



**Indian History, Geography, and Culture
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. Which Mughal emperor is known for his policy of religious tolerance called Sulh-i-Kul?

- A. Humayun
- B. Bahadur Shah Zafar
- C. Akbar the Great
- D. Babur

2. What empire, which flourished between the 14th and 17th centuries, had its capital at the present-day city of Hampi in Karnataka?

- A. Madurai
- B. Warangal
- C. Bijapur
- D. Vijayanagara

3. Which ancient Indian treatise on drama, dance, and music is attributed to the sage Bharata Muni?

- A. Yoga Sutra
- B. Natya Shastra
- C. Rigveda
- D. Ramayana

4. What empire was defeated by the British in 1818, giving the East India Company control over most of the interior of India?

- A. Maurya
- B. Maratha
- C. Gupta
- D. Delhi Sultanate

5. The Bollywood film Mughal-E-Azam, one of the most celebrated Indian films ever made, depicted the story of which Mughal prince?

- A. Salim, the future Emperor Jahangir
- B. Murad
- C. Dara Shikoh
- D. Farrukhsiyar

6. Ustad Bismillah Khan, who performed at India's independence celebration in 1947, was a legendary master of which instrument?

- A. Electric guitar
- B. Piano
- C. Shehnai
- D. Violin

7. The Hawa Mahal or 'the Palace of Winds', which has a distinctive pink honeycomb facade, is located in which Indian city?

- A. Mysuru
- B. Agra
- C. Udaipur
- D. Jaipur

8. Which medieval Indian poet is famous for devotional poems called bhajans and was the subject of a movie and television series both named *Meera*?

- A. Surdas
- B. Kalidasa
- C. Mirabai
- D. Tukaram

9. Which Indian river, considered the holiest in Hinduism, flows through the Gangetic Plain into the Bay of Bengal?

- A. Yamuna
- B. Ganga
- C. Brahmaputra
- D. Godavari

10. The Dandi March of 1930 was a protest against British taxation of which commodity?

- A. Indigo
- B. Salt
- C. Cotton
- D. Tea

11. The Brihadisvara Temple in Thanjavur, is a medieval Tamil temple dedicated to which Hindu deity?

- A. Vishnu
- B. Brahma
- C. Shiva
- D. Ganesh

12. P.V. Sindhu won a silver medal at the 2016 Olympics and a bronze in 2020 in which racket sport?

- A. Badminton
- B. Squash
- C. Tennis
- D. Table Tennis

13. Which classical Indian dance form, originating in Tamil Nadu, is performed by women in colorful silk costumes and elaborate jewelry?

- A. Bharatanatyam
- B. Bhangra
- C. Bihu
- D. Garba

14. The literary and intellectual movement in 19th century India that included figures like S.N. Bose and Rabindranath Tagore is known by which name?

- A. The Deccan Revival
- B. The Harlem Renaissance
- C. The Bombay School
- D. The Bengal Renaissance

15. R.K. Narayan's fictional town of Malgudi, the setting of many of his novels and stories, is located in which Indian state?

- A. Karnataka
- B. Odisha
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Tamil Nadu

16. Corbett National Park, established in the 1930s, contains the largest population in the country of what endangered mammal?

- A. Barking deer
- B. Bengal tiger
- C. Indian pangolin
- D. Gray mongoose

17. Which Indian leader drafted the country's constitution, which came into effect on January 26, 1950?

- A. Sardar Patel
- B. B.R. Ambedkar
- C. Lala Lajpat Rai
- D. Jawaharlal Nehru

18. When it was founded by Jamsetji Tata in the 19th century, the Tata Group was primarily involved in what business?

- A. Car manufacturing
- B. Railroads
- C. Road and building construction
- D. Cotton and textile manufacturing

19. Which Indian author wrote the epic novel 'A Suitable Boy,' one of the longest novels published in the English language?

- A. Amitav Ghosh
- B. Salman Rushdie
- C. Vikram Seth
- D. R.K. Narayan

20. Which powerful queen served as the de facto ruler of the Mughal Empire during the reign of her husband Emperor Jahangir?

