



**Indian History, Geography, and Culture
Examination
7th and 8th 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. The valley of what river is considered the birthplace of Indian civilization?
 - A. Yellow River
 - B. Indus River
 - C. Yamuna River
 - D. Narmada River
2. The Aryans are believed to have brought which language to India?
 - A. English
 - B. Tamil
 - C. Sanskrit
 - D. Persian
3. The Vedas are religious texts associated with which religion?
 - A. Shinto
 - B. Jainism
 - C. Hinduism
 - D. Sikhism

4. Which Indian emperor is known for spreading Buddhism after the Kalinga War?
 - A. Ashoka the Great
 - B. Chandragupta Maurya
 - C. Harsha
 - D. Samudragupta
5. Which of these religions was founded by Mahavira in the 6th century BCE?
 - A. Buddhism
 - B. Hinduism
 - C. Zoroastrianism
 - D. Jainism
6. Which dynasty is known for ruling South India and expanding overseas trade in the early medieval period?
 - A. Chola
 - B. Maurya
 - C. Chalukya
 - D. Gupta
7. Which of these leaders invaded India in 1398 CE and plundered Delhi?
 - A. Genghis Khan
 - B. Xerxes
 - C. Timur (Tamerlane)
 - D. Darius the Great
8. Which Indian king fought Alexander the Great at the Battle of the Hydaspes in 326 BCE?
 - A. Kublai Khan
 - B. Porus
 - C. Herodotus
 - D. Bindusara
9. Which Indian text on politics and economics was written by Kautilya?
 - A. Bhagavad Gita
 - B. Arthashastra
 - C. Ramayana
 - D. Kama Sutra
10. The Ajanta Caves are famous for which of these?
 - A. Mosques made of gold
 - B. Marble mausoleums
 - C. Royal palaces
 - D. Buddhist murals and rock-cut sculptures
11. Which famous Indian artist, born in the 19th century, helped found the Bengal School of Art?
 - A. Raja Ravi Varma
 - B. Abanindranath Tagore
 - C. Amrita Sher-Gil
 - D. Nandalal Bose

12. Which Indian author of Gitanjali won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913?

- A. R.K. Narayan
- B. Rabindranath Tagore
- C. Kazi Nazrul Islam
- D. Nirad C. Chaudhuri

13. India's first nuclear test in 1974 was code-named which of the following?

- A. Smiling Buddha
- B. Operation Trident
- C. Shakti
- D. Pokhran-1

14. Since 2014, Satya Nadella has been the CEO of what technology company co-founded by Bill Gates?

- A. Apple
- B. Oracle
- C. Berkshire Hathaway
- D. Microsoft

15. British automakers Jaguar and Land Rover were purchased by what Indian company from Ford following the 2008 financial crisis?

- A. Fiat
- B. Stellantis
- C. Tata
- D. General Motors

16. In what decade did India win the Cricket World Cup for the first time?

- A. 1940s
- B. 1950s
- C. 1970s
- D. 1980s

17. Alla Rakha and Zakir Hussain are best known for mastery of which traditional Indian musical instrument?

- A. Tabla
- B. Sitar
- C. Guitar
- D. Mridangam

18. Freida Pinto gained international fame starring in what controversial 2008 film that was criticized in India for its depictions of poverty and other issues?

- A. Life of Pi
- B. Slumdog Millionaire
- C. The Warrior
- D. Inferno

19. Which highly successful Indian actor is known as the "Shahenshah" of Bollywood or simply as "Big B"?

- A. Shah Rukh Khan
- B. Raj Kapoor
- C. Aamir Khan
- D. Amitabh Bachchan

20. Which Indian-American author won the Pulitzer Prize for Interpreter of Maladies?

- A. Salman Rushdie
- B. Chetan Bhagat
- C. Jhumpa Lahiri
- D. Aravind Adiga

21. Surya is both the personification and god of which of these in Hinduism?

- A. the moon
- B. the sun
- C. water
- D. the Earth

22. During the Mughal Empire in the 18th century, Dhaka in modern-day Bangladesh was the center for the production of which of these goods?

- A. steel
- B. gold
- C. coffee
- D. cotton and textiles

23. Which Indian scientist and president from 2002 to 2007 was known as the "Missile Man of India" for his work on ballistic missile technology?

