



International Geography Championships

2026 Hexathlon Multiple Choice Exam

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. Which of these is the most densely populated megacity with a population over 20 million people?
 - A. Manila
 - B. Shanghai
 - C. Tokyo
 - D. Seoul
2. Which of the following best defines the term ‘ancient lake’?
 - A. lakes of a specific geologic composition containing mostly metamorphic rocks
 - B. a lake containing certain types of aquatic species not found in other freshwater areas
 - C. a lake that has consistently carried water for more than 1 million years
 - D. any lake that was formerly part of an ocean
3. All of these drain into the White Nile EXCEPT which of the following?
 - A. Lake Tanganyika
 - B. Lake Albert
 - C. Lake Victoria
 - D. Lake Edward
4. Which of these two countries in the Americas share the world’s longest land border?
 - A. Chile and Argentina
 - B. Mexico and the United States
 - C. Canada and the United States
 - D. Argentina and Brazil
5. Syncretism is best defined by which of the following?
 - A. the spread of ideas through writing or other forms of literature
 - B. the merging or assimilation of several originally discrete traditions, especially in theology and religion
 - C. the exchange of ideas and cultural practices via immigration
 - D. the transition from an industrial to a postindustrial economy
6. In order to reduce the environmental impact of farming, the ‘locavore’ movement has begun to advocate all of these EXCEPT which of the following?
 - A. eating food produced within 100 miles of consumption
 - B. promoting sustainable, organic farming
 - C. adopting a strict vegan lifestyle
 - D. patronizing farmers markets instead of grocery stores for certain products
7. All of these European rivers flow into the Caspian Sea EXCEPT which of the following?
 - A. Volga
 - B. Pechora
 - C. Kura
 - D. Ural
8. Population density in Brazil is heaviest in which of the following areas?
 - A. the rain forests
 - B. the Amazon Delta
 - C. the west and southwest
 - D. along the eastern and southeastern coast
9. All of these stimulate erosion EXCEPT which of the following?
 - A. road construction
 - B. urban sprawl
 - C. intensive agriculture
 - D. planting trees
10. After Hinduism, which of these is the second most practiced religion in India?
 - A. Islam
 - B. Christianity
 - C. Jainism
 - D. Sikhism
11. Most Polynesian islands and archipelagos, including the Hawaiian Islands and Samoa, were formed by which of the following methods?
 - A. strong earthquakes
 - B. volcanic islands formed by hotspots
 - C. breaking off from larger continents over time
 - D. subduction of major tectonic plates
12. Which of these are completely enclaved states?
 - A. Monaco and Liechtenstein
 - B. Andorra and San Marino
 - C. San Marino and Vatican City
 - D. Vatican City and Andorra
13. How many mountains over 7500 meters (24,606 feet) tall are there in the Western Hemisphere?
 - A. 6
 - B. 4
 - C. 1
 - D. 0

14. On a map, the ratio of a distance on the map to the corresponding distance on the ground is known as which of the following?
- legend
 - point symbol
 - compass rose
 - scale
15. The Schengen Agreement is a 1985 treaty that governs which of the following in its European signatories?
- passport controls and internal border checks
 - monetary policy
 - trade and tariffs
 - cooperation on military exercises and crisis response
16. Which of these best describes the form of government of the United States?
- direct democracy
 - parliamentary
 - unitary
 - federal republic
17. Much of central Australia is covered by what two biomes?
- Mediterranean and temperate steppe
 - arid desert and semi-arid desert
 - subtropical dry forest and tree savanna
 - tree savanna and grass savanna
18. Which of these names the process by which soil, sand, regolith, and rock move downslope largely under the force of gravity?
- mass wasting
 - terracing
 - bioturbation
 - drift
19. Geologically, which of these are signs of an impact crater on earth?
- magma and tephra
 - certain types of sandstone and sedimentary rock
 - tektites and shocked quartz
 - large deposits of igneous rock
20. With regard to its formation, Lake Baikal is most similar to which of the following?
- Crater Lake in the United States
 - Lake Pontchartrain in the United States
 - Lake Nasser in Egypt
 - the Rift Valley lakes of Africa
21. Which of these countries sends more tourists to Japan than any other on an annual basis?
- the United States
 - South Korea
 - Taiwan
 - China
22. During the Middle Ages, which of these pairs of languages served as lingua franca in much of Europe, the Middle East and the Byzantine Empire?
- English and German
 - Spanish and French
 - Latin and Koine Greek
 - Arabic and Italian
23. Which of these East Asian nations has the lowest population density of any sovereign state?
- Mongolia
 - Tibet
 - North Korea
 - South Korea
24. A cyclone that develops between 180° and 100°E in the Northern Hemisphere is known specifically by what term?
- tropical cyclone
 - hurricane
 - typhoon
 - anticyclone
25. Which of these is the primary reason East Antarctica is the coldest part of the continent?
- it receives more snow than other parts of the continent
 - it receives more solar radiation than other parts of the continent
 - it is part of a polar desert
 - East Antarctica has a much higher average elevation than the west
26. The classic example of a frozen conflict is which of the following still ongoing divisions?
- North and South Vietnam
 - North and South Korea
 - East and West Germany
 - the nations of the former Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia
27. A type of map characterized by large-scale detail and quantitative representation of relief, usually using contour lines, is known as which of the following?
- political map
 - route map
 - choropleth
 - topographic map
28. Which of these best defines the term endorheic basin?
- regions which flow to the ocean in geologically defined patterns
 - a basin that allows no outflow to external bodies of water
 - any body of water located more than 500 feet (152 meters) below sea level
 - a body of water much saltier than the surrounding bodies of freshwater