- A. Razia Sultana
- B. Mumtaz Mahal
- C. Nur Jahan
- D. Jodha Bai

21. The Partition of Bengal by Lord Curzon sparked what movement in 1905 that partly involved spinning and weaving cloth at home?

- A. Swadeshi Movement
- B. Quit India Movement
- C. Khilafat Movement
- D. Non-Cooperation Movement

22. Which scientist founded the Atomic Energy Establishment, Trombay in 1954, and is considered the father of India's nuclear program?

- A. Homi Bhabha
- B. Vikram Sarabhai
- C. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
- D. P.C. Ray

23. Which state is India's largest by area and borders both Pakistan and China?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Madhya Pradesh

24. The Indian Institute of Technology, a network of premier engineering schools, was first established in which Indian state?

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Lucknow
- C. West Bengal
- D. Tamil Nadu

25. Which of these Himalayan peaks, located entirely within India, is the country's second highest mountain after Kanchenjunga?
- A. Kamet
 - B. Saltoro Kangri
 - C. Mana Peak
 - D. Nanda Devi
26. Indian-born astrophysicist Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1983 for his work on which topic?
- A. Quantum mechanics
 - B. Evolution and final stages of stars
 - C. Nuclear fusion reactions
 - D. Discovery of cosmic rays
27. Cherrapunji in Meghalaya is famous for receiving one of the highest amounts of which of these in the world?
- A. Snowfall
 - B. Rainfall
 - C. Earthquakes
 - D. Sunshine
28. Which city is the capital of Maharashtra?
- A. Nagpur
 - B. Pune
 - C. Mumbai
 - D. Hyderabad
29. Sundar Pichai is the current CEO of what major tech company?
- A. Anthropic
 - B. OpenAI
 - C. Google
 - D. Microsoft
30. Which Indian state in the northeast, sharing a border with both China and Bhutan, is famous for its monasteries and thangka paintings?
- A. Mizoram
 - B. Arunachal Pradesh
 - C. Meghalaya
 - D. Sikkim
31. Vinod Khosla was a co-founder of what major tech company that was acquired by Oracle in 2010?
- A. IBM
 - B. AMD
 - C. Sun Microsystems
 - D. Palantir
32. Which ancient Indian ruler, founder of a namesake dynasty, received help from the strategist Chanakya to build his empire?
- A. Chandragupta Maurya
 - B. Harsha
 - C. Samudragupta
 - D. Ashoka
33. Who wrote the Indian national anthem Jana Gana Mana, which was officially adopted at independence?
- A. Sarojini Naidu
 - B. Lala Lajpat Rai
 - C. Rabindranath Tagore
 - D. Subramania Bharati
34. The Ramayana tells the story of which prince's quest to rescue his wife Sita from the demon king Ravana?
- A. Bhima
 - B. Rama
 - C. Arjuna
 - D. Krishna
35. The Qutb Minar, the tallest brick minaret in the world, was built in which Indian city?
- A. Lahore
 - B. Lucknow
 - C. Agra
 - D. Delhi
36. Sachin Tendulkar, who scored 100 international centuries in cricket, is often called by which of these nicknames?
- A. Jumping Jack
 - B. The Fastest Bowler
 - C. The Spin Wizard
 - D. Master Blaster
37. Raja Ravi Varma was a notable figure in what art form in the late 19th and early 20th centuries?
- A. classical music
 - B. painting
 - C. poetry
 - D. dance
38. Which Indian space agency launched the Chandrayaan-1 mission to the Moon in 2008?
- A. ISRO
 - B. BARC
 - C. DRDO
 - D. NASA
39. The Deccan Plateau, which covers much of southern India, is bounded to the north by which mountain range?
- A. Khasi Hills
 - B. Western Ghats
 - C. Satpura Range
 - D. Eastern Ghats
40. Which former chairman of Wipro, one of the wealthiest men in the world, shifted the company from vegetable oil production to a tech company in the 1980s?
- A. Narayana Murthy
 - B. Azim Premji
 - C. Mukesh Ambani
 - D. Ratan Tata

41. Which Indian grandmaster, who learned chess at the age of six, became the youngest world chess champion at the time in 2000?

