



American History Examination 5th and 6th Grade Division IAC Nationals 2026

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. The concept of Manifest Destiny in the 1840s expressed the belief that the United States should do which of these?
 - A. Expand its territory across all of North America
 - B. Spread democracy to Europe
 - C. Build the world's largest navy
 - D. Defeat England in a war
2. What Union general tried to break the morale of the Confederacy with his March to the Sea in 1864?
 - A. Ulysses Grant
 - B. George McClellan
 - C. James Garfield
 - D. William Sherman
3. President Harry Truman's decision to drop atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 was intended to do what?
 - A. Demonstrate American economic power to the Allies
 - B. Retaliate for the sinking of the USS Indianapolis
 - C. Destroy Germany's last military strongholds
 - D. Force Japan to surrender and end World War II quickly
4. Mary Harris 'Mother' Jones was a famous organizer fought for which of these groups?
 - A. poor farm women
 - B. Jewish immigrants
 - C. miners and other laborers
 - D. African American farmers in the South
5. Operation Husky was the 1943 Allied invasion of which of these?
 - A. Calais
 - B. Sicily
 - C. the Dalmatian Coast
 - D. Provence
6. Sharecropping after the Civil War typically resulted in what outcome for formerly enslaved Black farmers?
 - A. Financial independence within a few years
 - B. Equal pay compared to white farm workers
 - C. Permanent debt and economic dependency on white landowners
 - D. Ownership of the land they farmed
7. Which colony was founded by Roger Williams in 1636 as a haven for religious freedom after his exile from Massachusetts Bay?
 - A. New Hampshire
 - B. Connecticut
 - C. Rhode Island
 - D. Massachusetts
8. Which of these was NOT a part of the Iroquois Confederacy?
 - A. Mohawk
 - B. Navajo
 - C. Oneida
 - D. Seneca
9. Which ocean liner, sunk in 1915 by a German submarine, helped shift US public opinion against Germany?
 - A. RMS Lusitania
 - B. HMS Titanic
 - C. HMS Queen Victoria
 - D. SS Minnow
10. The UN Security Council approved military action by the US to defend which of these nations in 1950?
 - A. South Korea
 - B. Taiwan
 - C. Japan
 - D. The Philippines
11. Which of these was intended to prevent sex discrimination in education in the US?
 - A. Marbury v. Madison
 - B. Griswold v. Connecticut
 - C. Miranda v. Arizona
 - D. Title IX

12. The Pullman Strike of 1894 was a major labor conflict centered in what industry?

- A. Car manufacturing
- B. Steel
- C. Railroads
- D. Government workers

13. Which of these was most dependent on plantation agriculture using slaves to grow cash crops during the colonial period?

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

14. Which document, approved in 1887, broke up tribal lands and gave plots to individual Native American families?

- A. Dawes Act
- B. Volstead Act
- C. Indian Removal Act
- D. Homestead Act

15. The Compromise of 1850 included what provision that required Northern citizens to help capture and return escaped enslaved people?

- A. Fugitive Slave Act
- B. Kansas-Nebraska Act
- C. Nullification Act
- D. Missouri Compromise

16. The 13th Amendment to the Constitution, ratified in 1865, did which of these?

- A. Gave all men the right to vote
- B. Abolished slavery throughout the United States
- C. Gave women the right to vote
- D. Granted citizenship to formerly enslaved people

17. Which 1676 colonial uprising in Virginia resulted in the burning of Jamestown?

- A. King Philip's War
- B. Bacon's Rebellion
- C. Shays' Rebellion
- D. Pontiac's War

18. The scandal that led to President Nixon's resignation in 1974 began with a break-in at what location?

- A. The Pentagon in Washington, D.C.
- B. The White House Situation Room
- C. CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia
- D. Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate complex

19. The 17th Amendment resulted in Americans being able to directly elect which of the following?

- A. The President
- B. US Senators
- C. Supreme Court Justices
- D. Cabinet members

20. Which immigrant processing center in New York Harbor opened in 1892 to handle the massive wave of European migrants?

- A. Ellis Island
- B. Castle Garden
- C. Angel Island
- D. Battery Park

21. The Civil War ended and the Transcontinental Railroad was completed in what decade?

- A. 1860s
- B. 1870s
- C. 1880s
- D. 1890s

22. The Stamp Act of 1765, which taxed colonial newspapers and legal documents, led colonists to protest against taxation without which of these things?

