



World Geography 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. What volcanic peak that dominates the skyline of Tanzania is the highest mountain in Africa?
 - A. Mount Kenya
 - B. Mount Kilimanjaro
 - C. Mount Elgon
 - D. Ras Dashen
2. Which of these best describes a monsoon climate?
 - A. A climate with constant rainfall spread evenly throughout the year
 - B. A climate with seasonal reversals in wind direction that bring heavy rains in summer
 - C. A climate dominated by cold polar air masses year-round
 - D. A climate marked by extremely dry conditions and high temperatures
3. What ancient trade route connected China to the Mediterranean world across Central Asia?
 - A. The Amber Way
 - B. The Spice Trail
 - C. The Silk Road
 - D. The Incense Highway
4. What mountain range forms a natural border between France and Spain?
 - A. Pyrenees
 - B. Urals
 - C. Apennines
 - D. Carpathians
5. Which city serves as the capital of Kenya?
 - A. Mombasa
 - B. Kampala
 - C. Dar es Salaam
 - D. Nairobi
6. Which of the following Great Lakes drains into the Atlantic Ocean via the St. Lawrence River?
 - A. Lake Ontario
 - B. Lake Michigan
 - C. Lake Superior
 - D. Lake Erie
7. Which of these Central American nations is the only one that does NOT have a Pacific Ocean coastline?
 - A. Guatemala
 - B. Honduras
 - C. Belize
 - D. Nicaragua
8. The ancient Inca city of Machu Picchu is located in the mountains of which of the following countries?
 - A. Bolivia
 - B. Colombia
 - C. Ecuador
 - D. Peru
9. Portuguese is the official language of which of the following South American nations?
 - A. Chile
 - B. Brazil
 - C. Colombia
 - D. Uruguay
10. The Great Dividing Range runs along the eastern coast of which of the following continents?
 - A. Asia
 - B. South America
 - C. Africa
 - D. Australia
11. Which of the following is the longest river in Africa?
 - A. Zambezi River
 - B. Niger River
 - C. Nile River
 - D. Limpopo River

12. The Gobi Desert stretches across parts of which two nations?

- A. China and Mongolia
- B. India and Pakistan
- C. Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan
- D. Iran and Afghanistan

13. Which of the following nations is home to Angkor Wat, the largest religious monument in the world?

- A. Thailand
- B. Vietnam
- C. Laos
- D. Cambodia

14. Which of these is the longest river in Europe?

- A. Rhine
- B. Danube
- C. Volga
- D. Loire

15. Which of the following nations is entirely surrounded by South Africa?

- A. Swaziland
- B. Lesotho
- C. Namibia
- D. Botswana

16. Which of these cities is the capital of Austria?

- A. Zurich
- B. Vienna
- C. Prague
- D. Budapest

17. What high-altitude plateau in the Andes Mountains, shared by Peru and Bolivia, is home to Lake Titicaca?

- A. Patagonian Plateau
- B. Llanos
- C. Cerrado
- D. Altiplano

18. The Galápagos Islands, famous for inspiring Charles Darwin's theory of evolution, belong to which of the following nations?

- A. Ecuador
- B. Colombia
- C. Peru
- D. Chile

19. The Mississippi River empties into which of the following bodies of water?

- A. Atlantic Ocean
- B. Gulf of Mexico
- C. Hudson Bay
- D. Caribbean Sea

20. What term describes a narrow strip of land that connects two larger landmasses?

- A. Peninsula
- B. Archipelago
- C. Isthmus
- D. Strait

21. What large body of water lies between Africa's eastern coast and the island of Madagascar?

- A. Gulf of Guinea
- B. Red Sea
- C. Mozambique Channel
- D. Bab-el-Mandeb Strait

22. Which of the following seas is located between Japan and the Korean Peninsula?

- A. Philippine Sea
- B. East China Sea
- C. Andaman Sea
- D. Sea of Japan

23. Which of the following nations is NOT a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council?

- A. Uzbekistan
- B. Russia
- C. China
- D. France

24. The Strait of Dover, the narrowest point between Britain and continental Europe, separates England from which of the following nations?

