



**Ancient History Examination
5th and 6th Grade Division
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. The concept of the "Mandate of Heaven" was first used during which Chinese dynasty?

- A. Shang
- B. Zhou
- C. Han
- D. Tang

2. Which Chinese philosophy, emphasizing ethics and proper social relationships, was originated by its namesake philosopher in the 6th century BCE?

- A. Daoism
- B. Buddhism
- C. Confucianism
- D. Legalism

3. What major construction project was initiated during the Qin dynasty to protect against northern invasions?

- A. Grand Canal
- B. Terracotta Army
- C. Great Wall of China
- D. Forbidden City

4. Which Chinese invention during the Han dynasty revolutionized record-keeping and literature?

- A. Gunpowder
- B. Printing
- C. Paper
- D. Compass

5. Which famous trade route connected China with the West, facilitating cultural and commercial exchange?

- A. Silk Road
- B. Spice Route
- C. Amber Road
- D. Royal Road

6. Who was the first pharaoh of a unified Egypt?

- A. Ramses II
- B. Tutankhamun
- C. Menes (Narmer)
- D. Ptolemy XIII

7. What was the main writing system used in ancient Egypt?

- A. Cuneiform
- B. Hieroglyphics
- C. Sanskrit
- D. Phoenician

8. The Kingdom of Aksum, an important trading empire, was located in which modern-day country?

- A. Egypt
- B. Nigeria
- C. Ethiopia
- D. Morocco

9. The Kingdom of Ghana was primarily known for its trade in which commodities?

- A. Corn and tomatoes
- B. Gold and salt
- C. Tobacco and rice
- D. Indigo and wheat

10. Who was the legendary founder of the Mali Empire?

- A. Sundiata Keita
- B. Askia the Great
- C. Sonni Ali
- D. Idris Aloma

11. What was the ancient Egyptian book that served as a guide for the afterlife?

- A. The Bible
- B. The Song of Roland
- C. The Book of the Dead
- D. The Torah

12. What is the name of the large stone statues with the body of a lion and the head of a human?

- A. Obelisks
- B. Sphinxes
- C. Pylons
- D. Colossi

13. Which famous battle did Ramses II fight against the Hittites?

- A. Battle of Kadesh
- B. Battle of Megiddo
- C. Battle of Actium
- D. Battle of Gaugamela

14. What is the name of the ancient Mesopotamian epic that includes a story of a great flood?

- A. The Iliad
- B. The Aeneid
- C. The Epic of Gilgamesh
- D. The Odyssey

15. Which city is often considered the world's oldest continuously inhabited city?

- A. London
- B. Damascus
- C. Paris
- D. Athens

16. Which early medieval kingdom was ruled by Alfred the Great in the 9th century CE?

- A. Wessex
- B. Germany
- C. France
- D. Portugal

17. Who was the famous Hun leader who invaded Europe in the 5th century?

- A. Genseric
- B. Alaric
- C. Odoacer
- D. Attila

18. What was the highest political office in the Roman Republic?

- A. Judge
- B. Congressman
- C. Senator
- D. Consul

19. Which Carthaginian general famously crossed the Alps to invade Italy in 218 BCE?

- A. Ptolemy
- B. Spartacus
- C. Hannibal
- A. D) Scipio Africanus

20. What major construction project provided Rome with a reliable source of water?

- A. the Aqueducts
- B. the Cloaca Maxima
- C. the Via Appia
- D. the Baths of Caracalla

21. Who was the king of Babylon who created one of the world's earliest and most complete written legal codes?

- A. Sargon
- B. Hammurabi
- C. Nebuchadnezzar
- D. Ashurbanipal

22. Ziggurats were a type of massive structure, often with attached temples, built in what ancient society?

- A. Mesopotamia
- B. Rome
- C. Greece
- D. Britain

23. What was the primary religion of the Persian Empire before the rise of Islam?

- A. Christianity
- B. Judaism
- C. Zoroastrianism
- D. Hinduism

24. The Taino people of the Bahamas were the first tribe encountered by what explorer in 1492?

- A. Henry the Navigator
- B. Vasco de Gama
- C. Christopher Columbus
- D. Ferdinand Magellan

25. Machu Picchu was used as a religious site and royal estate by what South American empire?

- A. Inca
- B. Cahokia
- C. Toltec
- D. Arawak

26. Which Chinese emperor is known for commissioning the Terracotta Army to guard his tomb?

- A. Emperor Wu of Han
- B. Qin Shi Huang
- C. Emperor Wen of Sui
- D. Emperor Gaozu of Tang

27. Imperial officials in ancient China created which of these systems to find qualified candidates for government service?

- A. international trade systems
- B. mandatory religious schools
- C. heavy income taxes
- D. civil service exams

28. What is the name of the period in Japanese history characterized by the emergence of pottery and agriculture?
- A. Hiroshima period
 - B. Edo period
 - C. Tokyo period
 - D. Jomon period
29. The term kofun in ancient Japanese history refers to which of these types of structures?
- A. city walls
 - B. ports
 - C. burial mounds
 - D. factories
30. What is the name of the indigenous religion of Japan characterized by nature worship and the veneration of ancestors?
- A. Shinto
 - B. Buddhism
 - C. Confucianism
 - D. Taoism
31. Early civilizations on the Indian subcontinent settled around what river?
- A. Talas
 - B. Mekong
 - C. Yellow
 - D. Indus
32. Chandragupta overthrew the Nanda Empire in 322 BCE and established what new empire?
- A. Lan Xang
 - B. Maurya
 - C. Tondo
 - D. Mon
33. What was the weapon of choice for most medieval steppe peoples while riding horseback?
- A. rifle
 - B. firelance
 - C. composite bow
 - D. knife
34. Which of these was the primary function of the Oracle at Delphi?
- A. Military leader
 - B. Economic advisor
 - C. Prophetic priestess
 - D. Political ruler
35. Which Greek philosopher wrote "The Republic," outlining his vision of a perfect society?
- A. Marcus Aurelius
 - B. Plato
 - C. Pythagoras
 - D. Confucius
36. Which of the following cities was an important center of learning and culture in the Mali Empire?
- A. Cairo
 - B. Thebes
 - C. Timbuktu
 - D. Alexandria
37. Which famous journey did Mansa Musa undertake that showcased his empire's wealth?
- A. A pilgrimage to Mecca
 - B. A trade mission to China
 - C. An exploration of the Atlantic
 - D. A diplomatic mission to Rome
38. What was the purpose of the pyramids in ancient Egypt?
- A. Temples to Ra
 - B. Fortresses for defense against enemies
 - C. Tombs for pharaohs
 - D. Palaces
39. What river was crucial to the development of ancient Egyptian civilization?
- A. Tigris
 - B. Euphrates
 - C. Nile
 - D. Indus
40. Which pharaoh's tomb was discovered nearly intact by Howard Carter in 1922?
- A. Ramses II
 - B. Tutankhamun
 - C. Thutmose III
 - D. Amenhotep III
41. Which Roman Emperor was the first to convert to Christianity?
- A. Augustus
 - B. Constantine
 - C. Julius Caesar
 - D. Romulus
42. What was the primary language of the Roman Empire?
- A. Greek
 - B. Latin
 - C. Aramaic
 - D. Gothic
43. Which Byzantine emperor was known for his codification of Roman law?
- A. Justinian I
 - B. Constantius Chlorus
 - C. Heraclius
 - D. Theodoric

44. The Venerable Bede is best known for his work in which field in the Medieval period?
- A. Architecture
 - B. Math
 - C. History
 - D. Theater
45. Which battle in 732 CE halted the Muslim advance into Western Europe?
- A. Battle of Tours
 - B. Battle of Hastings
 - C. Battle of the Bulge
 - D. Battle of Milvian Bridge
46. The Champa polities formed as early as the 2nd century CE in what modern-day country?
- A. New Zealand
 - B. Fiji
 - C. Vietnam
 - D. Philippines
47. The Srivijaya kingdom was a vital part of the spread of what religion across Southeast Asia?
- A. Shintoism
 - B. Tengrism
 - C. Christianity
 - D. Buddhism
48. Si Inthathit founded what Siamese kingdom in 1238?
- A. Sukhothai
 - B. Funan
 - C. Shailendra
 - D. Pagan
49. The Khmer Empire was founded when what Chenla ruler declared himself universal ruler?
- A. Xuanzong
 - B. Kublai Khan
 - C. Ashoka
 - D. Jayavarman II
50. The Trung Sisters led a 40 CE rebellion in Han China provinces in what modern day nation?
- A. Indonesia
 - B. Australia
 - C. Mongolia
 - D. Vietnam
51. What "White Huns" group controlled much of Central Asia in the 6th and 7th centuries CE?
- A. Assyrians
 - B. Hittites
 - C. Persians
 - D. Hephtalites
52. The 751 CE Battle of Talas was a clash between the Abbasid Caliphate and what Chinese dynasty?
- A. Tang
 - B. Xia
 - C. Qing
 - D. Zhou
53. The Puranas are a Sanskrit collection of stories and lore from what tradition?
- A. Judaism
 - B. Zoroastrianism
 - C. Islam
 - D. Hinduism
54. Which empire was responsible for the destruction of the First Temple in Jerusalem in 586 BCE?
- A. the Qing Dynasty
 - B. the Babylonian Empire
 - C. the Spartans
 - D. the Gauls
55. Which ancient city, located in modern-day Jordan, is famous for its rock-cut architecture and water conduit system?
- A. Persepolis
 - B. Byzantium
 - C. Memphis
 - D. Petra
56. Which civilization used a unique script called Linear B?
- A. Egyptians
 - B. Mycenaeans
 - C. Sumerians
 - D. Phoenicians
57. Who wrote the epic poem "Aeneid," which tells the story of Rome's legendary founder?
- A. Julius Caesar
 - B. Xenophon
 - C. Virgil
 - D. Augustus
58. Which Greek city-state was known for its militaristic society and intensive training system for young men?
- A. Athens
 - B. Corinth
 - C. Sparta
 - D. Thebes
59. Which war was fought between Athens and Sparta in the 5th century BCE?
- A. Trojan War
 - B. Persian Wars
 - C. Peloponnesian War
 - D. Macedonian Wars

60. What Maurya emperor is known for supporting the spread of Buddhism throughout Asia?

- A. Ma Yuan
- B. Muhammad Shah
- C. Aurengzeb
- D. Ashoka the Great

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 much does the funeral mask of Tutankhamun weigh in pounds?