



International Geography Championships

AMERICA



USA at 250 Examination Part 1

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. Write the answer to your tiebreaker question in the box at the top of your scantron.

When you are finished with Part 1, please go quietly to the front of the room, turn in BOTH your scantron AND exam packet, and take your scantron and packet for Part 2. You will not be able to change or correct your answers for Part 1 once you have turned it in.

1. The Second Continental Congress voted to declare independence on July 2, 1776 in what colonial city?

- A. New York
- B. Philadelphia
- C. Norfolk
- D. Baltimore

2. In 1777, the Continental Army won a major victory over the British at what battle in New York?

- A. Bunker Hill
- B. Lexington and Concord
- C. Saratoga
- D. Guilford Court House

3. What largest city of Kentucky was founded by explorer George Rogers Clark in 1778, making it one of the oldest American settlements west of the Appalachians?

- A. Frankfort
- B. Bowling Green
- C. Lexington
- D. Louisville

4. French Lick Fort, founded on the banks of the Cumberland River in 1779, grew into what country music capital of America?

- A. Nashville
- B. Jonesborough
- C. Memphis
- D. Knoxville

5. After a defeat at Mobile by Bernardo de Galvez in 1780, the British retreated to what colonial capital of British West Florida?

- A. Santa Fe
- B. Orlando
- C. Pensacola
- D. New Orleans

6. After Maryland finally ratified in early 1781, which of the following became the governing document of the United States?

- A. the Fundamental Orders
- B. the Declaration of Rights and Freedoms
- C. the Washington Compact
- D. the Articles of Confederation

7. In 1782, Colonel Lewis Nicola sent a letter to what man at his camp at Newburgh, New York that urged him to take the title 'King of the United States'?

- A. Alexander Hamilton
- B. George Washington
- C. Thomas Jefferson
- D. John Adams

8. The Pennsylvania Mutiny in 1783 caused the Confederation Congress to make what university town in New Jersey the temporary capital?

- A. Newark
- B. Princeton
- C. Scranton
- D. Wilmington

9. Congress ratified the Treaty of Paris ending the American Revolution in January of 1784 while meeting at the State House in Annapolis, the capital of what state?

- A. Maryland
- B. Virginia
- C. Delaware
- D. North Carolina

10. The Land Ordinance of 1785 set out a system by which the new United States would survey what area that included parts of six modern states, including Ohio?

- A. Louisiana Purchase
- B. Oregon Country
- C. Mexican Cession
- D. Northwest Territory

11. In 1786, Revolutionary War veteran Daniel Shays began a rebellion in the western part of what state that eventually tried to capture the armory at Springfield?

- A. Tennessee
- B. Kentucky
- C. Massachusetts
- D. Ohio

12. What state became the first to ratify the Constitution in December of 1787, earning it the nickname 'The First State'?

- A. Minnesota
- B. Michigan
- C. Delaware
- D. Maine

13. What southern Ohio city, now home to the Reds in MLB and the Bengals in the NFL, was founded as Losantiville in 1788?

- A. Cincinnati
- B. Allentown
- C. Dearborn
- D. Gary

14. What building in New York City was the site of George Washington's inauguration in 1789 and the meeting of the First Congress?

- A. Federal Hall
- B. the White House
- C. Independence Hall
- D. Old North Church

15. What count of the American population, ordered to be done every ten years, was done for the first time in 1790?

- A. redistricting
- B. census
- C. gerrymander
- D. reapportionment

16. What 'Green Mountain State' joined the union in 1791 to become the fourteenth state?

- A. Maine
- B. Rhode Island
- C. Massachusetts
- D. Vermont

17. New York City held the first celebration in the US in 1792 for what explorer who 'discovered' the Americas?

- A. Ponce de Leon
- B. Hernan Cortez
- C. Christopher Columbus
- D. Francisco Pizarro

18. In 1793, Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin while visiting a plantation near what Georgia city?

- A. Savannah
- B. Tallahassee
- C. Montgomery
- D. Jackson

19. In 1794, farmers in what state rebelled against federal taxes in the Whiskey Rebellion?

- A. Illinois
- B. Rhode Island
- C. New Hampshire
- D. Pennsylvania

20. Which of the following, located in Chapel Hill in its namesake state, became the first public university in the US in 1795?

