



**National Recent History Examination  
IAC Nationals 2022**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

**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.**

1. Since 2000, which of the following countries has seen its population increase the most?

- A. India
- B. China
- C. Indonesia
- D. Brazil

2. In 2013, former contractor Edward Snowden publicly revealed thousands of classified documents involving surveillance programs at what US government agency?

- A. the IRS
- B. the Secret Service
- C. the NSA
- D. ICE

3. Which of the following disintegrated upon reentry in February 2003 killing all seven crew members?

- A. the MIR space station
- B. the Space Shuttle Columbia
- C. the Space X Falcon 9
- D. SpaceShip One

4. Which of these was NOT a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination in the election of 2008?

- A. Al Gore
- B. Hillary Clinton
- C. John Edwards
- D. Joe Biden

5. Scientists have traced the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic to which of the following cities in late 2019?

- A. Guangzhou
- B. Nanjing
- C. Xi'an
- D. Wuhan

6. What Pakistani activist was shot by a member of Tehrik-i Taliban while on a bus coming home from school in October 2012?

- A. Farida Afridi
- B. Malala Yousafzai
- C. Sahar Gul
- D. Muzoon Almellehan

7. What 'King of Pop' and controversial musical artist died from an overdose of propofol in 2009?

- A. Michael Jackson
- B. George Michael
- C. Tom Petty
- D. David Bowie

8. All of these men have served as president of France since 2000 EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. Nicolas Sarkozy
- B. François Hollande
- C. François Mitterrand
- D. Jacques Chirac

9. What man, the second in line to the British throne, married his longtime girlfriend Catherine Middleton in 2011?

- A. Prince William
- B. Prince Charles
- C. Prince Harry
- D. Prince Andrew

10. Which of the following companies, founded by 19-year-old Elizabeth Holmes in 2003, was ultimately proved to be based on fraudulent technology and was dissolved in 2018?

- A. Softbank
- B. Status Labs
- C. Moderna
- D. Theranos

11. Zine El Abidine Ben Ali was the leader of which of the following nations from 1987 to 2011, when he was deposed during the 'Arab Spring'?

- A. Egypt
- B. Libya
- C. Syria
- D. Tunisia

12. All of these people have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in the twenty-first century EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. Jimmy Carter
- B. Barack Obama
- C. Al Gore
- D. Joe Biden

13. Which of the following, who served from 2005 to 2013, became the first pope to resign in almost 600 years?

- A. Benedict XVI
- B. Pius IX
- C. Francis
- D. John Paul II

14. In 2016, Pokémon Go became a bestselling mobile game in what emerging category, enabled by the use of cellphones and wearable technology?
- role-playing
  - augmented reality
  - text-based
  - platform
15. Which of these is true of the Scottish independence referendum of 2014?
- just under 50.2% of the Scottish population voted against independence
  - a super-majority of 60% of Scottish residents was needed to approve independence
  - the 'Better Together' campaign advocated Scotland leaving the UK and forming a union with Ireland
  - all citizens over the age of 16 were allowed to vote in the referendum
16. Which of these controversial events took place in Charlottesville, VA in August 2017?
- the 'Unite the Right' rally
  - the first annual 'Women's March'
  - the first of the 'March for Our Lives' events in favor of stricter gun laws
  - the first 'Black Lives Matter' protest
17. Which of the following served as leader of Kazakhstan from 1990 until his 2019 resignation?
- Kassym-Jomart Tokayev
  - Islam Karimov
  - Nursultan Nazarbayev
  - Saparmurat Niyazov
18. Three of the top twelve highest grossing films of the twenty-first century belong to what major film franchise?
- Star Wars
  - Harry Potter
  - the Avengers
  - Fast and the Furious
19. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf became the first elected female head of state in Africa when she was elected president of what country in 2006?
- Liberia
  - South Africa
  - Kenya
  - Nigeria
20. Which of the following resulted in the resignation of David Cameron as Prime Minister of the UK in 2016?
- a scandal involving illegal parties thrown at 10 Downing Street
  - the success of the 'Brexit' vote in June 2016, which Cameron opposed
  - a vote of no-confidence following a sweeping parliamentary election defeat
  - his outspoken opposition to President Donald Trump's election in 2016
21. Which of the following was invaded by Russia in August 2008?
- the Crimean Peninsula
  - Armenia
  - Georgia
  - Chechnya
22. Which of the following became the tallest human-built structure in the world upon its 2010 completion?
- Merdeka 118
  - Taipei 101
  - Burj Khalifa
  - Tokyo Skytree
23. Former Air Force general John W. Raymond took command of which of the following in December 2019?
- the Department of Defense
  - the United States Space Force
  - the National Security Agency
  - the Joint Chiefs of Staff
24. In 2016 Pope Francis signed the Ecumenical Agreement with Patriarch Kirill, the head of what other major faith?
- Baha'i
  - Reform Judaism
  - the Russian Orthodox Church
  - the Druze
25. Which of these major digital events happened first?
- iOS is introduced by Apple
  - Bitcoin is launched
  - YouTube is founded
  - Facebook is founded
26. What team won its second World Cup in 2018 by defeating Croatia 4-2 in the final match?
- Germany
  - Italy
  - France
  - Argentina
27. Which of the following became the first new sovereign state of the twenty-first century following its 2002 independence?
- Tajikistan
  - Timor-Leste
  - Montenegro
  - Moldova

