



International Affairs Examination 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. Which of these was created after World War II to promote peace and cooperation between countries throughout the world?
 - A. NATO
 - B. the United Nations
 - C. the League of Nations
 - D. ECOWAS
2. Which of the following refers to the array of political parties operating in a particular country and the nature of the relationship between them?
 - A. Pluralism
 - B. Electoral system
 - C. Party system
 - D. Corporatism
3. What does the term "detente" mean in the context of international relations?
 - A. a declaration of war
 - B. a military conflict
 - C. the relaxing of tensions between nations
 - D. economic or trade sanctions
4. Which South American country is a major global exporter of commodities like soybeans, corn, beef, and chicken, and may see increased Chinese infrastructure investments due to recent U.S. trade restrictions?
 - A. Guyana
 - B. Brazil
 - C. Ecuador
 - D. Peru
5. In 2024, which African country's president, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, secured a third term with 89.6% of the vote amid criticisms of political repression?
 - A. Egypt
 - B. Rwanda
 - C. Uganda
 - D. Cameroon
6. In March 2025, which European Commission president proposed the 'Readiness 2030' defense initiative?
 - A. Olaf Scholz
 - B. Ursula von der Leyen
 - C. Emmanuel Macron
 - D. Rishi Sunak
7. Which of these best describes a treaty?
 - A. a temporary ceasefire in a conflict
 - B. a tax on imports
 - C. a declaration of war
 - D. a formal agreement between countries
8. Which of these is a principle central to modern international law?
 - A. sovereignty
 - B. isolationism
 - C. expansionism
 - D. mercantilism
9. In April 2025, the European Central Bank expressed concerns over economic challenges due to new trade tariffs imposed by which country?
 - A. China
 - B. Russia
 - C. India
 - D. United States
10. Which of these is NOT a permanent member of the UN Security Council?
 - A. Russia
 - B. China
 - C. Japan
 - D. the United States
11. During the 1980s, the governments of Great Britain and China did which of the following?
 - A. promoted free markets and private profit incentives
 - B. heightened authoritarian rule
 - C. imposed stricter punishment for political dissidents
 - D. expanded state management of the economy

12. Which of the following is found in illiberal democracies?
- elections
 - government transparency at all levels
 - guaranteed civil liberties
 - enfranchisement for all social groups
13. The widespread degradation of the urban environment in developing countries can best be explained by which of these?
- the higher priority placed on industrialization relative to environmental protection
 - popular skepticism about "green" issues
 - the lack of foreign advice on how to install pollution-control devices
 - the opposition of agricultural workers to industrialization
14. Which of the following is an example of soft power in international relations?
- military force
 - nuclear threats
 - influencing nations through culture and values
 - economic sanctions
15. What is the role of a consulate in foreign relations?
- conduct military operations in foreign nations
 - create international laws
 - prosecute criminals overseas
 - promote tourism and trade, assist citizens abroad
16. Which heavily Catholic European country legalized assisted dying in 2024?
- Switzerland
 - Portugal
 - Germany
 - Sweden
17. What Caribbean nation faced political instability and widespread violence in early 2025, prompting calls for international aid?
- Jamaica
 - the Bahamas
 - Cuba
 - Haiti
18. The term 'sanction' in international relations usually refers to which of these?
- a peace negotiation
 - a punishment or restriction placed on a country
 - a type of economic aid
 - a military operation
19. Which of the following is a major international alliance for collective security and defense?
- OPEC
 - USMCA
 - NATO
 - IMF
20. Which European country announced a snap election in 2024 following months of government instability?
- Germany
 - the UK
 - France
 - the Netherlands
21. Which of the following accurately compares the status of civil liberties and civil rights in democratic and authoritarian regimes?
- Only democratic regimes encourage elections.
 - Only authoritarian regimes place any restrictions on the media.
 - Only authoritarian regimes restrict citizen access to information about government policy making.
 - Only democratic regimes encourage citizen control of the political agenda by granting civil liberties.
22. Interest groups tend to have a minimal impact on individual legislators in parliamentary systems for which of these reasons?
- the strength of political parties gives individual legislators less power over policy
 - interest groups are less common in parliamentary democracies
 - legislators in parliamentary systems do not represent constituency interests
 - election campaigns are funded by the state and do not require much fund-raising
23. Which of these is an example of economic diplomacy?
- sending troops to another country
 - negotiating a free trade agreement
 - building embassies
 - launching a cyber attack
24. Which Pacific Island nation recently warned it may become uninhabitable by 2050 due to climate change?
- Indonesia
 - Australia
 - Tuvalu
 - New Zealand
25. The most common strategy adopted by developing countries to deal with the problem of population growth is which of these?
- establishing policies that seek to reduce fertility rates
 - closing their borders
 - encouraging students studying abroad not to return home
 - reducing the size of their urban areas
26. Which of these nations is NOT a member of the BRICS organization of developing world economies?
- Czechia
 - Russia
 - China
 - South Africa

