

**Military 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 was the principal weapon of a Greek hoplite?

- A. aspis
- B. dory
- C. gladius
- D. caligae

2. English defeat at the 991 Battle of Maldon resulted in the first historical example of which of the following?

- A. sacking of London by Vikings
- B. regicide of an English king
- C. the raising of the Danegeld
- D. the composition of an Anglo-Saxon epic poem

3. Elizabeth I gave her famous Tilbury speech to English troops during which of the following military engagements?

- A. the attempted invasion of England by the Spanish Armada
- B. the Nine Years' War
- C. Wyatt's Rebellion
- D. the Babington Plot

4. All of these contributed to the Japanese victory at the Battle of Tsushima Strait EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. the use of wireless communication
- B. the speed of its capital ships
- C. the use of a centralized firing system for long-range guns
- D. sabotage of the Russian fleet

5. Which of the following World War I actions became significant in shaping the national identities of both Australia and New Zealand?

- A. the First Battle of the Marne
- B. the Gallipoli campaign
- C. the Battle of Verdun
- D. the Battle of the Somme

6. Which of the following was the most significant result of the attack on Pearl Harbor in December of 1941?

- A. it resulted in the complete destruction of the US Pacific Fleet
- B. it demonstrated the superiority of Japanese aircraft carriers and fighters
- C. it resulted in the creation of the US Air Force
- D. it drew the United States into World War II on the side of the Allies

7. The Battle of the Plains of Abraham, fought just outside the walls of Quebec City, was a decisive engagement in what conflict?

- A. the American Revolution
- B. Pontiac's Rebellion
- C. the French and Indian War
- D. the War of 1812

8. The Roman XII legion was soundly defeated at the Battle of Beth Horon in 66 CE during which conflict?

- A. the First Jewish-Roman War
- B. the Bar Kokhba Revolt
- C. the Kitos War
- D. the Byzantine-Sassanian War

9. The Battle of Badr featured forces commanded by which of the following leaders against members of his own tribe, the Quraysh?

- A. Saladin
- B. Muhammad
- C. Abu Bakr
- D. Uthman

10. Which of the following battles allowed the Shunzhi Emperor to seize the Mandate of Heaven for the Qing Dynasty in 1644?

- A. the Battle of Ning-Jin
- B. the She-An Rebellion
- C. the Battle of Fushun
- D. the Battle of Shanhai Pass

11. The revolutionary British battleship HMS Dreadnought, which made all battleships produced prior to its introduction obsolete, entered service in which of the following decades?

- A. the 1870s
- B. the 1900s
- C. the 1920s
- D. the 1950s

12. Which of the following wrote such notable works about warfare as *On Guerilla War* and *On Protracted War* in addition to works on his own brand of communist philosophy as *On Practice* and *On Contradiction*?

- A. Mao Zedong
- B. Joseph Stalin
- C. Josip Tito
- D. Kim Jong-il

13. All of these were types of aviation technology used during World War I EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. monoplanes
- B. trench strafers
- C. early radar technology
- D. machine gun synchronization

14. Operation Husky was the codename for which of the following during World War II?

- A. the Allied invasion of Sicily
- B. the Allied invasion of North Africa
- C. the German invasion of the Soviet Union
- D. the Axis bombing campaign in England

15. *Dereliction of Duty* is a 1997 book about American involvement in Vietnam written by what former US Army general and National Security Advisor?

- A. Colin Powell

- B. H.R. McMaster
- C. David Petraeus
- D. John Shalikashvili

16. UN Security Council Resolution 83 called for member states to provide military assistance to which of the following nations?

- A. West Germany
- B. Kuwait
- C. South Korea
- D. Grenada

17. The Romance of the Three Kingdoms opens during what conflict in second century CE China?

- A. the Red Turban Rebellion
- B. the Boxer Rebellion
- C. the yellow vests movement
- D. the Yellow Turban Rebellion

18. The Battle of Hakata Bay in 1274, also known as the Bun'ei Campaign, is best described by which of the following?

- A. it was an attempted invasion of Korea by forces from Japan
- B. the rapid takeover of Vietnam by China
- C. it was an attempt by the Yuan Dynasty to invade Japan
- D. it was the culminating battle of the Warring States period

19. Carl Von Clausewitz, famous for his unfinished work *On War*, was a Prussian general who most notably fought in which of the following conflicts?

- A. the American Revolution
- B. the Napoleonic Wars
- C. the Crimean War
- D. World War I

20. The Maginot Line was constructed in the 1930s to protect which of the following from German invasion?

- A. Poland
- B. Belgium
- C. France
- D. Switzerland

21. All of these were causes of the Sino-Indian War of 1962 EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. Indian bombing campaigns in border areas of China
- B. India granting asylum to the Dalai Lama in 1959
- C. the lack of a formal border between India and China and disagreement over the McMahon Line
- D. Chinese occupation of Dehra Compass

22. In June of 2002, the United States withdrew from what bilateral agreement with Russia in order to develop weapons systems that had been prohibited under the treaty?

- A. the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty
- B. the SALT agreement
- C. the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty
- D. the Outer Space Treaty

23. Which of the following is the military term that refers to the distances between the front lines or battle sectors and the combatants' industrial core areas, capital cities and heartlands?

- A. comparative advantage
- B. strategic depth
- C. battle-space agility

D. the fog of war

24. Which of the following was arrested and jailed in the United States for protesting World War I in violation of the Sedition Act of 1918?

- A. Henry Ford
- B. Jane Addams
- C. Carrie Chapman Catt
- D. Eugene V. Debs

25. Which of the following best describes the results of Operation Bagration, fought on the Eastern Front in 1944?

- A. it was the Russian name for the successful defense of Kursk
- B. it was the Russian name for the Belorussian Offensive and the biggest defeat in German military history
- C. it was the name for the first major German invasion of Russia
- D. it was the beginning of the Russian Berlin Offensive

26. The Battle of Inkerman, the Battle of Alma and the Battle of Balaclava all occurred during the nearly yearlong siege of what city in the Russian Empire during the Crimean War?

- A. Kiev
- B. Moscow
- C. Sevastopol
- D. Warsaw

27. The Incan ruler Atahualpa was captured by the Spanish at what location in 1532?

- A. Cajamarca
- B. Cusco
- C. Machu Picchu
- D. Chan Chan

28. Which of the following was the major weapon of the Warring States period in China?

- A. fire lances
- B. hand cannons
- C. crossbows
- D. the onager

29. Which of the following most closely estimates the total percentage of the military and civilian population of the United Kingdom that died in World War I, excluding deaths from the Spanish Flu epidemic?

- A. 2%
- B. 7%
- C. 10%
- D. 15%

30. The 'Great Marianas Turkey Shoot' was the nickname given by American aviators to the aerial part of what Pacific Theater battle?

- A. Borneo
- B. Guadalcanal
- C. Mandalay
- D. Philippine Sea

31. Israel almost completely destroyed the air forces of Egypt, Jordan and Syria in the opening phase of which of the following conflicts?

- A. the Yom Kippur War
- B. the Six-Day War

- C. Operation Opera
- D. the Second Intifada

32. All of these are recognized as nuclear-armed states under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. the United States
- B. Russia
- C. Israel
- D. France

33. The Battle of Afabet in 1988 was a major victory for which of the following during their war for independence?

- A. Angola
- B. Eritrea
- C. Rwanda
- D. South Sudan

34. The Battle of Isandlwana was a major victory over the British Empire for which of the following?

- A. the Mahdist Sudanese
- B. the American colonists
- C. Afghan forces
- D. the Zulu

35. In the play *Lysistrata* by Aristophanes, Greek women attempt to end which of the following conflicts by denying men sex until peace is achieved?

- A. the Peloponnesian War
- B. the Ionian Revolt
- C. the Wars of the Delian League
- D. the first Greco-Persian War

36. All of these are true of the Janissaries EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. members were originally conscripted through the *devşirme* system
- B. its members converted to Islam
- C. they were never paid for their service
- D. they began to adopt firearms in the early fifteenth century

37. The Battle of Sekigahara in 1600 led to the establishment of which of the following?

- A. the Meiji dynasty
- B. the Tokugawa shogunate
- C. the Ashikaga shogunate
- D. the Kamakura period

38. Which of the following best describes the outcome of the Battle of Fredericksburg in 1862?

- A. it was a major Union defeat in which the Army of the Potomac suffered heavy casualties
- B. it was a major engagement with an indecisive outcome and heavy casualties on both sides
- C. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia was turned back from its attempt to capture Washington, DC
- D. it was the first major engagement west of the Mississippi River and a defeat for the Union

39. The largest and bloodiest battle between the Americans and Japanese in the Pacific Theater was which of the following?

- A. Iwo Jima

- B. Okinawa
- C. Mindoro
- D. Luzon

40. Which of the following historians records an eyewitness account of the 146 BCE sack of Carthage and the end of the Achaean War in his *Histories*?

- A. Livy
- B. Plutarch
- C. Tacitus
- D. Polybius

41. All of these were major engagements in the Western Desert Campaign during World War II EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. the Siege of Tobruk
- B. the Battle of Aqaba
- C. the Battle of El Alamein
- D. the Battle of Alam el Halfa

42. All of these are true of the use of biological weapons EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. plague victims were used as biological weapons in the Middle Ages
- B. ancient records indicate both Greeks and Romans used biological agents to poison enemy water supplies
- C. they have not been used in warfare since the eighteenth century
- D. their use in warfare has been banned since the 1970s by the Biological and Toxic Weapons Convention

43. Which of the following was a key spokesperson for the group Vietnam Veterans Against the War in the early 1970s before embarking on a long and distinguished political career in the US?

- A. Joe Biden
- B. George W. Bush
- C. John McCain
- D. John Kerry

44. The Geneva Conventions of 1949 prohibit all of these EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. fighting under a flag of truce
- B. impersonating an enemy by wearing their uniform
- C. attacking people parachuting from an aircraft in distress
- D. making improper use of the symbols of the Red Cross or United Nations

45. The Second Battle of Ypres during World War I was notable for which of the following uses of military technology?

- A. the first use of aerial bombardment by a fixed-wing aircraft
- B. the first use of modern tanks in combat
- C. the first use of hand grenades
- D. the mass deployment of poison gas by the German army

46. Operation Condor was a covert operation backed by the United States ostensibly targeting communists and socialists in all of these countries EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. Argentina
- B. Mexico
- C. Chile
- D. Uruguay

47. Which of these was the decisive battle of the Franco-Prussian War?

- A. the Battle of the Dunes
- B. the Battle of Warsaw
- C. the Battle of Tel el Kabir
- D. the Battle of Sedan

48. The Hussite Wars of the fifteenth century were notable for the use of what military technology?

- A. ironclad ships
- B. mobile fortifications made of wagons
- C. an elaborate system of watchtowers and signaling devices
- D. highly advanced torsion spring siege engines

49. The fall of Constantinople in 1453 marked which of the following?

- A. the culmination of the Fourth Crusade
- B. the cause for launching the Seventh Crusade
- C. the fall of the Byzantine Empire
- D. the first major conquest of the Russian Empire

50. The Battle of Gaugamela in 331 BCE featured armies led by which pair of ancient leaders?

- A. Alexander the Great and Darius III
- B. Croesus and Cyrus the Great
- C. Arminius and Varus
- D. Julius Caesar and Vercingetorix

**HS only**

51. The Mughals used field artillery and gunpowder weapons to defeat which of the following at the Battle of Panipat in 1526?

- A. the Ottoman Empire
- B. the Safavid Dynasty
- C. the Delhi Sultanate
- D. the East India Company

52. Lord Horatio Nelson was killed during which of the following naval battles in 1805?

- A. Cadiz
- B. Trafalgar
- C. the Nile
- D. Tenerife

53. The events of 1914 that immediately preceded World War I are referred to by which of the following terms?

- A. the Decembrist Revolt
- B. the 'Hundred Days'
- C. the July Crisis
- D. the October Revolution

54. Which of these was the leading cause of death for soldiers in the Thirty Years' War?

- A. injuries sustained on the battlefield
- B. influenza
- C. starvation
- D. the bubonic plague

55. The Battle of Megiddo in the 15<sup>th</sup> century BCE features the first recorded use of which of the following?

- A. the trireme
- B. the catapult
- C. the composite bow
- D. an incendiary device similar to a bomb

56. The Battle of Bouvines was the culmination of which of the following conflicts?

- A. the Anglo-French War of 1213-14
- B. the First Baron's War
- C. the Hundred Years' War
- D. the War of the League of Cambrai

57. Which of the following made repeated efforts to negotiate a diplomatic resolution of World War I, including a seven-point peace plan in August of 1917?

- A. President Woodrow Wilson
- B. former President Theodore Roosevelt
- C. British cabinet member Winston Churchill
- D. Pope Benedict XV

58. Which of the following proved a major advantage in the American victory at the Battle of Midway?

- A. the breaking of one of the Japanese Navy's main naval codes
- B. the use of American nuclear weapons
- C. suicide attacks by American aviators
- D. the advanced technology of American aircraft carriers and fighter planes

59. The three elements of the 'Protracted War' model were key to the strategy of which of the following in the twentieth century?

- A. North Korea
- B. the Viet Cong
- C. the Zapatistas
- D. the Sandinistas

60. All of these nations saw regime change as a result of the Arab Spring in the 2010s EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. Iraq
- B. Yemen
- C. Libya
- D. Egypt

61. Revolt in the Desert is an abridged edition of the most famous work of which of the following?

- A. Gen. George Patton
- B. Col. T.E. Lawrence
- C. Gen. Dwight Eisenhower
- D. Gen. Bernard Montgomery

62. All of these ethnic groups were part of the Kenya Land and Freedom Army during the Mau Mau Uprising EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. Kikuyu
- B. Meru
- C. Embu
- D. Afar

63. Which of the following best characterizes the Philippines Campaign of 1941-42?

- A. Douglas MacArthur was able to successfully defend the Philippines against a Japanese invasion
- B. the US was able to liberate the Philippines from the Japanese immediately following the attack on Pearl Harbor
- C. the Philippines were immediately abandoned by Japan as part of their 'island hopping' strategy
- D. it is often considered the worst military defeat in American history

64. All of these opposed Paraguay in the War of the Triple Alliance EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. Argentina
- B. Brazil
- C. Cuba
- D. Uruguay

65. Which of the following is true of the Battle of Catalaunian Plains in 451 CE?

- A. it was a resounding victory for the Western Roman Empire and the Visigoths over the forces of Attila the Hun
- B. Attila was able to crush the Roman and Visigothic forces and take over most of the Western Empire
- C. Attila defeated the Romans and was able to undertake the first major sack of Rome
- D. contemporary sources and modern scholars disagree as to the exact outcome of the battle and whether or not it was a victory for the Huns or the Romans

66. Justification for the 2001 US invasion of Afghanistan was questioned under a test in international law named for what 1830s incident between the United States and Canada?

- A. the Slidell incident
- B. the Caroline affair

- C. the Trent affair
- D. the Chesapeake-Leopard incident

67. Richard Gatling is best known for his invention of which of the following?

- A. the repeating rifle
- B. the semi-automatic pistol
- C. the first successful machine gun
- D. the breech-loading rifle

68. Which of the following was the outcome of the Battle of Adwa in 1896?

- A. it was a victory over Italy that confirmed the independence of Ethiopia
- B. it ended the First Boer War and secured independence for the Transvaal Republic
- C. it was the final battle in the Canadian subjugation of the Metis
- D. it resulted in Bolivian independence

69. Which of the following is set during the Napoleonic Wars?

- A. Dr. Zhivago
- B. For Whom the Bell Tolls
- C. War and Peace
- D. The Charge of the Light Brigade

70. The Starfish Prime high-altitude nuclear test in 1962 was undertaken by the United States in an effort to study which of the following?

- A. anti-ballistic missile technology
- B. the effects of an electromagnetic pulse
- C. the technology of the Strategic Defense Initiative
- D. propulsion systems for future manned space flights

71. Which of the following used his own experiences as a prisoner of war to inform his writing about the bombing of Dresden in 1945 in his novel Slaughterhouse Five?

- A. Ernest Hemingway
- B. John Hersey
- C. John Dos Passos
- D. Kurt Vonnegut

72. All of these are true of the Treaty of Shimonoseki EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. it ended the Russo-Japanese War
- B. it guaranteed Korean independence from China
- C. it granted Japan control over Formosa
- D. it gave Japan most favored nation trading status in China

73. In 1645 the New Model Army dealt Charles I of England a crushing defeat at what battle fought in Northamptonshire?

- A. Stamford Bridge
- B. Taunton
- C. Naseby
- D. Oxford

74. The end of the siege of Jerusalem in 1099 resulted in which of the following?

- A. the calling of the Second Crusade
- B. the creation of the Christian Kingdom of Jerusalem
- C. a long-standing truce between Jews in Jerusalem and Muslims in the surrounding area
- D. the end of Byzantine occupation of Jerusalem

75. Constantine the Great defeated Maxentius at which 312 CE battle in Italy, thus paving the way for the end of the Tetrarchy?

- A. Battle of the Milvian Bridge
- B. Battle of the Hellespont
- C. Battle of Chrysopolis
- D. Battle of Tzirallum

**MS only**

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- A. World War II
- B. the Russian Revolution
- C. World War I
- D. the Crimean War

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- A. Athens
- B. Rome
- C. Egypt
- D. Carthage

56. Which English king was forced to sign the Magna Carta in part because of England's loss to France at the Battle of Bouvines?

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- B. Richard I
- C. Henry III
- D. Henry IV

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- C. Liberia
- D. Kenya

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- C. Cuba
- D. Uruguay

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- A. Hannibal
- B. Alaric
- C. Brennus of Gaul
- D. Attila the Hun

66. The Caroline test, which governs whether preemptive self-defense by nations is justified, called into question the legal basis for the US invasion of which of the following in the early 2000s?

- A. Panama
- B. Afghanistan
- C. Serbia
- D. Libya

- B. Constantius Chlorus
- C. Galerian
- D. Licinius

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- B. Libya
- C. the Transvaal Republic
- D. Somalia

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- A. World War II
- B. World War I
- C. the Napoleonic Wars
- D. the American Civil War

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- C. John Dos Passos
- D. Kurt Vonnegut

72. The Treaty of Shimonoseki ended which of the following conflicts?

- A. the First Sino-Japanese War
- B. the Russo-Japanese War
- C. the communist revolution in China
- D. the civil war between the Tokugawa and Meiji

73. In 1645 the New Model Army defeated the forces of which English king at the Battle of Naseby?

- A. George I
- B. George II
- C. Charles I
- D. William III

74. The First Crusade ended with which of the following?

- A. the death of Richard I
- B. the capture of Jerusalem and the Battle of Ascalon
- C. the surrender of Saladin
- D. the end of the Cathar heresy

75. Which of the following leaders defeated Maxentius at the Battle of the Milvian Bridge in 311 CE, which paved the way for the end of the Tetrarchy?

- A. Constantine the Great