

The United States Geography Olympiad 2015-2016 National Qualifying Exam – B Set Version

NAME: _____ SCHOOL: _____

Birthdate & Year: _____

Instructions: Circle the correct answer or leave it blank. Correct answers are worth 2 points. Incorrect answers are -1 point. Questions left blank are worth 0 points.

- 1) According to *The Economist's* publication "The World in 2016", which country is projected to have the world's highest economic growth rate in 2016?
 - a) Syria
 - b) Greece
 - c) Laos
 - d) Russia

- 2) This question was written in a plane directly above Jeju, a subtropical island that's a popular vacation spot in which country?
 - a) Zambia
 - b) South Korea
 - c) Bhutan
 - d) Monaco

- 3) In which of the four following US states have the fewest executions occurred since the year 2000?
 - a) Oklahoma
 - b) Virginia
 - c) Florida
 - d) New York

- 4) "46ers" are people who have climbed 46 mountains thought to be over 4000 feet tall in the High Peaks Region of which Eastern state?
 - a) Connecticut
 - b) Massachusetts
 - c) New York
 - d) New Jersey

- 5) Which is a line of longitude?
 - a) Tropic of Capricorn
 - b) Arctic Circle
 - c) Prime Meridian
 - d) 38th Parallel

- 6) Throughout 2015, which country's head of state has been most opposed to Bashar Assad remaining in power in Syria?
- a) Russia
 - b) Iran
 - c) Turkey
 - d) Mongolia
- 7) When NORAD tracks Santa and claims that he's visiting the good children of Tristan da Cunha island, then his sleigh is in the middle of which ocean?
- a) Atlantic
 - b) Pacific
 - c) Indian
 - d) Arctic
- 8) What is the majority religion of Bangladesh?
- a) Islam
 - b) Hinduism
 - c) Jainism
 - d) Sikhism
- 9) Which of the following US places would most properly be considered "exurbs"?
- a) Detroit, MI and Buffalo, NY
 - b) Barrow, AK and Hilo, HI
 - c) Beverly Hills, CA and Bethesda, MD
 - d) Tracy, CA and Edison, NJ
- 10) Raynell wants to go river rafting in Africa. Which waterway should he rule out immediately from his travel plans?
- a) Congo River
 - b) Zambezi River
 - c) Orange River
 - d) Yellow River
- 11) If that dastardly Carmen Sandiego really did steal the beans in Lima, then she committed a crime where?
- a) The capital of Peru
 - b) The largest city by population in Argentina
 - c) The oldest city in Mexico
 - d) The only predominantly French speaking major city in South America

- 12) In which region have average temperatures warmed the most over the past 50 years?
- a) Southern Europe
 - b) Africa
 - c) Central America
 - d) The Arctic
- 13) Which country's territory was never conquered by the Roman Empire?
- a) Portugal
 - b) Lebanon
 - c) Poland
 - d) Switzerland
- 14) Which country's economy is most dependent on copper mining?
- a) St. Kitts and Nevis
 - b) Ireland
 - c) Chile
 - d) Bahrain
- 15) A trip on the interstate I-90 from end to end would NOT pass through which state?
- a) New York
 - b) Washington
 - c) Colorado
 - d) Massachusetts
- 16) During 2015, which of the following countries saw the most deaths from terrorism?
- a) France
 - b) USA
 - c) Nigeria
 - d) Russia
- 17) Which city is not home to a Disney theme park?
- a) Orlando
 - b) Hong Kong
 - c) Tokyo
 - d) Berlin
- 18) What is one major reason the Aral Sea has dried up?
- a) The Volga river was diverted to control flooding
 - b) The Syr Darya river was overly used as an irrigation source for cotton
 - c) Vladimir Putin declared a halt to cloud seeding
 - d) Its water was so dirty that Uzbekistan temporarily drained it as a control on pollution

- 19) The world's longest underwater railway tunnel is about to be constructed where?
- Under the Bo Hai arm of the Yellow Sea in China
 - Under the English Channel
 - Between Australia and New Zealand
 - Beneath New York Harbor between Long Island and New Jersey
- 20) Every ten years, seats in the House of Representatives are reapportioned to account for changes in population. Which of the following states is projected to gain at least one seat after the 2020 Census?
- West Virginia
 - Texas
 - New York
 - Ohio
- 21) Which country has by far the most tornadoes of any country on earth?
- Russia
 - China
 - Brazil
 - USA
- 22) Which countries' flags are most likely to be mistaken for each other?
- Netherlands and Luxembourg
 - Netherlands and Belgium
 - Belgium and France
 - France and Luxembourg
- 23) Which region of India is home to the greatest percentage of Dravidian language speakers?
- The Himalayan foothills
 - Northeast India, east of Bangladesh
 - The cities of Mumbai and New Delhi
 - The south, including Kerala and Tamil Nadu
- 24) Which of the following four countries has the highest median age for its population?
- Germany
 - Haiti
 - The USA
 - Niger
- 25) Which country's government is planning on holding a referendum on leaving the European Union at some point in the next two years?
- Belgium
 - United Kingdom
 - Turkey
 - Switzerland

