidly growing population with many young people
- B. a declining birth rate and an aging population
- C. equal birth and death rates with a stable population
- D. very high birth rates combined with very high death rates

19. Which continent is home to the largest share of the world's population, with about 60 percent of all people?

- A. North America
- B. Europe
- C. South America
- D. Asia

20. Which world region currently has the highest total fertility rates, with some nations averaging more than five children per woman?

- A. Sub-Saharan Africa
- B. Western Europe
- C. East Asia
- D. North America

Questions 21-30 are about deserts.

21. The Atacama Desert in South America is known for being which of these?

- A. the largest desert on Earth
- B. the oldest desert on Earth
- C. the hottest desert on Earth
- D. the driest non-polar desert on Earth

22. The Gobi Desert, one of the world's largest cold deserts, is located across which two countries?

- A. Mongolia and China
- B. New Guinea and East Timor
- C. India and Afghanistan
- D. Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan

23. The Kalahari Desert covers large parts of which southern African country?

- A. Ethiopia
- B. Botswana
- C. Tanzania
- D. Angola

24. An oasis in a desert is best described as which of these?

- A. a dry riverbed that floods during heavy rainfall
- B. a flat-topped rocky hill rising above the desert plain
- C. a fertile area with a water source such as a spring or well
- D. a large expanse of shifting sand dunes

25. Sand dunes in deserts are formed primarily by which of the following processes?

- A. rivers depositing sand as their current slows
- B. wind picking up, carrying, and depositing sand
- C. earthquakes cracking the desert surface and pushing up ridges
- D. the cooling and shrinking of lava flows on the desert floor

26. The process by which wind-carried sand particles wear down and shape exposed rocks is called which of these?

- A. abrasion
- B. deflation
- C. uplift
- D. cracking

27. A barchan dune most closely resembles which of the following shapes?

- A. crescent or C-shape
- B. star
- C. pyramid
- D. rectangle

28. A playa is a desert feature best described as which of these?

- A. a large rocky plateau eroded by wind into a table shape
- B. a valley carved by an ancient river that flows only after rain
- C. a flat dry lakebed that is covered with water only after heavy rainfall
- D. a sandy beach formed along the edge of a desert oasis

29. Which of the following best describes an inselberg in a desert environment?

- A. a wide flat plain covered with salt left by an evaporated lake
- B. a cone-shaped deposit of sediment at the mouth of a dry canyon
- C. a gentle slope of eroded rock at the base of a desert cliff
- D. an isolated rocky hill or mountain rising steeply from a surrounding flat plain

30. Rocks in deserts often crack and break apart mainly because which of the following happens repeatedly?

- A. winds pick up rocks and smash them against each other
- B. extreme temperature swings between hot days and cold nights expand and contract the rock
- C. flash floods carry rocks downstream, breaking them into smaller pieces
- D. sand dunes slowly compress rocks as they pile up on top of them

Questions 31-40 are about lakes.

31. Lake Victoria is both the largest lake in Africa and an important source of water for which of these?

- A. the Amazon River
- B. the White Nile River
- C. the Zambezi River
- D. the Niger River

32. Lake Titicaca, the world's highest navigable lake, is located on the border of which two countries?

- A. Chile and Argentina
- B. Brazil and Guyana
- C. Peru and Bolivia
- D. Uruguay and Colombia

33. Which of these is NOT one of the African Great Lakes?

- A. Lake Turkana
- B. Lake Tanganyika
- C. Lake Malawi
- D. Lake Pontchartrain

34. Great Bear Lake and Great Slave Lake are the two largest in what nation in the Americas?

- A. Canada
- B. Panama
- C. Mexico
- D. Costa Rica

35. Crater Lake in Oregon, the deepest in the US, was formed in which of these ways?

- A. following a volcanic eruption
- B. by the retreat of a glacier
- C. through a meteorite impact
- D. from the construction of a dam

