



Map and Flag 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. What Japanese city is represented by this flag, appropriately featuring a background color of Edo purple?
 - A. Hiroshima
 - B. Tokyo
 - C. Nagano
 - D. Nagasaki
2. This 14th century banner, a symbol of the House of Palaiologos, is often considered the 'flag' of what empire?
 - A. Byzantine
 - B. Persian
 - C. Macedonian
 - D. Parthian
3. The 48-star version of the American flag shown here was the official flag of the US during which of these periods?
 - A. 1867-1877
 - B. 1877-1890
 - C. 1912-1959
 - D. 1960 to present
4. Though the red star on the flag of Zimbabwe officially represents 'national aspirations', it is more commonly thought to symbolize what political ideology?
 - A. Pan-Africanism
 - B. Pan-Arabism
 - C. democracy
 - D. socialism
5. The flag shown here, known as the 'True South flag' was proposed in 2018 as the design for an official flag of which of the following?
 - A. Australia
 - B. Antarctica
 - C. the Galapagos Islands
 - D. the Falkland Islands
6. According to tradition, the Black Banner or Black Standard was flown by which of these leaders in the early 7th century, and later became an influence on the color schemes of flags throughout the world?
 - A. Saladin
 - B. Alexander the Great
 - C. Muhammad
 - D. Alfred the Great
7. The flag pictured here represents what largest sovereign enclave in the world?
 - A. Eswatini
 - B. Vatican City
 - C. San Marino
 - D. Lesotho
8. The white background and the olive branches both symbolize peace on the flag of what Mediterranean island nation?
 - A. Cyprus
 - B. Malta
 - C. Sardinia
 - D. Sicily
9. The Stark flag, pictured here and associated with the Green Mountain Boys during the American Revolution, became the basis for the first flag of what US state?
 - A. New York
 - B. Vermont
 - C. Maine
 - D. Michigan
10. The flag of Iceland, pictured here, was adopted in 1944 on the day of Iceland's independence from what Nordic nation?
 - A. Sweden
 - B. Finland
 - C. Denmark
 - D. Norway

11. The 'broken trident' in the flag of Barbados is meant to symbolize the 'breaking' of colonial rule and independence from what European power?

- A. France
- B. Spain
- C. the Netherlands
- D. Great Britain

12. Taiwo Akinkunmi, known locally as Mr. Flag Man and born into a Yoruba family in the 1930s, designed what national flag shown here?

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

13. Like many flags in the region, the flag of Kazakhstan, seen here, was adopted in which of these decades following the dissolution of the Soviet Union?

- A. 1970s
- B. 1980s
- C. 1990s
- D. 2010s

14. Which former British colony, with its four stars representing the 'Southern Cross' constellation, is represented by the flag seen here?

- A. Fiji
- B. Australia
- C. Malaysia
- D. New Zealand

15. The flag of the city of Moscow depicts what Christian saint, famous for legendarily slaying a dragon?

- A. Michael
- B. George
- C. Peter
- D. Paul

16. Francisco de Miranda's tricolor flag, shown here and designed in 1806, became the basis for the flags of what three nations, all of which became independent in the 19th century?

- A. Brazil, Mexico, and Peru
- B. Cuba, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic
- C. Ecuador, Venezuela, and Colombia
- D. Grenada, Jamaica, and Costa Rica

17. Which Arab country, following a regime change in late 2024, officially reverted to its 'independence flag' shown here in March of 2025?

- A. Syria
- B. Saudi Arabia
- C. Iraq
- D. the UAE

18. The Malaysian flag, shown here, belongs to both the 'stars and stripes' flag family, and which other family that includes the flag of Turkey?

- A. tricolor
- B. Nordic cross
- C. British ensign
- D. crescent

19. The flag for the Russian planned city of Magnitogorsk prominently features the 'Magnetic Mountain' that is a major center for what industry?

- A. petroleum
- B. agriculture
- C. iron mining
- D. aerospace

20. This flag represents which of these cities, one of the largest in the Middle East and served by Imam Khomeini International Airport?

- A. Jeddah
- B. Tehran
- C. Baghdad
- D. Medina

21. This flag, adopted in 1968, represents the largest Native American reservation in the US which is the home of which of these groups?

- A. Navajo
- B. Sioux
- C. Iroquois
- D. Arapaho

22. The flag of the Vatican features a distinctive tiara and crossed keys that are both symbols of what notable resident?

- A. the Mayor of Rome
- B. the Pope
- C. the Prime Minister of Italy
- D. the King of Italy

23. This flag represents which of these overseas territories of the US, located in Polynesia southeast of the country with which it shares a name?

- A. Wallis and Futuna
- B. Vanuatu
- C. Tonga
- D. American Samoa

24. 'The Cross' is the common name for the flag of what Caribbean nation governed from Kingston?

- A. Antigua
- B. St. Kitts
- C. Jamaica
- D. Haiti

25. The flag pictured here, voted the best US city flag by the North American Vexillological Association, is based on the coat of arms of which prominent American family?