27. The World Health Organization declared in 2024 that which of these was no longer a global health emergency?
- A. HIV / AIDS
 - B. Covid-19
 - C. tuberculosis
 - D. measles
28. Which of the following refers to a vote by the public on a particular policy issue?
- A. suffrage
 - B. straw poll
 - C. referendum
 - D. vote of no confidence
29. In 2025, which Southeast Asian country approved same-sex marriage legislation, a first in the region?
- A. Malaysia
 - B. Indonesia
 - C. Vietnam
 - D. Thailand
30. Which of the following best describes the role of the WTO?
- A. it enforces military treaties
 - B. it regulates international banking
 - C. it facilitates global trade and resolves trade disputes
 - D. it provides education to developing countries
31. Which of the following is true of coalition government?
- A. It tends to result from a fragmented legislature and can be unstable.
 - B. It tends to result from a winner-take-all voting system.
 - C. It is an ideal of majoritarian democracy.
 - D. It systematically excludes minority voices from government.
32. Which two African countries have engaged in a border dispute over the Al-Fashaga region since 2020?
- A. Sudan and Ethiopia
 - B. Nigeria and Cameroon
 - C. Kenya and Somalia
 - D. Chad and Niger
33. Which country has expressed interest in joining the AUKUS security partnership's "Pillar II" initiative, which aims to improve advanced defense capabilities?
- A. China
 - B. Russia
 - C. Japan
 - D. Australia
34. Mauritius has disputed sovereignty over the Chagos Islands with which of these nations, which finally agreed to cede the islands in 2024?
- A. Indonesia
 - B. Saudi Arabia
 - C. the UK
 - D. Belgium
35. In September 2024, which country pledged \$51.3 billion in financing to support Africa's development during a multilateral forum on economic cooperation?
- A. the US
 - B. China
 - C. India
 - D. Canada
36. In March of 2025, what former Bank of Canada governor took over for Justin Trudeau as Prime Minister of Canada?
- A. Kier Starmer
 - B. Rishi Sunak
 - C. Stephen Harper
 - D. Mark Carney
37. M23 is a Rwanda-backed militia group that has been fighting an ongoing campaign in which neighboring nation since 2022?
- A. Tanzania
 - B. Kenya
 - C. the Democratic Republic of the Congo
 - D. Chad
38. What Asian nation's ongoing civil war in has exacerbated the difficulty of aiding victims of a March 2025 earthquake?
- A. Vietnam
 - B. Laos
 - C. Cambodia
 - D. Myanmar
39. The Knesset is the national legislature of which country?
- A. Jordan
 - B. Israel
 - C. Egypt
 - D. Lebanon
40. Which of the following accurately describes two main components of structural adjustment programs?
- A. A reduction in government spending and the lowering of import tariffs
 - B. An increase in taxes on corporations and redistribution of income
 - C. An increase in employment and the minimum wage through spending on public works
 - D. Nationalization of major industries and a decrease in interest rates