36. Which invasive species has caused serious damage to the Great Lakes ecosystem since entering in the 1980s?

- A. kudzu
- B. salmon
- C. rainbow trout
- D. zebra mussels

37. The introduction of the Nile perch into Lake Victoria in the 1950s caused which of the following?

- A. improved water quality by removing excess algae from the lake
- B. a dramatic increase in the lake's water level due to fish waste
- C. the extinction or severe decline of hundreds of native cichlid fish species
- D. the environmental recovery of the lake after years of pollution damage

38. Which of the following is NOT a major cause of declining water levels in lakes around the world?

- A. diverting lake water for irrigation and agriculture
- B. building more dams upstream to create new reservoirs for fish farming
- C. reduced rainfall and longer droughts linked to climate change
- D. increased evaporation from rising temperatures

39. Rising global temperatures effect lakes by doing which of these?

- A. making lake ice thicker in winter, which helps preserve fish populations
- B. increasing rainfall enough to refill lakes that have been shrinking for decades
- C. causing lake water to warm and disrupting the ecosystems that depend on cool water
- D. reducing algal blooms by warming the water too much for algae to survive

40. Algal blooms in lakes are most commonly caused by which of the following?
- A. warm ocean currents pushing saltwater into freshwater lakes
 - B. fish overpopulation that stirs up sediment and blocks sunlight
 - C. heavy rainfall that washes large amounts of soil into the water
 - D. excess nitrogen and phosphorus from agricultural runoff and sewage

Questions 41-50 are about economic geography and development.

41. A free trade zone is an area where businesses have which of these advantages?

- A. guaranteed minimum prices for all goods sold
- B. free land and buildings provided by the government
- C. reduced or eliminated tariffs and other trade restrictions
- D. the exclusive right to trade with neighboring countries

42. A trade deficit occurs when a country does which of the following?

- A. imports more goods than it exports
- B. exports more goods than it imports
- C. bans all imports from other countries
- D. produces more than its citizens can consume

43. The informal economy includes which type of economic activity?

- A. government-owned industries that produce goods for export
- B. unregistered work that is not taxed or officially recorded
- C. large multinational corporations in multiple countries
- D. goods traded on international stock exchanges

44. The Industrial Revolution caused large numbers of people to move to cities mainly because which of these happened?

- A. new farming machines made rural life more profitable
- B. governments built new cities and offered free land to settlers
- C. foreign invasion destroyed most farmland across Europe
- D. factories created jobs that were only available in urban areas

45. James Watt is best known for his improvements to which invention that powered Industrial Revolution factories?

- A. the cotton gin
- B. the spinning jenny
- C. the steam engine
- D. the mechanical reaper

46. Deindustrialization refers to which of these economic changes?

- A. the rapid growth of new factories replacing old ones
- B. the decline of manufacturing industries and loss of factory jobs
- C. the shift from farming to industrial production
- D. the movement of service industries to developing countries

47. Globalization refers to which of these trends in the world economy?

- A. growing connections between countries through trade, technology, and communication
- B. the process of one country taking over the economies of others
- C. the decline of international trade in favor of local production
- D. the movement of people from developing to developed countries

48. GDP per capita is calculated in which of the following ways?

- A. multiplying a country's total GDP by its population
- B. subtracting a country's imports from its total GDP
- C. adding foreign aid received to a country's domestic GDP
- D. dividing a country's total GDP by its population

49. In Rostow's model, people in the 'traditional society' stage depend mainly on which of these?

- A. factory production to supply global markets
- B. service industries like banking and tourism
- C. foreign aid from more developed countries
- D. agriculture and farming for food and survival

50. The Human Development Index (HDI) combines which three factors to measure a country's development?

- A. life expectancy, education level, and income per person
- B. military strength, trade volume, and industrial output
- C. population size, geographic area, and natural resources
- D. unemployment rate, inflation rate, and government spending

Questions 51-55 are about climate and energy.

