



2025 United States Geography Championships – Free Response Examination (7th and 8th Grade Division)

General instructions - Respond to each of examination questions in the space provided on the answer document. Only answers written in the appropriate space on the answer document will be marked. Where appropriate, you should write sentences or phrases instead of single words. If a question or section asks for a specific number of reasons or answers, give only the number of answers specified. Please write clearly and legibly.

Section 1 - [20 points]

Use the image in section 1 to complete the following.

1. What was the life expectancy of the US, China, Egypt, Afghanistan, and Brazil in 1960. [5 points]
2. How many of the five countries have a life expectancy over 65 years as of 2022? [1 point]
3. How much higher was life expectancy in China in 2022 than it was in 1960? [1 point]
4. How much higher was life expectancy in Afghanistan in 2022 than it was in 1960? [1 point]
5. Briefly explain THREE reasons why life expectancy might go up in a country. [6 points]
6. Why do you think life expectancy in the US was so much higher than these other countries in 1960? [3 points]
7. Why do you think life expectancy went down so much and so quickly in Afghanistan in the 1980s? [3 points]

Section 2 - [20 points]

Use the image in section 2 to complete the following. This image shows earthquakes over 4.0 magnitude in 2017.

1. Which of the nine earthquakes numbered on the map occurred on the Ring of Fire? Which of the nine earthquakes numbered on the map occurred on the boundary of the African Plate? [9 points]
2. How many total earthquakes above 8.0 magnitude occurred in 2017? How many total earthquakes between 7.9 and 7.0 magnitude occurred in 2017? Based on the information on the map, in what country did the strongest earthquake in 2017 happen? [3 points]
3. In the space provided, draw a diagram illustrating the formation of a tsunami caused by an earthquake. Your diagram should illustrate at least three steps (but may include more), and each step should be labeled using appropriate vocabulary. [5 points]
4. Based on the information on the map, list these countries in order from MOST earthquake risk to LEAST earthquake risk – Japan, Finland, the US [3 points]

Section 3 - [15 points]

Use the images in section 3 to complete the following. This image shows continental divides and ocean drainage basins throughout the world.

1. Identify by number each of the following on the map – Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Mediterranean Sea, Gulf of Mexico (Gulf of America), Arctic Ocean. [6 points]
2. Identify by letter the drainage basins that empty into each of the following – Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean Sea, Gulf of Mexico (Gulf of America), Arctic Ocean [5 points]
3. Briefly define the term continental divide in the space provided. [2 points]
4. Briefly define the term endorheic basin in the space provided. [2 points]

Section 4 - [15 points]

Use the image in section 4 to complete the following.

1. Identify by number each of the following on the image – natural levee, point bar, floodplain, oxbow, talus. [5 points]
2. Briefly describe in the space provided how a natural levee is formed by a river. [4 points]
3. Briefly describe in the space provided how an oxbow lake would form from a meandering river like the one seen in this image. [4 points]
4. Briefly define the term talus and describe how talus would form from the walls of a canyon like this one. [2 points]

Section 5 - [10 points]

1. In the space provided, discuss how immigration has changed American culture and society since the 1960s.