



Ancient History 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 true of Ramesses the Great of Egypt?

- A. he is known in Greek sources as Ozymandias
- B. he conducted several successful military campaigns in the Levant and Nubia
- C. he was likely the father of Tutankhamun
- D. his reign lasted for more than 60 years

2. Which of these is a term for banishing a citizen from classical Athens for a period of ten years, named for the pottery shards used as voting tokens?

- A. shunning
- B. ostracism
- C. demos
- D. isonomia

3. The Olmec were known for sculpting large examples of which of these, which were thought to represent their leaders?

- A. jaguars
- B. thunderbirds
- C. heads
- D. totem poles

4. Which of these was NOT a member of the First Triumvirate?

- A. Marcus Tullius Cicero
- B. Julius Caesar
- C. Gnaeus Pompey Magnus
- D. Marcus Licinius Crassus

5. Hotu Matu'a was the legendary chief that settled which of the following, known for its monumental statues, around the year 800 CE?

- A. Oahu
- B. Christmas Island
- C. Easter Island
- D. Yap

6. The brothers Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus were Roman statesmen killed in the 2nd century BCE, partly due to their desire to reform which of these areas of Roman life?

- A. the priesthood and religious observations
- B. the military
- C. the use and ownership of Roman public land
- D. trade with the Greek city-states and Egypt

7. Chandragupta Maurya was able to establish the Mauryan Empire by defeating which of these in the 4th century BCE?

- A. the Nanda Empire and the Seleucids
- B. the Shunga Empire
- C. the Pandyan dynasty
- D. the Chola dynasty

8. Which of these ended the 'Crisis of the Third Century' in the Roman Empire?

- A. the assassination of Emperor Severus Alexander
- B. the debasement of currency and an economic collapse
- C. the massive death toll from the Plague of Cyprian
- D. the ascension of Diocletian

9. The Minoan civilization in ancient Greece was centered on which of these islands?

- A. Naxos
- B. Crete
- C. Santorini
- D. Mykonos

10. Which of these was the result of the First Fitna in the 7th century CE?

- A. the reconquest of North Africa and the Middle East by the Byzantines
- B. the destruction of the Umayyad Caliphate and the ascendancy of the Kharijites
- C. the Christianization of North Africa and the Middle East
- D. the defeat of the Rashidun Caliphate and the establishment of the Umayyad Caliphate

11. Ptolemy I Soter established a namesake dynasty which ruled which of these during antiquity?

- A. Macedon
- B. Egypt
- C. Libya
- D. Attica

12. According to legend, Tarquinius Superbus, the last king of Rome, was overthrown by a group led by which of these men?

- A. Ancus Marcius
- B. Lucius Junius Brutus
- C. Numa Pompilius
- D. Tullus Hostilius

13. Which of these was NOT one of the major Mesoamerican societies in the period before European contact?

- A. Zapotec
- B. Olmec
- C. Maya
- D. Paracas

14. Emperor Marcus Aurelius was a noted philosopher who followed which of these philosophical schools?

- A. stoicism
- B. epicureanism
- C. skepticism
- D. scholasticism

15. Which of these is true of human migration to what is now Australia?

- A. it likely occurred from Southeast Asia via a land bridge or short sea voyage
- B. it came directly from East Africa
- C. humans arrived in New Zealand first and then migrated to Australia
- D. there is no evidence of human migration to Australia before 10,000 years ago

16. Prince Shotoku commissioned Shitenno-ji in 593 CE to be the first Japanese temple for which of the following traditions?

- A. Buddhism
- B. Hinduism
- C. Shintoism
- D. Confucianism

17. Sangam literature, from roughly 300 BCE to 300 CE, is the earliest period for literature written in what language of South India?

- A. Urdu
- B. Hindi
- C. Punjabi
- D. Tamil

18. What Chinese dynasty led a military campaign against the Three Kingdoms under Emperor Taizong in 645 CE?

- A. Sui
- B. Tang
- C. Ming
- D. Zhou

19. Linear B was a writing system used in the Bronze Age to write what ancient form of the Greek language?

- A. Koine Greek
- B. Attic Greek
- C. Hellenistic Greek
- D. Mycenaean Greek

20. Which of these pairs of civilizations dominated Mesopotamia around 3000 BCE?

- A. Sumerians and Akkadians
- B. Seleucids and Parthians
- C. Romans and Sasanians
- D. Arameans and Anatolians

21. Zoroastrianism was founded in antiquity in an area within which of these modern-day countries?

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

22. Which of these famous works of art, housed in a namesake museum, is a depiction of part of the founding legend of Rome?

