



World 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. What Scandinavian seafarers and traders, known for their longships, raided European coastlines from the 8th to 11th centuries?

- A. Vikings
- B. Franks
- C. Huns
- D. Goths

2. Which of these West African empires gained wealth in the gold and salt trade across the Sahara and was led in the 14th century by Mansa Musa?

- A. Ghana Empire
- B. Songhai Empire
- C. Kanem-Bornu
- D. Mali Empire

3. Which of these was discovered in 1938 in Saudi Arabia and helped to transform its economy?

- A. Gold
- B. Oil
- C. Uranium
- D. Lithium

4. What 1919 treaty formally ended World War I and imposed harsh penalties on Germany, including war reparations?

- A. Treaty of Westphalia
- B. Geneva Conventions
- C. Treaty of Versailles
- D. Congress of Vienna

5. The African Union, founded in 2002, has its permanent headquarters in which Ethiopian city?

- A. Nairobi
- B. Cairo
- C. Lagos
- D. Addis Ababa

6. Canada, Mexico, and the United States created a free trade zone in 1994 under what agreement, later renegotiated as the USMCA in 2020?

- A. CARICOM
- B. NAFTA
- C. TPP
- D. SEATO

7. South Africa's policy of apartheid, which enforced strict racial segregation, was officially abolished in what decade?

- A. 1960s
- B. 1970s
- C. 1980s
- D. 1990s

8. Which Spanish conquistador defeated the Aztec Empire between 1519 and 1521, aided by indigenous allies and deadly European diseases?

- A. Hernán Cortés
- B. Francisco Pizarro
- C. Juan Ponce de León
- D. Vasco Núñez de Balboa

9. Which of these, now an independent nation, was ceded to the US following the Spanish-American War?

- A. Puerto Rico
- B. The Philippines
- C. Guam
- D. Marshall Islands

10. Which South American empire, centered in Cusco, Peru, built Machu Picchu and a 25,000-mile road network through the Andes?

- A. Aztec
- B. Olmec
- C. Inca
- D. Chimú

11. The Battle of the Horns of Hattin in 1187, a victory for Saladin, resulted in Christians starting which of these conflicts in 1189?

- A. Third Crusade
- B. Children's Crusade
- C. People's Crusade
- D. First Crusade

12. Fidel Castro overthrew the government of Fulgencio Batista in 1959 and transformed which Caribbean island into a communist state?

- A. Jamaica
- B. Haiti
- C. Cuba
- D. Dominican Republic

13. The Zhou dynasty in China used the Mandate of Heaven for which of these purposes?

- A. To organize social classes
- B. To encourage charity in society
- C. To build large monuments
- D. To justify their political power

14. The encomienda system was used extensively in New World colonies by what European power?

- A. Portugal
- B. Spain
- C. England
- D. France

15. Which Renaissance artist and inventor, born in Italy in 1452, painted both the Mona Lisa and The Last Supper?

- A. Donatello
- B. Raphael
- C. Leonardo da Vinci
- D. Michelangelo

16. The brutal Khmer Rouge regime, which killed an estimated 2 million people in the 1970s, ruled which Southeast Asian country?

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

17. Which of these countries nationalized the Suez Canal in 1956?

- A. Saudi Arabia
- B. Israel
- C. Egypt
- D. Syria

18. What 18th century European intellectual movement promoted reason, individual rights, and religious tolerance, and influenced both the American and French Revolutions?

- A. Enlightenment
- B. Renaissance
- C. Romanticism
- D. Great Awakening

19. The rule of Shaka Zulu coincided with what period of warfare and chaos in Southern Africa?

- A. 'The Troubles'
- B. Mfecane
- C. 'The Golden Age'
- D. 'The Conquest'

20. Narendra Modi won a third term as prime minister of India in 2024, leading which political party?

- A. AAP
- B. Indian National Congress
- C. Samajwadi Party
- D. BJP

21. What king is best known for creating the Korean alphabet and sponsoring the science and arts?

- A. Sansang
- B. Geun Chogo
- C. Soji maripgan
- D. Sejong the Great

22. The Monroe Doctrine of 1823 warned European powers not to establish new colonies or interfere with independent nations in which region?

