



**Recent 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. What current president of Russia was first elected to the position in 2000?

- A. Ulf Kristersson
- B. Bashar al-Assad
- C. Narendra Modi
- D. Vladimir Putin

2. On September 11, 2001, al-Qaeda terrorists flew two planes into the World Trade Center towers in what US city?

- A. Los Angeles
- B. Houston
- C. New York City
- D. Chicago

3. The fall of dictator Saddam Hussein was brought on by the US-led invasion of what nation in 2003?

- A. Iraq
- B. Uganda
- C. Oman
- D. Algeria

4. A 9.1 magnitude earthquake in 2004 west of Indonesia resulted in a tsunami that slammed coastal nations on what body of water with 100-foot-high waves?

- A. Arctic Ocean
- B. Indian Ocean
- C. Caribbean Sea
- D. North Sea

5. The 2007 American recession that had global ramifications was caused by the mishandling of mortgages in what industry?

- A. telecommunications
- B. housing
- C. transportation
- D. textiles

6. The mass killing of Darfuri people has occurred in the western part of what nation?

- A. Argentina
- B. New Zealand
- C. Norway
- D. Sudan

7. Which of the following served as pope of the Catholic Church from 1978 until his death in 2005?

- A. John Paul II
- B. Leo
- C. Peter
- D. Formosus

8. Which of the following cities suffered devastation during Hurricane Katrina due to levee failures and poor emergency management?

- A. Memphis
- B. Oklahoma City
- C. New Orleans
- D. Santa Barbara

9. Which of the following was invaded by a coalition of US and UK forces in 2001 to topple the Taliban regime?

- A. Tajikistan
- B. Laos
- C. Belize
- D. Afghanistan

10. What “King of Pop” died suddenly in 2009 amid various controversies regarding his personal life?

- A. Michael Jackson
- B. Robin Williams
- C. Elvis Presley
- D. Jimi Hendrix

11. What Sony gaming console’s second iteration became the best selling console in history after its 2000 release in Japan?

- A. Atari
- B. Xbox
- C. PlayStation
- D. Gizmondo

12. Which of the following was first inhabited by astronauts when the Expedition 1 mission stayed for 136 days in 2000?

- A. International Space Station
- B. Mars Curiosity Rover
- C. Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE)
- D. Lunar Roving Vehicle

13. What 2000 event was the first to allow female athletes to compete in weightlifting?

- A. Grand Prix
- B. European Championships
- C. Copa America
- D. Sydney Summer Olympics

14. In 2000, Bill Gates left his position as CEO of what company he co-founded with Paul Allen?

- A. Intel
- B. Microsoft
- C. IBM
- D. Oracle

15. Which of the following became the youngest player to win a Grand Slam in golf in 2000?

- A. Scottie Pippen
- B. Tiger Woods
- C. Michael Jordan
- D. Aaron Rodriguez

16. What big box store became the largest retailer in US history to file for bankruptcy in 2002?

- A. Whole Foods
- B. Amazon
- C. Kmart
- D. Walmart

17. Which of the following international alliances saw its largest expansion in 2002 with the addition of seven Eastern European nations?

- A. Organization of American States
- B. Organization of African Unity
- C. European Union
- D. North Atlantic Treaty Organization

18. What Southeast Asian nation gained its independence from Indonesia in 2002?

- A. Timor-Leste
- B. Comoros
- C. Seychelles
- D. Easter Island

19. Which American spacecraft disintegrated upon its 2003 reentry into Earth's atmosphere, tragically killing all seven astronauts?

- A. Voyager Golden Record
- B. Space Shuttle Columbia
- C. Soyuz spacecraft
- D. Shuguang One

20. What Portuguese footballer made his debut in the Premier League for Manchester United in August 2003?

- A. Michel Platini
- B. Pelé
- C. Diego Maradona
- D. Cristiano Ronaldo

21. After the recall of Gray Davis, what Terminator star was elected Governor of California in 2003?

- A. Sylvester Stallone
- B. Arnold Schwarzenegger
- C. Al Pacino
- D. Robert DeNiro

22. What American swimmer broke the record for most medals won in a single Olympics in the 2008 Beijing summer games?

- A. Usain Bolt
- B. Landon Donovan
- C. Michael Phelps
- D. Tom Daley

23. Which of the following teams won the MLB World Series in 2004 to break the almost hundred-year-old "Curse of the Bambino"?

- A. Denver Nuggets
- B. Arizona Cardinals
- C. Toronto Maple Leafs
- D. Boston Red Sox

24. Facebook was initially launched in February 2004 as a social networking site for students at what Ivy League college?

