

The 2012-2013 United States Geography Challenge - SAMPLE Regional Qualifying Exam

Scoring System: 2 points for a correct answer, -1 for a wrong answer, 0 points for a blank answer!

- 1) Which of the following countries was NOT part of Yugoslavia?
 - a) Slovenia
 - b) Slovakia
 - c) Macedonia
 - d) Montenegro

- 2) The 1980 Winter Olympics were held in Lake Placid, a village in what northeastern New York mountain range?
 - a) Catskills
 - b) Adirondacks
 - c) Presidentials
 - d) Buffalo

- 3) Which of the following states was NOT the site of an attempted independent republic since 1776?
 - a) California
 - b) Minnesota
 - c) Texas
 - d) Vermont

- 4) Which of the following cities is located along the Niger River?
 - a) Nairobi
 - b) Yaoundé
 - c) Bamako
 - d) Accra

- 5) Which of the following states is located in the region nicknamed "Tornado Alley"
 - a) South Carolina
 - b) Pennsylvania
 - c) Nebraska
 - d) Oregon

- 6) Which ancient civilization, known for its large stone heads, had a major temple complex at La Venta in present-day Mexico?
 - a) Olmec
 - b) Incan
 - c) Navajo
 - d) Mayan

- 7) Lake Vanern is the largest lake in which country, also home to the island of Gotland in the Baltic Sea?
 - a) Norway
 - b) Switzerland
 - c) Germany
 - d) Sweden

- 8) The Wallace Line highlights a floral and faunal distinction in what world region?
- a) Southeast Asia and Oceania
 - b) North Africa and the Middle East
 - c) South America
 - d) Europe
- 9) Which two South American countries belong to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries?
- a) Suriname and Brazil
 - b) Venezuela and Ecuador
 - c) Chile and Venezuela
 - d) Brazil and Argentina
- 10) Which of the following Canadian provinces is considered one of the Maritime Provinces?
- a) New Brunswick
 - b) British Columbia
 - c) Alberta
 - d) Quebec

11) On a map, contour lines are used to show what physical feature?

- a) Type of rock
- b) Forest cover
- c) Elevation
- d) Temperature

12) The 2011 Arab Spring uprising began with the public suicide of a fruit seller in what country?

- a) Iraq
- b) Kuwait
- c) Mali
- d) Tunisia

13) Which of the following Asian rivers does NOT begin in China?

- a) Yangtze
- b) Mekong
- c) Yellow
- d) Ganges

14) Which country features the Apennine Mountains down its center?

- a) Portugal
- b) Denmark
- c) Italy
- d) Croatia

15) What is the term for the natural turning in the course of a river?

- a) Meander
- b) Water slide
- c) River scatter
- d) Eddying

16) Which type of cloud is the least likely to produce rain?

- a) Stratocumulus
- b) Cirrus
- c) Cumulonimbus
- d) Nimbostratus

17) Which of the following Latin American countries has Spanish as its official language?

- a) Brazil
- b) Suriname
- c) Panama
- d) Grenada

18) The Western Wall is a religiously significant site in which controversial capital?

- a) Beijing
- b) Damascus
- c) Beirut
- d) Jerusalem

19) Which state has the highest population density?

- a) Ohio
- b) Kentucky
- c) New Jersey
- d) Virginia

20) Which of the following winds are most associated with the Sahara Desert?

- a) Santa Ana
- b) Sirocco
- c) Chinook
- d) Monsoon

21) Which governmental organization produces detailed maps of the United States?

- a) American Mapping Agency
- b) United States Geological Survey
- c) United States Department of Geography
- d) Navy Corps of Engineers

22) Which attempted breakaway state is located near the Russian resort city of Sochi?

- a) Abkhazia
- b) Gregovia
- c) Transnistria
- d) Moldova

23) Which authoritarian-led state moved its capital from Yangon to Naypyidaw in 2006?

- a) Nepal
- b) North Korea
- c) Taiwan
- d) Burma (Myanmar)

24) Angel Falls, the world's highest waterfall, is located in which country?

