



International Geography Championships

AMERICA



USA at 250 Examination Part 2

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.

1. President William McKinley was shot in 1901 at the Pan-American Exposition in what NY city?
 - A. Buffalo
 - B. Syracuse
 - C. Schenectady
 - D. Fairport
2. Crater Lake National Park was established in 1902 in what state?
 - A. Minnesota
 - B. Oregon
 - C. Montana
 - D. Wisconsin
3. In 1903, the Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty granted the US rights to build which of the following?
 - A. Statue of Liberty
 - B. Panama Canal
 - C. Guantanamo Bay
 - D. Golden Gate Bridge
4. What city operated its first underground railway via the Interborough Rapid Transit Company in 1904?
 - A. Baltimore
 - B. St Louis
 - C. Raleigh
 - D. New York City
5. President Theodore Roosevelt mediated the end to what conflict in Portsmouth, New Hampshire in 1905?
 - A. Cuban Revolution
 - B. Opium Wars
 - C. Russo-Japanese War
 - D. Mexican War
6. A 1906 earthquake on the San Andreas fault destroyed much of what California city?
 - A. San Francisco
 - B. Portland
 - C. Tacoma
 - D. Eureka
7. What public market officially opened in Seattle in August 1907?
 - A. Grand Central
 - B. Rose Bowl Flea
 - C. Brooklyn Flea
 - D. Pike Place
8. What New York City hub hosted the first New Year's "ball drop" to usher in the year 1908?
 - A. Hollywood Avenue
 - B. Lake Shore Drive
 - C. Times Square
 - D. Main Street
9. What state's mainland was separated from Cape Cod in 1909 with the construction of a canal?
 - A. Pennsylvania
 - B. Delaware
 - C. Maine
 - D. Massachusetts
10. What Montana national park that straddles the USA-Canada border was established in 1910?
 - A. Glacier National Park
 - B. Big Bend National Park
 - C. Sequoia National Park
 - D. Congaree National Park
11. Which of these was officially incorporated as a city in 1911, almost 20 years before Nevada legalized gambling?
 - A. Tuscaloosa
 - B. Las Vegas
 - C. Myrtle Beach
 - D. Lake Charles

12. Which of the following achieved statehood in early 1912?

- A. Florida and Georgia
- B. Michigan and Ohio
- C. Arizona and New Mexico
- D. Nebraska and Missouri

13. In 1913, the first transcontinental highway was established as a memorial to what US president?

- A. James Buchanan
- B. Franklin Roosevelt
- C. George Washington
- D. Abraham Lincoln

14. What most populous Alaskan city was founded as a tent city and rail camp in 1914?

- A. Sitka
- B. Fairbanks
- C. Anchorage
- D. Juneau

15. While working as a cook in NYC, Mary Mallon allegedly infected up to 57 people with what illness?

- A. typhoid fever
- B. Ebola
- C. tuberculosis
- D. chicken pox

16. Which of the following established the first family planning and birth control clinic in Brooklyn in 1916?

- A. Sojourner Truth
- B. Ida Tarbell
- C. Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- D. Margaret Sanger

17. The Silent Sentinels began staging protests for women's suffrage in front of what landmark in 1917?

- A. Gateway Arch
- B. Mount Rushmore
- C. White House
- D. Independence Hall

18. The first railway accident in US history, the Great Train Wreck of 1918, occurred in what state?

- A. Vermont
- B. Tennessee
- C. Idaho
- D. Alaska

19. In 1919, hundreds of thousands of Americans lost their lives during the brutal third wave of what pandemic?

- A. SARS
- B. smallpox
- C. malaria
- D. Spanish flu

20. The first game of the Negro National League was played in 1920 in what Indiana capital city?

- A. Lansing
- B. Chicago
- C. Indianapolis
- D. Madison

21. Mobs of white residents destroyed the "Black Wall Street" neighborhood of what Oklahoma city in 1921?

- A. Stillwater
- B. Murray
- C. Norma
- D. Tulsa

22. In 1922, the Secretary of the Interior was implicated in what scandal concerning oil reserves in Wyoming?

- A. Teapot Dome scandal
- B. Gold Ring
- C. Salary Grab
- D. Belknap scandal

23. What state saw the town of Rosewood become a ghost town after the massacre and retreat of its mostly black residents?

