



Ancient History Examination 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. What explorer landed at Costa Rica's Isla Uvita in 1502?

- A. Francisco Vázquez de Coronado
- B. Hernando de Soto
- C. Juan Ponce de León
- D. Christopher Columbus

2. What Peruvian city served as the center of the Inca Empire?

- A. Puno
- B. Arequipa
- C. Cuzco
- D. Lima

3. The Pyramid of the Sun and the Pyramid of the Moon are part of what pre-Columbian complex built near Mexico City?

- A. Upano Valley
- B. Teotihuacan
- C. Pisac
- D. Palenque

4. Which of the following civilizations did NOT settle in modern-day Mexico?

- A. Cahokia
- B. Toltec
- C. Mexica
- D. Maya

5. What Andes-based civilization used terrace farming to cultivate agriculture on the sides of mountains?

- A. Inca
- B. Purepecha
- C. Olmec
- D. Maya

6. The 1680 Pueblo Revolt successfully, though temporarily, expelled what colonizer from the modern-day southwestern United States?

- A. England
- B. France
- C. Spain
- D. the Netherlands

7. What West African empire was founded in the 13th century by Sundiata Keita?

- A. Great Zimbabwe
- B. Mali Empire
- C. Ghana Empire
- D. Ashanti Empire

8. What Mali city was used as the capital of the Songhai Empire?

- A. Lagos
- B. Gao
- C. Cairo
- D. Marrakesh

9. The Kanem-Bornu Empire spanned all of these modern-day nations EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. Chad
- B. Cameroon
- C. Niger
- D. Ethiopia

10. Endubis conquered Nubia and organized the control of the horn of Africa under which of the following?

- A. Kingdom of Meroe
- B. Ajuran Sultanate
- C. Kingdom of Axum
- D. Kilwa Sultanate

11. Which of the following best describes the griots used to preserve West African history?

- A. They were newspapers circulated among communities.
- B. They were the first instance of manuscripts using printing presses.
- C. They were illustrated scrolls designed by monks.
- D. They were oral histories passed down through families.

12. Ethiopian king Ezana was the first to convert his nation to which of the following traditions?

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

3. The Shailendra dynasty promoted their religion throughout Java by building which of the following?

- A. Sufi gardens
- B. Jain temples
- C. Christian churches
- D. Buddhist monuments

14. The Khmer Empire ruled Cambodia during what time period named after the empire's capital?

- A. Mekong era
- B. Funan period
- C. Angkor period
- D. Oudong era

15. Which of the following is true of both the Srivijaya Empire and the Majapahit Empire?

- A. They were both based in Java.
- B. They were both Hindu empires.
- C. They were both conquered by the Cholas.
- D. They were both invaded by the Mongols.

16. The Dvaravati kingdom was the first political organization of what people native to Myanmar?

- A. Nanai
- B. Adivasi
- C. Mon
- D. Derbet

17. What Lao UNESCO World Heritage Site on the Xieng Khouang Plateau was settled by a trading community as early as the 8th century BCE?

- A. Temple of Heaven
- B. Plain of Jars
- C. Hoi An
- D. Mogao Caves

18. The Four Immortals form the pantheon of genii worshiped by the Red River Delta people of what modern-day nation?

- A. Philippines
- B. Vietnam
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Mongolia

19. Which of these periods of Japanese history lasted from 794 to 1185 and saw the flourishing of Japanese art, literature, and culture?

- A. Yamato
- B. Heian
- C. Kamakura
- D. Muromachi

20. Which of these diseases, also devastating to indigenous populations in the Americas, ravaged Japan in the 8th and 9th centuries?

- A. typhus
- B. typhoid fever
- C. scarlet fever
- D. smallpox

21. Which of the following was first conceptualized by the Qin dynasty to protect China's northern border?

- A. Temple of Heaven
- B. Great Wall of China
- C. Xumi Pagoda
- D. Dujiangyan

22. What longest serving Han emperor developed the Imperial Music Bureau?

- A. Emperor Qinshao
- B. Emperor Wu
- C. Emperor Ai
- D. Emperor Ping

23. Which of the following was used by the Qing dynasty to organize their military and Chinese society as a whole?

- A. Eight Banners system
- B. Grand Secretariat
- C. Equal-field system
- D. Three Departments and Six Ministries

