



International Geography Championships

2026 Battery Examination - Part 3 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 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 51-60 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

56. In many large cities, land subsidence is primarily caused by which of these?

- A. the weight of cars and people
- B. the pumping of large amounts of groundwater from beneath cities
- C. flooding from storm surges
- D. underground tunnels and subway systems

57. Which continent has the greatest number of major cities at serious risk from land subsidence?

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

58. Which type of community faces the greatest risk from coastal flooding caused by rising sea levels?

- A. inland desert communities that rely on glacial meltwater for drinking water
- B. mountainous communities that depend on snow for seasonal water supply
- C. low-lying coastal communities, especially in developing countries with limited resources
- D. rural farming communities in the interior of large continents

59. Which of these regions is currently experiencing some of the most significant climate-related migration and displacement?

- A. low-lying Pacific island nations, sub-Saharan Africa, and South Asia
- B. Western Europe and North America, due to extreme cold in winter
- C. Central Asia and the Russian interior, due to permafrost thawing
- D. Australia and New Zealand, due to sea level rise around the coast

60. Warmer global temperatures are linked to the spread of diseases like malaria for which of the following reasons?

- A. warmer air contains less oxygen, making people weaker and more susceptible to illness
- B. mosquitoes that carry diseases can survive in regions that were previously too cold for them
- C. heat causes people to drink more water from unsafe sources, spreading waterborne disease
- D. warm weather accelerates the breeding of bacteria on food, increasing food poisoning

Questions 61-70 are about cities.

61. Bid-rent theory explains why land use changes as you move outward from the CBD based on which factor?

- A. the height limits imposed by municipal zoning codes
- B. the age of buildings and housing stock in each zone
- C. the ethnic composition of neighborhoods at each distance
- D. the willingness of different land users to pay for proximity to the city center

62. According to the rank-size rule, the population of a country's second-largest city should be approximately what fraction of the primate city's population?

- A. one-half
- B. one-quarter
- C. one-third
- D. two-thirds

63. The galactic city model, also called the peripheral model, describes urban areas characterized by which of these features?

- A. dispersed suburban nodes connected by beltways rather than a single dominant center
- B. a rigid concentric pattern of land use organized around a historic core
- C. a colonial city structure with a European quarter and a traditional bazaar
- D. multiple ethnic enclaves evenly distributed throughout the urban area

64. In Burgess's concentric zone model, the zone of transition is characterized by which of the following?

- A. the newest and most expensive single-family homes
- B. deteriorating housing and incoming industries encroaching on older residential areas
- C. the primary location of government buildings and financial institutions
- D. the outermost commuter ring with low-density residential development

65. Counterurbanization, which has occurred in many wealthy countries since the 1970s, is best explained by which of these?

- A. a dramatic decline in birth rates in urban areas
- B. government policies requiring residents to move to rural regions
- C. improved transportation and telecommunications allowing people to live farther from employment centers
- D. the collapse of manufacturing industries in suburban zones

66. In urban geography, 'filtering' refers to the process by which housing does which of the following over time?

- A. is demolished and replaced by higher-density development
- B. is acquired by the government for use as public housing
- C. becomes increasingly expensive as neighborhoods gentrify
- D. moves down the economic ladder as wealthier residents leave and lower-income residents move in

67. Which of the following is NOT typically cited as a consequence of gentrification?

- A. the rapid growth of heavy manufacturing in the gentrifying neighborhood
- B. rising rents and displacement of lower-income residents
- C. renovation of older housing stock
- D. increased investment in local businesses and infrastructure

68. Suburbanization in cities of the Global South differs most significantly from that in North American cities in which of these ways?

- A. it is driven entirely by government relocation programs
- B. it more often involves the growth of impoverished informal settlements rather than affluent residential suburbs
- C. suburban growth occurs only along waterways rather than road networks
- D. wealthy residents in the Global South prefer to remain in city centers

69. Urban renewal programs in the United States during the 1950s and 1960s were widely criticized for doing which of the following?