- A. Washington
- B. Iowa
- C. Minnesota
- D. Florida

24. The National Hockey League expanded into the US for the first time in 1924 with the creation and inclusion of what team?

- A. Seattle Kraken
- B. Carolina Hurricanes
- C. Boston Bruins
- D. LA Kings

25. John Scopes stood trial in 1925 in Dayton, Tennessee for violating a state law prohibiting which of the following?

- A. going on field trips
- B. integration of schools
- C. praying in school
- D. teaching evolution

26. Restoration of Colonial Williamsburg began in 1926 in what state?

- A. Georgia
- B. Virginia
- C. Pennsylvania
- D. New York

27. What aviator made the first solo non-stop trans-Atlantic flight from New York to Paris in 1927?

- A. Willa Brown
- B. Charles Lindbergh
- C. Wilbur Wright
- D. Bessie Coleman

28. In 1928, Jean Lussier went over the Horseshoe Falls portion of what feature in a rubber ball?

- A. Cumberland Falls
- B. Whitewater Falls
- C. Yosemite Falls
- D. Niagara Falls

29. Grand Teton National Park was established in 1929 in what state?

- A. Colorado
- B. California
- C. Idaho
- D. Wyoming

30. What first man-made structure taller than 1,000 feet was completed in NYC in 1930?

- A. Willis Tower
- B. Chrysler Building
- C. Space Needle
- D. Wainwright Building

31. Which of the following became the national anthem of the US in 1931?

- A. The Star-Spangled Banner
- B. America the Beautiful
- C. My Country, 'Tis of Thee
- D. God Bless America

32. Los Angeles hosted what international event for the first time in 1932?

- A. Formula 1 Championship
- B. FIFA World Cup
- C. Summer Olympics
- D. The Masters

33. In 1933, approximately 25% of American workers were unemployed amid what crisis?

- A. Cotton Market Crash
- B. Knickerbocker Crisis
- C. Stagflation
- D. Great Depression

34. Excessive heat and abandoned topsoil in the Great Plains were major contributors to the 1934 wave of what phenomenon?

- A. Mississippi River Flood
- B. Great Chicago Fire
- C. Dust Bowl
- D. Cherry Mine disaster

35. The 1935 Schechter Poultry. v. US case involved allegations of knowingly selling "sick chicken" in what US state?

- A. Louisiana
- B. New York
- C. Alabama
- D. Ohio

36. What structure in the Black Canyon of the Colorado River was completed in 1936?

- A. Skyline Rail
- B. Bay Bridge
- C. Big Dig
- D. Hoover Dam

37. Which of the following was destroyed in a 1937 accident over the Naval Air Station Lakehurst in New Jersey?

- A. The Canary
- B. Spirit of St. Louis
- C. Hindenburg
- D. Kitty Hawk

38. Dedicated in 1938, the Thousand Islands Bridge spans what river to connect the US to Canada?

- A. Columbia River
- B. Red River
- C. Pigeon River
- D. St. Lawrence River

39. After being denied usage of Constitutional Hall, what black artist performed for 75,000 people at the Lincoln Memorial in 1939?

- A. Marian Anderson
- B. Josephine Baker
- C. Paul Robeson
- D. Clarence Muse

40. Brothers Richard and Maurice opened the first burger stand of what now multinational corporation in San Bernardino, CA in 1940?

