



American Geography Examination Elementary School Division 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 the most commonly spoken language in the United States after English?

- A. French
- B. Mandarin
- C. Spanish
- D. Hindi

2. Which of these major US hubs is the busiest airport in the world?

- A. Phoenix Sky Harbor
- B. Seattle-Tacoma
- C. Orlando International
- D. Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta

3. In what direction would you primarily travel to get from Washington, DC to Atlanta, GA?

- A. north
- B. south
- C. east
- D. west

4. Which of these has NOT served as the capital of the United States during its history?

- A. Charleston, SC
- B. Philadelphia, PA
- C. New York, NY
- D. Washington, DC

5. The rainiest location in the United States is located in which state?

- A. Hawaii
- B. Maine
- C. Arizona
- D. New Mexico

6. By 1860, Mississippi led the nation in the production of what cash crop?

- A. corn
- B. cotton
- C. indigo
- D. beets

7. Florida leads the United States in the production of which of these crops?

- A. wheat
- B. oranges and other citrus fruits
- C. soybeans
- D. corn

8. Which of these cities is NOT on the Mississippi River?

- A. New Orleans, LA
- B. St. Louis, MO
- C. Minneapolis, MN
- D. Pittsburgh, PA

9. Which of these is NOT a southern state?

- A. Mississippi
- B. Alabama
- C. Wisconsin
- D. Georgia

10. As of 2023, which of these religions has the most followers in the United States?

- A. Islam
- B. Judaism
- C. Roman Catholicism
- D. Mormonism

11. Much of the early culture and the legal system of the United States was influenced by what other nation?

- A. Spain
- B. Portugal
- C. England
- D. Russia

12. Which of these is the largest of the Great Lakes by surface area?

- A. Lake Erie
- B. Lake Ontario
- C. Lake Champlain
- D. Lake Superior

13. The Everglades and a group of islands called the Keys located in what southern US state?

- A. Alabama
- B. Florida
- C. Mississippi
- D. Georgia

14. Protests against a meeting of the World Trade Organization resulted in street protests called the 'Battle of' what West Coast City?

- A. Seattle
- B. San Francisco
- C. Portland
- D. San Diego

15. Puget Sound is located along the coast of what American state?

- A. Texas
- B. Virginia
- C. California
- D. Washington

16. Oklahoma and Kansas are part of an 'alley' that is prone to what type of natural disaster?

- A. earthquakes
- B. tidal waves
- C. hurricanes
- D. tornadoes

17. Which of these describes the relationship between Alaska and the US?

- A. it is an exclave
- B. it is a territory
- C. it is a colony
- D. it is a territory

18. The Dissected Till Plains and the Great Plains are the two major regions of what Midwestern state?

- A. Montana
- B. North Dakota
- C. Wyoming
- D. Nebraska

19. Discovery of which of these led to huge population increases in California, Colorado, and the Dakota territory in the nineteenth century?

- A. gold
- B. uranium
- C. aluminum
- D. tin

20. Which of these is the capital of Kentucky?

- A. Louisville
- B. Cincinnati
- C. Lexington
- D. Frankfort

21. Which of these is considered to be the most popular sport in the United States?

- A. hockey
- B. soccer
- C. American football
- D. boxing

22. Roughly how much of the annual US potato crop is produced in Idaho?

- A. 33%
- B. 7%
- C. 5%
- D. 1%

23. Which of these is the capital of Louisiana?

- A. Baton Rouge
- B. Pineville
- C. Alexandria
- D. Lafayette

24. The settlement of New Sweden was based in what largest city in Delaware in the 17th century?

- A. Dover
- B. Wilmington
- C. New Castle
- D. Seaford

25. Which of these is located in the Black Hills of South Dakota?

- A. Stone Mountain
- B. Mount Rushmore
- C. Niagara Falls
- D. Old Faithful

26. The tallest artificial structure in North America, the KVLY-TV mast, is located in what northern state with capital at Bismarck?