- A. Efim Geller
- B. Koneru Humpy
- C. Viswanathan Anand
- D. Anatoly Karpov

42. Which of these men is said to have founded Sikhism in the late 15th century?

- A. Guru Tegh Bahadur
- B. Guru Gobind Singh
- C. Guru Arjan Dev
- D. Guru Nanak

43. Which city, located on the banks of the Sabarmati River in Gujarat, was the home of Mahatma Gandhi's famous ashram?

- A. Surat
- B. Ahmedabad
- C. Rajkot
- D. Vadodara

44. Which ancient Indian mathematician is credited with approximating pi and describing the motions of the solar system?

- A. Aryabhata
- B. Baudhayana
- C. Bhaskara
- D. Brahmagupta

45. Which kingdom in South India, known for its bronze sculptures and temple architecture, ruled from the 9th to 13th centuries?

- A. Nanda
- B. Chola
- C. Rashtrakuta
- D. Pallava

46. Which Indian poet wrote Vande Mataram, which became a patriotic song of the independence movement?

- A. Andal
- B. Dinabandhu Mitra
- C. Subramania Bharati
- D. Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay

47. Which sacred Hindu text, part of the Upanishads, explores the philosophical concepts of Brahman and Atman?

- A. Bhagavad Gita
- B. Rig Veda
- C. Brihadaranyaka
- D. Puranas

48. The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre of 1919, in which British soldiers fired on a peaceful crowd, occurred in which Indian city?

- A. Hyderabad
- B. Lucknow
- C. Lahore
- D. Amritsar

49. The Jama Masjid mosque in Delhi, one of the largest mosques in India, was commissioned by which Mughal emperor?

- A. Shah Jahan
- B. Bahadur Shah Zafar
- C. Humayun
- D. Humayun

50. India's 2014 Mangalyaan mission made India the first Asian country to successfully orbit which planet?

- A. Mars
- B. Venus
- C. Saturn
- D. Jupiter

51. Which Indian revolutionary, executed at age 23 in 1931, became a symbol of youth resistance to British rule?

- A. Lala Lajpat Rai
- B. Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- C. Bhagat Singh
- D. Jawaharlal Nehru

52. The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, launched in 2014, aimed to provide financial services to which group of people?

- A. Unbanked and financially excluded citizens
- B. Foreign investors in India
- C. Wealthy farmers
- D. Urban professionals

53. Which Indian film, directed by Mira Nair in 1988, depicted the lives of street children in Mumbai and won the Camera d'Or at Cannes?

- A. Bandit Queen
- B. Salaam Bombay!
- C. Dil Chahta Hai
- D. Lagaan

54. Which Indian-American author wrote the novel *The Namesake*?

- A. Arundhati Roy
- B. Kiran Desai
- C. Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni
- D. Jhumpa Lahiri

55. Which Mughal emperor extended the empire to its greatest territorial extent in the 17th century?

- A. Babur
- B. Humayun
- C. Bahadur Shah Zafar
- D. Aurangzeb

56. Which great ancient Indian epic tells the story of the Pandava and Kaurava princes and includes the Bhagavad Gita?

- A. Cilappatikāram
- B. Mahabharata
- C. Paripaatal
- D. Ettuttokai

57. Which 3rd to 6th century CE Indian dynasty ushered in a 'Golden Age' of art, science, and literature?

- A. Gupta
- B. Nanda
- C. Pallava
- D. Maurya

58. Nalanda was an ancient center of learning known by what Sanskrit term?

- A. Wat
- B. Cetiya
- C. Mahavihara
- D. Gurdwara

59. Which Indian actress, considered a legendary figure in Bollywood, starred in classic films like Mughal-E-Azam and Mother India?

- A. Madhuri Dixit
- B. Hema Malini
- C. Smita Patil
- D. Nargis

60. Which Indian freedom fighter, known for the slogan 'Give me blood and I will give you freedom,' led the Indian National Army?

- A. Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- B. Chandra Shekhar Azad
- C. Lal Bahadur Shastri
- D. Subhas Chandra Bose

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.

According to Box Office India, how much did the highest grossing Bollywood film, Dangal, earn at the box office?