



**Indian History, Geography, and Culture
Examination
7th and 8th 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?
- Efim Geller
 - Koneru Humpy
 - Viswanathan Anand
 - Anatoly Karpov
42. Which of these men is said to have founded Sikhism in the late 15th century?
- Guru Tegh Bahadur
 - Guru Gobind Singh
 - Guru Arjan Dev
 - Guru Nanak
43. Which city, located on the banks of the Sabarmati River in Gujarat, was the home of Mahatma Gandhi's famous ashram?
- Surat
 - Ahmedabad
 - Rajkot
 - Vadodara
44. Which ancient Indian mathematician is credited with approximating pi and describing the motions of the solar system?
- Aryabhata
 - Baudhayana
 - Bhaskara
 - Brahmagupta
45. Which kingdom in South India, known for its bronze sculptures and temple architecture, ruled from the 9th to 13th centuries?
- Nanda
 - Chola
 - Rashtrakuta
 - Pallava
46. Which Indian poet wrote Vande Mataram, which became a patriotic song of the independence movement?
- Andal
 - Dinabandhu Mitra
 - Subramania Bharati
 - Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay
47. Which sacred Hindu text, part of the Upanishads, explores the philosophical concepts of Brahman and Atman?
- Bhagavad Gita
 - Rig Veda
 - Brihadaranyaka
 - Puranas
48. The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre of 1919, in which British soldiers fired on a peaceful crowd, occurred in which Indian city?
- Hyderabad
 - Lucknow
 - Lahore
 - Amritsar
49. The Jama Masjid mosque in Delhi, one of the largest mosques in India, was commissioned by which Mughal emperor?
- Shah Jahan
 - Bahadur Shah Zafar
 - Humayun
 - Humayun
50. India's 2014 Mangalyaan mission made India the first Asian country to successfully orbit which planet?
- Mars
 - Venus
 - Saturn
 - Jupiter
51. Which Indian revolutionary, executed at age 23 in 1931, became a symbol of youth resistance to British rule?
- Lala Lajpat Rai
 - Bal Gangadhar Tilak
 - Bhagat Singh
 - Jawaharlal Nehru
52. The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, launched in 2014, aimed to provide financial services to which group of people?
- Unbanked and financially excluded citizens
 - Foreign investors in India
 - Wealthy farmers
 - 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?
- Bandit Queen
 - Salaam Bombay!
 - Dil Chahta Hai
 - Lagaan
54. Which Indian-American author wrote the novel *The Namesake*?
- Arundhati Roy
 - Kiran Desai
 - Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni
 - 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

61. What future UK Prime Minister was a member of the Simon Commission, sent to India in 1928 to review constitutional reforms?

- A. Clement Attlee
- B. David Lloyd George
- C. Margaret Thatcher
- D. Lord North

62. Which musician is known as the 'Queen of Melody' and recorded thousands of songs across decades of Bollywood films?

- A. Lata Mangeskar
- B. Geeta Dutt
- C. Asha Bhosle
- D. S.D. Burman

63. Which medieval Indian queen of the Jhansi kingdom became a symbol of resistance against British colonial rule?

- A. Hamida Banu
- B. Ahilyabai Holkar
- C. Rani Lakshmibai
- D. Rani Durgavati

64. Which Mughal emperor, who wrote detailed memoirs called the Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri, was famous for his love of painting?

- A. Bahadur Shah Zafar
- B. Humayun
- C. Farrukhsiyar
- D. Jahangir

65. Which Indian city hosted the G20 Summit in September 2023, showcasing India's role as a global economic power?

- A. Kolkata
- B. New Delhi
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Chennai

66. Which religion, originating in ancient India, teaches the concept of ahimsa and the liberation of the soul from karma?

- A. Hinduism
- B. Jainism
- C. Buddhism
- D. Sikhism

67. The Carnatic music tradition is primarily practiced in which part of India?

- A. Western India
- B. Southern India
- C. Eastern India
- D. Northern India

68. The Laccadive Sea lies to the west of which group of Indian islands?

- A. Lakshadweep
- B. Minicoy Islands
- C. Nicobar Islands
- D. Andaman Islands

69. Which of these rivers, originating from the Brahmagiri Hills in the Western Ghats, is called the 'Ganga of the South'?

- A. Cauvery
- B. Tungabhadra
- C. Godavari
- D. Krishna

70. Which Indian leader, known as the 'Iron Man of India,' was responsible for integrating the princely states into the Indian Union?

- A. Lala Lajpat Rai
- B. Jawaharlal Nehru
- C. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- D. Bipin Chandra Pal

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?