- A. University of Alabama
- B. University of North Carolina
- C. University of Texas
- D. University of Maryland

21. In July of 1796 the de Portola expedition set out from San Diego to journey north towards Monterey in the first inland exploration of what modern state?

- A. California
- B. Arizona
- C. Utah
- D. Nevada

22. Great Britain was defeated by the Spanish in a 1797 battle off the coast of what Caribbean city, now the capital of a US territory?

- A. Port au Prince
- B. Havana
- C. San Juan
- D. Kingston

23. What two states name the 'resolutions' written by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison in 1798 opposing the Alien and Sedition Acts?

- A. New York and New Jersey
- B. North Carolina and Maryland
- C. Louisiana and Mississippi
- D. Virginia and Kentucky

24. George Washington died in 1799 at what famous plantation in Virginia that had been his home for decades?

- A. Oaklawn
- B. Nottoway
- C. The Hermitage
- D. Mount Vernon

25. In 1800, the US government officially moved to a new capital called the District of Columbia on the banks of what river?

- A. Charles
- B. James
- C. Potomac
- D. Delaware

26. What future president, who died just a month into his term, became governor of the Indiana Territory in January of 1801?

- A. Theodore Roosevelt
- B. William Henry Harrison
- C. Calvin Coolidge
- D. James Monroe

27. Congress authorized the creation of the United States Military Academy at what famous location in 1802?

- A. Colorado Springs
- B. West Point
- C. Annapolis
- D. Boulder

28. In 1803, the United States doubled its size by purchasing the Louisiana Territory from what European nation?

- A. France
- B. Spain
- C. Britain
- D. Portugal

29. The Lewis and Clark expedition departed in 1804 on its westward journey from a camp near what town on the Mississippi River?

- A. St. Louis
- B. Pittsburgh
- C. Cincinnati
- D. Detroit

30. What stratovolcano located roughly 50 miles outside of Portland, Oregon, was sighted by William Clark in October of 1805?

- A. Mount Marcy
- B. Mount Washington
- C. Mount Hood
- D. Denali

31. Zebulon Pike began his expedition in 1806 that explored what mountain range that contains his namesake peak in Colorado?

- A. Appalachians
- B. Ozarks
- C. Blue Ridge
- D. Rockies

32. In 1807, inventor Robert Fulton made the first successful steamboat voyage on what New York river, sailing from New York City to Albany?

- A. the Hudson River
- B. the Mohawk River
- C. the Erie Canal
- D. the Delaware River

33. John Jacob Astor founded his company in New York City in 1808 that controlled the trade in what valuable good for decades?

- A. oil
- B. fish
- C. rum
- D. furs

34. What notable future president was born in a humble log cabin in Hardin County, Kentucky in 1809?

- A. Franklin Pierce
- B. Abraham Lincoln
- C. Millard Fillmore
- D. Martin Van Buren

35. The 'Republic of West Florida', known locally today as the 'Florida Parishes', was annexed to what existing territory by the US government in 1810?

- A. Missouri
- B. Arkansas
- C. Georgia
- D. Louisiana

36. What 1811 victory over the Shawnee gave President Harrison his famous nickname?

- A. Battle of Fallen Timbers
- B. Battle of White Mountain
- C. Battle of Tippecanoe
- D. Battle of Little Bighorn

37. In 1812 a Boston newspaper coined what term for redrawing electoral districts for political advantage?

- A. redlining
- B. zoning
- C. gerrymandering
- D. cap and trade

38. Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry defeated a British naval fleet in 1813 at a battle on what Great Lake?

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

39. Francis Scott Key wrote what notable poem on seeing the attack on Fort McHenry in Baltimore in 1814?

- A. Leaves of Grass
- B. New Colossus
- C. Song of Hiawatha
- D. The Star-Spangled Banner

40. What future president won a signature victory over the British at the Battle of New Orleans in 1815?

- A. Andrew Jackson
- B. Abraham Lincoln
- C. Ulysses Grant
- D. James Madison

41. In 1816, James Monroe became the fourth president elected from what US state, also home to Thomas Jefferson?

- A. Massachusetts
- B. Virginia
- C. Ohio
- D. Tennessee

42. The Rush-Bagot Agreement of 1817 was a treaty between the US and Great Britain to end naval armament in which location?