24. The Story of Khun Borom depicts the origin myths of what people who are the namesake of a Southeast Asian nation?

- A. Lao
- B. Mon
- C. Senoi
- D. Tho

25. The Warring States period in China ended with the establishment of what first imperial dynasty?

- A. Xia
- B. Song
- C. Qin
- D. Yuan

26. The nomads of the Mongolian steppe practiced what shamanist tradition?

- A. Sufism
- B. Shintoism
- C. Daoism
- D. Tengrism

27. The Baekje, Silla, and Goguryeo kingdoms split what peninsula in 58 BCE?

- A. Deccan Peninsula
- B. Kamchatka peninsula
- C. Korean peninsula
- D. Malay peninsula

28. Japanese myth traces the lineage of all its emperors to what Sun goddess?
- Apollo
 - Amaterasu
 - Surya
 - Ra
29. What 2nd century peasant revolt serves as the opening scene of the Romance of the Three Kingdoms?
- Yellow Turban Rebellion
 - Dazexiang Uprising
 - Five Pecks of Rice Rebellion
 - An Shi Rebellion
30. The development of Neo-Confucianism in the late Tang dynasty became the basis of what civil service system?
- random ranking
 - patronage
 - seniority selections
 - imperial examinations
31. The Northern Wei united north China in the 4th century by claiming that their emperors were incarnations of what religious figure?
- Laozi
 - Buddha
 - Confucius
 - Muhammad
32. Sui Yangdi connected his capital city to the fertile Jiangnan region in 609 CE by expanding which of the following?
- Grand Canal
 - Silk Road
 - Great Wall of China
 - Grand Trunk Road
33. Which of the following founded the Goryeo dynasty in 918 CE?
- Munmu
 - Cao Cao
 - Sui Wendi
 - Taejo
34. The Kalinga War was the only war fought by what great Maurya emperor?
- Bindusara
 - Ashoka
 - Chanakya
 - Pulakeshin
35. What Indus language has not yet been deciphered and remains mostly unattributed to a particular people?
- Odia
 - Malayalam
 - Telugu
 - Harappan
36. What road built in the 3rd century BCE connects India to Central Asia?
- Road to Giza
 - Karakoram Highway
 - Grand Trunk Road
 - Persian Royal Road
37. What rock-cut sanctuary was commissioned by Harishena during the Vakataka Empire?
- Manas Park
 - Khajuraho
 - Ajanta Caves
 - Taj Mahal
38. In the 4th century CE, the Indo-Scythian Kingdom was conquered by which of these leaders from the Gupta Empire?
- Theodamas
 - Chandragupta II
 - Seleucus I
 - Ashoka
39. In 329 BCE, Alexander the Great's empire reached Alexandria Eschate on the river Jaxartes in what modern-day nation?
- Tajikistan
 - Nepal
 - Myanmar
 - Iran
40. What Central Asian nomads were brought into China by the Silk Road at Turfan?
- Moken
 - Scythians
 - Mongols
 - Uyghurs
41. The marriage of Princess Wencheng and Songtsan Gampo settled issues between the Tang dynasty and what plateau-based empire?
- Tibetan Empire
 - Silla Empire
 - Sasanian Empire
 - Gupta Empire
42. Which of the following was developed by the Scythians to make horseback riding more comfortable and support the use of crossbows?
- chariots
 - saddles
 - backpacks
 - reins
43. What Uzbek city was a constant target of Arab conquests in the 8th century?
- Herat
 - Kabul
 - Samarkand
 - Siraf