- A. Burger King
- B. McDonald's
- C. Arby's
- D. Wendy's

41. The US declared war on the empire of Japan in 1941 after a surprise attack on what naval base?

- A. San Diego
- B. Norfolk
- C. Pearl Harbor
- D. Kings Bay

42. Executive Order 9066 called for the internment of people in the US with what ancestry in 1942?

- A. Australian
- B. Russian
- C. Irish
- D. Japanese

43. The Manhattan Project began operations in 1943 in what New Mexico location?

- A. Los Alamos
- B. Nye County
- C. Boulder City
- D. Fort Carson

44. In 1944, 730 delegates met in what area of New Hampshire to discuss the establishment of the World Bank and IMF?

- A. Poughkeepsie
- B. Bretton Woods
- C. Twin Cities
- D. Camp David

45. What intergovernmental organization's charter was signed in 1945 in San Francisco, CA?

- A. United Nations
- B. World Trade Organization
- C. European Union
- D. North Atlantic Treaty Organization

46. The Treaty of Manila officially granted what nation independence from the US in 1946?

- A. American Samoa
- B. Puerto Rico
- C. Guam
- D. Philippines

47. Jackie Robinson broke the MLB color barrier when he stepped onto the field for what NY-based team in 1947?

- A. Buffalo Braves
- B. Syracuse Nationals
- C. New York Giants
- D. Brooklyn Dodgers

48. What Alabama city hosted the 1948 Dixiecrat National Convention after the faction split from the Democrats over integration?

- A. Sarasota
- B. Rock Hill
- C. Birmingham
- D. Greenville

49. Luis Munoz Marin became the first democratically elected governor of what US territory in 1949?

- A. Puerto Rico
- B. Grenada
- C. Anguilla
- D. Cuba

50. Sweatt v. Painter successfully challenged the "separate but equal" at the law school of what university in Austin, Texas in 1950?

- A. Texas Tech University
- B. Southern Methodist University
- C. Baylor University
- D. University of Texas

51. What national monument dedicated in 1951 in Joplin, Missouri was the first in the US to honor a black American?

- A. Frances Perkins National Monument
- B. George Washington Carver National Monument
- C. Pullman National Monument
- D. Stonewall National Monument

52. Ivy Mike, the first full scale test of the hydrogen bomb, was conducted in 1952 in what territory administered by the US?

- A. Christmas Island
- B. Amchitka Island
- C. Greenland
- D. Marshall Islands

53. Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were executed in 1953 at what NY maximum security prison?

- A. Pelican Bay
- B. Florence
- C. Sing Sing
- D. Big Sandy

54. What state's public school system was the initial target of litigation in Brown v. Board of Education?

- A. Maryland
- B. Illinois
- C. Mississippi
- D. Kansas

55. What American virologist created the first successful polio vaccine in 1955 but did not patent it to maximize its global distribution?

- A. Jonas Salk
- B. Elizabeth Blackwell
- C. Harvey Cushing
- D. Mary Walker

56. The Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956 to authorize the construction of 41,000 miles of roads across the US was signed by what president?

- A. William Taft
- B. Calvin Coolidge
- C. Dwight Eisenhower
- D. Gerald Ford

57. Nine black students were escorted into Central High School by federal troops in what city in 1957?

- A. Chattanooga
- B. Greensboro
- C. Birmingham
- D. Little Rock

58. Which of the following was founded in Washington D.C. in 1958 in response to Sputnik 1?

- A. NIH
- B. USGC
- C. NASA
- D. CDC

59. Which of the following became the 49th state to join the union in 1959?

- A. Alaska
- B. Nevada
- C. Utah
- D. Wyoming

60. Students in North Carolina began sit-ins in 1960 to challenge segregation at lunch counters at what department store?

- A. Macy's
- B. Kohl's
- C. Dillard's
- D. Woolworth's

61. Six Flags Over Texas was opened in 1961 in what Texas city?

- A. Texarkana
- B. Arlington
- C. Gonzales
- D. Corpus Christi

62. In 1962 the first of what giant retail chain opened its doors in the town of Rogers, Arkansas?

- A. K-mart
- B. Target
- C. Walmart
- D. Kroger

63. Medgar Evers was assassinated in his home in 1963 in what Mississippi capital city?

- A. Baton Rouge
- B. Tallahassee
- C. Montgomery
- D. Jackson

64. What civil rights activist delivered the "The Ballot or the Bullet" speech in Cleveland in 1964?

- A. James Farmer
- B. John Lewis
- C. Malcolm X
- D. Roy Wilkins

65. Bloody Sunday was a 1965 civil rights march that resulted in clashes with police in what city?

- A. Selma
- B. Pittsburgh
- C. Lafayette
- D. Houston

66. The Supreme Court ruled that a person being arrested should be informed of their constitutional rights in a 1966 case involving what state?

