



# International Geography Championships

## 2026 Battery Examination - Part 4 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 geographic concepts.

1. Satellites and aircraft collecting data about the Earth's surface from high above are using which of these methods?

- A. ground truth
- B. remote sensing
- C. geographic inquiry
- D. field sampling

2. Which system would be most useful to city planner who wants to combine maps of flood risk, road networks, and population to choose the best place for a new emergency shelter?

- A. GPS
- B. a globe
- C. a topographic map
- D. GIS

3. The term 'territory' in geography most commonly refers to which of the following?

- A. an area of land under the control or authority of a government
- B. any named geographic region
- C. a district defined by its linguistic characteristics
- D. a region organized for a religious or cultural purpose

4. The term 'perceptual regions' describes places defined by which of these?

- A. physical characteristics like landscape or climate
- B. official government boundaries
- C. shared cultural identity rather than hard borders
- D. a central financial hub that organizes surrounding areas

5. Describing a library as 'next to the park, across the street from the fire station' is defined as which of these?

- A. absolute location
- B. nominal location
- C. relative location
- D. coordinate location

6. The term 'distribution' describes which of these in geography?

- A. the number of people per square mile in a region
- B. how people or features are spread across an area
- C. the rate at which people move between regions
- D. a measure of cultural similarity between places

7. Which of these best describes the concept of environmental determinism?

- A. the physical environment shapes and controls what human cultures can become
- B. humans can adapt their surroundings to overcome physical limitations
- C. population growth determines how quickly a society develops
- D. culture spreads outward from a central origin point

8. A geographer studying how people use land, build cities, and create cultures is working in which branch of geography?

- A. physical geography
- B. environmental geography
- C. human geography
- D. geomorphology

9. Projects like OpenStreetMap, where volunteers worldwide contribute and update geographic information, are an example of which of these?

- A. official government mapping
- B. vector data collection
- C. remote sensing analysis
- D. crowdsourced geographic data

10. What key advantage do drones offer geographers over traditional aerial photography when making maps and observations?

- A. they can fly at low altitudes and photograph small areas with very high precision
- B. they can travel faster than jet aircraft
- C. they collect data across entire continents in a single flight
- D. they replace the need for any ground-based measurements

Questions 11-20 are about volcanoes and volcanic landforms.

11. One of the most famous examples of a stratovolcano is what prominent national landmark of Japan?

- A. Mt. Mazama
- B. Chimborazo
- C. Mt. Fuji
- D. Mt. Vesuvius

12. The 1980 eruption of Mount Saint Helens devastated a large area of which volcanically active US state?

- A. Louisiana
- B. Texas
- C. Idaho
- D. Washington

13. Iceland uses volcanic activity to generate which type of energy for its homes and cities?

- A. solar energy
- B. geothermal energy
- C. wind energy
- D. hydroelectric energy

14. Mount Etna, the most active volcano in Europe, is located on which Italian island?

- A. Crete
- B. Sicily
- C. Knossos
- D. Capri

15. A caldera is a volcanic landform best described as which of the following?

- A. a large bowl-shaped depression formed when a volcanic summit collapses
- B. a gently sloping field of hardened lava surrounding a volcanic vent
- C. a steep-sided valley carved into a volcanic mountain by ancient glaciers
- D. an underground chamber where magma is stored before an eruption

16. All of these are major types of volcano EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. tidal volcano
- B. shield volcano
- C. stratovolcano
- D. cinder cone

17. Which of these best describes a volcanic hot spot?

- A. a region where two tectonic plates are colliding and creating subduction
- B. a zone along the ocean floor where tectonic plates are pulling apart
- C. a fixed area of intense heat in the mantle that melts rock through overlying plates
- D. a temporary pocket of trapped magma that forms near the edges of continents

18. The 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines had a global effect by doing which of the following?

- A. raising global sea levels by melting glaciers with its intense heat
- B. increasing global rainfall by adding large amounts of water vapor to the atmosphere
- C. accelerating global warming by releasing large amounts of carbon dioxide
- D. temporarily cooling global temperatures by injecting sulfur dioxide into the stratosphere