- A. Roosevelt
- B. Washington
- C. Jefferson
- D. Bush

26. What European city, often called the 'Venice of the North', is represented by the flag pictured here?

- A. Geneva
- B. Madrid
- C. Amsterdam
- D. Warsaw

27. The flag of Tanzania, shown here, is meant to represent the combination of Tanganyika with what other territory in 1964?

- A. Botswana
- B. Zimbabwe
- C. Rhodesia
- D. Zanzibar

28. The flag shown here represents which of these partially recognized states, which is considered by the vast majority of UN members to be the territory of the Republic of Georgia?

- A. Transnistria
- B. Abkhazia
- C. Nagorno-Karabakh
- D. South Ossetia

29. One of the newest national flags to be adopted is this one, which represents which Asian nation that gained independence from Indonesia in 2002?

- A. Timor-Leste
- B. Malaysia
- C. Singapore
- D. Brunei

30. This image depicts the flag of which US state, which became the first to ratify the Constitution on December 7, 1787?

- A. Vermont
- B. Maryland
- C. Delaware
- D. Rhode Island

Questions 31-50 are NOT attached to images.

31. Which of these is NOT a flag in the red banner flag family, which demonstrates a connection to socialism or communism?

- A. Vietnam
- B. China
- C. North Korea
- D. Somalia

32. The flags of Greece, Switzerland, and the Dominican Republic all belong to which of these families of flags due to their inclusion of a certain symbol?

- A. Christian cross family
- B. Crescent family
- C. Triband family
- D. Stars and Stripes family

33. Which of these is NOT considered one of the main colors of the Pan-African flag family?

- A. green
- B. black
- C. red
- D. purple

34. In 1981, the state flag of Montana was changed to add what very prominent feature above the state seal?

- A. a large American flag
- B. the word 'MONTANA'
- C. a bison
- D. a portrait of a Native American

35. Since World War II, many national flags created for areas experiencing conflict or instability have symbolically incorporated elements from the flag of what international organization?

- A. NATO
- B. the Red Cross
- C. the League of Nations
- D. the UN

36. Which US state flag is the only one to prominently feature the Union Jack?

- A. Kansas
- B. Hawai'i
- C. Idaho
- D. Pennsylvania

37. The Sinha Flag or Lion Flag is the common name for the flag of what South Asian nation?

- A. India
- B. Pakistan
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Nepal

38. The flags of Bahrain, Qatar, and Dubai, all reflect their status as former protectorates of what colonial power?

- A. France
- B. Great Britain
- C. Germany
- D. Japan

39. The flag of Nicaragua features which of these symbols in the middle, which represents liberty and is also a common symbol of the French Revolution?

- A. a Phrygian cap
- B. the Bastille
- C. the Arc de Triomphe
- D. a guillotine

40. The hammer and sickle on the flag of the Soviet Union represents the solidarity between which of these groups?

- A. the proletariat and the nobility
- B. Russians and Poles
- C. industrial and agricultural workers
- D. the government and the people

41. The flag of Illinois, along with the flags of several other states, prominently features what bird which is also part of its state seal?

- A. pelican
- B. turkey
- C. sparrow
- D. bald eagle

42. The government officially credits which of these men with the design of the North Korea?

- A. Joseph Stalin
- B. Kim Il Sung
- C. Mao Zedong
- D. Syngman Rhee

43. The flag of Belgium shares a color scheme with the flag of what other European nation?

- A. France
- B. Luxembourg
- C. Germany
- D. Poland

44. The flag of Egypt has an eagle in its center that is the symbol of what Medieval ruler?

- A. Saladin
- B. Uthman
- C. al-Zafir
- D. al-Madhi

45. Which of these flags in the triband family is NOT a tricolor flag due to its red and white color scheme?

- A. Austria
- B. Ireland
- C. Estonia
- D. Italy

46. The green, red, and yellow color scheme adopted by many African nations for their flags after independence is based on the colors associated with what African empire that escaped colonization during the 'Scramble for Africa'?

- A. Algeria
- B. Namibia
- C. Ethiopia
- D. Jordan

47. In the United States, the most common design for state flags involves the state seal superimposed on a background of a shade of what color?

- A. red
- B. grey
- C. green
- D. blue

48. Which of these is NOT a national flag that shares the pan-Slavic color scheme?

- A. Croatia
- B. North Macedonia
- C. Serbia
- D. Slovakia

49. Which of these is the most recent US state to adopt a new state flag, doing so in May of 2024?

- A. Minnesota
- B. Mississippi
- C. Michigan
- D. Montana

50. What least populous African nation is represented by a five-color flag that combines the color schemes of its two major political parties?

- A. Botswana
- B. Madagascar
- C. Seychelles
- D. Burundi

Questions 51-70 refer to the maps in the resource section.

Questions 51-60 refer to Map 1.