41. In the developed and developing worlds, respectively, the greatest demographic pressures on policy come from which of the following?
- gender imbalances (developed) and ageing (developing)
 - ageing (developed) and overpopulation (developing)
 - emigration (developed) and immigration (developing)
 - overpopulation (developed) and high death rates (developing)
42. Which of the following is a true statement about the adoption of competitive elections in Chinese villages in recent years?
- They were initiated by the state to control local corruption and incompetent leaders.
 - They clearly mark the end of the Communist Party's control in China.
 - They provide an opportunity for serious national debate on rural policy in China.
 - They have given rise to a number of nationally organized opposition parties.
43. Which of the following countries is a one-party state?
- Vietnam
 - South Korea
 - Mexico
 - Poland
44. What is the role of the Bundestag in the German government?
- it is the Supreme Court
 - it conducts foreign policy
 - it is the federal legislative body
 - it is the name for the Presidential cabinet
45. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei holds which of these positions in the Iranian government?
- president
 - speaker of the legislature
 - chief justice of the Supreme Court
 - supreme leader
46. Compared with a first-past-the-post system, a proportional representation system does which of these?
- gives third parties a better chance at winning seats in a legislature
 - tends to discriminate against minority candidates
 - is less representative of heterogeneous populations
 - typically punishes parties not receiving a majority of the vote in the district
47. Which of these men has served as prime minister of India since a general election in 2014?
- Manmohan Singh
 - Narendra Modi
 - Pranab Mukherjee
 - Ram Nath Kovind
48. Which of these is the primary law-making body in Russia?
- the Senate
 - the House of Representatives
 - the State Duma
 - Parliament
49. France has which of these forms of government?
- federal republic
 - absolute monarchy
 - semi-presidential republic
 - one-party state
50. Which of these is, as of 2025, the ruling party of the UK?
- UKIP
 - Labour
 - SNP
 - Green
51. Which statement below best explains why, despite tremendous oil reserves, the Nigerian government still has difficulty providing social services throughout the country?
- Nigeria lacks a bureaucracy.
 - Massive corruption limits the amount of resources redistributed by the government to the people.
 - Domestic instability has diverted oil revenue from the social sector to the defense sector.
 - Revenues earned from oil reserves have remained in the oil-producing Niger Delta region.
52. Although Russia is no longer a communist state, one feature it shares with communist China is which of these?
- continued opposition to the growth of capitalism
 - an unwillingness to become involved with international organizations like the World Trade Organization
 - government restrictions on the development of civil society
 - a lack of political parties
53. Which Asian country's government is a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary system?
- Japan
 - China
 - North Korea
 - Vietnam
54. What term describes a governmental system where power is constitutionally divided between national and regional or sub-national governments?
- parliamentary
 - unitary
 - federal
 - monarchy

55. Party discipline in parliamentary systems tends to be strong for which of these reasons?

- A. party members always share common social backgrounds
- B. parliamentary systems do not have elections
- C. a government staying in power relies on its ability to maintain party support
- D. voters see party fragmentation as a sign of weakness

56. The International Monetary Fund is concerned with which of these?

- A. lending money to corporations
- B. maintaining the gold standard in member countries
- C. helping member nations to impose trade barriers
- D. promoting economic development and stability

57. Which two countries signed a peace agreement in 2020 ending a conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region?