- A. Kentucky
- B. North Dakota
- C. Hawaii
- D. Arizona

67. What actor and future president was inaugurated as governor of California in 1967?

- A. Barry Goldwater
- B. Hubert Humphrey
- C. Ronald Reagan
- D. Adlai Stevenson

68. The 1968 assassination of what activist in Memphis caused riots in major cities around the nation?

- A. Bobby Seale
- B. Martin Luther King Jr.
- C. Ella Baker
- D. Stokely Carmichael

69. In 1969, the Indians of All Tribes protested federal claims on what land by occupying it for 19 months?

- A. Oak Flat
- B. Alcatraz Island
- C. Yosemite National Park
- D. Standing Rock

70. Four students were killed while protesting the bombing of Cambodia in 1970 at what Ohio school?

- A. Kent State University
- B. UC Berkeley
- C. University of Notre Dame
- D. Columbia University

71. Walt Disney World Resort opened in October 1971 in what city?

- A. Santa Fe
- B. New Orleans
- C. Orlando
- D. St. Louis

72. Five White House operatives were arrested in 1972 for burglarizing the DNC offices in what D.C. complex?

- A. Federal Triangle
- B. Smithsonian
- C. Pentagon
- D. Watergate

73. In 1973, a group of Oglala Lakota and American Indian Movement members occupied what South Dakota town?

- A. Toppenish
- B. Shiprock
- C. Wounded Knee
- D. Tuba City

74. What Braves slugger broke Babe Ruth's home run record on April 4, 1974 in Atlanta Stadium?

- A. Jim Thome
- B. Hank Aaron
- C. Sammy Sosa
- D. Mark McGwire

75. What 1975 blockbuster was mostly shot on location at Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts?

- A. Jaws
- B. The Godfather
- C. Superman
- D. The Exorcist

76. In 1976, presidential hopeful and Navy veteran Jimmy Carter highlighted his background in farming which of the following in Georgia?

- A. apples
- B. tobacco
- C. indigo
- D. peanuts

77. What "King of Rock and Roll" died at his Graceland estate in Memphis in 1977?

- A. Bob Dylan
- B. David Bowie
- C. Elvis Presley
- D. Buddy Holly

78. Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin were invited to Camp David in 1978 by President Carter to negotiate peace between what two nations?

- A. Pakistan and Bangladesh
- B. China and Japan
- C. North and South Korea
- D. Egypt and Israel

79. The 1979 Three-Mile Island disaster in Pennsylvania involved a power plant of what type?

- A. coal
- B. nuclear
- C. solar
- D. hydroelectric

80. Al Michaels asked fans of what sport "Do you believe in miracles?" at the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid?

- A. luge
- B. diving
- C. track and field
- D. ice hockey

81. In 1981, President Reagan fired over 11,000 strikers of what transportation related profession?

- A. air traffic controllers
- B. rail conductors
- C. toll booth attendants
- D. riverboat captains

82. Maya Lin designed a monument in Constitution Gardens in 1982 to honor veterans of what conflict?

- A. World War II
- B. Civil War
- C. World War I
- D. Vietnam War

83. Michael Jackson introduced the moonwalk in a 1983 performance honoring the 25th anniversary of what record label originally based in Detroit?

- A. Motown
- B. Atlantic
- C. Columbia
- D. Capitol

84. In the landslide 1984 presidential election, Walter Mondale only earned electoral votes from D.C. and what state he represented in the Senate?

- A. Georgia
- B. California
- C. Minnesota
- D. Kansas

85. What popular soft drink's recipe was made "new" in 1985 only to return to the original three months later after negative reviews?