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

27. How was the Yosemite Valley formed?

- A. it was carved by a major river
- B. it was dug by a glacier
- C. it is an impact crater
- D. it was made by humans

28. Which of these is NOT true of Chicago?

- A. it is the largest city in Illinois
- B. it is the capital of Illinois
- C. it is located on Lake Michigan
- D. it is the seat of Cook County

29. Which of these was NOT part of the territory ceded from Mexico after the Mexican-American War in the 1840s?
- A. California
 - B. New Mexico
 - C. Arizona
 - D. South Dakota
30. Roughly how many people live on Puerto Rico?
- A. 3 million
 - B. 300,000
 - C. 30,000
 - D. 3,000
31. The holiday of Juneteenth commemorates the end of which of these in the United States?
- A. slavery
 - B. the Articles of Confederation
 - C. the American Revolution
 - D. the War of 1812
32. Which of these does NOT border California?
- A. Utah
 - B. Nevada
 - C. Oregon
 - D. Arizona
33. The USS Arizona Memorial and Iolani Palace are landmarks in what American city?
- A. Honolulu, HI
 - B. San Francisco, CA
 - C. Portland, OR
 - D. Seattle, WA
34. What river runs through Washington, DC?
- A. the Hudson
 - B. the Potomac
 - C. the Charles
 - D. the Thames
35. Which of these numbers best represents the population of the United States?
- A. 1 billion
 - B. 750 million
 - C. 500 million
 - D. 330 million
36. Bridgeport is the most populous city in what Eastern state?
- A. New Jersey
 - B. Connecticut
 - C. Rhode Island
 - D. Maine
37. Which mountain range runs along the eastern coast of the United States?
- A. Rocky Mountains
 - B. Appalachian Mountains
 - C. Sierra Nevada Mountains
 - D. Cascade Mountains
38. Which of these is the largest lumber producer in the lower 48 states?
- A. Arizona
 - B. Nevada
 - C. Oregon
 - D. Kansas
39. Boise, Idaho is home to a large community of what ethnic group, originally from a namesake area of the Pyrenees between France and Spain?
- A. Turks
 - B. Kurds
 - C. Basques
 - D. Dutch
40. The ivory-billed woodpecker, long presumed extinct, may have been sighted in swamps in what two states in the 2000s?
- A. New Mexico and Arizona
 - B. Arkansas and Louisiana
 - C. Texas and Oklahoma
 - D. Kansas and Nebraska
41. Which of these, invented by merchant Levi Strauss in the 1850s, is considered one of the most important American contributions to global fashion?
- A. tennis shoes
 - B. blue jeans
 - C. Oxford shirts
 - D. golf shoes
42. Which of these is the location of the lowest elevation in the US?
- A. Zion National Park
 - B. Glacier National Park
 - C. Death Valley National Park
 - D. Joshua Tree National Park
43. The Grand Canyon was formed by the action of what American river?
- A. the Snake
 - B. the Columbia
 - C. the Missouri
 - D. the Colorado
44. Ohio is known by which of these state nicknames?
- A. 'Hoosier State'
 - B. 'Keystone State'
 - C. 'Buckeye State'
 - D. 'Granite State'
45. Silicon Valley in California is known primarily for which of the following?
- A. manufacturing cars
 - B. technology companies
 - C. farming
 - D. auto racing

