



American History Examination 5th and 6th Grade Division IAC Nationals 2025

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. Why did groups like the Pilgrims and Puritans come to the American colonies?
 - A. To search for gold
 - B. To escape religious persecution
 - C. To join the French fur trade
 - D. To become fur trappers
2. Which event was a major cause of increased British taxation on the colonies?
 - A. The French and Indian War
 - B. Boston Tea Party
 - C. Declaration of Independence
 - D. The Mayflower Compact
3. What was one major weakness of the Articles of Confederation?
 - A. It gave too much power to the President
 - B. It allowed slavery to expand too fast
 - C. It lacked the power to tax
 - D. It banned trade with Britain
4. What did the 3/5 Compromise decide at the Constitutional Convention?
 - A. How states would vote in elections
 - B. Taxation rates for trade goods
 - C. Number of states required to amend the Constitution
 - D. How enslaved people would be counted for taxation and representation
5. Which rebellion over taxes in 1794 tested the authority of the new U.S. government?
 - A. Shays' Rebellion
 - B. Whiskey Rebellion
 - C. Nat Turner's Rebellion
 - D. Bacon's Rebellion
6. What was the main goal of the Lewis and Clark expedition?
 - A. To defeat Native American tribes in the West
 - B. To explore the Louisiana Purchase and find a route to the Pacific Ocean
 - C. To capture land from Spain
 - D. To spread Christianity
7. Which invention by Eli Whitney revolutionized cotton production?
 - A. Spinning Jenny
 - B. Mechanical Reaper
 - C. Steam Engine
 - D. Cotton Gin
8. The Missouri Compromise of 1820 aimed to do which of these things?
 - A. Ban slavery in all U.S. territories
 - B. Annex the Republic of Texas
 - C. Maintain balance between free and slave states
 - D. End the Civil War
9. Andrew Jackson's policy of Indian removal led directly to which of these tragic events?
 - A. The Trail of Tears
 - B. The Civil War
 - C. The Mexican-American War
 - D. The Compromise of 1850
10. Which event marked the beginning of the Civil War in April of 1861?
 - A. Lincoln's election
 - B. The secession of South Carolina
 - C. The attack on Fort Sumter
 - D. The Battle of Gettysburg
11. What did the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848) do?
 - A. Ended slavery in California
 - B. Ended the Mexican-American War and expanded U.S. territory
 - C. Declared war on Spain
 - D. Created the Confederate States

12. The Kansas-Nebraska Act allowed both territories to decide what major issue using popular sovereignty?

- A. The size of their territory
- B. Where to put Native American reservations
- C. Whether or not to allow homesteading
- D. Whether there would be slavery in the territory

13. Which of these events caused the U.S. to experience a mass migration to California in 1849?

- A. Spanish-American War
- B. California Gold Rush
- C. the opening of the Wilderness Trail
- D. the Homestead Act

14. What was the main focus of the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848?

- A. Ending slavery
- B. Expanding Western territory
- C. Women's rights
- D. Religious revival

15. The 15th Amendment gave which of these groups the right to vote?

- A. women
- B. all white men
- C. African American men
- D. Native Americans

16. What was the main goal of labor unions in the late 19th century?

- A. Improve wages and working conditions
- B. Lower taxes
- C. Increase immigration
- D. End Prohibition

17. John D. Rockefeller dominated which industry in the late 19th century?

- A. Steel
- B. Oil
- C. Textiles
- D. Railroads

18. Which Supreme Court case upheld segregation in public facilities and established the doctrine of 'separate but equal'?