- A. Slice
- B. Coca-Cola
- C. Hi-C
- D. Tab

86. Space Shuttle Challenger broke apart 73 seconds after launching from what NASA site in 1986?

- A. Kwajalein Atoll
- B. Wallops Island
- C. Vandenberg
- D. Cape Canaveral

87. What world leader visited President Reagan at the White House in 1987 to sign the INF Treaty?

- A. Helmut Kohl
- B. Deng Xiaoping
- C. Mikhail Gorbachev
- D. Francois Mitterrand

88. Which of the following closed in 1988 for the first time since it opened in 1872 due to widespread wildfires that burned 36% of its land?

- A. Mount Rainier
- B. Redwood National Park
- C. Grand Canyon
- D. Yellowstone National Park

89. What pop superstar was born in December 1989 in West Reading, Pennsylvania?

- A. Charli XCX
- B. Olivia Rodrigo
- C. Taylor Swift
- D. Ariana Grande

90. In 1990, an Anchorage jury found Captain Joseph Hazelwood guilty for his role in what environmental disaster?

- A. Love Canal disaster
- B. Exxon Valdez oil spill
- C. Times Beach dioxin contamination
- D. Church Rock uranium spill

91. The first black woman to be mayor of a major US city, Sharon Pratt Dixon, was sworn in 1991 in what city?

- A. Washington D.C.
- B. Minneapolis
- C. Boise
- D. Santa Fe

92. What San Diego based fast food chain was the center of a 1992 E. coli outbreak that killed 4 children?

- A. Popeyes
- B. Jack in the Box
- C. KFC
- D. Tim Hortons

93. The Great Flood of 1993 hammered the parts of the Midwest that exist in the basins of what two major rivers?

- A. Delaware and East
- B. Mississippi and Missouri
- C. Spokane and Snake
- D. Red and Trinity

94. The USA signed NAFTA in 1994 to establish free trade with what allies?

- A. Mexico and Canada
- B. France and United Kingdom
- C. Belgium and Netherlands
- D. China and South Korea

95. A 1995 bombing at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building killed 168 people in what city?

- A. Columbus
- B. Oklahoma City
- C. Nashville
- D. Lincoln

96. What major sports league began in 1996 with a match between San Jose Clash and D.C. United?

- A. CFL
- B. WNBA
- C. MLS
- D. NAL

97. What Brooklyn rapper was killed in a drive-by shooting in Los Angeles just before the release of his album Life After Death?

- A. Nas
- B. Dr. Dre
- C. Ice Cube
- D. Notorious B.I.G.

98. Which of the following was sued by the US government in 1998 for monopolizing the web browser market for Windows?

- A. Microsoft
- B. Apple
- C. Yahoo!
- D. Dell

99. What Standard Oil offshoots merged again in 1999 with headquarters in Spring, Texas?

- A. Sohio and Esso
- B. Chevron and BP
- C. Shell and Gulf Oil
- D. Exxon and Mobil

100. What state was the center of a recount controversy in the presidential election of 2000?

- A. West Virginia
- B. Oregon
- C. Florida
- D. Kentucky

101. Almost 3,000 people died in terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon on what single day in 2001?

- A. February 2
- B. September 11
- C. November 13
- D. May 22

102. What Chicago-based airline filed for bankruptcy in 2002 with over \$40 billion in assets and liabilities?

- A. Southwest
- B. JetBlue
- C. Spirit
- D. United Airlines

103. All of these states lost power in the Northeast blackout of 2003 EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. Wyoming
- B. Michigan
- C. Ohio
- D. Pennsylvania

104. What social media platform was created in 2004 in a Harvard dorm room?

- A. WhatsApp
- B. Snapchat
- C. Facebook
- D. Hinge

105. Hurricane Katrina made landfall in 2005 as a Category 4 storm in what city?

- A. Virginia Beach
- B. New Orleans
- C. St Petersburg
- D. Santa Monica

106. The USC Trojans were defeated in the 2006 Rose Bowl by what Big 12 team led by Vince Young?

- A. Indiana Hoosiers
- B. Florida Gators
- C. Oregon Ducks
- D. Texas Longhorns

107. What HBO series inspired by the creator's upbringing in a New Jersey Italian American family aired its abrupt finale in 2007?

