

## The United States Geography Olympiad 2015-2016 National Qualifying Exam – C 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) Which country is now home to more kilometers of high-speed rail than any other?
  - a) Japan
  - b) France
  - c) China
  - d) USA
  
- 2) Which body of water sees the fewest number of tropical cyclones?
  - a) Mediterranean Sea
  - b) Caribbean Sea
  - c) Sea of Japan
  - d) Sargasso Sea
  
- 3) Which state is usually not considered to be part of the sociocultural region known as the Bible Belt?
  - a) Alabama
  - b) Tennessee
  - c) Arkansas
  - d) Delaware
  
- 4) Which eastern state is home to no National Parks?
  - a) South Carolina
  - b) Maine
  - c) Florida
  - d) New Jersey
  
- 5) Which of these cities will never see the sun be directly overhead at the zenith of the sky?
  - a) Nairobi
  - b) Bogota
  - c) Singapore
  - d) Rome

- 6) Which of the following trails passes through the Sierra Nevada Mountains?
- Appalachian Trail
  - Natchez Trace
  - Pacific Crest Trail
  - Continental Divide Trail
- 7) Which of the following could a tourist NOT do in Spain?
- Go on a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela
  - Throw tomatoes at strangers at the Tomatilla Festival
  - Be gored by a bull during the Festival of San Fermin in Pamplona
  - Participate in the World Air Guitar Championships in Oulu
- 8) This exam question was written in Drogheda, a city in Ireland, famous for what?
- Being sacked by Oliver Cromwell's troops
  - Being the only point in the British Isles below sea level
  - Being an exclave of Scotland
  - Being the last stronghold of the Cornish language
- 9) Which country's existence is most threatened by the consequences of climate change?
- Malta
  - Maldives
  - Cyprus
  - Fiji
- 10) The Grand Trunk Road was a historically important route when and where?
- During the British Empire's rule of India
  - During French colonization of the American Midwest
  - During the Incan Empire's conquest of the Andes
  - During the Japanese campaigns in Southeast Asia in World War II
- 11) What is a drumlin?
- A small drum used in traditional Portuguese *fado* songs
  - A small hill created by the actions of glaciers
  - A mine in the Ural Mountains created during the Soviet period
  - A fault line that is not on the edge of a tectonic plate
- 12) Which country has not been selected to host an upcoming Winter or Summer Olympic Games?
- Japan
  - South Korea
  - Brazil
  - Argentina

- 13) Which country in South America is most dependent on oil exports to sustain its national budget?
- a) Columbia
  - b) Venezuela
  - c) Chile
  - d) Uruguay
- 14) In which country is the Gini coefficient the highest?
- a) Equatorial Guinea
  - b) Sweden
  - c) Poland
  - d) Tunisia
- 15) What state is known as the Sunflower State?
- a) Kansas
  - b) Hawai'i
  - c) Florida
  - d) Montana
- 16) Which of the following cities is the center of the Bollywood film industry?
- a) Chennai
  - b) Mumbai
  - c) New Delhi
  - d) Kolkata
- 17) In terms of percentage of land area affected, deforestation has been most severe in which country?
- a) Finland
  - b) Haiti
  - c) Canada
  - d) Libya
- 18) Which two places are not connected by a bridge?
- a) Sweden and Denmark
  - b) Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick
  - c) Sicily and mainland Italy
  - d) Brooklyn and Staten Island
- 19) The boxing match known as the Thrilla in Manila took place in which country?
- a) Zaire
  - b) Philippines
  - c) USA
  - d) Malaysia

- 20) Which Mexican state is least prone to hurricane strikes?
- a) Baja California Sur
  - b) Yucatan
  - c) Quintana Roo
  - d) Chihuahua
- 21) Which island is home to two countries?
- a) Puerto Rico
  - b) Antigua
  - c) Aruba
  - d) Hispaniola
- 22) Which of the following states has not seen any of its electoral votes go to a Democratic presidential candidate in the past 20 years?
- a) Colorado
  - b) Utah
  - c) Massachusetts
  - d) North Carolina
- 23) What does hypoxic mean when used in connection with a lake or other body of water?
- a) There are lots of fish
  - b) There are very low amounts of oxygen
  - c) The water is infected with cowpox virus
  - d) The body of water is rapidly shrinking
- 24) Which country has seen the smallest number of Syrian refugees enter in 2015?
- a) Germany
  - b) Ireland
  - c) Turkey
  - d) Austria
- 25) Zoroastrianism and Baha'i both originated in what is now which present-day country?
- a) Turkey
  - b) India
  - c) Kazakhstan
  - d) Iran
- 26) What landmass is most distorted on a map with a Mercator projection relative to its actual size?
- a) Australia
  - b) South America
  - c) Italy
  - d) Greenland