- A. refunds
- B. representation
- C. results
- D. reason

23. Which of these became a symbol of women working in factories and industry during World War II?

- A. Vera for Victory
- B. Factory Frannie
- C. Betty the Builder
- D. Rosie the Riveter

24. Which amendment to the Constitution, ratified in 1919, banned the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages?

- A. 12th Amendment
- B. 15th Amendment
- C. 18th Amendment
- D. 22nd Amendment

25. Charles Lindbergh became an international celebrity for completing which of these in 1927?

- A. The first broadcast of a radio program in America
- B. The first automobile to drive coast to coast
- C. The first underwater crossing of the English Channel
- D. The first solo nonstop flight across the Atlantic

26. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was designed to protect which group's right to vote in Southern states?

- A. Native Americans living on reservations
- B. Women who had been denied ballots
- C. African Americans who faced discriminatory barriers
- D. Immigrants who had just become citizens

27. Thomas Edison patented which of these transformative inventions in 1879?

- A. Telephone
- B. Incandescent light bulb
- C. Steam engine
- D. Automobile

28. J.P. Morgan dominated which sector of the American economy in the late 19th and early 20th centuries?

- A. Oil
- B. Banking and finance
- C. Steamboats
- D. Military technology

29. Which 1960s law made it illegal to discriminate against people based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin?

- A. Fair Housing Act
- B. Equal Pay Act
- C. Civil Rights Act of 1964
- D. Immigration Act of 1965

30. Which nation did the United States go to war against in 1812, partly due to attacks on American ships?

- A. Great Britain
- B. Spain
- C. Canada
- D. France

31. Which colonial assembly, created in Virginia in 1619, was the first representative legislature in the American colonies?

- A. General Court
- B. House of Burgesses
- C. Continental Congress
- D. Mayflower Assembly

32. What was the main goal of the Freedmen's Bureau after the Civil War?

- A. Give freed people land in the West
- B. Create a new political party
- C. Help former slaves with things like food and education
- D. Punish former Confederate leaders

33. Which Supreme Court case of 1857 ruled that enslaved people were property, not citizens?

- A. Dred Scott v. Sandford
- B. Gibbons v. Ogden
- C. McCulloch v. Maryland
- D. Marbury v. Madison

34. The Interstate Commerce Act of 1887 was passed to regulate which transportation industry?

- A. Roads
- B. Oil pipelines
- C. Covered wagons
- D. Railroads

35. Which abolitionist published 'The Liberator,' an influential antislavery newspaper, starting in 1831?

- A. Harriet Beecher Stowe
- B. Sojourner Truth
- C. Frederick Douglass
- D. William Lloyd Garrison

36. Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were accused of giving which of these to the Soviets in the 1950s?

- A. secrets about nuclear weapons
- B. rocket technology
- C. lists of American spies
- D. plans for the Korean War

37. William Penn founded Pennsylvania as a haven for which English religious group?

- A. Catholics
- B. Quakers
- C. Anglicans
- D. Puritans

38. Which labor leader founded the American Federation of Labor in 1886?

- A. Samuel Gompers
- B. Henry Ford
- C. W.E.B. Du Bois
- D. Eugene V. Debs

39. Which of these was NOT an author of the Federalist Papers?

- A. Alexander Hamilton
- B. George Washington
- C. John Jay
- D. James Madison

40. Benedict Arnold became infamous during the American Revolution for doing what?

- A. Fleeing to France rather than face the British
- B. Surrendering his army to the British at Saratoga
- C. Betraying the American cause by plotting to surrender West Point to the British
- D. Refusing to attack the British at Bunker Hill

41. The Homestead Act of 1862 encouraged westward settlement by offering settlers what?

- A. Guaranteed prices for crops
- B. Free railroad tickets to the West
- C. 160 acres of public land
- D. Government loans for farming equipment

42. Journalist Ida Tarbell's famous 1904 investigation exposed the corrupt business practices of what major company?

- A. Standard Oil
- B. The Union Pacific Railroad
- C. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad
- D. The Bank of the United States