- A. The Sopranos
- B. Band of Brothers
- C. Boardwalk Empire
- D. The Wire

108. Illinois senator Barack Obama became the only US president born in what state when elected in 2008?

- A. Virginia
- B. Texas
- C. Ohio
- D. Hawaii

109. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was enacted in 2009 to combat what crisis triggered by the housing bubble bursting?

- A. Long Depression
- B. Great Recession
- C. Roosevelt Recession
- D. Gold Depression

110. In 2010, an explosion on the Deepwater Horizon rig caused an 87-day oil leak in what body of water?

- A. Lake Huron
- B. Gulf of California
- C. Gulf of Mexico
- D. Hudson Bay

111. Protests against economic inequality in 2011 in New York City rallied around what name borrowed from Manhattan's financial district?

- A. Tea Party
- B. Three Percenters
- C. Sunrise Movement
- D. Occupy Wall Street

112. What tropical cyclone caused \$70 billion dollars in damage to the Mid-Atlantic coast in 2012?

- A. Galveston Hurricane
- B. Hurricane Ian
- C. Hurricane Sandy
- D. San Felipe Hurricane

113. A spire was installed atop what "Freedom Tower" in NYC in 2013, making it the sixth tallest freestanding structure?

- A. One World Trade Center
- B. Salesforce Tower
- C. Aon Center
- D. Brooklyn Tower

114. The summer of 2014 saw increasing protests against police brutality after the shooting of Michael Brown in which of the following?

- A. Salem, Oregon
- B. Jackson Hole, Montana
- C. Wichita, Kansas
- D. Ferguson, Missouri

115. All of these monuments were designated by President Obama in 2015 except which of the following?

- A. Basin and Range
- B. Waco Mammoth
- C. Devils Tower
- D. Berryessa Snow Mountain

116. In 2016, the US Treasury announced plans to replace Andrew Jackson on the \$20 bill with what Underground Railroad conductor?

- A. Harriet Tubman
- B. Lucretia Mott
- C. Angelica Grimke
- D. Carry A. Nation

117. What metropolitan area saw catastrophic rainfall and floods from Hurricane Harvey in 2017?

- A. Houston
- B. Philadelphia
- C. San Diego
- D. Jacksonville

118. Which of the following opened their first cashier-less grocery store in Seattle in 2018?

- A. Dollar Tree
- B. Big Lots
- C. Walmart
- D. Amazon

119. The 2019 Mueller Report investigated allegations that what foreign nation interfered with US elections in 2016?

- A. Cuba
- B. Russia
- C. Spain
- D. North Korea

120. Starting in March 2020, the US experienced month-long shutdowns of businesses and schools due to the spread of which of the following?

- A. HIV
- B. swine flu
- C. bubonic plague
- D. COVID-19

121. Amid the certification of the 2020 election, what building was stormed by a violent mob?

- A. White House
- B. Pentagon
- C. US Capitol
- D. United Nations Headquarters

122. What DC-born jurist and former public defender became the first black woman confirmed to the Supreme Court in 2022?

- A. Ketanji Brown Jackson
- B. Elena Kagan
- C. Sonia Sotomayor
- D. Amy Coney Barrett

123. The United Auto Workers launched an historic strike in 2023 against the "big three" automakers centered in what city?

- A. Dallas
- B. Denver
- C. Palo Alto
- D. Detroit

124. What crypto company's founder was sentenced to 25 years in prison in 2024 for fraud and money laundering?

- A. FTX
- B. Coinbase
- C. Binance
- D. Kraken

125. The devastating Palisades and Eaton wildfires destroyed thousands of structures in what California county in 2025?

- A. Harris County
- B. Cook County
- C. Los Angeles County
- D. Kings County

Tiebreaker

This question will only be scored if there is a tie for placement on the exam. **This is a required question, but there is no penalty for a wrong answer to this question.**

Write your answer legibly in the space provided on your scantron.

How long was President Trump's record-setting 2026 State of the Union Address, delivered on February 24 in the House Chamber of the US Capitol? Give your answer in hours, minutes, and seconds.

This is the end of the exam!