- A. Dred Scott v. Sandford
- B. Marbury v. Madison
- C. Plessy v. Ferguson
- D. Mapp v. Ohio

19. Which group of immigrants was banned from entering the U.S. as a result of an 1882 'exclusion act'?

- A. Germans
- B. Irish
- C. Chinese
- D. Italians

20. Which future U.S. president gained national fame during the Spanish-American War as a leader of the 'Rough Riders'?

- A. Woodrow Wilson
- B. William Howard Taft
- C. John Kennedy
- D. Theodore Roosevelt

21. Which African American leader founded the Tuskegee Institute in the late 19th century?

- A. Booker T. Washington
- B. W.E.B. Du Bois
- C. Frederick Douglass
- D. Marcus Garvey

22. Which global organization was created just after WWI but not joined by the US, despite the efforts of Woodrow Wilson?

- A. United Nations
- B. NATO
- C. League of Nations
- D. Warsaw Pact

23. The Harlem Renaissance was a cultural movement in the early 20th century centered on which of these?

- A. African American art, music, and literature
- B. Southern farming traditions
- C. Women's rights
- D. Anti-war protest

24. What was the name of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's plan to help America recover from the Great Depression?

- A. Let's Make a Deal
- B. the New Deal
- C. the Great Society
- D. the Marshall Plan

25. What event brought the United States into World War II in late 1941?

- A. the German invasion of Poland
- B. the bombing of Pearl Harbor
- C. the sinking of the Lusitania
- D. the fall of France

26. Who delivered the famous "I Have a Dream" speech at the March on Washington in 1963?

- A. John Kennedy
- B. Rosa Parks
- C. Martin Luther King Jr.
- D. Lyndon B. Johnson

27. Ronald Reagan famously said, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall" in a speech in what city?

- A. Berlin
- B. Paris
- C. Moscow
- D. London

28. From 1979 to 1981, American hostages were held by a revolutionary student group in what nation?
- A. Iran
 - B. India
 - C. Taiwan
 - D. the USSR
29. The election of Ronald Reagan in 1980 was seen as a major victory for which of these groups?
- A. Progressives
 - B. Liberal Democrats
 - C. Communists
 - D. Conservative Republicans
30. Following the September 11 attacks, Congress authorized the invasion of which of these nations to combat terrorism?
- A. France
 - B. Thailand
 - C. Afghanistan
 - D. China
31. What was the purpose of the First Continental Congress in 1774?
- A. To declare war on Britain
 - B. To write the Constitution
 - C. To respond to the Intolerable Acts
 - D. To elect George Washington president of the US
32. The colony of Pennsylvania was founded as a haven for which religious group?
- A. Jews
 - B. Quakers
 - C. Catholics
 - D. Buddhists
33. What was the significance of the Louisiana Purchase in early American history?
- A. It ended the War of 1812
 - B. It created a national bank
 - C. It doubled the size of the U.S.
 - D. It banned slavery in the West
34. Which labor organization was one of the largest and most influential during the late 1800s?
- A. AFL
 - B. United Farm Workers
 - C. NAACP
 - D. Students for a Democratic Society
35. Which ecological disaster in the 1930s forced many farmers to leave their land and helped make the Great Depression worse for America?
- A. the Great Flood
 - B. the Dust Bowl
 - C. the Oil Embargo
 - D. the Little Ice Age
36. What was the purpose of the Manhattan Project?
- A. Build the Hoover Dam
 - B. Create the League of Nations
 - C. Rebuild Europe after the war
 - D. Develop atomic weapons
37. Which two superpowers emerged after WWII and became the major opponents in the 'Cold War'?
- A. Japan and China
 - B. U.K. and France
 - C. U.S. and Soviet Union
 - D. Germany and Italy
38. Which construction project, completed in 1914, connected the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans?
- A. Suez Canal
 - B. Erie Canal
 - C. Transcontinental Railroad
 - D. Panama Canal
39. Which 1920s political scandal involved the leasing of government oil reserves to private companies?
- A. Credit Mobilier
 - B. Teapot Dome
 - C. Watergate
 - D. Iran-Contra
40. Which U.S. president escalated American involvement in the Vietnam War after the 1964 Gulf of Tonkin incident?
- A. Dwight D. Eisenhower
 - B. Jimmy Carter
 - C. Lyndon B. Johnson
 - D. Richard Nixon
41. Which technology revolutionized American entertainment in the 1920s?
- A. Telegraph
 - B. Radio
 - C. Internet
 - D. CD players
42. What president was assassinated by Charles Guiteau in 1881?
- A. James Garfield
 - B. Ulysses Grant
 - C. Franklin Roosevelt
 - D. Woodrow Wilson
43. Benjamin Franklin helped to found what Ivy League university in Philadelphia in the 1750s?
- A. University of Pennsylvania
 - B. Harvard
 - C. Princeton
 - D. Columbia

