

2021 US Geography Championships Elementary School Multiple Choice Examination - Part 1

Instructions – This portion of the multiple choice examination consists of 40 questions. You will receive two points for a correct answer. You will lose one point for an incorrect answer. Blank responses lose no points. Please fill in the bubbles completely on the answer sheet. You may write on the examination, but all responses must be bubbled on the answer sheet. All images are contained in the resource booklet. Diacritic marks such as accents have been omitted from place names and other proper nouns. You have one hour to complete both the written portion of the examination and this set of multiple choice questions.

Questions 1-6 are about the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

1. Which of the following is true of Rio de Janeiro?
A. it is the capital of Brazil
B. it is the most populous city in Brazil
C. it is the second most populous city in the Americas
D. the city has a population of roughly 6 million people and the greater metropolitan area roughly 12 million
2. All of these are true of the climate of Rio de Janeiro EXCEPT which of the following?
A. it experiences long periods of heavy rain between December and March
B. freezing temperatures happen most days in the winter
C. drought happens sometimes in Rio
D. average high temperatures are above 75 degrees Fahrenheit all year long
3. All of these are important landmarks in Rio EXCEPT which of the following?
A. Ipanema Beach
B. the statue of Cristo Redentor (Christ the Redeemer)
C. Azteca Stadium
D. Sugarloaf Mountain
4. All of these are true of Brazilian Carnival EXCEPT which of the following?
A. foreigners and tourists can never attend carnival
B. it is a celebration held just before the beginning of Lent
C. no carnivals were held during World War I, World War II or in 2021 because of Covid-19
D. samba schools help to organize and lead parades in Rio for carnival
5. Favelas are what kind of places in Rio and other cities in Brazil where hundreds of thousands of people live?
A. mansions
B. large, informal villages for low-income residents
C. university dorms
D. farms

6. Which of these is a serious environmental concern in Rio de Janeiro that was highlighted by the rowing competitions for the 2016 Summer Olympics?
A. air pollution from cars and industry
B. the effects of deforestation
C. water pollution in bays and lagoons
D. the die-off of local bird populations

Questions 7-12 are about the geography of earthquakes and volcanoes.

7. All of these are types of boundaries between tectonic plates EXCEPT which of the following?
A. crust
B. convergent
C. transform
D. divergent
8. How many major tectonic plates are there on the Earth?
A. 2
B. 3
C. 4
D. 7 or 8 depending on how they are defined
9. All of these occur along plate boundaries due to the motion of plates EXCEPT which of the following?
A. mountain formation
B. hurricane formation
C. oceanic trench formation
D. earthquakes
10. All of these are true of volcanoes EXCEPT which of the following?
A. most are found above ground as opposed to underwater
B. they are most often found at divergent or convergent plate boundaries
C. they can form from stretching or thinning of plates
D. they are usually not created when plates slide past each other
11. All of these are likely examples of volcanoes caused by hotspots (places where plates don't meet) EXCEPT which of the following?
A. Hawaii
B. Washington state
C. Iceland
D. Yellowstone National Park
12. Which of these is the term for the point on the Earth's surface directly above the point of origin of an earthquake?
A. gamma ray
B. delta
C. epicenter
D. fault plane

Questions 13-18 are about world languages.

13. Which world language is spoken by the most people in the world, including as a first or second language?

- A. Arabic
- B. English
- C. Farsi
- D. Hindi

14. All of these are languages in the Indo-European language family EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. Mandarin Chinese
- B. German
- C. French
- D. Hindi

15. Portuguese is the dominant language in all of these countries EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. Brazil
- B. Mozambique
- C. Angola
- D. Lebanon

16. Roughly how many people in the world speak Hindi as a native or first language?

- A. about 1 billion
- B. about 750 million
- C. about 350 million
- D. about 100 million

17. A majority of the native English speakers in the world live in which of the following countries?

- A. India
- B. the United States
- C. the United Kingdom
- D. Australia

18. Which of these nations has the largest number of living languages spoken within its borders?

- A. North Korea
- B. Iceland
- C. Papua New Guinea
- D. Malta

Questions 19-24 are about the jet stream and weather patterns.