- A. Armenia and Azerbaijan
- B. Russia and Ukraine
- C. Turkey and Greece
- D. Georgia and Russia

58. ECOWAS is an economic and political union of states in which of these areas?

- A. the Amazon Basin
- B. Western Africa
- C. Southeast Asia
- D. Oceania

59. Which two countries signed the Abraham Accords with Israel in 2020?

- A. Egypt and Jordan
- B. United Arab Emirates and Bahrain
- C. Morocco and Tunisia
- D. Saudi Arabia and Syria

60. Which of these has been the main diplomatic concern between India and China in recent years?

- A. border disputes in the Himalayas
- B. trade imbalance
- C. naval activity in the Indian Ocean
- D. air pollution agreements

61. Which of the following has decreased as a consequence of globalization?

- A. The interdependence of states
- B. Avenues of access to information
- C. The average citizen's ability to access information from around the world
- D. Barriers to trade and to the flow of capital and labor between countries

62. Which of the following development statistics is most likely indicative of an advanced economy today?

- A. a female literacy rate of 55%
- B. an agricultural sector accounting for 2% of GDP
- C. a service sector accounting for 5% of GDP
- D. a high infant mortality rate

63. Which of these nations is governed by an absolute monarchy?

- A. the UK
- B. Spain
- C. the Netherlands
- D. Saudi Arabia

64. Which of the following policies does NOT promote globalization?

- A. accepting foreign direct investment in domestic firms
- B. liberalizing trade policies
- C. adopting import-substitution industrialization policies
- D. signing treaties that call for reduced tariffs

65. Which two East Asian countries agreed in 2023 to improve bilateral relations and cooperate on trade and security due to China's rising influence in the region?

- A. Japan and South Korea
- B. South Korea and North Korea
- C. North Korea and South Korea
- D. North Korea and Taiwan

66. In 2023, the United Arab Emirates hosted COP28, a UN conference on which of these pressing global issues?

- A. climate change
- B. cybersecurity
- C. access to education
- D. income inequality

67. What of these diplomatic moves did Sweden finalize in 2024?

- A. joined the European Union
- B. withdrew from the UN
- C. joined NATO
- D. left the Nordic Council

68. Which of these is an international organization designed to promote closer economic ties among South American nations?

- A. AESAN
- B. MERCOSUR
- C. GCC
- D. WHO

69. Citizens of nondemocratic regimes may be allowed to participate in elections in order to do which of these?

- A. prepare the country for a transition to democracy
- B. give opposition parties the opportunity to form
- C. assess the state of public opinion
- D. increase the legitimacy of the ruling regime

70. In international economics, the resource curse is the theory that which of these is true?

- A. population growth will eventually outstrip the resources necessary to support civilization
- B. economies that have valuable natural resources will develop more slowly
- C. countries without oil cannot develop economically
- D. countries with valuable natural resources will be invaded more frequently

71. Political participation in authoritarian regimes differs from that in democratic regimes in which of the following ways?

- A. Voluntary political participation does not occur in authoritarian regimes and does occur in democratic regimes.
- B. There are no avenues for political participation in authoritarian regimes and there are in democratic regimes.
- C. Authoritarian regimes do not respond to citizen participation while democratic regimes do respond.
- D. State organized participation is more likely to occur in authoritarian regimes than in democratic regimes.

72. The political culture of a nation is best defined as which of these?

- A. underlying attitudes and predispositions of citizens toward the political system
- B. institutional, legal, and constitutional structure of the government
- C. literary works that most influence political leaders
- D. class structure and educational levels of the populace

73. Which of the following statements about political socialization is true?

- A. Political socialization is a process that continues throughout an individual's life.
- B. The most powerful agent of political socialization is the school.
- C. Political socialization ensures that citizens perceive the government as legitimate.
- D. Political socialization does not occur in countries where a democratic political system and a highly educated population exist.

74. Many consider the existence of an active civil society to be supportive of and even necessary for democratization for which of these reasons?

- A. groups within civil society promote the rights of the majority
- B. groups in civil society tend to avoid political positions
- C. within civil society people learn to express interests and negotiate with others to achieve common goals
- D. organizations in civil society tend to be revolutionary and thus will undermine an undemocratic regime

75. The term 'Washminster System' is sometimes used to describe the government of what nation, since it is a hybrid of elements of the British and American systems?

- A. Canada
- B. Australia
- C. Italy
- D. Denmark

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 IMF data, what was the nominal GDP of the European Union for 2024?