19. Which of the following is a reason people have historically chosen to live near active volcanoes?

- A. volcanoes provide natural barriers that protect communities from floods
- B. volcanic rock is the cheapest and strongest material for building homes
- C. living near a volcano gives communities access to underground fresh water
- D. volcanic soil is extremely fertile and excellent for growing crops

20. A shield volcano is best described as which of the following?

- A. a steep, cone-shaped volcano that erupts with great explosive force
- B. a broad, gently sloping volcano built by low-viscosity lava flows
- C. a small, steep volcano built from loose fragments of hardened lava
- D. a sunken bowl-shaped depression formed when a volcano collapses

Questions 21-30 are about political geography.

21. A relic boundary is one that no longer functions as a border but still does which of these?

- A. influences the cultural or landscape patterns of the area
- B. divides two nations with active border crossings
- C. is enforced militarily by one of the former states
- D. appears on all current official maps of the region

22. A superimposed boundary, like the one between India and Pakistan, is one that was drawn by which of the following?

- A. the local population through a democratic vote
- B. natural features like rivers or mountain ranges
- C. an outside power, often ignoring the existing cultural or ethnic divisions
- D. the two countries themselves through a mutual treaty

23. A geometric boundary is drawn using which of these?

- A. lines of latitude and longitude or straight lines on a map
- B. the course of a river or coastline
- C. mountain ridges or other physical features
- D. the edges of an ethnic or cultural region

24. Which of the following is a disadvantage faced by a landlocked country?

- A. it cannot form alliances with other countries
- B. it is unable to develop its own military
- C. it has no direct access to ocean trade routes
- D. it cannot grow food without importing technology

25. Which of these best describes the European Union?
- A. an international police force to prevent terrorism and serious crime
  - B. an organization that controls the foreign policies of its member states
  - C. a political and economic union of European countries with shared laws and a single market
  - D. a group of nations that have entirely eliminated national borders

26. OPEC is an organization of countries that cooperate to control which of the following?
- A. international military deployments
  - B. the production and pricing of oil
  - C. the regulation of global trade tariffs
  - D. the allocation of fishing rights in international waters

27. NATO was formed primarily to serve which of these purposes?
- A. collective military defense among member nations
  - B. economic cooperation and free trade
  - C. sharing of scientific research
  - D. management of refugee crises

28. A fragmented state is one whose territory consists of which of these?
- A. one large landmass completely surrounded by another state
  - B. several separate pieces of land not connected to each other
  - C. a very narrow strip of land stretching over a long distance
  - D. a rounded territory with another country entirely enclosed within it

29. A perforated state is one that completely surrounds which of these?
- A. a large lake or inland sea
  - B. a disputed territory claimed by a rival country
  - C. a demilitarized zone established by an international treaty
  - D. another independent country within its borders

30. A forward capital is one that has been deliberately moved to achieve which of these goals?
- A. to be closer to the country's main trading partners
  - B. to reduce the costs of running a large government
  - C. to assert control over a frontier region or promote national development
  - D. to make the capital easier to defend from foreign invasion

Questions 31-40 are about deserts.

31. The Sahara Desert is located on which continent?
- A. Asia
  - B. Africa
  - C. Australia
  - D. South America

32. The Thar Desert is shared primarily between which two countries?
- A. China and North Korea
  - B. India and Pakistan
  - C. Iran and Iraq
  - D. Saudi Arabia and Yemen

33. The Patagonian Desert, the largest desert in South America, is contained mostly within which country?
- A. Argentina
  - B. Brazil
  - C. Colombia
  - D. Guyana

34. The Great Victoria Desert, Australia's largest desert, is in which part of Australia?
- A. the northeastern coast near the Great Barrier Reef
  - B. the tropical north near Darwin and the Gulf of Carpentaria
  - C. the southeastern corner near Melbourne and Sydney
  - D. the interior of the continent, spanning Western and South Australia

35. Star dunes form in deserts where the winds are doing which of the following?
- A. always blowing in one direction
  - B. only coming from the North or South
  - C. regularly coming from different directions
  - D. no strong winds are ever blowing