28. Alfredo Stroessner, who died in exile in Brazil in 2006, was the longtime dictator of what South American nation?
- Ecuador
  - Uruguay
  - Paraguay
  - Bolivia
29. Which of the following controversial decisions did the International Astronomical Union make in 2006?
- it declared that two moons of Saturn were habitable for humans
  - it reclassified Pluto as a 'dwarf planet'
  - it decided to stop tracking asteroids and other objects that might collide with Earth
  - it declared that space should be closed to tourists and private companies
30. The vuvuzela became famous as a symbol of what world sporting event held in South Africa in the summer of 2010?
- the Summer Olympics
  - the Winter Olympics
  - the World Cup
  - the South African Grand Prix
31. One of the largest financial scandals of the early 2000s involved fraud and bankruptcy at Enron, a Houston company involved in what sector of the economy?
- mortgage lending
  - energy
  - agriculture and farming
  - pharmaceuticals
32. Which of the following erupted in Iceland in 2010 causing major disruptions to air travel, especially in Europe?
- Eyjafjallajökull
  - Mount Merapi
  - Mount Pinatubo
  - Bárðarbunga
33. Julian Assange founded what website and nonprofit in 2006?
- WikiLeaks
  - Politifact
  - DDoSecrets
  - ICWATCH
34. The FARC signed a ceasefire in 2016 with President Juan Manuel Santos to end decades of conflict in what South American nation?
- Colombia
  - Peru
  - Chile
  - Bolivia
35. All of these are rovers landed on Mars in the twenty-first century EXCEPT which of the following?
- Spirit
  - Opportunity
  - Curiosity
  - Voyager
36. What city erupted into widespread protests in 2019 over an extradition bill proposed by the Chinese government?
- Macau
  - Shanghai
  - Beijing
  - Hong Kong
37. Which of the following became the president of China in 2003?
- Jiang Zemin
  - Hu Jintao
  - Xi Jinping
  - Wei Jiabao
38. Which of the following was added to the name of Macedonia in 2019 to resolve a long-running dispute with Greece?
- East
  - West
  - South
  - North
39. What company's 'Roadster' model became the first mass-produced lithium-ion battery electric car in 2008?
- Nissan
  - Toyota
  - Tesla
  - Fisker
40. In March 2004, a series of coordinated terrorist bombings hit the Cercanias commuter train system of what European city?
- Barcelona
  - Lisbon
  - Madrid
  - Valencia
41. Which of the following emerged as a pivotal witness in the confirmation hearings of Justice Brett Kavanaugh in 2018?
- Christine Blasey Ford
  - Anita Hill
  - Harriet Miers
  - Condoleezza Rice
42. Which of the following happened to Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff in August 2016?
- she was deposed in a Marxist coup
  - she was impeached and removed from office
  - she was assassinated by supporters of Jair Bolsonaro
  - she fled into exile in the United States to avoid her political opponents

43. Since 2018, Greta Thunberg has emerged as one of the leading activists in the world on what topic?
- the elimination of land mines
  - nuclear disarmament
  - climate change
  - income inequality
44. Which of the following, founded in 1999 by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, rose to prominence in 2014 following the Anbar campaign and the capture of Mosul in Iraq?
- Boko Haram
  - Al-Qaeda
  - the PJAK
  - ISIL (Daesh)
45. The so-called 'A8 countries' refers to which of the following groups?
- the 8 ex-Eastern Bloc nations that joined the EU in 2004
  - the group countries with the most advanced economies and liberal democratic political systems
  - the 8 countries of the Trans-Pacific Partnership
  - the former allies of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization
46. Giuseppe Conte, Italian Prime Minister from 2018 to 2021, led which of the following populist political parties?
- the League
  - Forza Italia
  - the Five Star Movement
  - the Democratic Party
47. Which of the following landmarks was used as an emergency shelter during and after Hurricane Katrina's landfall in Louisiana in 2005?
- the Superdome
  - St. Louis Cathedral
  - the Louisiana State Capitol
  - the steamboat Natchez
48. Which of these is true of the US presidential election in 2004?
- John Kerry won the popular vote but George W. Bush won a majority in the Electoral College
  - voter turnout topped 65% for the first time since 1960
  - George W. Bush won the election despite having fewer than 300 electoral votes
  - John Kerry won Texas
49. Which of the following is NOT included in the BRICS economic bloc of emerging economies?
- Indonesia
  - Brazil
  - South Africa
  - China
50. What transformative piece of technology, with its original 'click wheel' interface, was released by Apple in October 2001?
- the Apple Watch
  - the iPod
  - the iPhone
  - the Newton
51. The so-called 'Cornhusker Kickback' was a key compromise that resulted in the passage of what signature piece of legislation for President Obama in 2010?
- the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
  - the Affordable Care Act
  - the Religious Freedom Restoration Act
  - the Troubled Asset Relief Program
52. Which of the following made landfall in New Jersey in the fall of 2012, resulting in over \$70 billion in damage and over 200 deaths?
- Hurricane Mitch
  - Hurricane Rita
  - Hurricane Sandy
  - Hurricane Haiyan
53. Which of the following is NOT an example of the 'Korean wave' of popular culture in the last decade?
- the band BTS
  - Psy's 'Gangnam Style'
  - Kaiju films
  - Squid Game
54. In 2018, Isaias Afwerki and Abiy Ahmed signed an agreement that ended a decades-long conflict between what two neighboring countries?
- Armenia and Azerbaijan
  - Ethiopia and Eritrea
  - Sudan and South Sudan
  - Morocco and Western Sahara
55. In 2010, the Deepwater Horizon oil platform exploded causing an environmental disaster in what body of water?
- the North Sea
  - the Gulf of Mexico
  - the Persian Gulf
  - the Gulf of Alaska
56. In 2019, India revoked the decades-old autonomy previously granted to what region?
- Jammu and Kashmir
  - Himachal Pradesh
  - Punjab
  - Uttaranchal
57. Which of the following was discovered in 2012 at CERN's Large Hadron Collider in Geneva?
- gravitational waves
  - the Higgs boson
  - the first true superfluid
  - the first Bose-Einstein condensate