- A. the Atlantic Ocean
- B. the Caribbean
- C. the Pacific Ocean
- D. the Great Lakes

43. Kaskaskia, a village on the Mississippi River, was the capital of which of the following when it became the 21st state in 1818?

- A. Illinois
- B. Michigan
- C. Tennessee
- D. Texas

44. In 1819, the United States and Spain signed the Adams-Onís Treaty, in which Spain agreed to cede what territory to the United States?

- A. Florida
- B. Texas
- C. Cuba
- D. Oregon

45. The Missouri Compromise of 1820 resulted in the admission of what free state?

- A. Alabama
- B. Texas
- C. Mississippi
- D. Maine

46. What western trail, named for a state capital, was opened in 1821 by William Becknell?

- A. Portland Trail
- B. Mesa Trail
- C. Santa Fe Trail
- D. Las Vegas Trail

47. What future president and Union general was born in Point Pleasant, Ohio in 1822?

- A. Andrew Johnson
- B. James Garfield
- C. Ulysses Grant
- D. James Buchanan

48. In 1823, Stephen F. Austin began an 11-man police force that became the 'Rangers' of what modern US state?

- A. Texas
- B. California
- C. Oregon
- D. Idaho

49. What town was established as the capital of the Florida Territory in 1824?

- A. Orlando
- B. Miami
- C. Key West
- D. Tallahassee

50. What important waterway connecting the Hudson River to the Great Lakes opened in 1825?

- A. St. Lawrence Seaway
- B. Erie Canal
- C. Intracoastal Waterway
- D. St. James Bypass

51. What Founding Father died on July 4, 1826 at his home in Quincy, Massachusetts?

- A. Roger Sherman
- B. Robert Morris
- C. John Adams
- D. George Clinton

52. In 1827, the Cherokee Nation adopted a written constitution at New Echota, the Cherokee capital located in what present-day state?

- A. Georgia
- B. Tennessee
- C. Alabama
- D. Virginia

53. In 1828 construction began on the first major American railroad starting in what mid-Atlantic city building towards the Ohio River?

- A. Baltimore
- B. Philadelphia
- C. Richmond
- D. Annapolis

54. A British businessman and scientist left a gift to the United States in 1829 to establish what Washington, DC institution?

- A. Union Station
- B. Washington Monument
- C. Lincoln Memorial
- D. the Smithsonian

55. In 1830, President Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act, forcing Native American tribes east of what major river to relocate to the West?

- A. the Colorado River
- B. the Mississippi River
- C. the Ohio River
- D. the Arkansas River

56. Nat Turner led a slave uprising in what state in 1831?
- A. Massachusetts
 - B. New Jersey
 - C. Virginia
 - D. Delaware
57. In 1832, what political party led by Andrew Jackson held its first national convention in Baltimore?
- A. Federalists
 - B. Democrats
 - C. Whigs
 - D. Republicans
58. What small settlement, now a major US city, was founded in 1833 on the southern tip of Lake Michigan?
- A. Chicago
 - B. Detroit
 - C. Milwaukee
 - D. Cleveland
59. Congress established Indian Territory in 1834 which became most of what modern US state?
- A. Texas
 - B. Wyoming
 - C. Kansas
 - D. Oklahoma
60. Alexis de Tocqueville published his work titled for which form of government 'in America' in 1835?
- A. Monarchy
 - B. Dictatorship
 - C. Democracy
 - D. Socialism
61. The Battle of the Alamo took place in 1836 in what Texas city?
- A. San Antonio
 - B. Austin
 - C. Houston
 - D. Galveston
62. In 1837, what state became the 26th state to join the Union, the last to be formed from the original Northwest Territory?
- A. Michigan
 - B. Nebraska
 - C. Iowa
 - D. Kansas
63. What inventor first demonstrated the telegraph in Morristown, New Jersey in 1838?
- A. Alexander Graham Bell
 - B. Robert Fulton
 - C. Thomas Edison
 - D. Samuel Morse
64. In 1839, the Spanish slave ship La Amistad was brought into the port at New London in what Atlantic Coast state?
- A. Connecticut
 - B. Vermont
 - C. New Hampshire
 - D. Rhode Island
65. In January of 1840, American Captain Charles Wilkes completed a circumnavigation of which of the following and claimed 'Wilkes Land' for the US?
- A. Australia
 - B. Greenland
 - C. Antarctica
 - D. Madagascar
66. What showman and circus founder opened his New York City museum in the Financial District in 1841?
- A. Adam Silver
 - B. P.T. Barnum
 - C. Roger Goodell
 - D. Rob Manfred
67. In 1842, the Dorr Rebellion, an armed uprising demanding voting rights for all white men, erupted in what small New England state?
- A. Rhode Island
 - B. Maine
 - C. New York
 - D. New Jersey
68. The first major wagon train set out from Elm Grove, Missouri in May of 1843 on what major route to the American West?
- A. Transcontinental Railroad
 - B. Panama Canal
 - C. Oregon Trail
 - D. Louisiana Trail
69. An explosion of the naval gun 'The Peacemaker' killed six people, including two cabinet members, on what US Navy ship that shares its name with both a city and an Ivy League university in 1844?
- A. *USS Harvard*
 - B. *USS Cornell*
 - C. *USS Brown*
 - D. *USS Princeton*
70. Joseph Smith, the leader of what religious group, was killed by a mob in Nauvoo, Illinois in 1845?
- A. Roman Catholics
 - B. Mormons
 - C. Millerites
 - D. Baptists

71. The Mexican-American War began after an 1846 skirmish between US and Mexican forces on the banks of what river?

- A. Snake
- B. Ohio
- C. Rio Grande
- D. Arkansas

72. What capital city of Utah was founded by settlers in 1847?

- A. Sacramento
- B. Salt Lake City
- C. Reno
- D. Boise

73. A discovery at Sutter's Mill in 1848 set in motion a 'rush' for which of the following in the newly acquired California territory?

- A. lead
- B. iron
- C. gold
- D. diamonds

74. What cabinet department, responsible for managing most federal lands in the US, was created by Congress in 1849?

- A. Department of the Interior
- B. Department of Commerce
- C. Department of Labor
- D. Department of War

75. The 'Compromise of 1850' created the New Mexico Territory, which included most of the territory of what neighboring modern state?

- A. Texas
- B. Kansas
- C. Nebraska
- D. Arizona

76. What abolitionist gave the first version of her 'Ain't a Woman?' speech at a women's rights convention in Akron, Ohio in 1851?

- A. Sojourner Truth
- B. Susan B. Anthony
- C. Dolly Madison
- D. Martha Washington

77. In 1852, Commodore Matthew Perry departed from Virginia on his mission to open trade with what reclusive kingdom?

- A. Russia
- B. England
- C. France
- D. Japan

78. The Gadsden Purchase, acquired from Mexico in 1853, was intended for what purpose?

- A. a new route for steamboats to California
- B. a new canal to connect the Great Lakes and the Atlantic Ocean
- C. building a transcontinental railroad through the South
- D. a fertile new land for growing rice and indigo

79. Anti-slavery activists met at the Little White Schoolhouse in Ripon, Wisconsin in 1854 to found what new American political party?

- A. Anti-Masonic
- B. Greenback Labor
- C. Republican
- D. Federalist

80. In 1855, Congress appropriated \$30,000 to experiment with the use of what animals to ferry supplies across the rapidly growing American southwest?

- A. water buffalo
- B. camels
- C. giraffes
- D. wildebeests

81. What river was first spanned by a railroad bridge for the first time in 1856, connecting Illinois and Iowa on the upper part of its course?

- A. Snake
- B. Colombia
- C. Mississippi
- D. Potomac

82. The Fort Tejon earthquake occurred in January of 1857 in Central and Southern California along what famous fault line?

- A. New Madrid
- B. San Andreas
- C. Aleutian
- D. Walker

83. On the completion of the trans-Atlantic telegraph in 1858, US president James Buchanan traded messages with what British monarch?