36. A flat-topped hill or elevated area with steep sides common in desert landscapes is which of the following?
- A. mesa
  - B. krummholz
  - C. isolate
  - D. caldera

37. A wadi is a desert landform best defined as which of these?
- A. a flat-topped rocky plateau rising above the surrounding desert
  - B. a fertile green area in a desert fed by an underground spring
  - C. a cone-shaped hill formed by wind depositing sand in one location
  - D. a dry riverbed or valley that can flood suddenly after rainfall

38. An erg in a desert describes which of the following?
- A. a rocky flat desert surface covered in gravel and pebbles
  - B. a vast expanse of sand dunes covering large areas of desert
  - C. a dry salt lake left behind when a desert lake evaporates
  - D. a steep-sided canyon carved by an ancient desert river

39. Ventifacts are rocks found in deserts that have been shaped into smooth flat faces by which of these?
- A. sand particles carried by wind grinding against the rock surface
  - B. repeated heating and cooling that splits the rock along natural lines
  - C. rainwater slowly dissolving the softer minerals in the rock
  - D. salt crystals growing inside cracks and forcing the rock apart
40. An alluvial fan forms in a desert when which of the following happens?
- A. wind deposits sand in a cone shape at the base of a rocky ridge
  - B. a dry salt lake slowly refills with water during a rainy season
  - C. rocks tumble down a steep cliff and pile up at the bottom
  - D. a stream carrying sediment slows as it exits a canyon and spreads across flat ground

Questions 41-50 are about religion.

41. Religion in ancient societies most often attempted to explain which of the following?
- A. how to build roads and trade routes across empires
  - B. how to grow crops and manage irrigation
  - C. the rules for organizing armies and warfare
  - D. the forces of nature and the meaning of life and death
42. Which of the following best describes a polytheistic religion?
- A. belief in many gods or divine beings
  - B. belief in a single all-powerful God
  - C. belief that spirits live in natural objects
  - D. belief that no God or gods exist
43. Which of these is the sacred text of Christianity?
- A. the Torah
  - B. the Bible
  - C. the Tripitaka
  - D. the Upanishads
44. Shintoism is the traditional religion most closely associated with which country?
- A. China
  - B. India
  - C. Japan
  - D. Indonesia
45. A community of Jewish people living in Argentina, having left their homeland generations ago, is an example of which geographic concept?
- A. a pilgrimage
  - B. a diet
  - C. a synod
  - D. a diaspora

46. The total number of Christians in the world today is closest to which of these numbers?
- A. 500 million
  - B. 1 billion
  - C. 2.5 billion
  - D. 5 billion
47. Animism is a belief system that holds which of the following ideas?
- A. the Genesis story from the Christian Bible
  - B. spirits or souls inhabit natural objects such as rivers, trees, and mountains
  - C. reincarnation and karma
  - D. one supreme God rules over many lesser divine beings
48. Christianity first spread widely through the ancient world partly because it was adopted as the official religion of which of the following?
- A. the Persian Empire
  - B. the Roman Empire
  - C. the Mongol Empire
  - D. the Ottoman Empire

49. The fact that most people in Brazil today practice Christianity rather than indigenous religions is best explained by which of these?
- A. centuries of Portuguese colonial rule during which Christianity was spread by missionaries
  - B. Brazil's geographic proximity to Europe, which allowed Christian ideas to travel easily
  - C. the voluntary adoption of Christianity by indigenous leaders before European arrival
  - D. a United Nations treaty that required all South American nations to adopt one religion
50. Christianity, Islam, and Buddhism are all classified as universal religions because they do which of the following?
- A. are practiced only by people born into a specific cultural group
  - B. require followers to speak a single sacred language in worship
  - C. actively seek to gain new followers from all people and places
  - D. only spread through trade routes rather than missionary activity

Questions 51-55 are about agriculture.

