



International Geography Championships

2026 Running and Swimming Combined Prelim 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. Canyons and gorges are created by rivers through which of these processes?
 - A. downcutting
 - B. sedimentation
 - C. stream capture
 - D. flooding
2. The Greek letter 'delta' and many river deltas both resemble what shape?
 - A. hexagon
 - B. rectangle
 - C. circle
 - D. triangle
3. Which of these is NOT one of the three layers of fluvial sediment transportation?
 - A. bed load
 - B. oversize load
 - C. suspended load
 - D. wash load
4. Which of these is formed when a river meander is cut off and forms a separate body of water?
 - A. plunge pool
 - B. oxbow lake
 - C. tarn
 - D. paternoster
5. Which of these is NOT a factor in the shape and size of a river delta?
 - A. the supply of sediment from the river
 - B. the prevailing winds in the area
 - C. the size of the receiving basin
 - D. the shape of the receiving basin
6. Which of these was NOT one of the hearths for early seed agriculture?
 - A. western India
 - B. northern China
 - C. central Australia
 - D. east Africa
7. The main benefit of crop rotation during the second agricultural revolution is that it carefully controlled which of these?
 - A. nutrient levels in the soil
 - B. the number of workers needed to produce crops
 - C. the number of weeds and insects in a given field
 - D. the amount of work needed to raise crops
8. Which of these countries has the largest percentage of its workforce employed in agriculture?
 - A. China
 - B. Mexico
 - C. Nigeria
 - D. the US
9. Which of these is true of the relationship between the second agricultural revolution and the industrial revolution?
 - A. agriculture became more important economically than industry
 - B. food became increasingly expensive, especially in cities
 - C. industry drew workers away from agriculture, resulting in widespread famines
 - D. increased efficiency in agriculture and the need for fewer farm workers resulted in an available labor source for industry
10. Agriculture belongs to which of these sectors of economic activity?
 - A. primary
 - B. secondary
 - C. tertiary
 - D. quaternary
11. Central place theory is least applicable to which of these?
 - A. rural areas
 - B. planned capital cities
 - C. diversified or multi-function cities
 - D. densely populated areas
12. Most models of urban development place which of these at or near the middle of the city?
 - A. poverty-stricken areas
 - B. the CBD
 - C. suburbs
 - D. middle class housing
13. The Griffin-Ford model of urban development was specifically designed to describe growth patterns in which of these regions?
 - A. the US
 - B. Latin America
 - C. East Asia
 - D. East Africa
14. Unlike in the concentric zone model, the Griffin-Ford model predicts which of these will be in the outer ring of the city?
 - A. upper-class housing
 - B. commuter suburbs
 - C. squatters and shantytowns
 - D. edge cities

15. The multiple nuclei model was based on the structure of what American city?
- Los Angeles
 - Seattle
 - New Orleans
 - Chicago
16. Which of these is the most important crop for human consumption and nutrition in the world?
- wheat
 - potatoes
 - oats
 - rice
17. Which of these countries leads the world in the production of beef?
- the United States
 - Russia
 - India
 - Japan
18. Which of these is a major environmental concern tied to the industrial production of livestock?
- inefficient land use
 - production of animal waste
 - excessive energy consumption
 - changes in local microclimates
19. Which of these is NOT a form of commercial agriculture?
- cattle ranching
 - soybean farming
 - growing specialized fruits
 - nomadic pastoralism
20. Which of these movements has gained popularity as a reaction against widespread pesticide use in agriculture?
- organic farming
 - crop rotation
 - slash-and-burn techniques
 - terracing
21. Isolated nunatak protruding through ice fields are also known as which of these?
- glacial erratics
 - hanging valleys
 - trim lines
 - glacial islands
22. Norway's coastline is dominated by what U-shaped valleys formed by glaciers?
- cols
 - fjords
 - icefalls
 - moraines
23. A kame is defined as which of the following?
- a lake formed by glacial erosion and melting
 - a triangle-shaped deposition of glacial till
 - a hill or mound of till left by a moving glacier
 - a pyramidal peak caused by glacial erosion
24. Which of these terms is used to describe sediment transported by and directly deposited by a glacier?
- drift
 - flood
 - breeze
 - spill
25. What narrow ridge of rock is formed when two glaciers erode parallel U-shaped valleys?
- crevasse
 - arête
 - cirque stairway
 - tarn
26. At current consumption levels, roughly how much longer will the world's proven oil reserves last?
- 200 years
 - 100 years
 - 75 years
 - 40 years
27. Worldwide oil consumption reached its highest historical level in which of the following years?
- 1979
 - 2019
 - 2020
 - 2022
28. Which of these countries has been the second-largest consumer of oil in the world since the mid-1980s?
- Japan
 - the United States
 - Canada
 - China
29. Which of these countries does NOT produce more oil yearly than it consumes?
- India
 - the US
 - Saudi Arabia
 - Russia
30. Which of these countries has the world's largest proven oil reserve?
- Venezuela
 - Russia
 - the US
 - Kuwait
31. Which of the following is the largest tectonic plate by area?
- Philippine Plate
 - Arabian Plate
 - Cocos Plate
 - Pacific Plate
32. Which of these is NOT true about plate tectonics?
- The plates are around 100 km thick.
 - The plates move up to 20 cm annually.
 - The plates consist of both oceanic and continental crust.
 - The plates include both pieces of crust and the uppermost part of the mantle.