- A. Vikram Sarabhai
- B. Homi Bhabha
- C. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
- D. C.V. Raman

24. Which major Indian city in Karnataka is known as the "Silicon Valley of India"?

- A. Hyderabad
- B. Mumbai
- C. Pune
- D. Bengaluru

25. Which Indian cricket captain led the team to World Cup victory in 2011?

- A. Sourav Ganguly
- B. Virat Kohli
- C. M.S. Dhoni
- D. Kapil Dev

26. Abhinav Bindra, India's first individual Olympic gold medalist, won his medal at the 2008 Beijing summer games in what sport?

- A. air rifle shooting
- B. water skiing
- C. table tennis
- D. softball

27. Which of the following was a key theme in early Indian nationalist literature?

- A. Anti-colonialism and cultural pride
- B. Superheroes
- C. Religious mythology only
- D. Science fiction

28. Tansen, a legendary musician in Indian history, performed in the court of which Mughal emperor?

- A. Babur
- B. Akbar
- C. Shah Jahan
- D. Aurangzeb

29. Which Indian scientist won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930?

- A. S.N. Bose
- B. Manmohan Singh
- C. C.V. Raman
- D. Atal Bihari Vajpayee

30. Srinivasa Ramanujan is best known for his work in which field?

- A. Biology
- B. Physics
- C. Engineering
- D. Mathematics

31. The Bhakti Movement in early medieval India encouraged which of these?

- A. Rejection of gods
- B. Military conquest
- C. Personal devotion to a deity
- D. Strict caste divisions

32. Which powerful woman ruled as a Sultan during the Delhi Sultanate?

- A. Nur Jahan
- B. Razia Sultana
- C. Rani Durgavati
- D. Ahilyabai Holkar

33. Who was the founder of the Mughal Empire in India?

- A. Akbar
- B. Babur
- C. Humayun
- D. Aurangzeb

34. The Taj Mahal was built by Shah Jahan in memory of which of these people?

- A. His wife Mumtaz Mahal
- B. His mother
- C. His daughter
- D. A Mughal warrior

35. Which Mughal ruler expanded the empire to its greatest territorial extent in the late 17th century?

- A. Babur
- B. Aurangzeb
- C. Humayun
- D. Akbar

36. The Battle of Plassey in 1757 marked the beginning of which of these in India?

- A. French rule in India
- B. Mughal resurgence
- C. Indian independence
- D. British political control of India

37. Who led the Salt March in 1930 as part of the Civil Disobedience Movement?

- A. Bhagat Singh
- B. Subhas Chandra Bose
- C. Mahatma Gandhi
- D. Lala Lajpat Rai

38. India gained independence from British rule in which year?

- A. 1900
- B. 1925
- C. 1947
- D. 1975

39. Who was the first Prime Minister of an independent India?

- A. Mahatma Gandhi
- B. Jawaharlal Nehru
- C. Subhas Chandra Bose
- D. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

40. Who led India during 'The Emergency' from 1975 to 1977?

- A. Indira Gandhi
- B. Rajiv Gandhi
- C. Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- D. Morarji Desai

41. N.R. Narayana Murthy co-founded what Indian tech giant in 1981 that currently employs over 340,000 people worldwide?

- A. Infosys
- B. Tencent
- C. Baidu
- D. Gojek

42. What cricketer, considered one of the greatest Indian bowlers of all time, was named 'Player of the Series' at the 2024 T20 World Cup?

- A. Rohit Sharma
- B. Ravichandran Ashwin
- C. Jasprit Bumrah
- D. Lasith Malinga

43. Which ancient text is considered the oldest of the Vedas?

- A. Yajurveda
- B. Atharvaveda
- C. Rigveda
- D. Samaveda

44. Which Indian city is known as the destination for the Kumbh Mela, a mass Hindu pilgrimage?

- A. Varanasi
- B. Allahabad (Prayagraj)
- C. Lucknow
- D. Patna

45. What is the capital city of the state of Rajasthan?

- A. Udaipur
- B. Mumbai
- C. Delhi
- D. Jaipur

46. The Kargil War was fought between India and which other nation in 1999?

- A. China
- B. Nepal
- C. Pakistan
- D. Bangladesh

47. Which language has the largest number of native speakers in India?

- A. Bengali
- B. Hindi
- C. Telugu
- D. Marathi

48. Which union territory is located over 700 miles off the east coast of India?

- A. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- B. Lakshadweep
- C. Puducherry
- D. Ladakh