51. The type of map shown here is known as which of the following?

- A. isarithmic map
- B. choropleth map
- C. cartogram
- D. proportional point symbol map

52. In this type of map, data is visualized using which of these methods?

- A. contour lines
- B. distortion of size or space
- C. dot distribution
- D. variations of color

53. Which of these would be most difficult to accurately depict on this type of map?

- A. surface geology of a region of the US
- B. county-by-county election results in a US state
- C. population density of a city or county
- D. per-capita income in a region of the US

54. The term 'bivariate' is used to describe this map for which of the following reasons?

- A. because it contains demographic data
- B. because it simultaneously represents two variables
- C. due to its use of US Census data
- D. because it has applications for urban planning

55. This map uses which of these predefined regions as the basis for presenting its data?

- A. cities
- B. metropolitan areas
- C. counties
- D. neighborhoods

56. Areas shaded in hues of purple represent which of these on this map?

- A. Significant populations of Asian residents
- B. significant populations of both Black and Hispanic residents
- C. significant populations of only Black residents
- D. significant populations of only Hispanic residents

57. Which of these statements is supported by the data on this map?

- A. North and South Dakota have no residents that identify as Black or Hispanic
- B. the percentage of Hispanic residents in New York city is increasing
- C. many of the counties that identify as over 50% Hispanic in the US are in the Rio Grande Valley in Texas
- D. over 20% of the residents of Seattle identify as Black

58. According to the map, which of these areas shows a high concentration of Black residents?

- A. areas along the Mississippi River in Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana
- B. areas along the Mississippi River in Illinois and Iowa
- C. most of the state of Utah
- D. northern Nevada

59. Which of these can be accurately determined by the lack of color on the map within the state of Montana?

- A. it has a low population density
- B. it has a high percentage of Asian residents
- C. it has no large cities
- D. it has fewer than 5% of its residents that identify as Black or Hispanic

60. Which of these is NOT a reason that this type of map is popular with geographers and cartographers?

- A. it uses existing and usually well-known geographic units
- B. it is extremely useful for representing data from software tools like GIS
- C. it produces maps that are useful for maritime navigation
- D. it is useful for illustrating a wide variety of demographic and economic data

Questions 61-70 refer to Map 2.

61. The type of map shown here is known as which of the following?

- A. isarithmic map
- B. choropleth map
- C. cartogram
- D. proportional point symbol map

62. In this type of map, data is visualized using which of these methods?

- A. contour lines
- B. distortion of size or space
- C. dot distribution
- D. variations of color

63. Which of these would be most difficult to depict on a map of this type?

- A. travel time
- B. prevalence of a particular religion in a country
- C. the height of mountains in a geographic region
- D. GDP per capita

64. Cartographers often compare the type of map shown here to map projections because they share which of these characteristics?

- A. both preserve lines of navigation
- B. both accurately reflect cardinal directions
- C. both reflect measures of actual distance
- D. both transform or distort space

65. Which of these is the most likely basis for the data represented in this map?

- A. acreage of organic farms
- B. GDP per capita
- C. prevalence of Roman Catholics
- D. population

66. Given the representation on this map, which of these countries has the highest concentration or percentage of the data represented?

- A. India
- B. Brazil
- C. China
- D. Australia

67. If this map illustrated the percentage of the population that identify as unaffiliated with a major religion, which of these would be true?

- A. China would be colored red
- B. China would be much smaller than the United States
- C. China would be shaded in several different colors
- D. China would be among the largest countries on the map

68. In a map of this type, what is the relationship between the studied variable and the size of the areas on the map?

- A. they are directly proportional
- B. they have an inverse relationship
- C. this type of map varies color, not size, in relation to the variable
- D. the size of areas on this map are random

69. In a map of this type that represented total population of sheep per country, which of these would be true?

- A. Australia would be smaller than the US
- B. China would be roughly 40 times larger than the US
- C. Canada would be among the largest countries on the map
- D. the US would be colored blue

70. Map 1 and Map 2 are related in which of the following ways?

- A. they both illustrate the same variables
- B. they both illustrate use the same type of data visualization
- C. they both illustrate specific variables using different methods – Map 1 using color and Map 2 using size
- D. they are completely unrelated

Questions 71-75 are general questions about maps and are NOT tied to images.

71. The flag of the United Nations features which of these map projections?

- A. Mercator
- B. azimuthal equidistant
- C. conformal
- D. equal area

72. The first map to show lines of magnetic variation was created by what famous astronomer and namesake of a notable periodic comet?

- A. Edmond Halley
- B. John Flamsteed
- C. Frank Dyson
- D. William Christie

73. What is likely the world's oldest surviving map, discovered in the Czech Republic, is engraved on the tusk of what extinct large mammal?

- A. saber-tooth tiger
- B. aurochs
- C. thylacine
- D. woolly mammoth

74. Many Medieval maps, notably those of the T-O type, were centered on what significant religious site?

- A. London
- B. Madrid
- C. Jerusalem
- D. Moscow

75. In a polar map projection with Antarctica at the center, which of these would best reflect the location of North?

- A. the top of the map
- B. the center of the map
- C. the right side of the map
- D. any edge away from the center of the map

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 is the distance in miles that a direct flight from JFK Airport in New York to Narita Airport in Japan would be expected to travel?