33. Submarine earthquakes are the leading cause of which of the following?
- whirlpools
 - hurricanes
 - typhoons
 - tsunamis
34. Which of the following is the process in which oceanic lithosphere is recycled into Earth's mantle?
- convection
 - subduction
 - eruption
 - dissolution
35. Which of the following describes the activity of plate tectonics at a convergent boundary?
- The plates are dissolved by magma.
 - The plates run parallel to each other but do not touch.
 - The plates collide with each other.
 - The plates pull away from each other.
36. The type of culture that emphasizes artifacts is known by what term?
- culture system
 - culture trait
 - cultural hearth
 - material culture
37. Geographers usually characterize cultural diffusion into what two broad categories?
- expansion and relocation
 - contagious and migrant
 - migrant and hierarchical
 - relocation and migrant
38. Cultural ecology studies the relationship between culture and which of these?
- language
 - the natural environment
 - religion
 - the economy
39. The study of place names is known as which of these?
- isogloss
 - toponymy
 - symbology
 - stratigraphy
40. Which of these best describes acculturation?
- a more dominant culture adopts traits from a less dominant culture
 - a less dominant culture adopts traits from a more dominant culture
 - cultural traits are equally exchanged between cultures
 - material culture overwhelms non-material culture
41. The continuous movement of sediment along beaches by wave action is known as what process?
- wave shoaling
 - longshore drift
 - wave refraction
 - frost weathering
42. Barrier islands are defined as which of the following?
- straits formed by continuous tidal erosion
 - coastlines marshes formed by tidal flooding
 - open bays formed by perpendicular swash
 - dune systems formed by waves running parallel to a mainland coast
43. Which of these is used to describe a beach isolated between two headlands that doesn't exchange sediment with other shorelines?
- wrack
 - pocket
 - reef
 - steep
44. Which of these processes most directly causes the formation of sea foam on coastlines?
- the agitation of seawater with high concentrations of organic matter
 - the exposure of seafloor by regression
 - the reversal of offshore undercurrent
 - the displacement of sediment by rip currents
45. Which of these describes a tide pool?
- a shallow pool of seawater the forms on a shoreline
 - a ridge of coral just beneath the surface of the ocean
 - a large inlet in a coastline
 - a landlocked body of water with an underground connection to an ocean
46. Which of these best describes topographic prominence?
- relative height of a summit in relation to the lowest contour line
 - religious importance of a summit
 - distance a mountain's base reaches under sea level
 - variance in biotemperature and precipitation
47. Which of these is true about the climate of mountains?
- Temperatures decrease as elevation decreases.
 - Temperatures increase as elevation increases.
 - Temperatures decrease as elevation increases.
 - Elevation does not affect the climate of mountains.
48. Altitudes above 8,000 m where there is not enough oxygen to support breathing are referred to as which of the following?
- natural boundaries
 - the death zone
 - alpine mires
 - the visible spectrum

49. What biome exists between the submontane and subalpine zones of a mountain?

- A. xeric shrubland
- B. temperate grasslands
- C. tropical savannas
- D. montane forests

50. Which of these describes a sky island?

- A. An isolated mountain surrounded by lowlands.
- B. The highest point in a mountain range.
- C. A mountain formed by magma rising through the Earth's crust.
- D. A peak split by the existence of steep gullies.

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 many total spectators attended the 64 matches of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar?