



**U.S. Military 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 nation was the target of John Hay's Open Door Note that called for equal division of Qing territory between imperial powers?

- A. Russia
- B. Indonesia
- C. Rhodesia
- D. China

2. Which of the following served as the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army?

- A. Charles Cornwallis
- B. George Washington
- C. Benedict Arnold
- D. Marquis de Lafayette

3. The ranks of the Continental Army were augmented by the addition of which of the following temporary forces?

- A. children
- B. women
- C. colonial militia
- D. slaves

4. In the 1750s and 1760s, American colonists were instrumental in the war between Great Britain and what other North American colonial power?

- A. the Ottoman Empire
- B. the Netherlands
- C. France
- D. Portugal

5. What New York battles are seen as a turning point in the Revolutionary War because a decisive victory gained the colonies foreign support?

- A. Battles of Saratoga
- B. Battles of Quebec
- C. Swansea Raids
- D. Great Swamp Fights

6. The last major battle of the Revolutionary War in 1781 ended with a surrender of imperial forces in what Virginia locale?

- A. Yorktown
- B. Savannah
- C. Albany
- D. Ticonderoga

7. The first major campaign of the American Revolution was a British effort to capture what Massachusetts city?

- A. Harrisburg
- B. Boston
- C. New York City
- D. Jamestown

8. The treaty that officially ended the Revolutionary War was signed in 1783 in what French city?

- A. Lyon
- B. Marseilles
- C. Nice
- D. Paris

9. In what year did the new United States declare war for the first time, mostly due to the British interference in trade and impressment of sailors?

- A. 1760
- B. 1812
- C. 1883
- D. 1892

10. Future president William Henry Harrison led the charge against a Shawnee leader in what 1810-1813 namesake conflict?

- A. Tecumseh's War
- B. Football War
- C. Father Baudoin's War
- D. Count's War

11. What US capital was captured and burned by British forces during the 1814 Chesapeake campaign?

- A. Norfolk
- B. Springfield
- C. Washington D.C.
- D. Philadelphia

12. The Mexican War was sparked by a dispute over the southern border of what newly annexed state?

- A. Texas
- B. Missouri
- C. Georgia
- D. Utah

13. What major general of the Mexican War used his war record to win the presidency in 1848?

- A. Winfield Scott
- B. Nathanael Greene
- C. John Burgoyne
- D. Zachary Taylor

14. With the addition of the Mexican Cession after the Mexican War, the US officially stretched from the Atlantic to what western body of water?

- A. Bay of Biscay
- B. Pacific Ocean
- C. Indian Ocean
- D. Gulf of Aqaba

15. What future president issued the 'Spot Resolutions' in 1847 to investigate the controversial start of the Mexican War?

- A. William King
- B. John Quincy Adams
- C. Henry Clay
- D. Abraham Lincoln

16. Which of the following was the first state to secede from the Union on the eve of the Civil War?

- A. South Carolina
- B. Maine
- C. Ohio
- D. Nebraska

17. Which of the following inventions greatly impacted the Civil War as it allowed the commander-in-chief to reach his generals directly?

- A. telephones
- B. radios
- C. telegraphs
- D. emails

18. The Union plan to blockade Southern ports and divide the South at the Mississippi River was named for what reptile?

- A. shark
- B. anaconda
- C. frog
- D. turtle

19. Thomas Jackson earned what nickname in 1861 for successfully beating back a Union assault during the First Battle of Bull Run?

- A. 'the Great'
- B. 'Old Fuss and Feathers'
- C. '31-Knot'
- D. 'Stonewall'

20. Preacher Henry Ward Beecher secretly supplied rifles to abolitionists during Bleeding Kansas by labeling the crates with what book?

- A. the Bible
- B. Uncle Tom's Cabin
- C. the Liberator
- D. Twelve Years a Slave

21. The Emancipation Proclamation was issued after what bloodiest battle in US history dealt huge casualties to the victorious Union army?

- A. Battle of New Orleans
- B. Battle of Antietam
- C. Battle of Brandywine
- D. Battle of Trenton

22. The Indian Wars of the late 19th century were waged in part due to US efforts to construct which of the following in the west?

- A. Golden Gate Bridge
- B. Hoover Dam
- C. Erie Canal
- D. Transcontinental Railroad

23. What US colonel was killed alongside his 7th Cavalry at the Battle of the Little Big Horn in 1876?

- A. George Custer
- B. Ulysses Grant
- C. Ambrose Burnside
- D. George McClellan

24. Which of the following Confederate states suffered massive destruction amidst General Sherman's 1864 March to the Sea?