- A. Queen Victoria
- B. King George III
- C. Queen Elizabeth
- D. King Charles II

84. In 1859 John Brown raided the federal armory at Harper's Ferry in what is now what US state?

- A. California
- B. West Virginia
- C. Arkansas
- D. Tennessee

85. Which 1860 presidential candidate famously gave a speech at Cooper Union College in New York City, helping to secure the Republican nomination?

- A. Abraham Lincoln
- B. John Breckinridge
- C. John Bell
- D. Stephen Douglas

86. In April of 1861 the first shots of the Civil War were fired in which of these southern cities?

- A. Richmond
- B. New Orleans
- C. Atlanta
- D. Charleston

87. The 1862 Battle of Hampton Roads was the first battle featuring which of these new military technologies?

- A. machine guns
- B. airplanes
- C. tanks
- D. ironclad warships

88. What port in northern Mississippi was finally taken by Union forces under Ulysses Grant in July of 1863?

- A. Baton Rouge
- B. Mobile
- C. Vicksburg
- D. Tallahassee

89. In 1864 Abraham Lincoln selected Andrew Johnson, the military governor of what southern state, as his running mate in the presidential election?

- A. Tennessee
- B. Kansas
- C. West Virginia
- D. Nebraska

90. What president of the Confederacy was captured in 1865 near Irwinville, Georgia?

- A. James Buchanan
- B. Franklin Pierce
- C. Jefferson Davis
- D. Millard Fillmore

91. The resort town of Newport, Rhode Island opened the first indoor venue for what activity in 1866, popular in the with 20th century teenagers and in the disco era of the 1970s?

- A. roller skating
- B. tennis
- C. movies
- D. swimming

92. In 1867, Secretary of State William Seward negotiated the purchase of Alaska from what country, in a deal that critics called 'Seward's Folly'?

- A. Russia
- B. Britain
- C. Canada
- D. Denmark

93. What 'Wizard of Menlo Park' applied for his first patent in 1868 for an electric vote recorder?

- A. James Watt
- B. Eli Whitney
- C. Tomas Edison
- D. Nikola Tesla

94. Which major engineering achievement of the 19th century was completed in Utah in 1869?

- A. Erie Canal
- B. Intercoastal Canal
- C. National Road
- D. Transcontinental Railroad

95. What landmark in Yellowstone Park, known for its periodic eruptions, was sighted by Henry D. Washburn and named in 1870?

- A. Frying Pan Lake
- B. Old Faithful
- C. Boiling Lake
- D. Colter's Hell

96. What type of disaster occurred in October of 1871 in four Midwestern cities, including one in Peshtigo, Wisconsin that killed an estimated 2,500 people and a 'Great' one in Chicago?

- A. earthquake
- B. hurricane
- C. fire
- D. tornado

97. In 1872, suffrage activist Susan B. Anthony was arrested in Rochester, New York for doing which of the following?

- A. drinking
- B. voting in an election
- C. divorcing her husband
- D. going to church

98. The Comstock Lode, the richest deposit ever found of what precious metal, was discovered in 1873 near Virginia City, Nevada?

- A. pyrite
- B. tin
- C. silver
- D. iron

99. An army expedition led by George Custer discovered gold in the Black Hills in 1874, setting off a gold rush into which territory?

- A. Dakota Territory
- B. Montana Territory
- C. Wyoming Territory
- D. Nebraska Territory

100. The first edition of what famous horserace was run in 1875 at Churchill Downs near Louisville?

- A. Preakness
- B. Epsom Derby
- C. Belmont
- D. Kentucky Derby

101. The 1876 Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia was the first of what type of event to be held in the United States?

- A. world's fair
- B. carnival
- C. circus
- D. vaudeville performance

102. The 'Great' strike in what industry began in Martinsburg, West Virginia in 1877 after the B&O decided to cut wages?

- A. steamboats
- B. textile mills
- C. railroads
- D. farms

103. In 1878, the world's first commercial telephone exchange, allowing customers to call each other, opened in which university town in Connecticut?

- A. New Haven
- B. Boston
- C. Springfield
- D. Providence

104. What iconic New York City venue was renamed after a US president by William Henry Vanderbilt and opened to the public in 1879?

- A. Hamilton Stadium
- B. Franklin Field
- C. Washington Diamond
- D. Madison Square Garden

105. In 1880, frontier lawman Wyatt Earp began to serve as deputy marshal in which silver-boom town in Arizona Territory?