- 27) According to the 2000 census, which of the following states had the highest number of counties where a plurality of residents identified as having Norwegian-American ethnicity?
- a) Vermont
  - b) North Dakota
  - c) Idaho
  - d) Arkansas
- 28) Which current helps keep Northern Europe warmer than other landmasses at that latitude?
- a) Humboldt Current
  - b) El Nino
  - c) Gulf Stream
  - d) Irish Conveyor
- 29) Which state has seen more of its native birds go extinct than any other in the past 200 years?
- a) California
  - b) Texas
  - c) Hawaii
  - d) Florida
- 30) Which two countries stayed neutral in World War II?
- a) Denmark and Norway
  - b) Switzerland and Austria
  - c) Spain and France
  - d) Sweden and Portugal
- 31) Which country is the current primary global supplier of rare earth metals?
- a) Sweden
  - b) Oman
  - c) USA
  - d) China
- 32) Which of the following four rivers has the largest drainage basin?
- a) Delaware
  - b) Mississippi
  - c) Connecticut
  - d) Illinois
- 33) If you opened an atlas to look at a map of the Atlas Mountains, which country's territory might you wish to look at?
- a) Libya
  - b) Cameroon
  - c) Algeria
  - d) Swaziland

- 34) Which country's official language is a member of the Slavic language family?
- a) Romania
  - b) Hungary
  - c) Austria
  - d) Bulgaria
- 35) Which region of Russia is crossed by a namesake railroad that ends in Vladivostok?
- a) Siberia
  - b) Chechnya
  - c) Tver
  - d) Kaliningrad
- 36) Which is not an actual country?
- a) Guinea
  - b) Guinea-Bissau
  - c) Guyana
  - d) Guineastan
- 37) Which country's economy is the most diversified?
- a) Saudi Arabia
  - b) Malta
  - c) Nauru
  - d) Canada
- 38) Which country does not currently have the Union Jack on its flag?
- a) Australia
  - b) Fiji
  - c) New Zealand
  - d) Philippines
- 39) Ian Fleming's house named "Goldeneye" and the opening scene of *Dr. No* in Kingston can both be found where?
- a) Cuba
  - b) Jamaica
  - c) Barbados
  - d) Trinidad
- 40) Which Canadian province is one of the world's largest wheat producers and is also one of the Prairie Provinces?
- a) Nova Scotia
  - b) British Columbia
  - c) Saskatchewan
  - d) Quebec

- 41) Which is NOT true of the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh?
- a) It's home to more people than Britain, France, and Italy combined
  - b) It's located in Northern India
  - c) Its capital is Lucknow
  - d) It has a coastline on the Arabian Sea
- 42) The lowest-elevation land point in the world not covered by water or glaciers can be found where?
- a) The shores of the Dead Sea
  - b) Death Valley
  - c) Lake Eyre
  - d) Faroe Islands
- 43) Which island in Indonesia was not connected to the others during the last Ice Age?
- a) Bali
  - b) Java
  - c) Sumatra
  - d) New Guinea
- 44) If you attend the International Geography Olympiad next summer in Beijing, which site could you expect to see while you're there?
- a) The Bund
  - b) Victoria Harbor
  - c) The Forbidden City
  - d) The Amur River
- 45) Which present-day country's territory was never conquered by Alexander the Great?
- a) Lebanon
  - b) Iraq
  - c) Israel
  - d) Tunisia
- 46) If, as an AFS exchange student, you lived with a Yoruba speaking family near Lagos, you'd be studying in what country?
- a) South Africa
  - b) Ghana
  - c) Nigeria
  - d) Kenya

- 47) Kim chi, a spicy pickled cabbage dish, and a particular way of preparing barbecued beef are elements of the culinary traditions of what country?
- a) India
  - b) Denmark
  - c) South Korea
  - d) Paraguay
- 48) Pope Francis could show you the Teatro Colon in his home city of...?
- a) Santiago
  - b) Buenos Aires
  - c) Sao Paulo
  - d) Havana
- 49) "Alluvium" is a term that refers to:
- a) Soil or sediments deposited by a river
  - b) A rare metal found only in Iran and Iraq
  - c) Type of law that regulates agricultural activity
  - d) Precipitation buildup at the top of an alpine glacier
- 50) "White flight" refers to:
- a) Eisenhower's expansion of Air Force bases around the world
  - b) Movement of Caucasians from urban areas to suburbs in the middle-to-late 20<sup>th</sup> century
  - c) The yearly migration of snowy owls, as observed primarily in Nunavut and Manitoba.
  - d) The Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia