



American Geography Examination IAC Nationals 2024

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 in the box at the top of your scantron.

1. Land speculator Richard Henderson attempted to found which of these colonies in the area of modern-day Kentucky and Tennessee in the 1770s?

- A. the Green Mountain Republic
- B. the Bear Flag Republic
- C. Transylvania Colony
- D. the State of Franklin

2. What city in Alabama is home to both a historically black land-grant university and a National Historic Site for its namesake 'Airmen'?

- A. Tuscaloosa
- B. Tuskegee
- C. Hoover
- D. Selma

3. The Florida East Coast Railway was a project undertaken in the late 19th century by Henry Flagler, who made his fortune as a founder of which of these American companies?

- A. J.P. Morgan Bank
- B. United States Steel
- C. Standard Oil
- D. Dow Jones and Co.

4. Which of these is NOT among the largest cities in Missouri?

- A. St. Joseph
- B. St. Louis
- C. Kansas City
- D. Springfield

5. Like several states in the South, the most common religious affiliation in North Carolina is which of these?

- A. Roman Catholicism
- B. Judaism
- C. Islam
- D. evangelical Protestantism

6. The *Grand Ole Opry* radio show, which has been continuously broadcast for nearly 100 years, helped make Nashville, TN the capital of what American musical genre?

- A. rock and roll
- B. country
- C. blues
- D. soul

7. Which of these states has the lowest percentage of foreign-born population in the US as of 2020?

- A. New York
- B. Minnesota
- C. California
- D. West Virginia

8. The Eastern Agricultural Complex, which covers parts of Kentucky and Tennessee, was one of about 10 sites in the world where which of these took place independently in the pre-historic period?

- A. the formation of large cities
- B. the creation of iron tools
- C. plant domestication
- D. the creation of organized religion

9. As of 2020, French is the most-commonly spoken second language in what two states?

- A. Louisiana and Mississippi
- B. Florida and Georgia
- C. Maine and Vermont
- D. New York and New Jersey

10. The Black Hills are located in what two US states?

- A. South Dakota and Wyoming
- B. Colorado and New Mexico
- C. North Dakota and Montana
- D. Idaho and Washington

11. Desserts like king cake and beignets, along with dishes like gumbo and etouffée, are signatures of the cuisine of what southern US state?

- A. Texas
- B. Louisiana
- C. Florida
- D. North Carolina

12. Sitka, Alaska served as territorial capital from 1808 until 1906, while Alaska was controlled by which of these two powers?

- A. Great Britain and the US
- B. Great Britain and Russia
- C. Canada and the US
- D. Russia and the US

13. The White Mountains and the Blue Ridge Mountains in the United States are subranges of what larger mountain range?

- A. the Rockies
- B. the Appalachian Mountains
- C. the Ozarks
- D. the Boston Mountains

14. Triple Divide Peak in Montana is the point at which of these converge in North America?

- A. atmospheric air currents
- B. major weather systems
- C. watersheds
- D. glaciers

15. The use of hydraulic fracturing or 'fracking' led to an early 2000s boom in oil production on the Bakken Formation in what northern state?

- A. North Dakota
- B. Montana
- C. Washington
- D. Idaho

16. In the late 1870s, the US fought a war with the Sioux following the discovery of which of these on their reservation in the modern-day state of South Dakota?

- A. oil
- B. iron ore
- C. gold
- D. coal deposits

17. Wisconsin is home to a UNESCO World Heritage Site related to the work of which of these notable Wisconsin natives?

- A. Frederick Miller
- B. Georgia O'Keefe
- C. Laura Ingalls Wilder
- D. Frank Lloyd Wright

18. As of 2020, all of these US states have a population composed of less than 50% non-Hispanic white residents EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. Texas
- B. Hawai'i
- C. California
- D. Washington

19. Parts of Yellowstone National Park are located in each of these states EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. Idaho
- B. Wyoming
- C. Montana
- D. South Dakota

20. Which of these is true of Badwater Basin in California?

- A. it is the lowest point in the United States
- B. it is the highest point in the continental United States
- C. it is the source of the Columbia River
- D. it is enclaved by Nevada

21. The 'Aroostook War' was a minor 19th century border dispute between Canada and what US state?

- A. Vermont
- B. New Hampshire
- C. New Jersey
- D. Maine

22. Meteor Crater, one of the best-preserved impact craters in the US, and the San Francisco volcanic field are both located in a desert region of what US state?

- A. Arizona
- B. Colorado
- C. Nevada
- D. Texas

23. Which of these US states contains the rainiest spot in America?

- A. Mississippi
- B. New York
- C. Hawaii
- D. Maine

24. Which of these is true of the geography of Nebraska?

- A. it borders Kansas, Colorado, and Oklahoma
- B. it is triply landlocked
- C. it is the only US state with a panhandle
- D. it contains the source of the Mississippi River

25. Cincinnati's popular namesake 'chili' is a spiced Mediterranean meat sauce created in the 1920s by immigrants of what ethnicity?