29. All of these are true of the religious makeup of the United States EXCEPT which of the following?
- A. a majority of Americans identify as Christian
 - B. roughly one-fourth of Americans are not religiously affiliated
 - C. approximately 5% of Americans are Muslim
 - D. Roman Catholicism is the largest single Christian denomination in the United States
30. Valleys formed by glaciers are characterized as being shaped like what letter of the alphabet?
- A. U-shaped
 - B. V-shaped
 - C. W-shaped
 - D. X-shaped
31. Roughly 90% of the world's earthquakes, and over 80% of the world's severe earthquakes, occur in what region?
- A. the North Atlantic
 - B. near the middle of the Pacific Ocean
 - C. the Ring of Fire
 - D. in and around Antarctica
32. The swastika, om symbol, and the hand with a wheel on the palm symbolizing ahimsa are all significant to which of the following faiths?
- A. Islam
 - B. Jainism
 - C. Confucianism
 - D. Shinto
33. Which of these best defines a multinational corporation?
- A. a business entity in which shares of the company's stock can be bought and sold by shareholders
 - B. a corporate organization that owns or controls production of goods or services in at least one country other than its home country
 - C. a business organization that combines aspects of a proprietorship and corporation
 - D. a legal entity made up of an association of people for carrying on a commercial or industrial enterprise
34. Which of these is true of the effects of the Gulf Stream on global climate?
- A. it makes the Atlantic coast of Florida and Georgia much warmer than expected given their latitude
 - B. it makes the climate of northwestern Europe much milder than other locations at a similar latitude
 - C. it makes the climate of western Brazil far wetter than would be expected given its location
 - D. it makes the rain shadow of the Andes more pronounced
35. A lake in which the layers of water do not mix is known as which of the following?
- A. meromictic
 - B. dimictic
 - C. polymictic
 - D. holomictic
36. Which of the following would be considered the primate city of Ivory Coast?
- A. Yamoussoukro
 - B. Bouaké
 - C. Abidjan
 - D. Divo
37. Which of the following is formed from debris previously carried along by a glacier and consists of somewhat rounded particles in a range of sizes?
- A. arete
 - B. moraine
 - C. outwash fan
 - D. kame
38. In cartography, information provided by direct observation as opposed to information provided by a map or representation is referred to as which of the following?
- A. distance
 - B. scale
 - C. orienteering
 - D. ground truth
39. Aeolian processes create landforms by what action?
- A. water
 - B. mass movement
 - C. wind
 - D. glaciation
40. Olduvai Gorge, a ravine in the Great Rift Valley, is significant for which of the following reasons?
- A. it is the lowest point in the Great Rift Valley
 - B. it was carved by the Nile River
 - C. it is a massive impact crater
 - D. it is one of the most important paleoanthropological sites in the world
- ### Tiebreaker
- This question will only be scored if there is a tie for placement on the overall Hexathlon. **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.
- According to the Real Time Statistics Project, what was the world population at 15:20 UTC on 17-June 2026?