46. Roughly what percentage of Arizona is made up of Native American reservations?
- 0%
 - 5%
 - 25%
 - 100%
47. Which of the following states does not border the Atlantic Ocean?
- New Jersey
 - Virginia
 - Georgia
 - Vermont
48. The 'Occupy Movement' of the early 2000s targeted what financial center of the US?
- Wall Street
 - the Chicago Board of Trade
 - the UN
 - the San Francisco Trade Mart
49. Which of these is the oldest state capital in the US, founded in 1610 as the seat of Nuevo Mexico during the Spanish Empire?
- Austin
 - Santa Fe
 - Phoenix
 - Sacramento
50. More than 60% of Minnesotans live in what 'Twin Cities'?
- Lakeville and Blaine
 - Brooklyn Park and Plymouth
 - Minneapolis and St. Paul
 - Rochester and Duluth
51. Which of these is the largest private employer in the United States?
- Amazon
 - Coca-Cola
 - Walmart
 - Exxon
52. Which of these is the second-largest state in both area AND population?
- California
 - Alaska
 - Texas
 - Montana
53. The 10 highest mountains in the United States are all in what state?
- California
 - Colorado
 - Washington
 - Alaska
54. Kansas City is the largest by population in what US state?
- Missouri
 - Nebraska
 - Oklahoma
 - Arkansas
55. Crater Lake in Oregon was formed by which of the following?
- an earthquake
 - wind erosion
 - water erosion
 - volcanic action
56. Wisconsin is known as a top producer of which of these pairs of popular drinks?
- beer and milk
 - orange juice and lemon juice
 - Coca-Cola and Pepsi
 - Gatorade and Dasani water
57. Which most-visited National Park in the United States is located in Tennessee and North Carolina?
- Yellowstone
 - Acadia
 - Great Smoky Mountains
 - Big Bend
58. Which of these, the largest alpine lake in the US, is located between California and Nevada?
- Lake Tahoe
 - Great Bear Lake
 - Lake Minnetonka
 - Lake Okeechobee
59. Which of these is true of Wyoming?
- it is the largest state by area
 - it contains the highest point in the US
 - it has more lakes than any other state
 - it is the least populous state
60. The first settlement of Euro-Americans in Kansas was established in 1827 in which of these towns?
- Fort Leavenworth
 - Topeka
 - Wichita
 - Lawrence
61. As of 2020, roughly what percentage of Americans live in poverty?
- 1%
 - 3%
 - 5%
 - 12%
62. Which of these is NOT a Texas city that borders Mexico?
- Brownsville
 - Dallas
 - El Paso
 - Laredo

63. Pago Pago is the capital of what US overseas territory?
- A. American Samoa
 - B. US Virgin Islands
 - C. Guam
 - D. Puerto Rico
64. In the 1940s and 1950s, the population of Nevada began to grow rapidly due to the legalization of which of these?
- A. gambling
 - B. driving
 - C. skydiving
 - D. off-road racing
65. Which group of cities is part of the 'Rust Belt' in America?
- A. Houston, Dallas, San Antonio
 - B. Detroit, Gary, Dayton
 - C. New York, Boston, Washington
 - D. Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle
66. Which of these does NOT have at least one NFL football team?
- A. California
 - B. Texas
 - C. Arkansas
 - D. Florida
67. Which city is located at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay in the eastern United States?
- A. New York City
 - B. Miami
 - C. Charleston
 - D. Norfolk
68. Which of these is the capital of Iowa?
- A. Sioux City
 - B. Cedar Rapids
 - C. Ames
 - D. Des Moines
69. Montgomery and Selma are Alabama cities with significant ties to what political movement?
- A. communism
 - B. civil rights
 - C. anarchism
 - D. totalitarianism
70. The Mississippi River empties into which of these bodies of water?
- A. the Pacific Ocean
 - B. the Atlantic Ocean
 - C. the Gulf of St. Lawrence
 - D. the Gulf of Mexico
71. Which state is located on the easternmost point of the United States mainland?
- A. Maine
 - B. New Jersey
 - C. Massachusetts
 - D. New York
72. The Florida East Coast Railway was key in the development of what major city in South Florida?
- A. Tallahassee
 - B. Pensacola
 - C. Mobile
 - D. Miami
73. California leads the US in the production of which of these crops?
- A. tobacco
 - B. rice
 - C. grapes
 - D. sugarcane
74. Which of these is considered the center of the country music industry?
- A. Nashville, TN
 - B. New Orleans, LA
 - C. Boston, MA
 - D. Seattle, WA
75. Which of these is located on Lake Erie?
- A. Chicago, IL
 - B. Milwaukee, WI
 - C. St. Paul, MN
 - D. Buffalo, NY

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.

What is the land area of the United States in square miles?