44. What was the main purpose of the U.S. involvement in the Persian Gulf War in the early 1990s?
- A. Remove nuclear weapons from Iraq
 - B. Liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation
 - C. Defeat the Taliban
 - D. Stop oil exports from Iran
45. Which Cold War military alliance did the U.S. help form in 1949?
- A. Warsaw Pact
 - B. League of Nations
 - C. United Nations
 - D. NATO
46. What was the first permanent English settlement in North America?
- A. St. Augustine
 - B. New Orleans
 - C. Jamestown
 - D. New Amsterdam
47. What did the Proclamation of 1763 do in colonial America?
- A. Gave settlers land in California
 - B. Banned settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains
 - C. Declared independence from Britain
 - D. Freed enslaved people in the colonies
48. The Mayflower Compact was an early example of which of these in the American colonies?
- A. monarchy
 - B. religious freedom
 - C. self-government
 - D. British taxation
49. Which of these was the purpose of the Bill of Rights?
- A. Guarantee individual freedoms under the new Constitution
 - B. Declare war on Britain
 - C. Establish the Articles of Confederation
 - D. Create political parties
50. Who was the primary military leader for the American military forces in the Revolutionary War?
- A. Thomas Paine
 - B. John Adams
 - C. Alexander Hamilton
 - D. George Washington
51. What was Abraham Lincoln's main goal during the Civil War?
- A. to cut off diplomatic ties with Great Britain
 - B. to punish the South
 - C. to preserve the Union
 - D. to conquer Mexico
52. Which of these groups took control of Congress during Reconstruction?
- A. Southern Democrats
 - B. Radical Republicans
 - C. Whigs
 - D. Populists
53. Which conflict in 1898 marked a turning point in U.S. foreign policy by establishing it as an imperial power?
- A. Spanish-American War
 - B. World War I
 - C. Civil War
 - D. Boxer Rebellion
54. What was the main goal of antitrust laws like the Sherman Antitrust Act?
- A. to encourage big businesses to form
 - B. to break up large corporations
 - C. to decrease government control of business
 - D. to ban labor unions
55. Progressives wanted to achieve which of these goals in the early 20th century?
- A. Promote foreign trade and acquire new territories
 - B. Reduce government regulation of business
 - C. Address social and political problems caused by industrialization
 - D. Encourage isolationism
56. Which of these best describes the Red Scare of the 1920s?
- A. Fear of Japanese invasion
 - B. Panic about inflation
 - C. The reaction to the stock market crash
 - D. Fear of communist influence in the U.S. and government response to that fear
57. Which U.S. senator led investigations into alleged communist activity in the government during the 1950s?
- A. Daniel Webster
 - B. Joe McCarthy
 - C. Henry Clay
 - D. Adlai Stevenson
58. What did Executive Order 9066 authorize which of these starting in 1942?
- A. Desegregation of the military
 - B. Creation of Social Security
 - C. Internment of Japanese Americans
 - D. Formation of NATO

59. The Haymarket Riot in 1886 took place in what major midwestern city?

- A. Seattle
- B. Milwaukee
- C. Baltimore
- D. Chicago

60. Which man was appointed to the office of Vice President after Spiro Agnew resigned in 1973?

- A. Gerald Ford
- B. George H.W. Bush
- C. Dick Cheney
- D. Dan Quayle

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.

What was the total population of the United States in the 1860 census?