



**Ancient History Examination
Middle 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. Qin Shi Huang, the legendary first emperor of China, is considered the founder of what dynasty?

- A. Han Dynasty
- B. Qin Dynasty
- C. Tang Dynasty
- D. Ming Dynasty

2. Who was the Hellenistic queen of Egypt known for her political alliances and relationships with Julius Caesar and Mark Antony?

- A. Cleopatra
- B. Athena
- C. Hera
- D. Artemis

3. What peasant revolt against the Eastern Han Dynasty was named for the colorful headwear of its participants?

- A. Greek Cloak
- B. Red Hat
- C. Yellow Turban
- D. White Pants

4. The Dionysia festivals in ancient Greece were competitions that featured what type of literary performances?

- A. wrestling
- B. singing
- C. marathons
- D. plays

5. Which of these was a sports stadium in ancient Rome and is a famous landmark in the city today?

- A. the Colosseum
- B. the Pantheon
- C. the Roman Forum
- D. Roman aqueducts

6. The ancient civilization in the Indus River Valley flourished in the Bronze Age in what modern-day nation?

- A. Russia
- B. Pakistan
- C. China
- D. Egypt

7. The 50,000 year old Indigenous Australian rock art of the Kimberly region depicts the throwing of what tool in hunting animals?

- A. boomerang
- B. lance
- C. scythe
- D. crossbow

8. What modern day Iraqi capital became a center of scientific and cultural innovation during the Abbasids' Golden Age of Islam?

- A. Kuwait City
- B. Amman
- C. Manama
- D. Baghdad

9. What legendary king of ancient Mesopotamia is known for his code of laws that influenced subsequent legal systems?

- A. Gilgamesh
- B. Nebuchadnezzar II
- C. Hammurabi
- D. Ashurbanipal

10. The Delhi Sultanate, which ruled India during the Medieval period, subscribed to what religious tradition?

- A. Jainism
- B. Islam
- C. Hinduism
- D. Christianity

11. What ancient Chinese philosopher and namesake of a philosophical school emphasized moral values and filial piety?
- Laozi
 - Sun Tzu
 - Confucius
 - Mencius
12. Between 499 and 449 BCE, the Greek city-states fought a war against what neighboring empire?
- Persia
 - Rome
 - Egypt
 - Gaul
13. Minamoto no Yoritomo established which of these in 1192 after his victory in the Genpei War?
- the Meiji Restoration
 - the Kamakura Shogunate
 - the Heian Period
 - the Showa Period
14. What Greek philosopher and author of Poetics was the tutor of Alexander the Great?
- Zeno
 - Nicomachus
 - Aristotle
 - Philip
15. Most of the gladiators were of what Roman social class?
- citizens
 - patricians
 - slaves
 - priests
16. Who was the founder of Buddhism, born in the sixth century BCE in present-day Nepal?
- Chandragupta
 - Cyrus
 - Siddhartha Gautama
 - Herod
17. Which of the following was built as a Hindu temple by Khmer King Suryavarman II in the 12th century CE?
- Hagia Sophia
 - Angkor Wat
 - Tewahedo Church
 - Blue Mosque
18. Which ancient Egyptian pharaoh is known for the transition to monotheism, focusing on the worship of Aten?
- Akhenaten
 - Thutmose III
 - Amenhotep III
 - Seti I
19. Howard Carter discovered the tomb of what Egyptian pharaoh in the 1920s?
- Ptolemy
 - Tutankhamun
 - Djoser
 - Narmer
20. The Epic of Sundiata tells the story of Sundiata Keita who founded what West African empire?
- Seleucid Empire
 - Kushan Empire
 - Ptolemaic Dynasty
 - Mali Empire
21. The Baekje kingdom introduced what religion to Korea in the 4th century CE?
- Hinduism
 - Buddhism
 - Judaism
 - Christianity
22. Which of these is often considered the end of the Western Roman Empire?
- the assassination of Julius Caesar
 - the eruption of Mount Vesuvius
 - the sack of Constantinople by the Ottomans in 1453
 - the sack of Rome by the Visigoths in 410
23. Which of these began the establishment of the Mongol Empire in the late 12th century CE?
- Batu Khan
 - Kublai Khan
 - Genghis Khan
 - Ogedei Khan
24. Alexander the Great defeated Porus at the Battle of the Hydaspes in the Punjab region of what modern-day country?
- Nepal
 - Pakistan
 - Bangladesh
 - Sri Lanka
25. Herodotus is considered the 'father' of what academic subject, partly due to his account of the Greco-Persian Wars?
- geometry
 - algebra
 - history
 - philosophy
26. The Indian board game called chaturanga, invented during the 6th century CE, is most likely the precursor of what modern game?
- poker
 - checkers
 - chess
 - Monopoly