- a) Canada
- b) Venezuela
- c) Mexico
- d) France

25) Which European capital was constructed on the Tiber River?

- a) Brussels
- b) Stockholm
- c) Vienna
- d) Rome

26) Which of the following African empires was centered around the city of Gao?

- a) Great Zimbabwe
- b) Axum
- c) Songhai
- d) Ghana

27) Which of the following countries does NOT border the Caspian Sea?

- a) Russia
- b) Turkmenistan
- c) Afghanistan
- d) Iran

28) Which state's mountainous features include the Brooks Range and Denali?

- a) Missouri
- b) Texas
- c) Alaska
- d) Oregon

29) Which of the following countries is landlocked?

- a) Burkina Faso
- b) Cameroon
- c) Kenya
- d) Guinea

30) Which of the following Washington, DC landmarks is an example of an obelisk?

- a) Washington Monument
- b) Lincoln Memorial
- c) The Reflecting Pool
- d) Vietnam Veterans Memorial

31) Which Latin American capital city is a planned city built in the 20th century?

- a) Brasilia
- b) Caracas
- c) Buenos Aires
- d) Tegucigalpa

32) Which Danish-born explorer names a sea and strait between Russia and Alaska?

- a) Vitus Bering
- b) Linus Pauling
- c) Paulus Quisling
- d) Abel Tasman

33) The Benguela and Agulhas are found off the coast of Africa and are types of what marine phenomena?

- a) Tides
- b) Waves
- c) Eddies
- d) Currents

34) The manmade Lake Gatun is part of what system?

- a) Niagara Falls
- b) Panama Canal
- c) Intracoastal Waterway
- d) Strait of Magellan

35) Which state's border with New Brunswick was at the center of the Aroostook War?

- a) Vermont
- b) Michigan
- c) New York
- d) Maine

36) Which map scale would be most appropriate for a world map?

- a) 1:1
- b) 1:100
- c) 1:10,000
- d) 1:10,000,000

37) Which of these island chains is NOT in the North Atlantic?

- a) The Azores
- b) Madeira Islands
- c) Balearics
- d) Canary Islands

38) The Treaty of Waitangi concerned the Maori people of what island group?

- a) New Zealand
- b) New Caledonia
- c) Indonesia
- d) Hawai'i

39) What is the term for the area between the savannah and the Sahara Desert?

- a) Sandlandia
- b) Sahel
- c) Ritta
- d) Tibesti

40) In which lowest layer of the atmosphere does most weather take place?

- a) Troposphere
- b) Stratosphere
- c) Ionosphere
- d) Thermosphere

41) Which "Charm City" is home to Fort McHenry and is found at the mouth of the Patapsco River?

- a) Philadelphia
- b) Newark
- c) Baltimore
- d) Norfolk

42) Which of the following is NOT a capital of South Africa?

- a) Bloemfontein
- b) Cape Town
- c) Johannesburg
- d) Pretoria

43) Which country's Atacama Desert is the driest in the world?

- a) Mexico
- b) Chile
- c) Brazil
- d) Spain

44) Which French city is located on its Mediterranean coast?

- a) Nice
- b) Paris
- c) Bordeaux
- d) Rouen

45) The Bass Strait separates what island from the south coast of the mainland of Australia?

- a) Java
- b) New Guinea
- c) North Island of New Zealand
- d) Tasmania

46) Which Central American country lacks a Caribbean coast?

- a) Belize
- b) Guatemala
- c) Nicaragua
- d) El Salvador

47) Which of the following peaks is NOT in the Alps?

- a) Mont Blanc
- b) Matterhorn
- c) Mount Ararat
- d) Jungfrau

48) Which of the following nations has no land on the island of Borneo?

- a) Indonesia
- b) Malaysia
- c) Brunei
- d) The Philippines

49) The Ebro, Guadalquivir, and Tagus are all rivers on what peninsula?

- a) Iberian
- b) Italian
- c) Yucatan
- d) Peruvian

50) Zoroastrianism is a religion that originates from territory corresponding to which present-day country?

- a) India
- b) Iran
- c) Croatia
- d) Yemen