- A. raising property taxes so high that middle-class residents were forced to leave cities
- B. encouraging suburban sprawl by funding new highway construction exclusively
- C. disproportionately demolishing low-income and minority neighborhoods under the guise of slum clearance
- D. preventing any new construction in historic city centers for decades

70. The discriminatory practice of redlining in the mid-20th century United States primarily affected urban areas by doing which of these?

- A. forcing all residents of central cities to relocate to newly built suburbs
- B. requiring all new housing construction to follow racial segregation guidelines
- C. establishing strict height limits that prevented dense urban development
- D. denying mortgage loans and services to residents of minority neighborhoods, accelerating their decline

Questions 71-80 are about plate tectonics and earthquakes.

71. A convergent plate boundary is one where plates do which of these?

- A. move apart from each other
- B. slide horizontally past each other
- C. move toward each other and collide
- D. rotate around a central point

72. A subduction zone is a place where which of the following happens?

- A. two plates pull apart creating new volcanic material at the surface
- B. one tectonic plate sinks beneath another as two plates converge
- C. an oceanic plate collides with another oceanic plate of equal density
- D. the Earth's mantle pushes a plate upward forming a mountain range

73. When an oceanic plate collides with a continental plate, which plate sinks and why?

- A. the continental plate sinks because it is heavier and thicker
- B. the oceanic plate sinks because it is denser than the continental plate
- C. both plates sink equally as they have the same density
- D. the plate moving faster sinks beneath the slower-moving plate

74. A seismograph is an instrument used by scientists for which of these purposes?

- A. detecting and recording the seismic waves produced by earthquakes
- B. measuring the height of tsunami waves as they approach a coastline
- C. predicting when a volcanic eruption will occur near a fault line
- D. mapping the location of tectonic plate boundaries underground

75. The Richter scale is used to measure which of these?

- A. the depth at which an earthquake begins underground
- B. the speed at which seismic waves travel through rock
- C. the number of aftershocks that follow a major earthquake
- D. the magnitude or energy released by an earthquake

76. The focus of an earthquake, also called the hypocenter, is located where?

- A. on the Earth's surface directly above where the shaking is strongest
- B. at the center of the Earth where pressure is highest
- C. underground at the point where rock first fractures and releases energy
- D. in the ocean where the earthquake's waves first strike water

77. Tsunami inundation maps help communities prepare for disasters by showing which of these?

- A. which areas of land would be flooded if a tsunami struck
- B. the exact time a tsunami wave will arrive at a beach
- C. which buildings were damaged in past tsunamis
- D. the height of the nearest hills that could provide safe shelter

78. Which of these is NOT a recognized earthquake preparedness strategy?

- A. securing heavy furniture so it cannot fall during shaking
- B. building houses with taller ceilings to allow more shaking room
- C. identifying safe spots under sturdy tables in rooms
- D. creating emergency supply kits with food and water

79. Which of these best explains why many large cities around the world are located near fault lines despite the increased risk of earthquakes?

- A. fault lines provide fertile soil that makes nearby land ideal for farming
- B. governments decided the economic benefits of living near faults outweigh the risks
- C. fault lines are always located near ocean coasts where ports attract settlement
- D. these cities were established long before the dangers of fault lines were fully understood

80. The 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami in Japan caused additional disaster by triggering which of these?

- A. a nuclear power plant accident at Fukushima
- B. a massive volcanic eruption of Mount Fuji
- C. the collapse of the Tokyo Tower into Tokyo Bay
- D. a large-scale wildfire across the Japanese countryside

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

81. 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

82. 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

83. 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

84. 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

85. 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

86. 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

87. 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

88. 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

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

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

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

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

91. 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

92. 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

93. 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

94. 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

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

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

96. 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

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

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

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

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

99. 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

100. 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 81-100)