- A. Tombstone
- B. Santa Fe
- C. Sedona
- D. San Diego

106. Booker T. Washington opened Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute to train Black teachers in which Southern state in 1881?

- A. Georgia
- B. Alabama
- C. South Carolina
- D. Mississippi

107. A namesake 'Exclusion Act' barred immigrants from which of the following into the US in 1882?

- A. Russia
- B. China
- C. Canada
- D. Mexico

108. In 1883, what was then the world's longest suspension bridge opened over the East River, linking Manhattan to which neighboring borough?

- A. Queens
- B. Brooklyn
- C. the Bronx
- D. Staten Island

109. The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, a novel set along the Mississippi River, was published in 1884 by what American author?

- A. Louisa May Alcott
- B. Harriet Beecher Stowe
- C. Nathaniel Hawthorne
- D. Mark Twain

110. What former mayor of Buffalo and governor of New York took office for the first of his non-consecutive terms as president in 1885?

- A. Grover Cleveland
- B. Ulysses Grant
- C. Harry Truman
- D. Calvin Coolidge

111. What notable American monument, built in part by Gustave Eiffel, was dedicated in 1886 with a massive parade and celebration led by the president?

- A. the White House
- B. the Capitol Building
- C. the Lincoln Memorial
- D. the Statue of Liberty

112. The 1887 Interstate Commerce Act was the first federal law intended to regulate what important transportation method?

- A. covered wagons
- B. stagecoaches
- C. railroads
- D. river barges

113. What nonprofit scientific and educational organization, known for funding voyages of exploration and publishing a namesake magazine, was founded in Washington, DC in 1888?

- A. the Explorers Club
- B. the National Geographic Society
- C. the Civil Air Patrol
- D. the Explorer Scouts

114. In 1889, over 2,000 people died when the South Fork Dam collapsed and a wall of water swept through which Pennsylvania city?

- A. Johnstown
- B. Pittsburgh
- C. Harrisburg
- D. Altoona

115. What pioneering journalist completed her 72-day voyage around in the world in January of 1890?

- A. Dorothea Dix
- B. Katherine Graham
- C. Jane Goodall
- D. Nellie Bly

116. Dr. James Naismith invented which of the following in 1891 while working as a physical education instructor in Springfield, Massachusetts?

- A. baseball
- B. soccer
- C. basketball
- D. boxing

117. What political party, also known as the People's Party, was created in 1892 in Omaha, Nebraska?

- A. Democratic
- B. Green
- C. Populists
- D. Communists

118. In 1893, American sugar planters and US Marines helped overthrow Queen Liliuokalani of which Pacific island kingdom?

- A. Guam
- B. Hawaii
- C. Samoa
- D. the Philippines

119. What company, whose founder established a namesake town for his workers in Illinois, had a violent strike in 1894?

- A. Pullman Palace Car Company
- B. Carnegie Steel
- C. Standard Oil
- D. US Steel

120. In 1895, Booker T. Washington delivered a landmark speech at the Cotton States Exposition often known as the 'Compromise' of which Georgia city?

- A. Savannah
- B. Birmingham
- C. Nashville
- D. Atlanta

121. Gold was discovered in the Klondike region in 1896, just across the border from which American territory?

- A. Montana Territory
- B. Idaho Territory
- C. Alaska Territory
- D. Washington Territory

122. What famous 26.2-mile footrace was held for the first time in 1897 in Massachusetts?

- A. Boston Marathon
- B. Olympic Steeplechase
- C. Iditarod
- D. the Panathenaic

123. What geographically named US Navy vessel sank in Havana in 1898 helping to precipitate the Spanish-American War?

- A. USS Indiana
- B. USS Missouri
- C. USS Arizona
- D. USS Maine

124. Mount Ranier in what US state was made a National Park by President McKinley in 1899?

- A. California
- B. Idaho
- C. Montana
- D. Washington

125. In 1900, the deadliest natural disaster in US history killed an estimated 8,000 people when a hurricane struck which Texas port city?

- A. Galveston
- B. Dallas
- C. Austin
- D. Houston

**Turn in your exam now and begin Part 2.
Tiebreaker at the end of Part 2!**