



Recent 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. In 2019, scientist published the first ever image of which of the following taken by a telescope?

- A. a dwarf planet
- B. a supernova
- C. a black hole
- D. an asteroid

2. In the 2000s, major global financial crises were touched off by asset bubbles in which pair of industries?

- A. technology and housing
- B. defense contractors and shipping
- C. entertainment and telephone services
- D. aircraft manufacturing and chemical manufacturing

3. Which of these was the most-visited e-commerce website of the 2000s until it was overtaken by Amazon in 2008?

- A. walmart.com
- B. pets.com
- C. eBay.com
- D. target.com

4. What revolutionary stepped down as president of Cuba in 2008?

- A. Raul Castro
- B. Miguel Diaz
- C. Blas Roca
- D. Fidel Castro

5. By the end of the 2010s, the percentage of the global population who had used the internet in the last 12 months was closest to which of these figures?

- A. 100%
- B. 55%
- C. 25%
- D. 10%

6. Which of these was a common reaction of central banks like the Federal Reserve to the 2008 financial crisis?

- A. lowering interest rates to zero or near zero
- B. restricting loans to struggling banks
- C. attempting to push stock prices down
- D. shrinking the money supply

7. What activist and Nobel Peace Prize recipient was the target of an assassination attempt in 2012 when she was a teenager?

- A. Malala Yousafzai
- B. Greta Thunberg
- C. Sarah Chadwick
- D. Lauren Hogg

8. The term 'cord cutting' refers to which of these in recent history with regard to entertainment?

- A. the abandonment of large-screen televisions in favor of small screens like phones
- B. using the internet and streaming services to access TV networks and shows instead of cable
- C. eliminating wired internet connections
- D. abandonment of movie theaters in favor of watching movies at home

9. Which of these nations declared independence from Serbia in 2006?

- A. Czech Republic
- B. Slovenia
- C. Slovakia
- D. Montenegro

10. The worst civil unrest since 1968 took place in France in 2018 and was named for what colorful article of clothing?

- A. red hats
- B. black coats
- C. yellow vests
- D. rainbow socks

11. What elementary particle was observed for the first time at the Large Hadron Collider in 2012?
- the Higgs boson
 - the electron
 - the positron
 - the antiquark
12. Which of these did NOT help cause rising oil prices during the decade of the 2000s?
- hurricane Katrina
 - increasing demand in Asia
 - speculation in the oil markets
 - release of oil from the US Strategic Petroleum Reserve
13. In 2001, Dennis Tito became the first tourist to visit which of these places?
- the moon
 - the International Space Station
 - the Mariana Trench
 - the wreckage of the Titanic
14. What Sudanese President became the first ever sitting head of state to be indicted by an international court in 2010?
- Laurent Gbagbo
 - Omar al-Bashir
 - Uhuru Kenyatta
 - Muammar Gaddafi
15. Which of these was the bestselling videogame of the decade of the 2000s?
- Wii Sports
 - Halo 3
 - Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare
 - Pokemon Emerald
16. In 2010, China surpassed which of these nations to become the world's second-largest economy?
- the UK
 - Russia
 - Japan
 - India
17. In April 2010, a plane crash claimed the lives of President Lech Kaczynski and 95 other passengers, including many senior government officials, from what nation?
- Poland
 - Czechia
 - Slovakia
 - Hungary
18. Which of the following was named 'artist of the decade' for the 2010s by Billboard magazine?
- Adele
 - Drake
 - Madonna
 - Eminem
19. The 2005 Tulip Revolution saw a governmental transition in what former Soviet republic governed from Bishkek?
- Georgia
 - Belarus
 - Kazakhstan
 - Kyrgyzstan
20. From 2020 to 2021, India saw widespread protests of workers in what occupation due to newly passed laws?
- technology workers
 - farmers
 - longshoremen
 - transit workers
21. The 2001 release of the film *Spirited Away* helped popularize what genre in the United States?
- anime
 - Yakuza
 - kaiju
 - Japanese horror
22. Edward Snowden leaked documents in 2013 that revealed details about which of these?
- NSA surveillance programs, including PRISM
 - the existence of CIA black sites within the US
 - FBI counterintelligence operations
 - false intelligence leading to the Iraq War
23. Which of these is NOT true of the iPhone?
- it was the first smartphone
 - it was the first smartphone without a physical keyboard
 - early versions featured a physical home button
 - it was the first smartphone with multi-touch technology
24. Iraq's presidency has been held by what political party since 2005?
- Taqadam Progress Party
 - Arab Socialist Union
 - Patriotic Union of Kurdistan
 - Iraqi Ba'ath Party
25. Which of these was the bestselling novel series of the 2010s in the US?
- the *Divergent* series
 - the *Hunger Games* series
 - the *Fifty Shades* series
 - the *Maze Runner* series
26. Which of these became the world's largest oil producer in 2018?
- the United States
 - Saudi Arabia
 - Russia
 - Nigeria

27. In 2019 a fire destroyed much of the roof and the spire of what Paris landmark?
- the Louvre
 - the Eiffel Tower
 - the Opera House
 - Notre Dame Cathedral
28. Which of these became the bestselling video game of all time across all platforms in 2019?
- Tetris
 - Minecraft
 - Pac-Man
 - Animal Crossing
29. The 'Arab Spring' protests started with protests against Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in 2011 in which of these nations?
- Bahrain
 - Tunisia
 - Libya
 - Syria
30. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo assumed the presidency of what nation in 2001 after the impeachment of Joseph Estrada?
- Indonesia
 - Philippines
 - Sri Lanka
 - Malaysia
31. Which of these was the best-selling author of the decade of the 2000s?
- Dan Brown
 - J.K. Rowling
 - Barack Obama
 - Cormac McCarthy
32. Which of these is NOT a member of the group of developing economies referred to with the acronym BRICS?
- Brazil
 - Russia
 - Indonesia
 - South Africa
33. What supersonic passenger airplane type was retired from service in 2003?
- the Boeing 747
 - the Airbus A-3
 - the Boeing Dreamliner
 - the Concorde
34. The deadly school hostage crisis at Beslan in 2004 allowed further consolidation of what executive that has been accused of disinformation and censorship?
- President of Russia
 - Supreme Leader of North Korea
 - Shah of Iran
 - President of Belarus
35. Blackpink, 2NE1, and BTS are all bands in what international music genre that saw increasing global popularity in the 2010s?
- K-pop
 - metalcore
 - folk
 - reggaeton
36. LIGO detected which of these in 2016, confirming a prediction made by Albert Einstein 100 years prior?
- a neutron star
 - a pulsar
 - gravitational waves
 - photons
37. Which of these American cities suffered a massive crisis involving contaminated drinking water from a namesake river in the 2010s?
- Jackson, MS
 - Austin, TX
 - Flint, MI
 - Burlington, VT
38. In 2021, the United States Intelligence Community published a report concluding that which of these existed?
- aliens
 - sleeper agents
 - UFOs
 - spy balloons
39. In 2020, a peace agreement was signed between the SLM, JEM and other groups to end the conflict in which of these regions of Sudan?
- Khartoum
 - Gedaref
 - Darfur
 - Kassala
40. The 2017 International Women's March was held in protest of which of the following?
- the inauguration of Donald Trump as President of the United States
 - the confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court
 - the overturning of the Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade*
 - the acquittal of Brock Turner on charges of sexual assault
41. Which of these, released in 2004 by filmmaker Michael Moore, remains the highest-grossing documentary film of all time?
- Fahrenheit 9/11*
 - March of the Penguins*
 - One Direction: This Is Us*
 - Katy Perry: Part of Me*

42. Which of these countries was the most severely affected during the Eurozone debt crisis that began in 2009?
- the UK
 - Italy
 - Greece
 - Germany
43. During the 2000s, flat panel displays using plasma, LCD or LED technologies began to replace larger monitors that used which of these systems?
- Aiken tubes
 - electroluminescent displays
 - cathode ray tubes
 - progressive scanning
44. What nation experienced a coup in 2006 while democratically elected Prime Minister Thaksin Sinawatra was in New York for a meeting of the United Nations?
- Bhutan
 - Sri Lanka
 - Brunei
 - Thailand
45. An earthquake and enormous tsunami that killed an estimated 230,000 people hit southeast Asia on what holiday?
- Christmas
 - Thanksgiving
 - New Years
 - Boxing Day
46. According to the UN, in what year did the population of the world cross 7 billion people?
- 2000
 - 2006
 - 2012
 - 2020
47. Which of these Supreme Court decisions controversially had a draft of its majority opinion leaked to the media in May of 2022?
- Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*
 - Planned Parenthood v. Casey*
 - City of Akron v. Akron Center*
 - June Medical Services v. Russo*
48. What former US president died in June of 2004 after a long fight with Alzheimer's disease?
- Richard Nixon
 - Gerald Ford
 - George H.W. Bush
 - Ronald Reagan
49. President Felipe Calderon declared a war on which of the following in Mexico in 2006 that has resulted in a sharp increase violence throughout the country?
- human trafficking
 - drugs
 - illegal migration
 - income tax fraud
50. Michelle Bachelet became the first female president of what nation when elected to her first of two non-consecutive terms in 2006?
- Peru
 - Uruguay
 - Argentina
 - Chile
51. Which of these men did NOT serve as Pope at some point between 2000 and 2023?
- John XXIII
 - John Paul II
 - Benedict XVI
 - Francis
52. Which of these regional currencies began circulating in 2002 among members of a certain transnational organization?
- the Russian ruble
 - the Euro
 - the British pound
 - the American dollar
53. Which of these was the most popular social networking site from 2005 to 2009, when it was replaced by Facebook?
- Friendster
 - MySpace
 - Mixi
 - Open Diary
54. Hamas took control of and established a separate government in which of the following territories in June 2007?
- West Bank
 - Gaza
 - Golan Heights
 - West Jerusalem
55. In 2009, an outbreak of H1N1 flu popularly named for what animal spread across the world?
- swine
 - horse
 - cow
 - monkey
56. Which of these Republican candidates did Barack Obama defeat in the 2012 US presidential election?
- Ross Perot
 - George W. Bush
 - Donald Trump
 - Mitt Romney

57. Imran Khan, the former prime minister of Pakistan, rose to fame as a star and national team captain in which of these sports?
- soccer
 - rugby
 - cricket
 - baseball
58. Which of these is the name given to the backlash in several countries, like Egypt and Libya, during the 2010s to the events of the Arab Spring?
- 'Arab Winter'
 - 'Long Hot Summer'
 - the 'Fall Back'
 - the 'Arab Crisis'
59. Both the US and Russia withdrew from which of these nuclear treaties in 2019, which during the Cold War had eliminated a certain class of nuclear weapons for the first time?
- START
 - INF
 - SALT I
 - SALT II
60. What Bangladeshi is the world's longest serving elected female head of government as of April 2023?
- Indira Gandhi
 - Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
 - Sheikh Hasina
 - Angela Merkel
61. Which of these nations had NOT legalized same-sex marriage by 2010?
- the Netherlands
 - Spain
 - Belgium
 - the United States
62. The 2000 election of what president broke the 71-year hold on Mexican politics by the Institutional Revolutionary Party?
- Ernesto Zedillo
 - Enrique Pena Nieto
 - Felipe Calderon
 - Vicente Fox
63. In 2005, French doctors completed the first partial transplant of which of these?
- an artificial heart
 - a liver grown inside an animal
 - a face
 - an arm
64. What region of Georgia has been recognized as an independent state by Russia since 2008?
- Somaliland
 - Transnistria
 - Abkhazia
 - Artsakh
65. Which of the following, an anti-apartheid activist and former president of South Africa, died in December 2013?
- Jacob Zuma
 - F.W. de Klerk
 - Steve Biko
 - Nelson Mandela
66. Which of these is NOT an example of a populist world leader who was in power in the 2010s?
- Donald Trump
 - Justin Trudeau
 - Narendra Modi
 - Jair Bolsonaro
67. What former Portuguese colony finally ended its decades-long civil war in 2002?
- Mozambique
 - Angola
 - Liberia
 - Algeria
68. Protests, which are believed to be the largest of their kind in human history, broke out in February of 2003 across the world over which of these issues?
- the US-led invasion of Iraq
 - climate change and environmental degradation
 - ongoing terrorist attacks in several countries
 - an acute global economic crisis
69. In 2000, Slobodan Milošević was overthrown as the leader of what nation and eventually handed over to an international tribunal for war crimes?
- Bulgaria
 - Romania
 - the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
 - Croatia
70. Which of the following has been the subject of protests in Iran in since the 2022 death of Mahsa Amini?
- the mandatory wearing of hijabs
 - the criminalization of LGBTQ relationships
 - the exclusion of women from higher education
 - the torture of child detainees
71. The '5 A Day' campaign in many developed nations was developed in the 2000s to encourage people to consume five servings of which of the following each day?
- sugar
 - fruits and vegetables
 - pasta
 - coffee

72. What newly established republic in the Commonwealth of Nations has both a female president and a female prime minister?

- A. Barbados
- B. Mauritius
- C. Fiji
- D. Malta

73. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action is the official name of the international agreement involving the nuclear program of what nation?

- A. Iraq
- B. Pakistan
- C. Iran
- D. North Korea

74. Which of the following Florida counties was NOT included in Al Gore's recount request in the 2000 presidential election?

- A. Alachua
- B. Miami-Dade
- C. Broward
- D. Palm Beach

75. The death of Kim Jong Il in 2011 resulted in a transition of power in what communist nation?

- A. Vietnam
- B. China
- C. North Korea
- D. Cuba

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 the Census Bureau, what was the population of the United States on Jan. 1, 2023?