27. The famous ancient library of Alexandria, known as a center of scholarship and knowledge, was located in which modern-day country?
- Turkey
 - Greece
 - Egypt
 - Russia
28. What pharaoh of ancient Egypt was known for his military campaigns, including the Battle of Kadesh against the Hittites?
- Tutankhamun
 - Ramses the Great
 - Cleopatra
 - Hatshepsut
29. Which of these is the ancient Egyptian deity associated with the sun, creation, and pharaohs?
- Osiris
 - Ra
 - Horus
 - Anubis
30. The gold and salt trade that connected the ancient empires of West Africa to the Middle East was named for which of the following?
- Sahara Desert
 - Lake Victoria
 - Kalambo Falls
 - Kalahari Desert
31. Who was the first emperor of Japan, considered a legendary figure in Japanese history?
- Emperor Meiji
 - Emperor Shōwa
 - Emperor Taizong
 - Emperor Jimmu
32. Linear A was the script used for which of these languages of ancient Greece?
- Latin
 - Hebrew
 - Minoan
 - Etruscan
33. The Battle of Red Cliffs in the early 3rd century CE took place on what major Chinese river?
- Mekong
 - Irrawaddy
 - Indus
 - Yangtze
34. Who was the first emperor of Rome?
- Augustus
 - Caligula
 - Nero
 - Tiberius
35. Which city-state was known for its military prowess and for its agoge education system for male citizens?
- Thebes
 - Sparta
 - Argos
 - Mycenae
36. Which ancient South Asian kingdom, located in present-day Tamil Nadu, was known for its maritime trade and naval power?
- the Mughal Empire
 - the Chola Empire
 - the Achaemenid Empire
 - the Nabatean Kingdom
37. The ancient city of Susa that served as the capital of Elam and the Achaemenid Empire is in what modern day nation?
- China
 - Morocco
 - Iran
 - Georgia
38. The Almoravids and Almohads that conquered al-Andalus were empires founded by what North African ethnic groups?
- Tatars
 - Berbers
 - Afghans
 - Timurids
39. What Iranian religion that dates back to the 6th century BCE is widely regarded as the world's first monotheistic faith?
- Daoism
 - Shintoism
 - Hinduism
 - Zoroastrianism
40. The city-states of Kilwa, Malindi, and Zanzibar were collectively named for what Bantu language that includes Arabic words?
- Lycian
 - Cantonese
 - Swahili
 - French
41. Which ancient Chinese dynasty is credited with inventing paper, gunpowder, and the compass?
- Han Dynasty
 - Song Dynasty
 - Zhou Dynasty
 - Yuan Dynasty

42. The 'Dorian Invasion' may have caused the fall of what ancient Greek civilization?
- the Roman Republic
 - the Mycenaeans
 - the Persian empire
 - the Macedonians
43. The Inca Empire settled along what western mountain range of South America?
- Alps
 - Himalayas
 - Andes Mountains
 - Rocky Mountains
44. Which Carthaginian general famously fought against Rome in the Second Punic War?
- Hannibal
 - Scipio Africanus
 - Clodius Metellus
 - Marcus Agrippa
45. Who was the ancient Greek mathematician and philosopher known for his theorem on right-angled triangles?
- Pythagoras
 - Euclid
 - Archimedes
 - Hippocrates
46. What kingdom, located in present-day Sri Lanka, was a major center of Buddhist culture and played a significant role in the spread of Buddhism to Southeast Asia?
- Pandya Kingdom
 - Delhi Sultanate
 - Umayyad Caliphate
 - Abbasid Caliphate
47. Mesopotamian civilizations settled in the northern part of the Fertile Crescent between what two rivers?
- Tigris and Euphrates
 - Thames and Ob
 - Nile and Indus
 - Zambezi and Guarani
48. The tomb of Khufu is contained within what iconic Egyptian landmark?
- the Sphinx
 - the Valley of the Kings
 - the Great Pyramid of Giza
 - the Temple of Karnak
49. The civilization of ancient Egypt emerged along the banks of which river?
- Nile River
 - Tigris River
 - Euphrates River
 - Jordan River
50. The Muslim conquest of North Africa in the 7th century CE standardized trade in the area with the introduction of what animal?
- guinea pig
 - camel
 - llama
 - sheep
51. Which influential Chinese military strategist is credited with writing "The Art of War"?
- Sun Tzu
 - Liu Bang
 - Du Fu
 - Li Bai
52. Which of these men is considered the 'father of Athenian democracy'?
- Archimedes
 - Cleisthenes
 - Pythagoras
 - Xerxes
53. The Maya civilization used astronomy to develop which of the following to measure time?
- a calendar
 - a compass
 - an aqueduct
 - a battery
54. What was the Pax Romana?
- a period of peace and stability in the early Roman Empire
 - a slave revolt in the early Republic
 - the period of the rise of Christianity
 - the fall of the Western Roman Empire
55. The Hellenistic period refers to the time after the death of which Macedonian ruler?
- Alexander the Great
 - Pericles
 - Julius Caesar
 - Ptolemy
56. Which ancient Indian epic, attributed to the sage Vyasa, tells the story of the prince Arjuna and his divine charioteer Krishna?
- Ramayana
 - Iliad
 - Odyssey
 - Mahabharata
57. What second caliphate established after the death of the prophet Muhammad was toppled by the Abbasids in 750 CE?
- Mughals
 - Majapahit
 - Xhosa
 - Umayyads