49. Which of the following is the highest mountain peak in India?

- A. Mount Everest
- B. Nanda Devi
- C. Kanchenjunga
- D. Kamet

50. The Thar Desert is located in which part of India?

- A. Northeastern India
- B. Southern India
- C. Central India
- D. Northwestern India

51. Who founded the Indian National Congress in 1885?

- A. Mahatma Gandhi
- B. Jawaharlal Nehru
- C. A.O. Hume
- D. Sardar Patel

52. Which Indian musician is famous worldwide for popularizing the sitar and collaborating with The Beatles?

- A. Zakir Hussain
- B. Ravi Shankar
- C. L. Subramaniam
- D. Bismillah Khan

53. Which major west-flowing river of India originates from the Amarkantak Plateau?

- A. Godavari
- B. Ganga
- C. Brahmaputra
- D. Narmada

54. The Sundarbans, an important habitat for the Bengal tiger, is which of these?

- A. Coral Reef
- B. Desert
- C. Mangrove Forest
- D. Coniferous Forest

55. Which region of India is known for its tea plantations and produces more than half of India's tea?

- A. Gujarat
- B. Assam
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Punjab

56. Which son of Ashoka is credited with the spread of Buddhism to Sri Lanka in the 3rd century BCE?

- A. Mahinda
- B. Shankara
- C. Mahavira
- D. Ashoka

57. The Rebellion of 1857 began in what garrison town roughly 40 miles northeast of Delhi?

- A. Meerut
- B. Lucknow
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Mysore

58. What was the main goal of the Swadeshi Movement?

- A. Support foreign goods
- B. Encourage British trade
- C. Promote Indian-made goods
- D. Protesting against the Crimean War

59. Who was named the Permanent President of the All-India Muslim League in 1906?

- A. Muhammad Ali Jinnah
- B. Syed Ahmed Khan
- C. Maulana Azad
- D. Aga Khan III

60. Which of these men was the last British Viceroy of India?

- A. Lord Linlithgow
- B. Lord Mountbatten
- C. Lord Irwin
- D. Lord Curzon

61. Which ruler famously had edicts carved on rocks and pillars across India?

- A. Timur
- B. Genghis Khan
- C. Ashoka
- D. Mahinda

62. Which dynasty succeeded the Maurya Empire in northern India?

- A. Kushan
- B. Gupta
- C. Chola
- D. Nanda

63. Which Indian state shares the longest international border with Bangladesh?

- A. Assam
- B. West Bengal
- C. Meghalaya
- D. Tripura

64. The "Golden Quadrilateral" is a network of which of these in India?

- A. Airports
- B. Rivers
- C. Highways
- D. Railways

65. Which of the following invaded and plundered Indian temples, including Somnath, in the 11th century?

- A. Genghis Khan
- B. Mahmud of Ghazni
- C. Babur
- D. Timur

66. Which of these flourished as a court language during the Mughal Empire?

- A. Sanskrit
- B. English
- C. Urdu
- D. Persian

67. Which regional empire challenged the Mughals in the Deccan region in the 18th century and fought a series of wars with the East India Company?

- A. Rajput Empire
- B. Maratha Empire
- C. Gupta Empire
- D. Chola Empire

68. Which Indian author won the Booker Prize in 1997 for The God of Small Things?

- A. Arundhati Roy
- B. Kiran Desai
- C. Salman Rushdie
- D. Jhumpa Lahiri

69. Which Indian director of The Apu Trilogy is considered a pioneer of parallel cinema and won an honorary Oscar in 1992?

- A. Satyajit Ray
- B. Raj Kapoor
- C. Mani Ratnam
- D. Yash Chopra

70. Which of these scientists collaborated with Albert Einstein and contributed significantly to quantum mechanics?

- A. P.C. Ray
- B. Homi Bhabha
- C. Satyendra Nath Bose
- D. Vikram Sarabhai

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.

According to government records, what was the population of the union territory of Delhi in 2011?