- A. Kansas
- B. Minnesota
- C. Georgia
- D. Iowa

25. What Confederate general's push north was halted by a bloody battle at Gettysburg in 1863?
- P.G.T Beauregard
 - John Buford
 - Robert E. Lee
 - Rutherford B. Hayes
26. Nearly 300 Lakota people were murdered by the US Army in what 1890 event?
- Wounded Knee Massacre
 - the Jamestown Massacre
 - Battle of the Cedars
 - the Powhatan War
27. The US victory in the Spanish-American War resulted in a US lease for what naval base in Cuba?
- Key West
 - Coronado
 - Pearl Harbor
 - Guantánamo Bay
28. What volunteer cavalry was led into the Battle of San Juan Hill by future president Theodore Roosevelt?
- Dogfaces
 - Rough Riders
 - Jarheads
 - Thundering Herd
29. What US state was annexed shortly after a pro-American coup ousted Queen Liliuokalani in 1893?
- Puerto Rico
 - Philippines
 - Hawaii
 - Guam
30. What US military branch was modernized in the 1880s and 1990s using the strategies of Captain Alfred Thayer Mahan?
- Space Force
 - Marines
 - Air Force
 - Navy
31. What US president sent forces to pursue Pancho Villa in 1916 after his soldiers raided a New Mexico city during the Mexican Revolution?
- Woodrow Wilson
 - William McKinley
 - Eugene Debs
 - Herbert Hoover
32. Soldiers of the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I were often called which of the following?
- 'roughnecks'
 - 'doughboys'
 - 'rebels'
 - 'Johnnies'
33. The US entered World War I shortly after British spies intercepted a German telegram addressed to what neighboring nation?
- Mexico
 - Chile
 - Brazil
 - Costa Rica
34. Which of the following generals led American troops in Europe during World War I?
- William Jennings Bryan
 - Warren Harding
 - William Randolph Hearst
 - John J. 'Black Jack' Pershing
35. What Secretary of State proposed international arms controls at the Washington Naval Conference in 1921?
- Calvin Coolidge
 - James Garfield
 - Charles Evans Hughes
 - Franklin Roosevelt
36. Isolationists of the 1930s labeled industries and banks as 'merchants of' what for pushing the US to join World War I?
- 'death'
 - 'peace'
 - 'tranquility'
 - 'prosperity'
37. What US president worked to aid Allies in the early stages of World War II through the Lend-Lease Act?
- Adlai Stevenson
 - Benjamin Harrison
 - Gerald Ford
 - Franklin D. Roosevelt
38. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor occurred on December 7 of what year?
- 1933
 - 1941
 - 1950
 - 1953
39. Which of the following strategies was used by US forces in the Pacific theater of World War II?
- trench warfare
 - island hopping
 - cordon defense
 - blitzkrieg
40. Which of the following battles saw the tide of the Pacific War turn in favor of the US after the sinking of four Japanese aircraft carriers?
- Battle of Midway
 - Battle of Stalingrad
 - the 'Desert War'
 - Battle of Verdun

41. Which of the following names the joint US and UK plan to invade North Africa in World War II?
- Operation Wrath of God
 - Operation Red Dawn
 - Operation Torch
 - Operation Barbarossa
42. What future president served as the commander of Allied forces during the D-Day launch of the Battle of Normandy in June 1944?
- Winston Churchill
 - George Patton
 - Erwin Rommel
 - Dwight D. Eisenhower
43. Which of the following was deployed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki to secure a Japanese surrender to end World War II?
- atomic bombs
 - mustard gas
 - a land invasion
 - submarine warfare
44. Which of these campaigns, the last German offensive of World War II, was among the bloodiest of the war for Americans?
- Battle of Chickamauga
 - Battle of Leyte Gulf
 - Battle of the Bulge
 - Battle of Fort Sumter
45. Which of the following was the US plan to research and develop nuclear weapons from 1942 to 1946?
- Operation Unthinkable
 - Manhattan Project
 - Project Coast
 - Operation Osoaviakhim
46. The closest the US and the Soviet Union got to nuclear war was the 13-day Cuban Missile Crisis in what Cold War decade?
- 1890s
 - 1910s
 - 1920s
 - 1960s
47. The Bay of Pigs Invasion of 1961 sought to use Cuban exiles to overthrow the communist government of what former revolutionary?
- Fidel Castro
 - Bernardo O'Higgins
 - Simon Bolivar
 - Jair Bolsonaro
48. The US provided covert assistance to Augusto Pinochet's overthrow of Salvador Allende in what South American nation?
- Haiti
 - Panama
 - Chile
 - Barbados
49. Operation Eagle Claw was a US attempt to rescue hostages from the American embassy in what Iranian capital in 1980?
- Ankara
 - Cairo
 - Muscat
 - Tehran
50. US involvement in the 1953 coup in Iran was motivated by access to what abundant natural resource in the Middle East?
- diamonds
 - oil
 - bananas
 - steel
51. During Vietnam, young men would burn which of the following to protest potential military service?
- draft cards
 - paystubs
 - tax receipts
 - driver's licenses
52. What US Army General was removed from command of the Korean War by President Harry Truman in 1951?
- George Marshall
 - Andrew Jackson
 - Douglas MacArthur
 - John Bell Hood
53. The Cold War was an ideological struggle with no direct conflict between the US and what other superpower?
- India
 - Greece
 - Nigeria
 - Soviet Union
54. The National Security Act of 1947 combined the US Departments of the Navy and War into what single cabinet-level department?
- Transportation
 - Defense
 - Energy
 - Interior

55. The US intervention in the Korean War was caused by the adoption of what foreign policy aimed at halting the spread of communism?

- A. containment
- B. imperialism
- C. self-determination
- D. hegemony

56. The congressional resolution that granted the US president unlimited use of force in Vietnam was named for what body of water?

- A. Andaman Sea
- B. Gulf of Tonkin
- C. Adriatic Sea
- D. Gulf of Oman

57. The massacre of hundreds of civilians by American soldiers at My Lai occurred in 1969 amid which of the following conflicts?

- A. Singing Revolution
- B. Dominican Civil War
- C. Vietnam War
- D. Six-Day War

58. Which of the following was initially deployed to deprive the Vietcong of food but resulted in illnesses for both the Vietnamese and American soldiers?

- A. Anthrax
- B. Ebola
- C. Bubonic Plague
- D. Agent Orange

59. Operation Urgent Fury names the 1983 US plan to invade what Caribbean nation that had installed a communist-leaning government?

- A. Grenada
- B. Canada
- C. Somalia
- D. Australia

60. A coalition of nations led by the US waged the Persian Gulf War on what Middle Eastern nation after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait?

- A. Azerbaijan
- B. Mongolia
- C. Iraq
- D. Nepal

61. Which of the following events was the catalyst for George W. Bush declaring a 'War on Terror' in 2001?

- A. Sand Creek Massacre
- B. September 11 attacks
- C. Tiananmen Square Massacre
- D. Oklahoma City bombing

62. Although they were deposed in Operation Enduring Freedom, the Taliban were able to retake control of what nation in 2021 after a hurried US withdrawal?

- A. South Africa
- B. France
- C. Thailand
- D. Afghanistan

63. What 1950s conflict saw units of black and white soldiers together for the first time after the 1948 desegregation of the US military?

- A. Nicaraguan Revolution
- B. Dhofar Rebellion
- C. Korean War
- D. Brunei Revolt

64. The US and its allies invaded Iraq in 2003 to oust what Ba'ath party ruler who was allegedly harboring terrorists and had 'weapons of mass destruction'?

- A. Saddam Hussein
- B. Gamal Abdel Nassar
- C. Muammar Ghaddafi
- D. Recep Tayyip Erdogan

65. A decade-long manhunt for what al-Qaeda leader ended in 2011 when he was killed by US special forces in Pakistan?

- A. Ali Atwa
- B. Osama bin Laden
- C. Sajid Mir
- D. Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi

66. Which of the following became the first black Secretary of Defense in 2021?

- A. Antony Blinken
- B. Mike Pence
- C. Joe Biden
- D. Lloyd Austin

67. Which of the following was opened to women in the US military for the first time in 2013?

- A. college scholarships
- B. leaves of absence
- C. government housing
- D. combat roles

68. The WAVES were the auxiliary of what branch of the US military during World War II?

- A. CIA
- B. Air Force
- C. Army
- D. Navy

69. A group of African American soldiers from the Tuskegee Institute were famous for their role as which of the following during World War II?

- A. Navy ship captains
- B. combat pilots
- C. codebreakers
- D. astronauts

70. An offensive launched by North Vietnamese forces in 1968 against US troops was named for what lunar new year holiday?

- A. Tet
- B. Ramadan
- C. Passover
- D. Christmas

71. What color lends its name to the great fleet sent to circumnavigate the globe by Theodore Roosevelt in 1907 to display US naval power?

- A. fuchsia
- B. white
- C. ebony
- D. cerulean

72. The 1798-1800 undeclared "Quasi-War" pitted the newly independent United States against what former revolutionary ally?

- A. Sweden
- B. Egypt
- C. France
- D. Japan

73. King Philip's War in the 1670s involved fighting between colonists and what local tribe?

- A. Navajo
- B. Lakota
- C. Cherokee
- D. Wampanoag

74. Operation Babylift evacuated South Vietnamese from what falling capital city in April 1975?

- A. Saigon
- B. Shanghai
- C. Goa
- D. Bangkok

75. In the 1830s, the US Army was tasked with removing the Cherokee from their native lands and escorting them to reservations in what current US state?

- A. New Hampshire
- B. Oklahoma
- C. Michigan
- D. Wyoming

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.

As of 2020, how many people are active-duty members of the US Marine Corps?