- A. Harvard University
- B. University of Pennsylvania
- C. Yale University
- D. Brown University

25. The Kyoto Protocol, first adopted in 1997 but enforced in 2005, was an international agreement to reduce what cause of climate change?

- A. naval military exercises
- B. solar farms
- C. greenhouse gas emissions
- D. nuclear conflicts

26. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf became the first woman president of an African nation with her 2005 election in what West African nation?

- A. Liberia
- B. Syria
- C. Zambia
- D. Bahrain

27. What video streaming service was purchased by Google for \$1.65 billion in 2006?
- Vimeo
 - TikTok
 - Netflix
 - YouTube
28. CERN completed construction of their Large Hadron Collider in 2008 near what Swiss city?
- Lyon
 - Geneva
 - Nice
 - Aigle
29. A civil war that pitted the government against Tamil rebels over ethnically motivated violence ended in 2009 in what South Asian nation?
- Kuwait
 - Fiji
 - Kazakhstan
 - Sri Lanka
30. What former Pakistani prime minister was assassinated by a suicide bomber in 2007?
- Benazir Bhutto
 - David Ben-Gurion
 - Tony Blair
 - Indira Gandhi
31. A 2015 deal was signed between Iran, the P5+1, and the European Union regarding limits on which of the following?
- climate refugee resettlement
 - Pacific free trade
 - nuclear armament
 - democratic elections
32. Which of the following actors portrayed Captain Phillips in the 2013 film about an attempted hijacking of a cargo ship off the Somali coast?
- Tom Hanks
 - Ian McKellen
 - Harry Styles
 - Denzel Washington
33. The H1N1 flu, declared a pandemic in 2009, was more often referred to by what name referencing a farm animal?
- bird flu
 - swine flu
 - cat scratch disease
 - rabies
34. A 2006-2008 conflict and 2014 war between Israelis, Palestinians, and their allies are named for what contentious region?
- Kashmir
 - Rhineland
 - Sudetenland
 - Gaza Strip
35. Which of the following was a 2011 movement Starting in New York City's financial district to protest income inequality in the US?
- Occupy Wall Street
 - March on Washington
 - Million Man March
 - March for Lives
36. The early Black Lives Matter Movement was energized by the controversial death of Freddie Gray in 2015 in what Maryland port city?
- Philadelphia
 - Wilmington
 - Newark
 - Baltimore
37. Which of the following won the popular vote in the 2016 US presidential election but lost to Donald Trump in the electoral college?
- John McCain
 - Hillary Rodham Clinton
 - Mitt Romney
 - Elizabeth Warren
38. What nation narrowly voted in favor of Brexit in 2016 which withdrew it from the European Union?
- Turkey
 - Belarus
 - United Kingdom
 - Moldova
39. In 2019, Donald Trump became the third president in US history to undergo which of the following processes?
- abandonment
 - detainment
 - deportation
 - impeachment
40. What poorest nation in the western hemisphere was hit by a 7.0 magnitude earthquake in 2010?
- Haiti
 - Sierra Leone
 - Niger
 - Guyana
41. Over the course of five weeks in 2017, Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico were struck by what natural disasters named Harvey, Irma, and Maria respectively?
- hurricanes
 - tornadoes
 - tsunamis
 - avalanches
42. What 2013 race was disrupted by the detonation of two bombs at its finish line?
- Tours de France
 - Boston Marathon
 - Daytona 500
 - Ironman Triathlon

43. A gunman killed 49 people in a 2019 shooting at the LGBTQ+ club Pulse in what Florida city?

- A. Orlando
- B. Havana
- C. Galveston
- D. Baton Rouge

44. Tragedies at a high school in Florida and a music festival in Las Vegas prompted calls for what type of legislation in the US?

- A. gun control
- B. environmental conservation
- C. clean energy
- D. term limits

45. Which of the following populations was granted marriage equality in 2015 with the Supreme Court case Obergefell v. Hodges?

- A. expatriates
- B. black Americans
- C. LGBTQ+ people
- D. immigrants

46. Prince Harry of Great Britain married what American actress in 2018?

- A. Solange Knowles
- B. Meghan Markle
- C. Natalie Portman
- D. Emma Stone

47. What American became the winningest gymnast in history in 2019?

- A. Michelle Kwan
- B. Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce
- C. Katie Ledecky
- D. Simone Biles

48. Which of the following products was first released by Apple in April 2010?

- A. Gameboy
- B. Wii console
- C. iPad
- D. Walkman

49. What South Korean pop artist's Gangnam Style became the first video on YouTube to reach one billion views in 2012?

- A. Steve Aoki
- B. Jay Chou
- C. beabadoobee
- D. Psy

50. Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 mysteriously disappeared in March 2014 on route to what capital city?

- A. Manila
- B. Hanoi
- C. Ulaanbaatar
- D. Beijing

51. What young Pakistani activist won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014 for her advocacy for universal education?

- A. Vanessa Ho
- B. Andrea Gunawan
- C. Qyira Yusri
- D. Malala Yousafzai

52. Which of the following was the first developed country to default on loans from the International Monetary Fund in 2015?

- A. Cambodia
- B. Greece
- C. Botswana
- D. Samoa

53. What astronomical phenomenon was first photographed in 2019 by the Event Horizon Telescope at the center of the galaxy M87?

- A. black hole
- B. shooting star
- C. supernova
- D. dwarf planet

54. Which of the following buildings, located in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, is the tallest in the world?

- A. Merdeka 118
- B. Shanghai Tower
- C. Empire State Building
- D. Burj Khalifa

55. A tsunami triggered a nuclear disaster at what Japanese power plant in 2011?

- A. Lucens
- B. Three Mile Island
- C. Fukushima
- D. Chernobyl

56. Which of the following names the series of anti-government protests that started in Tunisia in 2010 and spread through the Middle East?

- A. People's Protest
- B. Taiping Rebellion
- C. Arab Spring
- D. Velvet Revolution

57. What Egyptian president resigned and fled Cairo at the outset of the 2011 Egyptian Revolution?

- A. Hosni Mubarak
- B. Nelson Mandela
- C. Kwame Nkrumah
- D. Ruhollah Khomeini

58. Kofi Annan was the secretary-general of what international organization headquartered in New York City?

- A. Inter-American Development Bank
- B. Council of Europe
- C. Association of Southeast Asian Nations
- D. United Nations

59. The Prespa Agreement of 2018 added what direction to the Republic of Macedonia's name to settle a dispute with Greece?
- west
 - north
 - east
 - south
60. Greta Thunberg's environmental activism began with a lone protest outside what nation's parliamentary building in 2018?
- Cyprus
 - Sweden
 - Taiwan
 - Israel
61. What longest ruling monarch of the United Kingdom died in 2022?
- Christian X
 - Wilhelm II
 - Pedro I
 - Elizabeth II
62. What former NSA consultant and whistleblower was granted full Russian citizenship in 2022?
- Edward Snowden
 - Chelsea Manning
 - Mark Felt
 - Linda Tripp
63. What Bong Joon-ho film was the first foreign language film to win a best picture Oscar?
- Shape of Water
 - Parasite
 - Coda
 - Moonlight
64. In September 2020, Yoshihide Suga replaced Shinzo Abe as prime minister of what nation?
- Canada
 - Mozambique
 - India
 - Japan
65. Which of the following was declared a global pandemic in 2020 and resulted in months-long lockdowns of whole nations?
- smallpox
 - Spanish flu
 - COVID-19
 - cholera
66. Winter Storm Uri of February 2021 caused a major power crisis for the independent power grid of what southern state?
- Texas
 - South Dakota
 - Washington
 - Michigan
67. What cryptocurrency exchange founded by Sam Bankman-Fried collapsed in late 2022?
- PayPal
 - WorldFirst
 - Wise
 - FTX
68. Russia invaded what western neighbor in February 2022?
- Ukraine
 - Mongolia
 - Uzbekistan
 - Poland
69. What former comedian and actor was elected president of Ukraine in 2019?
- Olaf Scholz
 - Volodymyr Zelenskyy
 - Mette Frederiksen
 - Alexander Tarashenko
70. OpenAI launched the prototype of what artificial intelligence chatbot in November 2022?
- KoalaChat
 - Snapchat My AI
 - ChatGPT
 - Google Bard
71. What New Zealand prime minister announced her resignation in January 2023?
- Margaret Thatcher
 - Katrin Jakobsdottir
 - Jacinda Ardern
 - Angela Merkel
72. Which of the following was elected to an unprecedented third term as President of the People's Republic of China in March 2023?
- Fumio Kishida
 - Yoon Suk Yeol
 - Xi Jinping
 - Kim Jong-Un
73. What Nordic nation is the newest member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as of April 2023?
- Kosovo
 - Finland
 - Liechtenstein
 - Hungary
74. What Puerto Rican artist's Un Verano Sin Ti was the first Spanish-language album nominated for Grammy Album of the Year?
- Bad Bunny
 - Lizzo
 - Doja Cat
 - Lil Nas X

75. The Yemeni civil war began in late 2014 after Houthi forces captured what capital city?

- A. Athens
- B. Jakarta
- C. Damascus
- D. Sanaa

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.

To the nearest tenth of a percent, what percentage of the world's population used the internet in 2022 according to the United Nations?