

**Black American History Examination
NHBB Nationals 2021**

Name _____

School _____

Grade _____

**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.**

All levels

1. Which of the following became the first African American author of a published book of poetry when *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral* was issued in 1773?

- A. Jupiter Hammon
- B. Ellen Craft
- C. Phillis Wheatley
- D. Samuel Snowden

2. Roughly how many Black and formerly enslaved people served in the United States Army and Navy during the Civil War?

- A. 20,000
- B. 50,000
- C. 200,000
- D. 500,000

3. Civil rights leaders used the term ‘double-duty dollars’ to promote which of the following in the early twentieth century?

- A. the payment of federal income taxes
- B. the purchase of land by Black Americans
- C. the attainment of university education by people of color
- D. purchases made at and patronage of Black-owned businesses or businesses that hired Black employees

4. All of these are true of the founding of the NAACP in 1910 EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. only Black civil rights leaders were included in its formation
- B. it was a continuation of the work begun by the Niagara Movement
- C. W.E.B. Du Bois was one of its primary leaders
- D. several women, including Mary White Ovington, were involved in its formation

5. Which of the following men took over both the Poor People’s Campaign and leadership of the SCLC following Martin Luther King’s assassination in 1968?

- A. Jesse Jackson
- B. Ralph Abernathy
- C. John Lewis
- D. Stokely Carmichael

6. Which of these is true of the trans-Atlantic slave trade between the early sixteenth and mid-nineteenth centuries?

- A. roughly 5 million people were taken from Africa and enslaved during this period
- B. roughly 1/3 of those taken from Africa died on the voyage across the Atlantic

C. the Spanish colonies in North and South America were the most common destinations for enslaved people from Africa
D. less than 5% of enslaved Africans were transported to the English North American colonies or the United States during this period

7. Madame C.J. Walker and Marjorie Joyner made their fortunes in which of the following industries in the early twentieth century?

- A. real-estate speculation
- B. hair-care products
- C. agriculture
- D. banking

8. Romare Bearden, Jacob Lawrence and Archibald Motley gained prominence in the early twentieth century for their contributions to which of the following fields?

- A. visual arts
- B. sports
- C. minstrel performances
- D. architecture

9. Which of the following was a prominent science fiction writer, winner of the Hugo and Nebula awards and recipient of a MacArthur ‘Genius Grant’ in 1995?

- A. Gwendolyn Brooks
- B. Toni Morrison
- C. Octavia Butler
- D. Alice Walker

10. Settlements such as Nicodemus, KS were founded in the late nineteenth century by settlers in what movement led by men such as ‘Pap’ Singleton?

- A. the ‘Exodusters’
- B. the ‘Great Migration’
- C. the ‘Sooners’
- D. the ‘Eighty-niners’

11. Sojourner Truth’s 1851 speech to the Ohio Women’s Rights Convention became popularly known by what name following an erroneous 1863 transcription?

- A. ‘Ain’t I a Woman?’
- B. ‘I’ve Been to the Mountaintop’
- C. ‘What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?’
- D. ‘Most Terribly Bereft’

12. Guinn v. US helped overturn which of the following in the early twentieth century?

- A. literacy tests
- B. the grandfather clause
- C. poll taxes
- D. the use of ‘white primaries’

13. The Chicago Open Housing Movement and Operation Breadbasket both served as catalysts for the passage of which of the following by LBJ’s administration?

- A. the Hart-Celler Act of 1965
- B. the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964
- C. the Voting Rights Act of 1965
- D. the Fair Housing Act of 1968

14. Which of the following traces its origins to a Twitter hashtag popularized after the death of Trayvon Martin and the acquittal of George Zimmerman for his killing?

- A. the 'Occupy' movement
- B. 'Antifa'
- C. Black Lives Matter
- D. 'Defund the Police'

15. Which of the following tactics was used to defeat Congressman Leonidas Dyer's anti-lynching bill in 1922, 1923 and 1924 even though it overwhelmingly passed the House?

- A. a presidential veto
- B. large numbers of Senate amendments
- C. widespread public opposition throughout the country
- D. Senate filibusters

16. Crispus Attucks is significant in early American history for which of the following?

- A. his participation in the Boston Tea Party
- B. being the first person killed in the Boston Massacre, thus considered by many the first casualty of the American Revolution
- C. helping rouse the Boston militia during Paul Revere's ride
- D. fighting in the Continental Army during the American Revolution

17. The 'Black-and-tan faction' describes which of the following in Reconstruction politics?

- A. Northern Republicans and former abolitionists who advocated for the passage of the Civil Rights Acts and the Fifteenth Amendment
- B. Southern Democrats who opposed Reconstruction
- C. the coalition of freedmen and carpetbaggers who governed many Southern states during Reconstruction
- D. scalawag southern Republicans during Reconstruction

18. Muriel Bowser, known for her frequent disagreements with President Trump, is currently the mayor of what US city?

- A. Chicago
- B. Atlanta
- C. Washington, DC
- D. Houston

19. Which of the following actions by Franklin Roosevelt was intended to prohibit ethnic or racial discrimination in the nation's defense industry?

- A. the creation of the Division of Negro Affairs in the Department of Commerce
- B. the creation of the EEOC
- C. Executive Order 9066
- D. Executive Order 8802

20. All of these are true of Black Americans in the period from 1865 to 1900 EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. the vast majority of Black Americans in this period were farmers
- B. most Black farmers were either sharecroppers, tenant farmers or paid farm laborers
- C. Black residents were the majority population of several Southern cities by the turn of the twentieth century
- D. the vast majority of Black Americans lived in the South

21. Throughout his activist life, Frederick Douglass felt which of the following was a significant tool to end racist caricatures, including blackface minstrelsy?

- A. newspaper cartoons
- B. popular music
- C. photography
- D. regional folk art

22. The idea that Black Americans should work for 'victory over our enemies at home and victory over our enemies on the battlefield abroad' during World War II was known by which of the following terms?

- A. 'massive resistance'
- B. the 'Double V' campaign
- C. the 'American Way'
- D. the 'Red Ball' movement

23. In 1967 Governor Ronald Reagan signed the Mulford Act which banned which of the following practices, mostly due to the Black Panther Party?

- A. the open carry of firearms
- B. public street protests
- C. privately funded after-school programs for children
- D. voter registration and education drives

24. Which of the following was used by the FBI to target various American political organizations and leaders, including Martin Luther King, the Nation of Islam and the Black Panthers?

- A. MK-ULTRA
- B. COINTELPRO
- C. the Venona Project
- D. ABSCAM

25. Which of the following ordered an end to segregation and discrimination in the US armed forces with Executive Order 9981?

- A. Theodore Roosevelt
- B. Woodrow Wilson
- C. Franklin Roosevelt
- D. Harry Truman

26. Prince Hall was a notable advocate for educational opportunities for free blacks in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries as well as the founder of a branch of which of the following for Black Americans that still bears his name?

- A. the Methodist Church
- B. the New York Manumission Society
- C. Freemasonry
- D. the chamber of commerce

27. The February One monument at North Carolina A&T University commemorates the involvement of students in which of the following?

- A. the sit-in movement
- B. the Freedom Rides
- C. the Voter Education Project
- D. the integration of the campus

28. Which of the following musical styles is thought to have originated in America with African American men waiting for service at a particular type of business establishment?

- A. ragtime

- B. swing
- C. barbershop quartets
- D. doo-wop

29. By the end of the Second Great Migration, what percentage of Black Americans lived outside the South?

- A. about 90%
- B. about 75%
- C. about 50%
- D. about 25%

30. Ida B. Wells, Mary Ellen Pleasant, Robert Fox and Homer Plessy all had which of the following in common?

- A. they were all founding members of the NAACP
- B. they were all plaintiffs in lawsuits fighting the segregation of train cars in various states
- C. they were all educated at Harvard
- D. they were leaders in Marcus Garvey's UNIA

31. Which of the following is best known as an abolitionist and for the publication of the Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World in 1830?

- A. David Walker
- B. James Monroe Whitfield
- C. Martin Delaney
- D. Lucretia Mott

32. The films Stormy Weather and Cabin in the Sky released in 1943 were notable for which of the following reasons?

- A. they were among the last of the prototypical 'race films'
- B. they featured Black performers in blackface
- C. they were the first Hollywood films in which Black performers had speaking parts
- D. they were successful, mainstream Hollywood musicals featuring Black performers

33. 'A Call for Unity', an open letter by white clergymen which attacked civil rights activity by 'outsiders' in a certain Alabama town, resulted in which of the following responses?

- A. the 'Stand in the Schoolhouse Door'
- B. the writing and publication of 'Letter from Birmingham Jail'
- C. brutal suppression of the protesters by the Alabama State Police
- D. the bombing of Martin Luther King's hotel room

34. Oscar Micheaux was a pioneer in the 1910s during the early years of what artistic medium?

- A. filmmaking
- B. jazz
- C. opera
- D. Broadway musicals

35. The 1959 documentary The Hate That Hate Produced focused on which of the following groups that was largely unknown to white Americans at the time it was aired?

- A. the NAACP
- B. the Black Panther Party
- C. the Southern Christian Leadership Conference
- D. the Nation of Islam

36. Which of the following led a slave rebellion in Southampton County, VA in 1831?

- A. Gabriel Prosser
- B. Nat Turner
- C. Denmark Vesey
- D. Joseph Cinque

37. Ida B. Wells published The Red Record and Southern Horrors in the 1890s to draw attention to which of the following issues?

- A. lynching
- B. voter suppression
- C. the abuses of sharecropping
- D. segregation and anti-miscegenation laws

38. Berry Gordy founded which of the following companies in 1959 in Detroit, known for promoting such musical acts as The Supremes and Marvin Gaye?

- A. Chess Records
- B. Sun Records
- C. Motown Records
- D. Apple Records

39. Which of the following is a term for a philosophy and cultural aesthetic that explores the developing intersection of African diaspora culture with technology?

- A. the 'digital divide'
- B. Afrofuturism
- C. Pan-Africanism
- D. Afrocentrism

40. Which of the following Supreme Court cases established the doctrine of 'separate but equal' in the United States?

- A. Dred Scott v. Sandford
- B. Strauder v. West Virginia
- C. the Slaughterhouse cases
- D. Plessy v. Ferguson

41. Benjamin Banneker, a free person of color from Maryland, helped accomplish which of the following in the early republic?

- A. the design of the original one dollar note issued by the Bank of the United States
- B. designing the Great Seal of the United States
- C. the survey of the boundaries of the federal district that would become Washington, DC
- D. the original design of the United States Capitol building

42. Dr. Jocelyn Elders, appointed by President Bill Clinton, was the first African-American woman to serve in which of the following posts, considered the chief government spokesperson for public health in the United States?

- A. Director of the CDC
- B. Director of the NIH
- C. Secretary of Health and Human Services
- D. Surgeon General of the United States

43. All of these films EXCEPT which of the following have been criticized by Black Americans in the media and academia for featuring Black characters whose 'sole function was to help white people'?

- A. The Help
- B. Do the Right Thing
- C. The Legend of Bagdad Cafe
- D. Driving Miss Daisy

44. Black American psychologists Kenneth and Mamie Clark conducted experiments on young children using dolls that informed which of the following 1950s Supreme Court decisions on civil rights?

- A. Sipule v. Board of Regents
- B. Sweatt v. Painter
- C. Brown v. Board of Education
- D. Hernandez v. Texas

45. Which of the following became the first Black American Secretary of Defense following his appointment by President Biden in January 2021?

- A. Lloyd Austin
- B. Anthony Blinken
- C. Tom Vilsack
- D. Marty Walsh

46. The revolt on which of the following in 1841, and the ship's subsequent arrival in the Bahamas, resulted in a diplomatic incident between the United States and Great Britain?

- A. the Caroline
- B. the Creole
- C. the Hermosa
- D. the Amistad

47. The book and movie Hidden Figures chronicled the work of Black American women who worked for which of the following?

- A. the United States Army
- B. the Secret Service
- C. the FBI
- D. NASA

48. The Alabama Committee for Equal Justice for Ms. Recy Taylor was co-founded by Taylor and what key figure in the struggle for civil rights in Alabama in the 1950s?

- A. Rosa Parks
- B. Claudette Colvin
- C. Aurelia Browder
- D. Mary Louise Smith

49. All of these are true of education for Black Americans at the turn of the twentieth century EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. roughly half of the 3 million school-age Black children in the United States were in school in 1900
- B. fewer than 1000 Black teenagers graduated high school in 1900
- C. the majority of teachers in Black schools were people of color
- D. there were no colleges or universities in the United States that accepted Black students in 1900

50. All of these are true of Black Loyalists who fought for the British during the American Revolution EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. thousands were resettled to Nova Scotia following the war
- B. many were, along with thousands escaped slaves from southern plantations, brought to London after the war
- C. the vast majority were returned to their masters or left in the new United States
- D. thousands were resettled to the new British colony of Sierra Leone

HS only

51. Benjamin S. Turner, Josiah T. Walls, Joseph H. Rainey and Robert Brown Elliot were Black men known for which of the following during the Reconstruction period?

- A. serving briefly as governors of Southern states
- B. being appointed as United States Senators
- C. being elected to the United States House of Representatives
- D. serving as generals in the United States Army

52. Which of the following was the labor union founded and led by A. Philip Randolph?

- A. the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters
- B. the American Railway Union
- C. the Teamsters
- D. the Congress of Industrial Organizations

53. Both Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice were notable holders of what government position in the early 2000s, becoming the first Black Americans to do so?

- A. Secretary of Labor
- B. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
- C. Secretary of the Treasury
- D. Secretary of State

54. Bishop Richard Allen is notable as the founder of which of the following religious organizations in the late 18th century in Philadelphia?

- A. the Reformed Baptist Convention
- B. the African Methodist Episcopal Church
- C. the Moorish Science Temple
- D. the Holiness movement

55. Chuck Cooper, Earl Lloyd and Nat 'Sweetwater' Clifton were the first Black players in which of the following in 1950?

- A. the NFL
- B. the PGA
- C. the NBA
- D. the NHL

56. Sherrilyn Ifill is the current president of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, an organization founded in 1940 by which of the following?

- A. Clarence Thomas
- B. Shirley Chisholm
- C. Albion Tourgee
- D. Thurgood Marshall

57. James Hood and Vivian Malone integrated which of the following institutions in 1963?

- A. the University of Mississippi
- B. the University of Alabama
- C. Louisiana State University
- D. the University of Arkansas

58. Which of the following was the immediate cause of the 1992 Los Angeles Riots?

- A. the arrest of Marquette Frye
- B. a police raid of an unlicensed, after-hours bar
- C. the beating of Reginald Denny
- D. the acquittal of LAPD officers accused of using excessive force in the arrest of Rodney King

59. Which of the following became the first Black American to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 1950 for his mediation efforts in the Middle East?

- A. Ralph Bunche
- B. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- C. John Mott
- D. George Marshall

60. In addition to a 'Narrative' of his life published in 1845, what American abolitionist and activist is known for works such as *My Bondage and My Freedom* and a book about his 'Life and Times' published in 1881?

- A. William Lloyd Garrison
- B. Elijah Lovejoy
- C. Lyman Beecher
- D. Frederick Douglass

61. Which of the following, founded in 1865 shortly after the Civil War, was the first HBCU in the South?

- A. Oberlin College
- B. Wilberforce University
- C. Atlanta University
- D. the Lincoln Institute

62. In which of the following decades did Jackie Robinson break the color line in professional baseball?

- A. 1920s
- B. 1930s
- C. 1940s
- D. 1950s

63. The 1999 case of *Pigford v. Glickman* resulted in a monetary award of over \$1 billion due to discrimination against Black farmers by what government agency?

- A. USAID
- B. the Department of Agriculture
- C. the Department of the Interior
- D. the Department of Transportation

64. Which of the following significant civil rights cases was cited as a precedent in the landmark 2015 decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*?

- A. *Loving v. Virginia*
- B. *Shelley v. Kraemer*
- C. *Henderson v. US*
- D. *Bolling v. Sharpe*

65. The case of *Commonwealth v. Jennison*, the third in a series of cases involving Quock Walker, effectively abolished slavery in 1783 in which of the following states?

- A. New York
- B. New Jersey
- C. Pennsylvania
- D. Massachusetts

66. Marcus Garvey was an advocate of all of these philosophies EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. pan-Africanism
- B. Black nationalism
- C. accommodationism
- D. racial separatism

67. During Freedom Summer in 1964, young activists James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner were killed by Klan members in Neshoba County in which of the following states?

- A. Georgia
- B. Mississippi
- C. Alabama
- D. Florida

68. Guion Buford and Mae Jemison were notable as the first Black Americans to do which of the following in the late nineteenth century?

- A. win a Pulitzer Prize
- B. be elected to Congress from the South
- C. go to outer space
- D. play professional tennis

69. Which of the following was a civil rights leader for five decades, including work for the NAACP and the SCLC, and became known as the 'godmother of SNCC' for her role as an adult advisor and mentor to that organization?

- A. Shirley Chisholm
- B. Barbara Jordan
- C. Angela Davis
- D. Ella Baker

70. Which of these is true of slavery in the United States Constitution?

- A. the slave trade was prohibited in the original Constitution
- B. the word slavery did not appear in the Constitution until the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment
- C. the Constitution allowed banning slave importation to be considered by the federal government in 1790
- D. the Constitution prohibited slavery in the federal district that became Washington, DC

71. The Department of Justice was created and the Force Acts were passed in the 1870s for which of the following purposes?

- A. to eliminate corruption in southern Reconstruction governments
- B. to force southern states to rejoin the Union
- C. to protect the rights of freedmen and crack down on Klan violence in the South
- D. to provide educational and economic opportunities for freedmen in the South

72. Which of the following, part of his Ku Klux Klan trilogy, was written by Thomas Dixon partly as a response to Uncle Tom's Cabin?

- A. The Sword and the Distaff
- B. The Leopard's Spots
- C. Aunt Phillis's Cabin
- D. The Planter's Northern Bride

73. William L. Dawson and Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. held what distinction in American politics from 1945 to 1955?

- A. they were the first two Black men elected governors of US states
- B. they were both nominated to the United States Supreme Court during that period
- C. they were appointed by Franklin Roosevelt and served as United States ambassadors during that period

D. they were the only Black members of the United States Congress during that period

74. Which of the following was the most prominent Black American leader from the 1890s until his 1915 death?

- A. Booker T. Washington
- B. Marcus Garvey
- C. Timothy Fortune
- D. Robert Smalls

75. Charlotte Dupuy filed a freedom suit against which of the following in 1829 immediately after he completed his term as Secretary of State?

- A. Martin Van Buren
- B. James Monroe
- C. Henry Clay
- D. John Quincy Adams

MS only

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52. Which of the following was the labor union founded and led by A. Philip Randolph to organize Black railroad workers in a certain profession?

- A. the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters
- B. the American Federation of Labor
- C. the Teamsters
- D. the Congress of Industrial Organizations

53. Both Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice were notable holders of what government position in the early 2000s, becoming the first Black Americans to do so?

- A. Vice President
- B. Speaker of the House
- C. Secretary of the Treasury
- D. Secretary of State

54. Which of these, founded in the late 18th century in Philadelphia, remains one of the most significant Black religious organizations in the United States today?

- A. the Reformed Baptist Convention
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55. Chuck Cooper helped integrate which of the following when he was drafted by the Boston Celtics in 1950?

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- C. the NBA
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57. James Hood and Vivian Malone integrated which of the following institutions in 1963 over the objections of Governor George Wallace?

- A. the University of Mississippi
- B. the University of Alabama
- C. Louisiana State University
- D. the University of Arkansas

58. The acquittal of police officers accused of using excessive force in the arrest of Rodney King caused riots to erupt in which of the following in the spring of 1992?

- A. Houston
- B. Portland
- C. Trenton

D. Los Angeles

59. Which of the following became the first Black American to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 1950 for his mediation efforts in the Middle East?

- A. Ralph Bunche
- B. Cordell Hull
- C. John Mott
- D. George Marshall

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- B. Elijah Lovejoy
- C. Lyman Beecher
- D. Frederick Douglass

61. Which of the following is considered an HBCU (historically black college or university)?

- A. Oberlin College
- B. the University of Pennsylvania
- C. Clark Atlanta University
- D. Tulane University

62. Which of the following players was responsible for breaking the color line in professional baseball in 1947?

- A. Willie Mayes
- B. Hank Aaron
- C. Jackie Robinson
- D. 'Satchel' Paige

63. The 1999 case of *Pigford v. Glickman* resulted in a monetary award of over \$1 billion due to discrimination against Black farmers by what government agency?

- A. the Department of Defense
- B. the Department of Agriculture
- C. the Department of Housing and Urban Development
- D. the Department of Transportation

64. The 1967 Supreme Court case of *Loving v. Virginia* concerned civil rights in which of the following areas?

- A. marriage
- B. elementary schools
- C. workplace rights
- D. government employment

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- C. the UNIA
- D. CORE

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- C. the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party
- D. SNCC

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71. Which of these was created to protect the rights of freedmen and crack down on Klan violence in the South during Reconstruction?

- A. the Republican Party
- B. the Free Soil Party
- C. the Department of Justice
- D. the Department of the Interior

72. Which of the following wrote Uncle Tom's Cabin?

- A. Lyman Beecher
- B. Harriet Beecher Stowe
- C. William Lloyd Garrison
- D. Harriet Tubman

73. William L. Dawson and Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. held what distinction in American politics from 1945 to 1955?

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- A. Martin Van Buren
- B. James Monroe
- C. Henry Clay
- D. John Quincy Adams