19. On Earth, the main jet streams move in which of the following directions?

- A. west to east
- B. north to south
- C. south to north
- D. east to west

20. All of these are true of jet streams EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. the strongest jet streams are the polar jets
- B. the subtropical jets are at a higher altitude than the polar jets
- C. only the Southern Hemisphere has a polar jet
- D. meteorologists use jet stream location to aid in weather forecasting

21. What happens to hurricanes approaching Hawaii because of the jet stream?

- A. it makes every hurricane approaching Hawaii much stronger
- B. they are usually broken up by the subtropical jet stream near Hawaii and never make landfall on the islands
- C. hurricanes in the region of Hawaii are always weak and have no rainfall
- D. hurricanes near Hawaii have weak winds and travel at about three times normal speed

22. Which of these industries uses jet streams to make fuel costs lower and travel times shorter?

- A. mining
- B. farming
- C. interstate buses
- D. airlines

23. On Earth, most weather phenomena take place in which of the following regions of the atmosphere?

- A. troposphere
- B. stratosphere
- C. mesosphere
- D. thermosphere

24. All of these are responsible for causing jet streams EXCEPT for which of the following?

- A. atmospheric heating by solar radiation
- B. large-scale circulation cells like Hadley Cells
- C. hurricanes and tropical cyclones
- D. the action of the Coriolis force

The remaining questions on this part of the test will refer to pictures in the resource section.

Questions 25-34 refer to the image in the resource section of the examination. Some arrows may indicate more than one geographic feature.

25. Which number on this map shows the approximate location of the Equator?

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 5
- D. 8

26. Number 1 on the map shows a boundary between all of these tectonic plates EXCEPT which if the following?

- A. North American Plate
- B. Australian Plate
- C. Pacific Plate
- D. Eurasian Plate

27. Which of these shows the location of a convergent plate boundary?

- A. 3
- B. 4
- C. 5
- D. 6

28. All of these are part of the United States EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. 2

- B. 4
C. 5
D. 7
29. Which number indicates a location where the Tropic of Capricorn crosses Australian territory?
A. 8
B. 9
C. 10
D. 11
30. Which number does NOT indicate a national capital?
A. 7
B. 8
C. 9
D. 10
31. Which number on the map shows the location of the Mariana Trench?
A. 1
B. 3
C. 5
D. 6
32. Which of these is true of the location shown by number 12 on the map?
A. it is part of Indonesia
B. it is the nation of Timor-Leste (East Timor)
C. it is a French Overseas Department
D. it is Australian territory
33. Which of these is true of the location shown by number 13 on the map?
A. it is part of Indonesia
B. it is a Dutch territory
C. it is part of Papua New Guinea
D. it is a British territory
34. Number 8 on the map indicates what country?
A. Fiji
B. Tonga
C. Kiribati
D. New Zealand
- D. it is over 80 years
37. Which of the following is true of the population growth or decline in this nation?
A. the population is growing by about 5% per year
B. the population is remaining steady
C. the population is falling between 1% and 2% per year
D. the population is falling over 10% per year
38. Which one of these is NOT true about its population pyramid if a country has a rapidly growing population?
A. one side of the pyramid will be much wider than the other showing more of one gender than the other
B. the pyramid will be shaped like a triangle
C. the pyramid will have a large base
D. the top will be narrow because few people will reach old age
39. Which of the following would be true of the population pyramid of a city with a large military base?
A. it would have a large shift to the right, showing a much larger number of women than men
B. it would be shaped like a rectangle
C. it would have a bulge in the age ranges from 20 to 35 with a shift to the left indicating more men than women
D. it would have a much larger top than bottom
40. Which of the following countries is most likely represented by this population pyramid?
A. Japan
B. India
C. China
D. Canada

Questions 35-40 refer to the image in the resource section of the examination. This image shows a population pyramid of a certain nation in 2019.

35. Based on the information in the population pyramid, which of these is true?
A. a majority of the population is below the age of 10
B. there was a spike in birth rate in this country during the 1970s
C. roughly 70% of the population is above the age of 65
D. there is a heavy gender imbalance in this country, with about 2 men for every woman in the population
36. Which of these is true of the life expectancy of this country?
A. it is under 30 years
B. it is about 45 years
C. it is about 50 years