51. Coal and oil are called fossil fuels because they were formed from which of the following?

- A. rocks and minerals heated by the Earth's core over thousands of years
- B. ancient plants and animals buried and compressed over millions of years
- C. chemical reactions between seawater and volcanic rock on the ocean floor
- D. gases released from nuclear reactions inside the Earth

52. Coal is most widely used around the world for which of these purposes?

- A. fueling cars and trucks
- B. producing jet fuel for aircraft
- C. making plastic and synthetic materials
- D. generating electricity in power stations

53. Solar panels generate electricity by converting which of the following into electrical energy?

- A. wind
- B. moving water
- C. sunlight
- D. underground steam

54. Climate change threatens global food security mainly by doing which of these?
- A. reducing the amount of land available for farming due to rapid urbanization
 - B. lowering crop prices so much that farmers stop growing certain foods
 - C. disrupting rainfall patterns and increasing extreme weather that damages crops
 - D. causing overproduction of food in some regions and waste in others

55. Many coastal cities face a 'double threat' because they are affected by which two of these problems at the same time?
- A. rising sea levels and sinking land
 - B. increasing earthquakes and stronger winds
 - C. coastal erosion and deforestation
 - D. higher tides and more extreme rainfall

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

56. The capital city of Fiji is located on the island indicated by what number on the map?

- A. 6
- B. 16
- C. 17
- D. 19

57. What number on the map marks the state that is home to Sydney and nearly a third of the nation's population?

- A. 11
- B. 9
- C. 10
- D. 7

58. What absolute monarchy indicated by number 3 on the map is the only sovereign state on its island?

- A. Tonga
- B. Singapore
- C. Brunei
- D. Micronesia

59. All of the following can be found in the state marked by the number 10 EXCEPT?

- A. Gold Coast
- B. Canberra
- C. Sunshine Coast
- D. Brisbane

60. The official language of the island nation shown at number 18 on the map is what English-based creole?

- A. Niue
- B. Rarotongan
- C. Palauan
- D. Bislama

61. The flag used by the nation indicated at number 20 features which of the following in the fly?

- A. Raggiana bird-of-paradise
- B. a crescent moon
- C. British Union Jack
- D. the Southern Cross

62. The semi-autonomous territory marked as number 16 on the map is claimed by which of the following?

- A. USA
- B. France
- C. Russia
- D. Belgium

63. What island indicated by the number 14 is known as Te Waipounamu to indigenous populations?

- A. North Island
- B. Poor Knights Island
- C. Stewart Island
- D. South Island

64. Melbourne and Geelong are found in the state marked by what number on the map?

- A. 12
- B. 8
- C. 13
- D. 11

65. What former British protectorate is shown beside the number 19 on the map?

- A. Philippines
- B. Solomon Islands
- C. Kiribati
- D. Cook Islands

66. Which of these is the most widely spoken language of the island nation shown beside the number 2?

- A. Tagalog
- B. Korean
- C. Hindi
- D. Arabic

67. What "Festival State" indicated at number 9 created Country Arts in 1992 to deliver that arts to its regional populations?

- A. Free State
- B. Northern Territory
- C. South Australia
- D. Norfolk

68. The island shown at number 5 is one of over 17,000 between the Pacific and Indian oceans claimed by what nation?

- A. India
- B. Tuvalu
- C. Japan
- D. Indonesia

69. Which of these is the largest population center of the sparsely populated state shown at number 8 on the map?

- A. Townsville
- B. Melbourne
- C. Perth
- D. Darwin

70. Three separate nations claim territory on the island indicated by which of these numbers?

- A. 2
- B. 4
- C. 20
- D. 15

71. Gold is heavily concentrated in the Yilgarn Craton and Pilbara region of what state shown at number 7?

- A. Banten
- B. Western Australia
- C. Alberta
- D. Brittany

72. Manila is housed on what island indicated by number 1 on the map?

- A. Ticao
- B. Fuga
- C. Luzon
- D. Cuyo

73. Hobart is the capital of what state indicated by the number 13 on the map?

- A. Barrow
- B. Chatham
- C. Auckland
- D. Tasmania

74. Which of the following makes up almost 17% of the population of the island nation shown beside the number 15?

- A. Kanaks
- B. Maori
- C. Samoans
- D. Chamorro

75. What is the capital city of the nation that occupies the eastern half of the island indicated by number 6 on the map?

- A. Dili
- B. Kuala Lumpur
- C. Port Moresby
- D. Beijing

Image 1 (Questions 56-75)