- A. Belgium
- B. Netherlands
- C. France
- D. Germany

25. Which of the following is the most populous city in Africa?

- A. Nairobi
- B. Johannesburg
- C. Cairo
- D. Lagos

26. What large peninsula in southeastern Mexico is surrounded on three sides by the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea?

- A. Baja California Peninsula
- B. Yucatán Peninsula
- C. Florida Peninsula
- D. Olympic Peninsula

27. What is the name of the large tropical grassland region of central Brazil?

- A. Pampas
- B. Cerrado
- C. Caatinga
- D. Pantanal

28. Which of the following best describes a landlocked country?

- A. A country that is entirely surrounded by land with no access to an ocean
- B. A country that is an island with no land borders
- C. A country that shares a border with at least one ocean
- D. A country that spans two or more continents

29. The official residence of the Canadian prime minister is located at 24 Sussex Drive in what city?

- A. Ottawa
- B. Toronto
- C. Quebec City
- D. Vancouver

30. The Plaza de Mayo is the main square in what major city of Argentina?

- A. Santiago
- B. Lima
- C. Montevideo
- D. Buenos Aires

31. Which of the following African countries contains the continent's largest tropical rainforest?

- A. Namibia
- B. Morocco
- C. Democratic Republic of the Congo
- D. South Africa

32. Which of the following is the capital city of the Philippines?

- A. Cebu
- B. Davao
- C. Manila
- D. Quezon City

33. Which of these nations is the most densely populated, with over 8,000 people per square kilometer?

- A. Singapore
- B. Bangladesh
- C. South Korea
- D. Japan

34. Which of the following European nations contains the most active volcanoes?

- A. Greece
- B. Iceland
- C. Italy
- D. Portugal

35. What body of water lies between the Arabian Peninsula and the African continent?

- A. Caspian Sea
- B. Persian Gulf
- C. Red Sea
- D. Yellow Sea

36. The Panama Canal, an important shortcut for global shipping, connects which two bodies of water?

- A. Atlantic and Pacific Oceans
- B. Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico
- C. Pacific Ocean and Amazon River
- D. Gulf of Guinea and Pacific Ocean

37. Which of the following South American countries does NOT border the Pacific Ocean?

- A. Ecuador
- B. Chile
- C. Peru
- D. Paraguay

38. The Māori are the indigenous inhabitants of which of the following?

- A. Hawai'i
- B. New Zealand
- C. Japan
- D. Indonesia

39. What type of landform is an atoll?

- A. A volcanic peak that rises from the ocean floor
- B. A ring-shaped coral reef enclosing a lagoon
- C. A continental shelf exposed at low tide
- D. A deep ocean trench formed at subduction zones

40. Which of these is a major landmark in Paris?

- A. The Hermitage Museum
- B. The Vatican Museum
- C. The Prado
- D. The Louvre

41. Lake Victoria, the largest lake in Africa, is shared by which three nations?

- A. Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia
- B. Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania
- C. Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe
- D. Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad

42. What of these is the term for the movement of people from rural areas to cities?

- A. Suburbanization
- B. Urbanization
- C. Gentrification
- D. Emigration

43. Which of the following best describes a barrier island?

- A. a landform created by volcanism
- B. an island inhabited by only flora and fauna
- C. a constantly changing deposit of sand that forms parallel to the coastline
- D. an artificial wall built to protect a settlement from high tides

44. What small principality entirely surrounded by France and Spain is found in the eastern Pyrenees?
- Monaco
 - San Marino
 - Liechtenstein
 - Andorra
45. The Yangtze River, the longest river in Asia, empties into what body of water?
- South China Sea
 - Yellow Sea
 - East China Sea
 - Bay of Bengal
46. What of these languages is spoken by the largest number of people in Mexico?
- English
 - French
 - Nahuatl
 - Spanish
47. Angel Falls, the world's highest uninterrupted waterfall, is located in which of the following countries?
- Venezuela
 - Brazil
 - Colombia
 - Guyana
48. Which of the following best describes the term 'deforestation' as it relates to human geography?
- The clearance of forests by humans for agriculture, logging, or development
 - The replanting of trees in areas previously cleared of forest
 - The natural process by which trees die and decompose over centuries
 - A government program to protect endangered tree species
49. Climate inertia means that changes like lowering greenhouse gas emissions will have which of the following effects on the global climate?
- no effect at all
 - a very slow and gradual effect
 - a very rapid and profound effect
 - it will affect air quality, but global heating will not be affected
50. What term describes a body of water that has no outlet to the sea, causing salts and minerals to accumulate over time?
- Fjord
 - Lagoon
 - Endorheic basin
 - Estuary
51. What large island off the southeast coast of Africa is known for its unique biodiversity, including many species found nowhere else on Earth?
- Réunion
 - Mauritius
 - Zanzibar
 - Madagascar
52. What South Asian nation has the world's largest diaspora with over 15.5 million people living outside the country?
- Sri Lanka
 - India
 - Bangladesh
 - Pakistan
53. Which of these is the closest to the amount of global sea level rise since the early 1990s?
- 1 inch (2.5cm)
 - 3 inches (7.5cm)
 - 6 inches (15cm)
 - 1 foot (30cm)
54. Melting of snow and ice cover amplifies global heating due to which of these effects?
- the albedo effect
 - carbon trapping
 - evaporative cooling
 - intensification of the jet stream
55. A reduction in global temperatures caused by volcanic ash in the atmosphere due to an eruption is referred to as which of the following?
- summer solstice
 - global dimming
 - volcanic winter
 - solar eclipse
56. Which of the following Caribbean islands is NOT part of the Greater Antilles?
- Cuba
 - Jamaica
 - Puerto Rico
 - Barbados
57. What large wetland ecosystem straddling the borders of Brazil, Bolivia, and Paraguay is considered the world's largest tropical wetland?
- Cerrado
 - Amazon Basin
 - Llanos
 - Pantanal
58. Which of the following climate zones is found directly north and south of the tropical rainforest, characterized by a wet and dry season?
- Mediterranean
 - Subarctic
 - Tropical savanna
 - Humid continental

59. Which of these correctly describes the rain shadow effect?

- A. Increased rainfall on the windward side of a mountain range
- B. Reduced rainfall on the leeward side of a mountain range
- C. Rainfall that forms in tropical zones near the equator
- D. Heavy rainfall caused by cold ocean currents meeting warm air

60. A delta is best defined as which of the following?

- A. A fan-shaped landform created where a river deposits sediment at its mouth
- B. A deep canyon carved by a river over millions of years
- C. A wide, flat valley floor formed by a meandering river
- D. A type of coastal cliff formed by wave erosion

61. Which of the following West African countries was founded in 1847 as a home for freed American slaves?

- A. Sierra Leone
- B. Guinea-Bissau
- C. Liberia
- D. Senegal

62. Many prominent glacial landforms can be found in which of the following areas?

- A. the Iberian Peninsula
- B. the Fennoscandian Peninsula
- C. the Arabian Peninsula
- D. the Gallipoli Peninsula

63. Which of the following best describes the term hearth in geography?

- A. a region in which ideas originate
- B. a region that is sparsely populated
- C. a region that conquers another region
- D. a region in which environmental degradation has occurred

64. Which of the following best describes the concept of relative location?

- A. the name of a specific location
- B. the arrangement of a specific location
- C. the location of something as it relates to surrounding features
- D. the location of a newly formed community

65. The concentric zone model uses what shape to model the evolution of urban social structures?

- A. circles
- B. squares
- C. trapezoids
- D. parallelograms

66. Which of the following is the most commonly spoken native language in Europe?

- A. German
- B. French
- C. English
- D. Russian

67. What is the name for the boundary between two tectonic plates where they move apart from each other?

- A. Subduction zone
- B. Transform fault
- C. Divergent boundary
- D. Convergent boundary

68. Which of the following correctly describes the concept of a time zone?

- A. A region with the same standard time, typically divided by every 15 degrees of longitude
- B. A region with uniform rainfall and temperature patterns
- C. A zone between the tropics where the sun is directly overhead at noon
- D. An area of the ocean designated for international shipping

69. Which of the following is the capital city of Papua New Guinea?

- A. Suva
- B. Honiara
- C. Apia
- D. Port Moresby

70. What imaginary line at 0° latitude divides Earth into the Northern and Southern hemispheres?

- A. Prime Meridian
- B. Tropic of Capricorn
- C. Equator
- D. International Date Line

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 2024 estimates, what is the population of Macau?