58. Which ancient civilization developed cuneiform writing and built the city of Babylon?
- Sumerians
 - Egyptians
 - Persians
 - Greeks
59. The ancient city of Machu Picchu, known for its impressive stone architecture and scenic location, was built by which civilization?
- Aztecs
 - Incas
 - Polynesians
 - Cherokee
60. The latte stones founded throughout the Mariana Islands are attributed to what indigenous peoples?
- Chamorros
 - Mycenaeans
 - Sumerians
 - Toltecs
61. Which ancient Japanese capital, modeled after the Tang Dynasty's capital of Chang'an, was known for its grid-like street layout?
- Tokyo
 - Nara
 - Kamakura
 - Heian-kyo (Kyoto)
62. The 'Crisis of the Third Century' in the Roman Empire ended with which of these men as emperor?
- Julius Caesar
 - Mark Antony
 - Cicero
 - Diocletian
63. What Mesoamerican civilization sculpted colossal stone heads from basalt boulders?
- Inuit
 - Olmec
 - Minoan
 - Nubia
64. What was the official language of the Roman Empire?
- Greek
 - Latin
 - Aramaic
 - Sanskrit
65. What site in ancient Greece was known for its famous Pythian oracle and was believed by many Greeks to be the center of the world?
- Rhodes
 - Olympia
 - Crete
 - Delphi
66. Which ancient empire, ruled by Emperor Ashoka, promoted Buddhism and had its capital at Pataliputra?
- Maurya
 - Gupta
 - Persian
 - Chola
67. Which of these was key to deciphering the writing system of Egyptian hieroglyphs?
- the Dictionary of the Dead
 - the Rosetta Stone
 - the Napoleonic Code
 - the Mask of King Tut
68. Which ancient city, located in modern-day Jordan, was known for its rock-cut architecture including the Treasury and the Monastery?
- Cairo
 - Persepolis
 - Petra
 - Jerusalem
69. The ancient city of Rome was legendarily founded by what figure?
- Julius Caesar
 - Augustus
 - Romulus
 - Hadrian
70. What special territory of Chile was allegedly first settled by Rapa Nui ancestor Hotu Matu'a?
- Easter Island
 - Mauritius
 - Kiribati
 - Tonga
71. Which influential Korean king is credited with the creation of the Korean alphabet, known as Hangeul?
- Gwanggaeto
 - Sejong the Great
 - Muryeong
 - Jeongjo
72. Which of these city-states of Greece had a namesake 'Golden Age' during the 5th century BCE?
- Athens
 - Tarentum
 - Syracuse
 - Agrigento
73. The Mexica people were a combination of different central Mexican ethnic groups that shared what common language?
- Syriac
 - Sanskrit
 - Nahuatl
 - Tamil

74. Which Roman emperor is known for adopting Christianity as the official religion empire?

- A. Nero
- B. Constantine
- C. Romulus Augustulus
- D. Marcus Aurelius

75. Hippocrates is known as the father of what branch of science, whose practitioners still swear the Hippocratic Oath?

- A. particle physics
- B. stereochemistry
- C. analytic chemistry
- D. medicine

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.

Currently, how tall is the Great Pyramid of Giza in feet?