- 26) Batik shirts and gamelan music are elements of which country's cultural heritage?
- a) Sweden
 - b) Costa Rica
 - c) Indonesia
 - d) Iran
- 27) Which of the following towns or cities has the highest percentage of French speakers of any municipality in the USA?
- a) Baton Rouge, LA
 - b) Madawaska, ME
 - c) Sault Ste. Marie, MI
 - d) Frenchtown, MT
- 28) The Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism, as well as the Tibetan government are currently in exile in Dharamsala, a city in what northern Indian state which borders Tibet?
- a) Assam
 - b) Himachal Pradesh
 - c) Uttar Pradesh
 - d) Punjab
- 29) What is globalization?
- a) The process by which the Earth becomes rounder as it spins faster
 - b) The tendency of ideas, commerce, or technologies to spread out across the whole world
 - c) The process by which a currency becomes an official currency in multiple countries
 - d) The process by which the educated establishment gradually came to accept the idea that the Earth is round
- 30) China is potentially interested in building a new canal across which Central American country, making use of one of its large lakes?
- a) El Salvador
 - b) Honduras
 - c) Belize
 - d) Nicaragua
- 31) Which US states have been independent countries?
- a) Hawaii and Vermont
 - b) Florida and Maine
 - c) Oregon and Alabama
 - d) Rhode Island and Alaska

- 32) Which flight is most likely to pass over the Arctic Ocean?
- a) Reykjavik to Glasgow
 - b) Anchorage to Tokyo
 - c) Beijing to New York
 - d) Dubai to Doha
- 33) Which name has never been used for a Russian/Soviet city on the Gulf of Finland?
- a) Petrograd
 - b) St. Petersburg
 - c) Leningrad
 - d) Stalingrad
- 34) Why does the European Union use French Guiana as a launchpad location?
- a) It's easier to launch rockets into space close to the equator
 - b) If debris falls on neighboring Suriname, no one really cares
 - c) Rare metals found in South America make useful rocket components
 - d) It was the dying wish of Charles de Gaulle
- 35) Which country has a flourishing electronic toilet industry featuring self-flushing models, heated seats, and other features?
- a) Japan
 - b) Botswana
 - c) Tajikistan
 - d) Antigua and Barbuda
- 36) Which Moroccan city gave its name to a type of hat?
- a) Casablanca
 - b) Fez
 - c) Tangiers
 - d) Marrakech
- 37) Which area is NOT considered the site of a "frozen conflict" in the former Soviet Union?
- a) Transnistria
 - b) Nagorno-Karabakh
 - c) Abkhazia
 - d) Kaliningrad Oblast
- 38) In the 2003 film *Finding Nemo*, Marlin and Dory use the _____ Australian Current to reach Nemo in Sydney?
- a) North
 - b) South
 - c) East
 - d) West

- 39) The Hay's Spring Amphipod is one of several species of crustaceans that is considered _____ to the District of Columbia, meaning that it can only be found in nature in tributaries of Rock Creek in Washington, DC.
- a) Extant
 - b) Endemic
 - c) Endorheic
 - d) Emblematic
- 40) During the Cold War, the Soviet Union used which body of water as a bastion for its submarine fleet?
- a) Sea of Cortes
 - b) Sea of Okhotsk
 - c) North Sea
 - d) Mediterranean Sea
- 41) Which of the following landforms is NOT higher than the surrounding landscape?
- a) Butte
 - b) Escarpment
 - c) Mesa
 - d) Gully
- 42) What is a reason why an American company might want to outsource manufacturing to China?
- a) Chinese intellectual property laws are regarded as the world's strongest
 - b) American companies have been investing heavily in North Korea since 2010, and China is thus conveniently located nearby
 - c) Chinese labor costs are usually lower than those for American factory workers
 - d) China has a comprehensive free trade agreement with the USA on all manufactured goods
- 43) The USA reopened its embassy in which country in 2015?
- a) Iran
 - b) Iraq
 - c) Cuba
 - d) Jamaica
- 44) Earthquakes in which place are not due to the activity of tectonic plates meeting?
- a) California
 - b) Italy
 - c) Nepal
 - d) Missouri

- 45) During 2015, on the whole, the dollar _____ in value against the Russian ruble, and the global market price of crude oil _____?
- a) Increased, increased
 - b) Decreased, increased
 - c) Increased, decreased
 - d) Decreased, decreased
- 46) A relief map shows what?
- a) The location of highway rest areas and other places
 - b) Landforms in their actual size they exist in reality
 - c) Areas of higher elevation depicted as proportionally higher through bumps on the map
 - d) Possible safe havens for refugees fleeing a war zone
- 47) Oxbow lakes are most commonly found where?
- a) In mountain ranges, near glacial runoff streams
 - b) In mature river valleys in relatively flat areas
 - c) In deserts as a result of irregularities in the evaporation rate
 - d) In estuaries due to the movement of barrier islands
- 48) Which time zone is home to the fewest people in the USA?
- a) Eastern
 - b) Central
 - c) Mountain
 - d) Pacific
- 49) If as an AFS exchange student you were practicing your Guarani language skills with your new friends in Asuncion, you'd be studying where?
- a) Paraguay
 - b) Colombia
 - c) Brazil
 - d) Chile
- 50) Tiger attacks are most common in which of the following regions of Greater South Asia?
- a) Maldives
 - b) Everest Base Camp
 - c) Sundarbans
 - d) Sri Lanka