- A. Turkish
- B. Russian
- C. Serbian
- D. Macedonian

26. Which of these Mexican states does NOT border Texas?

- A. Ciudad de México
- B. Chihuahua
- C. Coahuila
- D. Nuevo León

27. Which of these pairs of states have the lowest population density in the US?
- Montana and North Dakota
 - Alaska and Wyoming
 - South Dakota and New Mexico
 - Idaho and Nevada
28. Which of these US states was NOT formed from part of the Northwest Territory?
- Wisconsin
 - Indiana
 - Illinois
 - Missouri
29. What Greek explorer 'discovered' his namesake strait while on a 1592 voyage in the Pacific Northwest while working for King Philip II of Spain?
- George Vancouver
 - James Cook
 - Juan de Fuca
 - Dionisio Galiano
30. In the United States, cultural diffusion has generally happened in which direction?
- north to south
 - south to north
 - west to east
 - east to west
31. In early 2024, the Francis Scott Key Bridge in which of these cities collapsed after being hit by a cargo ship?
- Baltimore
 - Washington, DC
 - New York City
 - San Francisco
32. The world's largest company by revenue is headquartered in which of these cities?
- Seattle, WA
 - New York, NY
 - Bentonville, AR
 - Dallas, TX
33. Because of its substantial population of Basque-Americans, the city of Boise, Idaho is a sister city of what notable Spanish Basque town?
- Barcelona
 - Madrid
 - Toledo
 - Guernica
34. The five largest private employers in Nevada are all in what industry?
- mining
 - casinos
 - manufacturing
 - cattle ranching
35. Oklahoma derives its 'Sooner' nickname from an 1889 land rush in which settlers claimed land formerly owned by which of these?
- freed slaves
 - Mexicans
 - Native Americans
 - former Confederates
36. Slightly over half of Utah residents identify with which of these religious faiths?
- Roman Catholic
 - Mormon
 - Reformed Baptist
 - Methodist
37. As of the 2020 Census, how many US states have over 10 million residents?
- 25
 - 20
 - 10
 - 5
38. Which of these is the only island of the Hawaiian Archipelago that is not a part of the US state of Hawaii?
- Midway Island
 - Kaho'olawe
 - Ni'hau
 - Lana'i
39. Navassa Island off the coast of Haiti was claimed by the US in 1857 under a newly enacted federal law that allowed annexation of territory with what resource?
- fresh water
 - bird or bat guano
 - oil
 - silver
40. Which of these US states has the highest poverty rate?
- Illinois
 - Pennsylvania
 - Oklahoma
 - Mississippi
41. Which of these is true of the demographics of Massachusetts as of 2022?
- roughly 20% of its population is African American
 - people who identify as ethnically Northern European make up just under 50% of the population
 - South Asians make up over 10% of the population
 - over 10% of the population is of Puerto Rican descent
42. As of the 2020 Census, roughly what fraction of US residents lives in California?
- 1/4
 - 1/5
 - 1/6
 - 1/9

43. Which of these is NOT true of the Port of Chicago?
- it has access to the Gulf of Mexico via the Mississippi River
 - it is the largest cargo port in the US
 - it has access to the Atlantic Ocean via the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway
 - it is centered on Calumet Harbor on Lake Michigan south of Chicago
44. Ivy League member Dartmouth College, Franklin Pierce University, and one of the fastest-growing online colleges in the US are all located in what New England state?
- Massachusetts
 - Rhode Island
 - New Hampshire
 - Maine
45. Oregon's only national park is built around which of these natural features?
- a lake formed from a collapsed volcano
 - a meteor impact crater
 - the state's tallest mountain
 - the rugged Pacific seashore
46. Which of these is the least populous state capital in the US?
- Pierre, SD
 - Montpelier, VT
 - Frankfort, KY
 - Augusta, ME
47. As of 2020, the population of Puerto Rico is closest to which of these numbers?
- 10 million
 - 7 million
 - 3 million
 - 500,000
48. Carolinian, Chamorro, and English are the official languages of what US territory in the Pacific?
- the Northern Mariana Islands
 - American Samoa
 - the US Virgin Islands
 - Bajo Nuevo
49. Dededo is the most populous settlement in what US territory?
- St. Thomas
 - Guam
 - St. John
 - St. Croix
50. Which of these areas would NOT be subject to lake-effect snow?
- Salt Lake City, UT
 - Buffalo, NY
 - the Upper Peninsula of Michigan
 - Chicago, IL
51. Michigan's Upper Peninsula is separated from the rest of the state by which of these?
- the Erie Canal
 - the St. Lawrence Seaway
 - the Straits of Mackinac
 - the Mississippi River
52. Which of these US service academies is located in Colorado Springs, Colorado?
- the US Air Force Academy
 - the US Military Academy
 - the US Naval Academy
 - the US Coast Guard Academy
53. Due to climate change, the southern part of Indiana now has which of these climate types in the Koppen system?
- hot semi-arid
 - continental humid subtropical
 - continental subarctic
 - temperate oceanic
54. Roughly what percentage of New Jersey's population were millionaires as of 2022?
- 25%
 - 10%
 - 2%
 - 1%
55. The Twelve-Mile Circle forms much of the border between what two eastern US states?
- Maryland and Virginia
 - West Virginia and Virginia
 - New York and New Jersey
 - Pennsylvania and Delaware
56. Which of these is NOT true of Chesapeake Bay?
- it is the site of an impact crater formed about 35.5 million years ago
 - it is a ria, or drowned valley, of the Susquehanna River
 - it is partly a fjord formed by the Laurentide Ice Sheet
 - it is the largest estuary in the US
57. The headquarters of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the Organization of American States, as well as the National Cathedral, are all located in what US city?
- Washington, DC
 - New York City
 - San Francisco, CA
 - Boston, MA

