

2021 US Geography Championships Middle School Multiple Choice Examination - Part 1

Instructions – This portion of the multiple choice examination consists of 40 questions. You will receive two points for a correct answer. You will lose one point for an incorrect answer. Blank responses lose no points. Please fill in the bubbles completely on the answer sheet. You may write on the examination, but all responses must be bubbled on the answer sheet. All images are contained in the resource booklet. Diacritic marks such as accents have been omitted from place names and other proper nouns. You have one hour to complete both the written portion of the examination and this set of multiple choice questions.

Questions 1-6 are about the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

1. Which of the following is true of Rio de Janeiro?
A. it is the capital of Brazil
B. it is the most populous city in Brazil
C. it is the second most populous city in the Americas
D. the city has a population of roughly 6 million people and the greater metropolitan area roughly 12 million
2. All of these are true of the climate of Rio de Janeiro EXCEPT which of the following?
A. it experiences long periods of heavy rain between December and March
B. freezing temperatures are common in the winter
C. drought is rare in Rio but does happen occasionally due to the seasonal climate
D. average high temperatures are above 75 degrees Fahrenheit all year long
3. All of these are important landmarks in Rio EXCEPT which of the following?
A. Ipanema Beach
B. the statue of Christ the Redeemer (Christ the Redeemer)
C. Azteca Stadium
D. Sugarloaf Mountain
4. All of these are true of Brazilian Carnival EXCEPT which of the following?
A. foreigners and tourists are prevented from attending carnival
B. it is a celebration held just before the beginning of Lent
C. no carnivals were held during World War I, World War II or in 2021
D. samba schools help to organize and lead parades in Rio
5. Hundreds of thousands of inhabitants of Rio live in what type of low-income, informal settlements typified by neighborhoods like Rochina and Complexo do Alemão?
A. copacabanas
B. favelas
C. housing projects

D. mixed-use neighborhoods

6. Which of these is a serious environmental concern in Rio de Janeiro that was highlighted by the rowing competitions for the 2016 Summer Olympics?
A. air pollution from cars and industry
B. the effects of deforestation
C. the release of industrial and human waste into the waterways, lagoons and bays surrounding the city
D. the die-off of local bird populations due to human settlement

Questions 7-12 are about the geography of earthquakes and volcanoes.

7. All of these are types of boundaries between tectonic plates EXCEPT which of the following?
A. lithospheric
B. convergent
C. transform
D. divergent
8. How many major tectonic plates are there on the Earth?
A. 4
B. 5
C. 6
D. 7 or 8 depending on how they are defined
9. All of these occur along plate boundaries due to the motion of plates EXCEPT which of the following?
A. orogeny
B. hurricane formation
C. oceanic trench formation
D. earthquakes
10. All of these are true of volcanoes EXCEPT which of the following?
A. most are found above ground as opposed to underwater
B. they are most often found at divergent or convergent plate boundaries
C. they can form from stretching or thinning of plates
D. they are usually not created when plates slide past each other
11. All of these are hypothesized examples of hotspot volcanism EXCEPT which of the following?
A. Hawaii
B. Washington state
C. Iceland
D. Yellowstone
12. Which of the following is the term for the point on the Earth's surface directly above the point of origin of an earthquake?
A. focus
B. refraction point
C. epicenter
D. fault plane

Questions 13-18 are about world languages.

13. Which world language has the largest total number of speakers in the world, which includes both native and second language speakers?

- A. Arabic
- B. English
- C. Mandarin Chinese
- D. Hindi

14. All of these are branches of the Indo-European language family EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. Semitic
- B. Germanic
- C. Indo-Aryan
- D. Balto-Slavic

15. Portuguese is the dominant language in all of these countries EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. Brazil
- B. Mozambique
- C. Angola
- D. Lebanon

16. Roughly how many people in the world speak Hindi as a native or first language?

- A. about 1 billion
- B. about 750 million
- C. about 350 million
- D. about 100 million

17. A majority of the native English speakers in the world live in which of the following countries?

- A. India
- B. the United States
- C. the United Kingdom
- D. Australia

18. Which of these nations has the largest number of established living languages spoken within its borders?

- A. North Korea
- B. Iceland
- C. Papua New Guinea
- D. Italy

Questions 19-24 are about the jet stream and weather patterns.

19. On Earth, the main jet streams move in which of the following directions?

- A. west to east
- B. north to south
- C. south to north
- D. east to west

20. All of these are true of jet streams EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. the strongest jet streams are the polar jets
- B. the subtropical jets are at a higher altitude than the polar jets
- C. only the Southern Hemisphere has a polar jet
- D. meteorologists use jet stream location to aid in weather forecasting

21. Which of these is true of the effect of the jet stream on hurricanes in Hawaii?

- A. Hawaii experiences intense and frequent hurricane landfalls
- B. the subtropical jet stream near Hawaii prevents nearly all hurricanes that approach the islands from ever making landfall
- C. hurricanes in the region of Hawaii are weak and have almost no rainfall
- D. the jet stream causes hurricanes near Hawaii to move at roughly three times the normal speed of Atlantic hurricanes

22. All of these are true of the effect of jet streams on air travel EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. travel through jet streams can cause turbulence even when the weather is clear
- B. in North America traveling within a jet stream can cut about 30 minutes off a transcontinental flight
- C. planes traveling in the same direction as a jet stream can save time and fuel on their flights
- D. planes cannot travel safely within jet streams

23. On Earth, most weather phenomena take place in which of the following regions of the atmosphere?

- A. troposphere
- B. stratosphere
- C. mesosphere
- D. thermosphere

24. All of these are responsible for causing jet streams EXCEPT for which of the following?

- A. atmospheric heating by solar radiation
- B. large-scale circulation cells like Hadley Cells
- C. hurricanes and tropical cyclones
- D. the action of the Coriolis force

The remaining questions on this part of the test will refer to pictures in the resource section.

Questions 25-34 refer to the image in the resource section of the examination. Some arrows may indicate more than one geographic feature.

25. Which number on this map shows the approximate location of the Equator?

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 5
- D. 8

26. Number 1 on the map shows a boundary between all of these tectonic plates EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. Nazca Plate
- B. Australian Plate
- C. Pacific Plate
- D. Eurasian Plate

27. Which of these shows the location of a convergent plate boundary?

- A. 3

- B. 4
- C. 5
- D. 6

28. All of these are part of the United States EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. 2
- B. 4
- C. 5
- D. 7

29. Which number indicates a location where the Tropic of Capricorn crosses Australian territory?

- A. 8
- B. 9
- C. 10
- D. 11

30. Which number does NOT indicate a national capital?

- A. 7
- B. 8
- C. 9
- D. 10

31. Which number on the map shows the location of the Mariana Trench?

- A. 1
- B. 3
- C. 5
- D. 6

32. Which of these is true of the location shown by number 12 on the map?

- A. it is part of Indonesia
- B. it is a recently independent nation
- C. it is a French Overseas Department
- D. it is Australian territory

33. Which of these is true of the location shown by number 13 on the map?

- A. it is part of Indonesia
- B. it is a Dutch territory
- C. it is part of Papua New Guinea
- D. it is a British territory

34. Number 8 on the map indicates what country?

- A. Fiji
- B. Tonga
- C. Kiribati
- D. New Zealand

Questions 35-40 refer to the image in the resource section of the examination. This image shows a population pyramid of a certain nation in 2019.

35. Based on the information in the population pyramid, which of the following is true of the population of this nation?

- A. a majority of the population is below the age of 30
- B. there was a spike in the birth rate of this country during the 1970s
- C. roughly 40% of the population is above the age of 65

D. there is a heavy gender imbalance in this country, with about 1.2 men for every woman in the population

36. Which of these is true of the life expectancy of this country?

- A. it is under 50 years
- B. it is about 65 years
- C. it is about 70 years
- D. it is over 80 years

37. Which of the following is true of the population growth or decline in this nation?

- A. the population is growing by about 2% per year
- B. the population is remaining steady
- C. the population is falling between 1% and 2% per year
- D. the population is falling over 5% per year

38. All of these are true of the population pyramid of a country with a rapidly growing population EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. one side of the pyramid will be much wider than the other
- B. the pyramid will be shaped like a triangle
- C. the pyramid will have a large base
- D. the top will be narrow because few people will reach old age

39. Which of the following would be true of the population pyramid of a city with a large military base?

- A. it would have a large shift to the right, showing a much larger number of women than men
- B. it would be shaped like a rectangle
- C. it would have a bulge in the age ranges from 20 to 35 with a shift to the left indicating more men than women
- D. it would have a much larger top than bottom

40. Which of the following countries is most likely represented by this population pyramid?

- A. Japan
- B. the United States
- C. Germany
- D. Mexico