- A. Sub-Saharan Africa
- B. The Western Hemisphere
- C. Southeast Asia
- D. The Middle East

23. What communist leader proclaimed the People's Republic of China on October 1, 1949?

- A. Deng Xiaoping
- B. Zhou Enlai
- C. Lin Biao
- D. Mao Zedong

24. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, known as 'Lula,' returned to the presidency of Brazil in 2023 after defeating which incumbent?

- A. Jair Bolsonaro
- B. Fernando Haddad
- C. Dilma Rousseff
- D. Michel Temer

25. Vladimir Lenin led the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia in 1917, overthrowing the tsar and creating the first government of what type?

- A. Fascist
- B. Democratic republic
- C. Communist
- D. Constitutional monarchy

26. Prior to invading England in 1066, William the Conqueror was the ruler of which of these?

- A. Sicily
- B. Brittany
- C. Aquitaine
- D. Normandy

27. Islam, which began in the Arabian Peninsula in the 7th century CE, is based on the teachings of which prophet?

- A. Joseph
- B. Muhammad
- C. Abraham
- D. Isaac

28. What powerful ancient city-state in North Africa, founded by Phoenicians, fought three great wars against Rome from the 3rd to the 2nd century BCE?

- A. Carthage
- B. Alexandria
- C. Leptis Magna
- D. Cyrene

29. Which Frankish king was crowned Holy Roman Emperor by Pope Leo III on Christmas Day 800 CE?

- A. Charlemagne
- B. Clovis
- C. Pepin the Short
- D. Charles Martel

30. The publication of *On the Origin of Species* by Charles Darwin is considered the foundation of what scientific discipline?

- A. Organic chemistry
- B. Taxonomy
- C. Evolutionary biology
- D. Microbiology

31. What 1494 treaty, negotiated by Pope Alexander VI, divided the newly discovered non-European world between Spain and Portugal?

- A. Treaty of Westphalia
- B. Treaty of Tordesillas
- C. Treaty of Nice
- D. Treaty of Utrecht

32. Luddites targeted which of these in England in the early 19th century?

- A. Railroads
- B. Steel mills
- C. Textile mills
- D. Steamboats

33. Which Mongol ruler founded the Yuan dynasty after conquering China in the 13th century?

- A. Arik Boke
- B. Timur
- C. Zhenjin
- D. Kublai Khan

34. Baghdad became the world's largest city and a center of science and philosophy under which Islamic caliphate during the 8th and 9th centuries?

- A. Fatimid
- B. Seljuk
- C. Umayyad
- D. Abbasid

35. Sékou Touré led which former French colony in Africa to vote for complete independence in 1958?

- A. Guinea
- B. Democratic Republic of the Congo
- C. Kenya
- D. Tanzania

36. Which ancient dynasty first unified China in 221 BCE and began construction of the Great Wall?

- A. Zhou
- B. Tang
- C. Qin
- D. Han

37. The Bessemer process, patented by an Englishman in the 1850s, was key to the mass production of which of these?

- A. Coal
- B. Iron
- C. Gold
- D. Steel

38. Which Nigerian author wrote 'Things Fall Apart' in 1958, a novel widely considered the foundation of modern African literature in English?

- A. Chinua Achebe
- B. Ngugi wa Thiong'o
- C. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- D. Wole Soyinka

39. In the 1980s, China adopted an economic system best described by what term?

- A. Free-market capitalism
- B. Market socialism
- C. Anarchism
- D. Imperialism

40. East German authorities built a wall in 1961 that divided which European city between communist East and democratic West?