58. What long-running PBS television personality and American cultural icon died in February 2003?

- A. Fred Rogers
- B. Bob McGrath
- C. Robert MacNeil
- D. Jim Lehrer

59. The 2009 H1N1 flu pandemic was better known by what animal nickname due to its genetic combination with a virus from that species?

- A. chicken flu
- B. kangaroo flu
- C. swine flu
- D. horse flu

60. The separatist paramilitary group ETA, which dissolved in 2018, advocated for the rights and autonomy of what ethnic group?

- A. Abkhazians
- B. Basques
- C. Ossetians
- D. Ingush

61. Which of the following became the most recent nation to join the European Union in July 2013?

- A. Kosovo
- B. Croatia
- C. Lithuania
- D. Estonia

62. Which of the following was found on Mars in 2015?

- A. microscopic prokaryotic organisms
- B. evidence of artificial canals
- C. liquid water
- D. abundant deposits of plutonium

63. Which of the following countries did NOT suffer numerous fatalities in the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami?

- A. India
- B. Australia
- C. Indonesia
- D. Sri Lanka

64. Which of the following groups was targeted by military operations in Myanmar in 2017 that were labeled an 'ethnic cleansing' by the UNHCR?

- A. Tigrayans
- B. Yazidis
- C. Rohingya
- D. Boros

65. To which of the following political parties does Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi belong?

- A. Indian National Congress
- B. All India Trinamool Congress
- C. Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam
- D. Bharatiya Janata Party

66. What 34-year-old former Minister of Transport became the prime minister of Finland in 2019?

- A. Jacinda Ardern
- B. Sanna Marin
- C. Kaja Kallas
- D. Mette Frederiksen

67. In June 2020, Swedish authorities announced there was reasonable evidence that Stig Engström had killed what national leader on a Stockholm street in 1986?

- A. Olof Palme
- B. King Gustavus III
- C. Tage Erlander
- D. Steig Larsson

68. The Sunflower Student Movement and the New Power Party are recent developments in the politics of what East Asian nation?

- A. Japan
- B. South Korea
- C. Taiwan
- D. China

69. Which of the following natural disasters struck Haiti in January 2010 resulting in over 200,000 deaths?

- A. a massive landslide
- B. a 7.0 magnitude earthquake
- C. a category 5 hurricane
- D. devastating wildfires

70. Mohammad Khatami, Hassan Rouhani and Mahmoud Ahmadinejad have all served as president of which nation since 2001?

- A. Iraq
- B. Syria
- C. Iran
- D. Afghanistan

71. Which of the following restrictions was ended in China in 2015 after 35 years?

- A. the 'one-child policy'
- B. the ban private property ownership
- C. a ban on political parties other than the Communist Party
- D. the 'Great Firewall' internet restrictions

72. Which of the following former leaders of the Sinaloa drug cartel has been incarcerated at the federal 'supermax' prison in Florence, CO since 2019?

- A. Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán
- B. James Marcello
- C. Jose Padilla
- D. Pablo Escobar

73. What longtime leader of Zimbabwe was ousted in a 2017 coup?

- A. Morgan Tsvangirai
- B. Emmerson Mnangagwa
- C. Joshua Nkomo
- D. Robert Mugabe

74. In 2018 the Singapore Summit brought together the leaders of what two nations for the first time ever?

- A. the United States and North Korea
- B. China and Taiwan
- C. Ethiopia and Eritrea
- D. Haiti and the Dominican Republic

75. The blanket term 'color revolutions' (or 'colour revolutions') is used by the media and academics to describe anti-regime protest movements in the twenty-first century in which of the following areas?

- A. Central America
- B. Southeast Asia
- C. countries formerly part of the Soviet Union
- D. the Middle East

Tiebreaker

Write your answer on the BACK of your scantron. Please label your responses 1-5.

List in order the five most popular websites in the world in January 2000.