44. Around 2100 BCE, King Ur-Nammu compiled the oldest known version of which of the following?
- a ledger
 - an almanac
 - a calendar
 - a law code
45. The Himyarite Kingdom ruled the southern highlands of what modern-day nation?
- Syria
 - Kuwait
 - Qatar
 - Yemen
46. The modern city of Luxor is located on the site of which ancient Egyptian city?
- Thebes
 - Memphis
 - Heliopolis
 - Alexandria
47. Which of the following civilizations was NOT based in Mesopotamia?
- Sumer
 - Babylonia
 - Judah
 - Assyria
48. What Akkadian ruler united Mesopotamian city-states to form the world's first empire?
- Nebuchadnezzar
 - Sargon the Great
 - Gilgamesh
 - Darius the Great
49. The maritime trading Phoenicians established a colonial city in 814 BCE in what North African civilization?
- Mogadishu
 - Kerma
 - Carthage
 - Showa
50. Which of the following empires faced the Greco-Roman world in the Roman-Persian Wars from 54 to 628 CE?
- Parthians and Sassanids
 - Macedonians and Assyrians
 - Moabs and Edoms
 - Byzantines and Ghassanids
51. European kings launched the Crusades in the Middle East in the 11th century to accomplish which of the following?
- control Mediterranean trade from the north and east
 - annex nutrient-rich land into their empires
 - limit Muslim power and retake the Holy Land
 - gain access to Chinese luxury goods
52. What second Abbasid caliph founded the city of Baghdad in 762?
- Al-Walid
 - Al-Mansur
 - Al-Hakim
 - Al-Qaim
53. Persian mathematician Al-Khwarizmi wrote extensively about the collaboration between Indians and Arabs that created what system?
- temperature scale
 - metric system
 - alphabet
 - numeral system
54. Which of the following is true about the Bedouin?
- They are nomadic Arab tribes who settled in the deserts of the Arabian Peninsula.
 - They formed the first caliphate after the death of Muhammad.
 - They conquered Constantinople in 1453 to end the Byzantine empire.
 - They spread Buddhism throughout the Middle East and North Africa.
55. The three major conflicts between Rome and Carthage during the classical period are known collectively as which of the following?
- Cimbrian Wars
 - Macedonian Wars
 - Punic Wars
 - Mercenary Wars
56. The First Fitna resulted in the establishment of which of the following in 661?
- Mamluk Sultanate
 - Umayyad Caliphate
 - Fatimid dynasty
 - Byzantine Empire
57. What group led the Kharijite Revolt in 740 that allowed Maghreb to secede from the Arab caliphate?
- Berbers
 - Copts
 - Bantus
 - Hausas
58. Which of the following was the last pharaoh of Egypt?
- Berenice
 - Arsinoe
 - Cleopatra
 - Ptolemy
59. The Quba Mosque was built in the lifetime of Muhammad in what holy Islamic city?
- Medina
 - Zeila
 - Massawa
 - Jerusalem

60. Which of the following was a monotheistic tradition founded by Akhenaten during the Eighteenth dynasty?

- A. Sikhism
- B. Cushitism
- C. Zoroastrianism
- D. Atenism

61. What founder of the First Dynasty united Upper and Lower Egypt in 3150 BCE?

- A. Hatshepsut
- B. Menes
- C. Thutmose
- D. Tutankhamun

62. The Minoan civilization was centered on what Greek Island in the 27th century BCE?

- A. Corfu
- B. Milos
- C. Naxos
- D. Crete

63. What Greek city-state was home to the Platonic Academy?

- A. Corinth
- B. Thebes
- C. Syracuse
- D. Athens

64. The 5th century BCE Ionian Revolt tried but failed to end what foreign rule over the Greek city-states?

- A. Persia
- B. Magadha
- C. Egypt
- D. Parthia

65. Which of the following clashed in the Peloponnesian War in the 5th century BCE?

- A. Sicily and Macedon
- B. Thrace and Paeonia
- C. Athens and Sparta
- D. Corinth and Argos

66. The Roman Empire reached its maximum expansion under what 2nd century CE emperor?

- A. Trajan
- B. Augustus
- C. Nero
- D. Vespasian

67. Diocletian ended the Crisis of the Third Century by doing which of the following?

- A. He completely dissolved the Roman Empire.
- B. He divided the Roman Empire into East and West empires.
- C. He stepped down as emperor and gave political control of the empire to the Senate.
- D. He united the Roman Empire with the Gallic Empire.

68. Which of the following best describes the 313 CE Edict of Milan?

- A. It banned the practice of Judaism in the Roman Empire.
- B. It made the traditional Roman religion the official faith of the Eastern Roman Empire.
- C. It demanded all Roman citizens adopt Islam.
- D. It promised tolerance for Christians in the Roman Empire.

69. Which of the following was King of the Franks, King of the Lombards, and Emperor of the Carolingian Empire from 800-814?

- A. Odoacer
- B. Theodoric the Great
- C. Charlemagne
- D. Clovis

70. Which of these was NOT one of the ethnic groups of ancient Greeks?

- A. Dorians
- B. Sabines
- C. Ionians
- D. Achaeans

71. Which of these men attempted to overthrow the Roman Republic in 63 BCE, prompting a series of famous orations from Cicero?

- A. Hannibal Barca
- B. Jugurtha
- C. Cataline
- D. Spartacus

72. Which of these was the first Roman emperor to convert to Christianity?

- A. Constantine
- B. Titus
- C. Augustus
- D. Marcus Aurelius

73. The Twelve Tables were the written law code of which of these?

- A. the Roman Republic
- B. Ptolemaic Egypt
- C. the Gauls
- D. Athens in the 5th century

74. Which of these is NOT a major Celtic group from antiquity?

- A. Gauls
- B. Saxons
- C. Gaels
- D. Britons

75. Which of these was the decisive battle of the Gallic Wars, a Roman victory in 52 BCE?

- A. Actium
- B. Alesia
- C. Zama
- D. Syracuse

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.

The 28 BCE Roman census counted how many citizens in the nascent Roman Empire?