- A. Frankfurt
- B. Bonn
- C. Munich
- D. Berlin

41. Which of these was the last Muslim stronghold to fall to the Spanish in 1492 marking the end of the Reconquista?

- A. Lisbon
- B. Madrid
- C. Barcelona
- D. Granada

42. The Ottoman Empire, which ruled much of the Middle East, North Africa, and southeastern Europe for 600 years, had its capital in which city?

- A. Constantinople
- B. Baghdad
- C. Tehran
- D. Cairo

43. The Spanish Armada of 1588 was defeated during the reign of which English monarch?
- A. Henry VIII
 - B. Elizabeth I
 - C. Mary I
 - D. James I
44. Which of the following was invaded by Nazi Germany on September 1, 1939?
- A. Poland
 - B. Belgium
 - C. Spain
 - D. France
45. The United Nations, founded following World War II, has its headquarters in what city?
- A. London
 - B. Paris
 - C. New York City
 - D. Rome
46. Josip Broz Tito ruled which of these nations from 1953 until his death?
- A. Romania
 - B. Yugoslavia
 - C. Bulgaria
 - D. Turkey
47. What party dominated Mexican politics throughout most of the 20th century?
- A. PRI
 - B. PAN
 - C. PDR
 - D. MORENA
48. King John of England was forced to sign what significant document at Runnymede in 1215?
- A. Declaration of Rights
 - B. The Constitution of 1215
 - C. Magna Carta
 - D. Twelve Tables
49. Pedro Álvares Cabral landed in what is now Brazil in 1500 and claimed it for which European country?
- A. England
 - B. Spain
 - C. France
 - D. Portugal
50. Which of these best describes the sepoys who sparked a revolt in India in 1857?
- A. Indian men selected to serve in the colonial government
 - B. British officers sent to India to train soldiers
 - C. Indian soldiers in the British army
 - D. laborers of British descent born in India
51. Shinto, the native religion of Japan, involves the worship of spirits called kami associated with which of the following?
- A. Art and literature
 - B. Nature, ancestors, and sacred places
 - C. Sacred texts and law
 - D. Ancestral scripture
52. The 'Black Death' of the 14th century, which killed roughly a third of Europe's population, was caused by which disease?
- A. Cholera
 - B. Bubonic Plague
 - C. Smallpox
 - D. Typhus
53. The Cold War doctrine of Mutually Assured Destruction said that a nuclear attack by either the US or Soviet Union would result in which of these?
- A. The attacker would win quickly
 - B. A long conventional war
 - C. A limited regional conflict
 - D. The total destruction of both sides
54. What wall, built by a Roman Emperor in the 2nd century CE, served as the northern frontier of Roman Britain by separating it from Scotland?
- A. Hadrian's Wall
 - B. Antonine Wall
 - C. Offa's Dyke
 - D. Appian Way
55. What medieval empire based in Sumatra dominated the spice trade through the Strait of Malacca from the 7th to the 11th centuries?
- A. Majapahit
 - B. Champa
 - C. Khmer
 - D. Srivijaya
56. Which of the following was the target of both Great Britain and Russia in the 'Great Game' of the 19th century?
- A. The US
 - B. Australia
 - C. China
 - D. Afghanistan
57. Japan was governed by a series of military rulers called shoguns for centuries until what 1868 event?
- A. Qing invasion
 - B. Boxer Rebellion
 - C. Meiji Restoration
 - D. The arrival of the Black Ships
58. Japan's full-scale invasion of China began in 1937 with an incident at which bridge near Beijing?
- A. Golden Gate Bridge
 - B. Henan Bridge
 - C. Marco Polo Bridge
 - D. Dragon Bridge

59. Nelson Mandela spent 27 years in prison on Robben Island before being released in 1990 and becoming president of which country?

- A. Zambia
- B. South Africa
- C. Zimbabwe
- D. Mozambique

60. The Durand Line was established in 1893 as the international border between which two modern nations?

- A. Afghanistan and Pakistan
- B. Pakistan and India
- C. India and China
- D. China and Nepal

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.

How long in miles is the international border established by Durand Line established in 1893?