58. The 'Great Migration' of the 20th century describes which of these major demographic changes in US history?
- the decline of manufacturing in the Rust Belt
 - the movement of roughly 6 million African Americans to mostly northern cities
 - the mass movement of Americans to the West
 - the huge influx of immigrants after 1925
59. Which of these is NOT a country in a Compact of Free Association with the US?
- Palau
 - Micronesia
 - Vanuatu
 - Marshall Islands
60. Which of these forms most of the border between Texas and Mexico?
- the Brazos River
 - the Rio Grande River
 - the Trinity River
 - the Colorado River of Texas
61. Which of these is known as the 'Land of 10,000 Lakes' for having over 14,000 bodies of freshwater within its borders?
- Missouri
 - Louisiana
 - Arkansas
 - Minnesota
62. The Pennamite-Yankee Wars of the late 18th century were fought between settlers from what two colonies over land along the Susquehanna River?
- Connecticut and Pennsylvania
 - New York and New Jersey
 - Maine and Massachusetts
 - Delaware and Maryland
63. As one of the largest pork producers in the US, Iowa's roughly 23 million pigs outnumber the human population by which of these factors?
- 2 to 1
 - 3 to 1
 - 7 to 1
 - 50 to 1
64. The White Sands Proving Ground in New Mexico was the site of which of these in 1945?
- the first aircraft to break the sound barrier
 - the first atomic bomb test
 - the first US rocket launch to reach outer space
 - the first US jet airplane flight
65. Which of these is NOT true of Rhode Island?
- it is the smallest US state by area
 - its population has grown in every census since 1790
 - it is the least populous US state
 - it is the second-most densely populated state
66. Which of these Washington cities is driest due to the rain shadow effect?
- Seattle
 - Tacoma
 - Bellingham
 - Spokane
67. Which of these countries has a land area than the US?
- Brazil
 - Canada
 - Australia
 - India
68. By most estimates, the US has been the world's largest economy by nominal GDP since which of these years?
- 1800
 - 1850
 - 1870
 - 1890
69. Which of these does NOT use the US dollar as its official currency?
- Ecuador
 - Zimbabwe
 - Botswana
 - Timor-Leste
70. The Old River Control Structure in Louisiana serves which of these purposes on the Mississippi River?
- to protect cities upstream like St. Louis and Memphis from floods
 - to prevent the Mississippi River changing course into the Atchafalaya River
 - to enable upstream navigation on the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers
 - to deepen and widen the river on either side of the structure
71. The state of Mississippi produces more than half of the country's farm-raised stock of what fish popular in southern cuisine?
- cod
 - sturgeon
 - catfish
 - salmon
72. Which of these is NOT one of Delaware's three counties?
- Kent County
 - New Castle County
 - Sussex County
 - Jefferson County

73. Which of these was a major factor in the settlement of Kansas in the 1850s and its admission to the union in the 1860s?

- A. homestead rights
- B. slavery
- C. federal government incentives to settlers
- D. the newly-completed Transcontinental Railroad

74. Which of these is the most populous island in the United States?

- A. Long Island, New York
- B. Puerto Rico
- C. Oahu, Hawai'i
- D. Maui, Hawai'i

75. Hilton Head and Parris Island, home of a major US Marine base, are part of a chain of barrier islands on the Atlantic coast named which of the following?

- A. the Lost Islands
- B. the Georgia Keys
- C. the Sea Islands
- D. the Gullah Islands

Tiebreaker

This question will only be scored if there is a tie for placement on the exam. **This is a required question, but there is no penalty for a wrong answer to this question.**

Write your answer legibly in the space provided on your scantron.

How deep is the Grand Canyon in feet at its deepest point?