51. The Fertile Crescent, often called the cradle of agriculture, is located in which region of the world?
- A. North America
  - B. West Africa
  - C. the Middle East
  - D. Central America

52. Which of these groups of countries are among the world's leading producers of tea?

- A. Brazil, Argentina, and Chile
- B. the United States, Canada, and Mexico
- C. China, India, and Kenya
- D. Germany, France, and Italy

53. Herding cattle and goats across the savanna is the dominant agricultural practice in large parts of which region?

- A. sub-Saharan Africa
- B. East Asia
- C. Western Europe
- D. Southeast Asia

54. Which of these is NOT a practice associated with organic farming?

- A. using natural compost to improve soil fertility
- B. rotating crops to prevent soil depletion
- C. controlling pests with natural predators instead of chemicals
- D. applying synthetic nitrogen fertilizers to increase crop yields

55. Approximately what percentage of the world's workers are employed in agriculture?

- A. about 5%
- B. about 27%
- C. about 50%
- D. about 75%

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

56. Empires in Greece and the Fertile Crescent relied on what body of water marked number 11 to trade?

- A. Baffin Bay
- B. Arctic Ocean
- C. Indian Ocean
- D. Mediterranean Sea

57. The lake indicated by number 20 belongs to the basin of what brackish arm of the Atlantic Ocean?

- A. Yellow Sea
- B. Baltic Sea
- C. Labrador Sea
- D. Irish Sea

58. The majority of the nation of Turkiye is contained on the peninsula marked by what number on the map?

- A. 9
- B. 1
- C. 13
- D. 15

59. The body of water indicated by number 12 separates the Italian Peninsula from which of the following?

- A. Low Countries
- B. Balkans
- C. Azores
- D. Baltics

60. What city marked number 18 served as the easternmost trade hub of the Hanseatic League due to its location on the Volkhov?

- A. Bergen
- B. Lubeck
- C. Bruges
- D. Novgorod

61. The disputed region indicated by the number 8 is internationally recognized as part of what nation?

- A. Belarus
- B. Romania
- C. Ukraine
- D. Armenia

62. The port of Arkhangelsk is located on what southern inlet of the Barents Sea indicated by number 2 on the map?

- A. Bay of Biscay
- B. White Sea
- C. Gulf of Bothnia
- D. North Sea

63. Mount Elbrus lies within the range indicated by what number on the map?

- A. 3
- B. 14
- C. 6
- D. 15

64. Which of the following is true of the body of water shown at number 17 on the map?

- A. It is the shallowest sea in the world.
- B. It is the saltiest sea in the world.
- C. It is the most biodiverse sea in the world.
- D. It is the youngest sea in the world.

65. What Slovakian peak is the highest point of the mountain range shown at number 15?

- A. Belukha
- B. Everest
- C. Gerlach
- D. Aconcagua

66. Murmansk Oblast includes the territory of what peninsula shown at number 1?

- A. Scandinavia
- B. Korea
- C. Jutland
- D. Kola

67. The Danube flows through four national capitals on its way to supply what body of water shown at number 7?

- A. Caribbean Sea
- B. Black Sea
- C. Red Sea
- D. Coral Sea

68. What range in the area of number 3 on the map is often referred to as the conventional boundary between Europe and Asia?

- A. Urals
- B. Appalachians
- C. Rockies
- D. Himalayas

69. What endorheic basin shown at number 5 is the world's largest inland body of water?

- A. Chesha Bay
- B. Aral Sea
- C. Norwegian Sea
- D. Caspian Sea

70. Istanbul straddles what natural strait marked number 10 that divides Asia Minor from Thrace?

- A. Bering Strait
- B. Strait of Hormuz
- C. Bosphorus Strait
- D. Strait of Gibraltar

71. Eight nations including Switzerland and Austria share the range indicated by what number on the map?

- A. 6
- B. 9
- C. 15
- D. 14

72. Which of the following is NOT located on the peninsula indicated by the number 13?

- A. Monaco
- B. Spain
- C. Portugal
- D. Andorra

73. The Pripyat is a tributary of what river indicated by number 16 on the map?

- A. Rhine
- B. Thames
- C. Loire
- D. Dnieper

74. What freshwater lake shown at number 19 contains forty-eight varieties of fish?

- A. Lake Bled
- B. Lake Como
- C. Lake Ladoga
- D. Lake Saimaa

75. What number on the map indicates the longest river in Europe?

- A. 12
- B. 4
- C. 16
- D. 20

Image 1 (Questions 56-75)