43. Which battle in October 1781 was the final major military engagement of the American Revolution?

- A. Battle of Bunker Hill
- B. Battle of Trenton
- C. Battle of Saratoga
- D. Battle of Yorktown

44. What was the significance of the trial of John Peter Zenger in 1735?

- A. It freed all slaves in the colonies
- B. It ended piracy along the Atlantic coast
- C. It established the tradition of freedom of the press
- D. It created the first colonial newspaper

45. The US and its allies mounted an airlift in 1948 and 1949 to do which of these?

- A. Transport soldiers to fight in Korea
- B. Rebuild the French economy after the war
- C. Supply West Berlin after the Soviet Union blockaded the city
- D. Bomb Soviet military bases in East Germany

46. Which of these current US states was an unrecognized 'republic' from January of 1777 to March of 1791 when it joined the Union?

- A. Kentucky
- B. Vermont
- C. West Virginia
- D. Delaware

47. President Andrew Jackson's fought a 'war' against what institution led by Nicholas Biddle?

- A. the New York Stock Exchange
- B. the House of Representatives
- C. the Supreme Court
- D. the Second Bank of the United States

48. What was the main purpose of the NAACP when it was founded in 1909?

- A. Establish Black-owned businesses across the country
- B. Promote immigration from Europe
- C. Fight for the civil rights of African Americans through political and legal action
- D. Create a political party for Black voters

49. The Marshall Plan, proposed in 1947, was designed to do what?

- A. Create a military alliance against the Soviet Union
- B. Rebuild European economies after World War II to prevent the spread of communism
- C. End the Korean War through diplomatic negotiations
- D. Establish the United Nations as a peacekeeping body

50. John Marshall established the power of judicial review in what landmark 1803 case?

- A. Dartmouth College v. Woodward
- B. Loving v. Virginia
- C. Marbury v. Madison
- D. Tinker v. Des Moines

51. Rosa Parks' arrest in Montgomery, Alabama in 1955 sparked a year-long boycott of which of these?

- A. The city bus system
- B. Segregated public schools
- C. White-owned department stores
- D. Public swimming pools

52. The Embargo Act of 1807 was passed under which US president?

- A. James Monroe
- B. James Madison
- C. Thomas Jefferson
- D. John Adams

53. The Constitutional Convention of 1787 created which important compromise regarding representation in Congress?

- A. New Jersey Plan
- B. 'Great Compromise'
- C. Virginia Plan
- D. Missouri Compromise

54. 'Yellow journalism', which was common in the 1890s and helped lead to the Spanish-American War, is best described by which of these?

- A. Sensational and exaggerated news coverage designed to sell papers
- B. Reporting only on government corruption
- C. Scientific journalism based on proven facts
- D. News coverage focused on financial markets

55. DeWitt Clinton, governor of New York, was the champion of which of these transportation projects in the 19th century?

- A. the National Road
- B. the Lancaster Turnpike
- C. the Transcontinental Railroad
- D. the Erie Canal

56. Which of these was defeated for the presidency by Franklin Roosevelt in 1932?

- A. Warren G. Harding
- B. Calvin Coolidge
- C. Herbert Hoover
- D. Harry S. Truman

57. What was the purpose of the Lend-Lease Act passed by Congress in 1941 before the US entered World War II?

- A. Supply weapons and materials to Allied nations fighting the Axis powers
- B. Create a national defense fund for American factories
- C. Draft American men into the military
- D. Send American troops to Europe as advisors

58. The Supreme Court's unanimous 1954 decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* ruled that what practice was unconstitutional?
- A. Housing discrimination in Northern cities
 - B. Poll taxes that prevented Black voters from voting
 - C. Laws requiring Black passengers to sit at the back of buses
 - D. Racial segregation in public schools
59. Francis Scott Key wrote *The Star-Spangled Banner* after the British attack on Fort McHenry in what American city?
- A. Charleston
 - B. Annapolis
 - C. Baltimore
 - D. Boston
60. Which Civil War battle in July 1863 is considered a turning point because it stopped a Confederate invasion of the North?
- A. Battle of Gettysburg
 - B. Battle of Vicksburg
 - C. Battle of Antietam
 - D. Battle of Chancellorsville

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.

What was the total population of the United States in the 1900 census?