



## American Geography Examination IAC Nationals 2023

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. Write the answer to your tiebreaker question on the back of your scantron.**

1. Which of these is NOT considered a New England state?

- A. Connecticut
- B. New Jersey
- C. Maine
- D. Rhode Island

2. Which of these major US cities has gained population since 2020?

- A. Phoenix, AZ
- B. New York, NY
- C. Los Angeles, CA
- D. Philadelphia, PA

3. Which of these, the deadliest natural disaster in American history, struck Galveston, TX in 1900?

- A. an earthquake
- B. a tsunami
- C. a hurricane
- D. a tornado

4. What US state leads the nation in potato production?

- A. Montana
- B. Wyoming
- C. Idaho
- D. Colorado

5. Crossing much of the eastern US along the Atlantic coast, the Atlantic Flyway is a major path for which of these in North America?

- A. bird migration
- B. honeybee colonies
- C. whale and cetacean breeding
- D. invasive insects

6. Which of these is the capital of Louisiana?

- A. Monroe
- B. Shreveport
- C. Alexandria
- D. Baton Rouge

7. The Pacific Aero Products Company, a precursor to Boeing, was founded in what western city in 1916?

- A. San Francisco
- B. Seattle
- C. Denver
- D. Los Angeles

8. The Gateway Arch in St. Louis, MO was built as a monument to which of these in the United States?

- A. soldiers from World War I
- B. immigrants to the state
- C. westward migration
- D. American industry

9. After English, which of these is the most commonly spoken first language in Massachusetts?

- A. Italian
- B. Portuguese
- C. Spanish
- D. Vietnamese

10. Which of the following pairs of states are the most rural in the United States, with the highest percentages of their populations living outside of cities?

- A. Maine and Vermont
- B. Alaska and Hawai'i
- C. West Virginia and Mississippi
- D. Kentucky and Alabama

11. In the Compromise of 1850, much of the territory of the proposed State of Deseret was incorporated into what newly created territory named for a present-day state?

- A. Nevada
- B. Utah
- C. New Mexico
- D. Colorado

12. Despite perceptions it is an agricultural state, which of these makes up the largest percentage of Iowa's economic output?

- A. manufacturing
- B. information technology
- C. healthcare services
- D. finance

13. Which of these was primarily responsible for the formation of Chesapeake Bay?

- A. a meteorite impact event
- B. a retreating glacier
- C. erosion by the Susquehanna River
- D. the collapse of a massive limestone cave system

14. Which of the following states is NOT part of the Four Corners region of the US?

- A. Arizona
- B. Nevada
- C. New Mexico
- D. Colorado

15. The Twelve-Mile Circle forms most of the border between what two states?

- A. New Jersey and New York
- B. Virginia and West Virginia
- C. Pennsylvania and Delaware
- D. Tennessee and Kentucky

16. The depopulation of many areas of the Great Plains by residents moving to cities or larger towns is known by what term?

- A. push migration
- B. rural flight
- C. chain migration
- D. farm frustration

17. Mount Marcy is the highest peak in what Eastern US state?

- A. South Carolina
- B. Virginia
- C. Georgia
- D. New York

18. Which of these does NOT border Minnesota?

- A. Lake Superior
- B. Ontario, Canada
- C. South Dakota
- D. Nebraska

19. All of these have served as the capital of California EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. Fresno
- B. Sacramento
- C. San Francisco
- D. Monterey

20. In the 1870s and 1880s the population of the Dakota Territory grew from 11,000 to nearly 350,000 due to the discovery of which of the following?

- A. tin
- B. oil
- C. gold
- D. salmon

21. Which of these rivers passes through Baltimore, MD and forms its harbor as it empties into Chesapeake Bay?

- A. the Potomac
- B. the Patapsco
- C. the James
- D. the Patuxent

22. The large dam constructed in the Black Canyon of the Colorado River in the early twentieth century is named for what US president?

- A. Calvin Coolidge
- B. Woodrow Wilson
- C. Theodore Roosevelt
- D. Herbert Hoover

23. Brooklyn, NY is home to the largest metropolitan community of which of these religious groups?

- A. Hasidic Jews
- B. Eastern Orthodox Christians
- C. Mennonites
- D. Buddhists

24. Which of these states does not have a panhandle?

- A. Texas
- B. Arizona
- C. Oklahoma
- D. Nebraska

25. Which of these invasive species, likely the result of the pet trade, poses a major threat to wildlife in Florida?

- A. marsh rabbit
- B. Burmese python
- C. Africanized bee
- D. gopher tortoise

26. The Llano Estacado or 'Staked Plains' in the Southwestern US is one of the largest examples of which of these natural features in the country?

- A. u-shaped valleys
- B. mesas or tablelands
- C. river valleys
- D. limestone cave complexes

27. What capital of Montana was originally named Crabtown after one of its founders?

- A. Augusta
- B. Cheyenne
- C. Helena
- D. Boise

28. Which of these is NOT true of the region of the United States known as 'Tornado Alley'?
- A. it covers much of the Great Plains
  - B. it has one of the highest average rates for tornado strikes in the world
  - C. Oklahoma is not considered part of Tornado Alley
  - D. it is caused in part by the interaction of air masses from Canada, the Gulf of Mexico and the dry areas of the Southwest
29. The majority of New England falls under what climate type under the Koppen classification system?
- A. Cfa (humid subtropical)
  - B. BSk (cold semi-arid)
  - C. ET (tundra)
  - D. Dfb (warm-summer humid subtropical)
30. According to archaeological evidence, the Nez Perce tribe have lived in the plateau named for what Pacific Northwest river for over 11,000 years?
- A. Columbia River
  - B. Gila River
  - C. Pecos River
  - D. Green River
31. Which of these events has contributed the most to the drastic population decline in Puerto Rico since 2010?
- A. falling birth rates
  - B. a slowdown in immigration to the island
  - C. the devastation of hurricanes Maria and Irma in 2017 and the subsequent economic fallout
  - D. policies of the federal government to relocate Puerto Ricans to the US
32. The geographic center of the 48 contiguous states is located within what Midwestern state?
- A. Missouri
  - B. Kansas
  - C. Colorado
  - D. Oklahoma
33. The Port of Miami in Florida is the world's busiest port for which of the following?
- A. cruise ships
  - B. oil exporting
  - C. grain exporting
  - D. automobile imports
34. What US state is home to the Grand Canyon?
- A. New Mexico
  - B. Arizona
  - C. Utah
  - D. Colorado
35. What highland region covers nearly 47,000 square miles of Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma?
- A. the Rockies
  - B. the Appalachians
  - C. the Alleghenies
  - D. the Ozarks
36. Which of these states is the LEAST populous?
- A. Louisiana
  - B. Arkansas
  - C. Mississippi
  - D. North Dakota
37. The Pennsylvania Dutch language, spoken among Old Order Amish and Mennonites, is a variety of which of the following languages?
- A. French
  - B. Romansh
  - C. Italian
  - D. German
38. What Sierra Nevada peak is the tallest in the continental United States?
- A. Mount Bona
  - B. Mount Whitney
  - C. Blanca Peak
  - D. Denali
39. Saipan is the capital of which US territory?
- A. Guam
  - B. the US Virgin Islands
  - C. American Samoa
  - D. the Northern Mariana Islands
40. Poverty Point and Watson Brake in Louisiana are which of the following types of structures constructed by early Native Americans?
- A. cliff dwellings
  - B. fishing villages
  - C. mound or earthwork complexes
  - D. flood control systems
41. What New England state capital is the least populous in the US?
- A. Hartford, CT
  - B. Augusta, ME
  - C. Boston, MA
  - D. Montpelier, VT
42. Mount St. Helens in Washington was the site of the most destructive example in the US of what type of natural disaster in 1980?
- A. landslide
  - B. volcanic eruption
  - C. tornado
  - D. flood

43. Fortune 500 companies like Walmart and Tyson Foods are headquartered in the northwestern part of what southern state?
- Arkansas
  - Mississippi
  - Alabama
  - Tennessee
44. Old Faithful located in Yellowstone National Park is an example of what geographical feature?
- geyser
  - canyon
  - mesa
  - lake
45. Given the geography and climate of South Carolina, which of these emerged as the most important cash crops of the colony by the early eighteenth century?
- tobacco and wheat
  - rice and indigo
  - sugarcane and corn
  - potatoes and squash
46. Which of these Minnesota lakes forms the headwaters of the Mississippi River?
- Lake of the Woods
  - Mille Lacs
  - Lake Itasca
  - Lake Winnibigoshish
47. Territories like Baker Island, Howland Island, and Jarvis Island were claimed by the United States in the nineteenth century as a potential source of what resource?
- guano
  - granite
  - fresh water
  - coal
48. All of these deserts touch the state of California EXCEPT which of the following?
- Sonoran Desert
  - Chihuahuan Desert
  - Mojave Desert
  - Great Basin Desert
49. Which of these has cast its electoral votes for a Democratic candidate in every election since 1964?
- New York
  - California
  - Washington, DC
  - Massachusetts
50. The Dakota Access Pipeline project, which resulted in protests from Native American groups, was constructed to transport oil from which of the following regions in North Dakota?
- the Black Hills
  - the Bakken Formation
  - Lake Agassiz
  - the Yellowstone River
51. What US state is home to the fifty-eight mountains known as "Fourteeners" for having elevation at or above 14,000 feet?
- Washington
  - South Dakota
  - Colorado
  - Nevada
52. Which of these is the most populous city in Texas?
- Austin
  - Fort Worth
  - Houston
  - San Antonio
53. What most-visited National Park in the US straddles the border between Tennessee and North Carolina?
- Acadia
  - Glacier
  - Theodore Roosevelt
  - Great Smoky Mountains
54. Pacific Northwest tribes such as the Haida and Tlingit use cedar to record stories in which of the following mediums?
- arches
  - canoes
  - totem poles
  - mounds
55. The Dry Tortugas is a small archipelago of coral islands that is the westernmost part of which of these?
- the Aleutian Islands
  - the Florida Keys
  - the Channel Islands
  - the Hawaiian Islands
56. The land area of Texas is closest to which of these figures?
- 500,000 square miles
  - 260,000 square miles
  - 120,000 square miles
  - 75,000 square miles
57. 'Hoosier' is the name used to refer to natives of what state?
- Ohio
  - Indiana
  - Illinois
  - Kentucky

58. Which of these is NOT true of the Navajo Nation?
- it is governed entirely by the US federal government with little tribal sovereignty
  - it is the largest Native American reservation by area in the US
  - it is home to just over half of the members of the Navajo tribe
  - it encompasses territory in Utah, Arizona and New Mexico
59. Which of these is true of the city of Wichita, KS?
- it is the capital of Kansas
  - it is the most populous city in Kansas
  - it is the largest city by area west of the Mississippi River
  - it has an elevation of nearly 5,000 feet above sea level
60. A statue of what Russian revolutionary turned founder of the Soviet Union is often vandalized in the Fremont neighborhood of Seattle?
- Joseph Stalin
  - Leon Trotsky
  - Lavrentiy Beria
  - Vladimir Lenin
61. The 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church, the Edmund Pettus Bridge, and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice are important sites in Alabama relating to which of the following?
- the civil rights movement
  - the women's' suffrage movement
  - the temperance movement
  - immigration
62. 'Yoopers' is the nickname for residents of what region of the state of Michigan?
- the Northwest Angle
  - the Bootheel
  - the Upper Peninsula
  - the Toe
63. Which of the following US states does NOT host at least one major league professional sports team?
- Nevada
  - New Mexico
  - Oregon
  - Utah
64. Which of these cities is most likely to experience lake-effect snowfalls, due to its location on the eastern shore of a Great Lake?
- Minneapolis, MN
  - Philadelphia, PA
  - Buffalo, NY
  - Indianapolis, IN
65. Which of these is NOT considered part of the Chicago metro area?
- Milwaukee, WI
  - Gary, IN
  - Evanston, IL
  - Kenosha, WI
66. As of 2020, what percentage of Oklahoma's population identified as American Indian or Alaska Native?
- more than 15%
  - roughly 5%
  - roughly 2 %
  - less than 1%
67. Which of these contains the lowest point in the United States?
- the bottom of the Grand Canyon in Arizona
  - Badwater Basin in Death Valley, California
  - New Orleans, Louisiana
  - Mobile, Alabama
68. The San Andreas Fault in California is a strike-slip fault caused by the meeting of the North American Plate and what other major tectonic plate?
- the Pacific Plate
  - the Cocos Plate
  - the Nazca Plate
  - the Caribbean Plate
69. Which of these cities is famous for its namesake 'chili', a meat sauce inspired by Macedonian immigrants?
- Indianapolis
  - Louisville
  - Cincinnati
  - Pittsburgh
70. Which of these is a major tourist attraction in South Dakota?
- Big Bend National Park
  - Mount Rushmore
  - Carlsbad Caverns
  - the Painted Desert
71. The TV series Yellowstone portrays the Dutton family working to protect their livelihood in what industry?
- mining
  - railroads
  - ranching
  - commercial fishing
72. Which of these is NOT a climate type within the state of Texas?
- hot desert (BWh)
  - cold desert (BWk)
  - humid subtropical (Cfa)
  - tropical rainforest (Af)

73. Which of these states has the highest percentage of French-speaking households in the United States?
- A. Wisconsin
  - B. Maine
  - C. Louisiana
  - D. Florida
74. Which of these is NOT true of the National Park System?
- A. California has the most national parks of any state
  - B. there is at least one national park in every state
  - C. both American Samoa and the US Virgin Islands have national parks
  - D. Yellowstone, created in 1872, was the first national park
75. How many US states have a population density that is below 10 people per square mile?
- A. 20
  - B. 12
  - C. 7
  - D. 3

### **Tiebreaker**

This question will only be scored if there is a tie for placement on the exam. There is no penalty for a wrong answer to this question. Write your answer legibly on the back of your scantron.

According to NOAA, how long in miles is the shoreline of the United States? This includes measurements of the coastal states (which includes the Great Lakes) as well as outlying U.S. territories and possessions.