- A. the Capitoline Wolf
- B. the Primaporta Augustus
- C. the Arch of Titus
- D. the Arch of Constantine

23. Which of these is NOT true of the Bantu expansion?

- A. it took place in two waves between roughly 1000 BCE and 1 CE
- B. evidence for the Bantu expansion is linguistic and does not rely on written accounts
- C. it crossed the Sahara into North Africa around 1 CE
- D. it is believed to have started near the border between Cameroon and Nigeria

24. Which of these is NOT one of the 'reforms' of the Roman government undertaken by Augustus Caesar during his reign?

- A. he created the Praetorian Guard
- B. he created a standing army with a fixed size
- C. he increased the power of the equites while diminishing the power of the Senate and senators
- D. he sharply diminished the power of the priesthood and gave up all his religious offices

25. King Jayavarman II declaring himself chakravartin, or 'universal ruler', in 802 CE is traditionally considered the beginning of which of these?

- A. the Khmer Empire
- B. the Ayutthaya Kingdom
- C. the Chola Empire
- D. the Champa Kingdom

26. Duke Xiao of the Qin dynasty adopted legalism after being introduced to it in 361 BCE by which of the following?

- A. Confucius
- B. Shang Yang
- C. Laozi
- D. Mencius

27. Many ancient historical records for what 'Land of the Thunder Dragon' in South Asia were lost when its ancient capital of Punakha was destroyed by fire in 1827?

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. Bhutan
- C. Nepal
- D. Bangladesh

28. The Great Wall was first constructed to protect the Chinese people from the nomadic tribes of what region?

- A. Mongolia
- B. India
- C. Korea
- D. Russia

29. Which of these is the term for the subjugated, possibly enslaved, people who constituted a majority of the population of ancient Sparta?

- A. Spartiates
- B. mothakes
- C. perioikoi
- D. helots

30. In the 15th century BCE, Pharaoh Thutmose III targeted coastal Phoenician cities for conquest in part to acquire what resource that was scarce in Egypt?

- A. papyrus
- B. wood
- C. cotton
- D. fresh water

31. What 'new city' was founded by Phoenicians, likely during the 9th century BCE, and eventually became a regional power and bitter enemy of Rome?

- A. Carthage
- B. Amarna
- C. Larsa
- D. Issin

32. Which of these is NOT true of the office of consul in the Roman Republic?

- A. they held executive power in the government and took over many powers of the former king
- B. each consul had a veto power
- C. consular terms lasted for one year
- D. consuls were immune from prosecution for crimes both during and after their terms

33. The Great Mosque of Djenne, both in its original form dating from the 13th or 14th century and its modern reconstruction, is built of what material?

- A. adobe or earthen bricks
- B. wood
- C. concrete
- D. glass

34. Which of these emerged victorious in the 'Year of the Four Emperors' in Rome and began the new Flavian dynasty?

- A. Galba
- B. Otho
- C. Vitellius
- D. Vespasian

35. Which of these was the result of the 480 BCE Battle of Salamis?

- A. a decisive victory for the Persians that completed the conquest of Greece
- B. an indecisive battle with massive casualties on both sides
- C. a victory for the outnumbered Greeks that marked a turning point in the Persian War
- D. a decisive victory for the Greeks that resulted in an immediate end to the war and the death of Xerxes

36. The travels of Zhang Qian during the Han dynasty laid the foundation for what trade route?

- A. Trans-Saharan trade
- B. Tea Horse Road
- C. Silk Roads
- D. Indian Ocean trade

37. Which of these did not conquer or rule much of the area of modern-day Pakistan during the Classical Period (500 BCE to 500 CE)?

- A. the Achaemenid Empire
- B. Alexander the Great
- C. the Maurya Empire
- D. the Roman Empire

38. Which of the following is NOT attributed to the great Chinese inventors of the Tang and Song dynasties?

- A. gunpowder
- B. trebuchet
- C. magnetic compass
- D. paper money

39. The Ionian Revolt of the early 5th century BCE was an immediate precursor to what major conflict in ancient Greece?

- A. the Peloponnesian War
- B. the wars of the Diadochi
- C. the Persian Wars
- D. the Macedonian Wars

40. Which of these is NOT true of King Sennacherib of the Neo-Assyrian Empire?

- A. he was responsible for the destruction of Babylon in the 7th century BCE
- B. his campaign in the Levant is described in the Hebrew Bible
- C. he conquered and pacified Egypt in the early years of his reign
- D. he restored and expanded the city of Nineveh

41. According to Herodotus, which of these Persian leaders was killed in 530 BCE in a battle with the Massagetae after first proposing marriage to their queen, Tomyris?

- A. Cyrus the Great
- B. Darius the Great
- C. Sogdianus
- D. Artaxerxes I

42. Which of these is NOT true of the reign of Theodosius the Great of the Roman Empire?

- A. he helped establish the Nicene Creed as the orthodox doctrine of Christianity
- B. he subscribed to the doctrine of Arianism, later deemed a heresy
- C. he won a crucial war against the Goths
- D. he was the last emperor to rule the entire Roman empire before its split

43. Which of these is NOT true of Great Zimbabwe?

- A. it is the largest stone structure in pre-colonial Southern Africa
- B. little is known about the civilization or kingdom that occupied the site
- C. the demise of its civilization and abandonment are attributed by many to climate change
- D. it is located in modern-day Tanzania

44. Based on archaeological evidence, to which of these places did humans migrate MOST recently?

- A. Europe
- B. Japan
- C. Siberia
- D. the Americas

45. The Trung Sisters and Lady Trieu were leaders in Vietnam who both fought for which of these causes?

- A. to protect Vietnam from Japanese invasion
- B. Vietnamese independence from Chinese domination
- C. liberation from the Mongols
- D. to fight off piracy from Java and other island kingdoms

46. What earliest Chinese dynasty is often considered mythical due to lack of archaeological evidence?

- A. Xia
- B. Zhou
- C. Shang
- D. Xin

47. The Painted Grey Ware Culture and the Northern Black Polished Ware Culture are ancient South Asian societies that are named for their distinctive types of which of the following?

- A. pottery
- B. grave markers
- C. temples
- D. writing instruments

48. The Chinese peasants that launched a 184 CE rebellion with support from secret Taoist societies wore turbans of what color?

- A. green
- B. black
- C. white
- D. yellow

49. The famed 'Alexander Mosaic' of Pompeii depicts Alexander the Great at what decisive 333 BCE victory over the Persian Empire?

- A. the Battle of Issus
- B. the Battle of the Hydaspes
- C. the Battle of Megalopolis
- D. the Battle of Corinth

50. Which of these men fought the Donatist heresy and wrote works such as Confessions while bishop of Hippo in Roman North Africa during the late 4th and early 5th century?

- A. St. Jerome
- B. St. Augustine
- C. St. Francis
- D. St. Bonaventure

51. The Giza necropolis, including the Great Pyramid, were built during which of these time periods?

- A. 4000 to 3800 BCE
- B. 2600 to 2500 BCE
- C. 100 BCE to 100 CE
- D. 300 CE to 400 CE

52. Based on historical accounts and archaeological evidence, which of these is the most likely period for the migration of the Angles, Saxons and other Germanic groups to England?

- A. 150 to 250 CE
- B. 250 to 350 CE
- C. 350 to 400 CE
- D. after 400 CE

53. Gebre Mesqel Lalibela, the best-known ruler of the Zagwe dynasty, is famous for constructing which of these in several locations throughout modern-day Ethiopia?

- A. canals
- B. monolithic churches hewn from rock
- C. monumental sculptures of himself
- D. a system of paved roads with stone bridges

54. In which of these places did writing develop the earliest?

- A. Egypt and the Middle East
- B. China
- C. Mesoamerica
- D. the Indus River Valley

55. Which of these is NOT true of cities of the Indus River Valley Civilization?

- A. they had drainage and water supply systems
- B. they used urban planning techniques to organize settlements
- C. they lacked marketplaces and temples within the city
- D. they constructed brick houses

56. The terracotta army is attributed what Qin dynasty emperor who established his capital city at Xianyang?

- A. Gaozu
- B. Liu Bang
- C. Shi Huangdi
- D. Taizu

57. Throughout the 7th and 6th century BCE, Sparta fought for dominance on the Peloponnese Peninsula with what other city-state, which it decisively subdued in the 494 Battle of Sepeia?

- A. Eleusis
- B. Argos
- C. Megaris
- D. Olympia

58. Which of the following was NOT included in the Three Kingdoms of Korea from 57 BCE to 668 CE?

- A. Baekje
- B. Goguryeo
- C. Chubu
- D. Silla

59. Which of these is NOT true of the Late Bronze Age collapse?

- A. it was localized to the Greek islands and Attica
- B. many competing theories for its cause have been advanced since the 19th century
- C. it was followed by the Greek Dark Ages
- D. it resulted in the collapse of the Minoan and Mycenaean civilizations

60. During the 12th century CE, the Almoravids lost control of their territory to what new caliphate founded by Ibn Tumart?

- A. the Almohads
- B. the Hammadids
- C. the Marinids
- D. the Hafsid

61. The Sasanian Empire reached its greatest extent under the rule of what king in the 7th century CE?

- A. Ardashir I
- B. Bahram II
- C. Hormizid I
- D. Khosrow II

62. Carthage faced which of these conflicts, a revolt of troops that were previously employed in their army, just after the First Punic War?

- A. the Servile War
- B. the Mercenary War
- C. the Nubian War
- D. the Social War

63. Which of these is the name for the oral constitution of the Iroquois Confederacy?

- A. the Great Law of Peace
- B. the Tahlequah Constitution
- C. The Law
- D. the Quipu

64. Which of these is NOT true of the Nok culture?

- A. they mass produced terracotta sculptures, likely as part of funeral rituals
- B. they had a widespread influence on later African art from the region
- C. they developed their own form of iron smelting, likely independent from outside influence
- D. they were a nomadic people who did not practice agriculture or build permanent settlements

65. Which of these originated from the Sramana movement during the 'second urbanization' period of Indian history?

- A. Sikhism and Taoism
- B. Cao Dai and Shinto
- C. Buddhism and Jainism
- D. Ayyavazhi and Ahmadiyya

66. Noblewoman Murasaki Shikibu wrote the world's first novel, the Tale of Genji, in 1010 during what Japanese classical period?

- A. Muromachi
- B. Heian
- C. Meiji
- D. Edo

67. Which of these did Attalus III of Pergamon do with the city when he died without an heir in 133 BCE?

- A. burned it and forced its inhabitants to flee
- B. left it as a gift to the Roman Republic
- C. invited the Ptolemaic dynasty to take over, despite his hatred for the family
- D. made it a democracy ruled by its citizens

68. The end of the Genpei War brought about the Kamakura period in which Japanese military dictators adopted which of the following titles?

- A. shogun
- B. emperor
- C. khan
- D. sultan

69. Which of these Athenian leaders, due to his governmental reforms in 508 BCE, is known as the 'father of Athenian democracy'?

- A. Solon
- B. Draco
- C. Hippias
- D. Cleisthenes

70. The Neolithic earthwork structures at Göbekli Tepe predate the more famous monument of the same type located at which of these places?

- A. Skara Brae
- B. Jericho
- C. Gesher
- D. Stonehenge

71. The formation and development of the Great Seljuk Empire in the 11th century CE helped further which of these processes in Anatolia and the surrounding area?

- A. Christianization
- B. Islamification
- C. Turkification
- D. economic decline and collapse

72. In the 3rd century BCE the Roman Republic fought a major conflict with Pyrrhus, a leader of what kingdom?

- A. Carthage
- B. Syracuse
- C. Epirus
- D. Macedonia

73. Inca leader Topa Inca Yupanqui was notable for which of these achievements in the 15th century?

- A. invention of the 'ballgame'
- B. ending the practice of human sacrifice
- C. founding the city of Cusco
- D. conquest of Inca rivals like Chimor and the Mapuche people

74. In the 7th century BCE, King Esarhaddon of the Neo-Assyrian Empire defeated a coalition of groups including the Cimmerians and what other nomadic Iranian group that originated on the Eurasian Steppe?

- A. Scythians
- B. Goths
- C. Slavs
- D. Ossetians

75. Which of these was NOT main contributing factor to the decline of the Gupta Empire in the 6th century CE?

- A. a major flood in the middle of the 6th century
- B. an invasion by the Alchon Huns
- C. the persecution of Buddhists and destruction of monasteries
- D. incursions by Muslims through the Khyber Pass

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 research from Stanford University on the geographical extent of the Roman Empire in the year 100 CE, how many days would the fastest journey departing Londinium in January take to reach Constantinople?