



2023 United States Geography Championships - Written Examination (Middle School)

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 - [25 points]

Use the image in section 1 to complete the following.

1. Identify the landforms indicated by numbers 1-6. [12 points]
2. Briefly describe the formation of a dry lake bed or playa in a desert landscape. [3 points]
3. Briefly describe the formation of an alluvial fan in a desert landscape. [3 points]
4. Briefly describe the formation of sand dunes in a desert landscape. [3 points]
5. Briefly explain why star-shaped sand dunes form in certain desert areas. [4 points]

Section 2 - [25 points]

Use the images in section 2 to complete the following. These images are 2023 population pyramids for two different countries.

1. Based on the information in the pyramids, is the population of country A increasing or decreasing? [2 points]
2. Based on the information in the pyramids, is the population of country B increasing or decreasing? [2 points]
3. Based on the information in the pyramids, is the birth rate of country A rising or falling? Briefly explain your answer using data from the pyramid. [6 points]
4. Based on the information in the pyramids, is the birth rate of country B rising or falling? Briefly explain your answer using data from the pyramid. [6 points]
5. By the year 2100, which of these countries is likely to have a higher population? Briefly explain your answer using information from the pyramid. [3 points]
6. What countries are represented by these two population pyramids? Country A is in Asia and Country B is in Africa. [6 points]

Section 3 - [25 points]

Use the images in section 3 to complete the following.

1. Identify the major world religions indicated by letters A-D. [8 points]
2. Identify the country with the largest number of followers of each of the following major world religions – Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism [10 points]
3. What country has the largest number of people who are not religious? [2 points]
4. Which of the major world religions is the fastest growing? Briefly explain why you believe this is the fastest growing religion. [5 points]

Section 4 - [25 points]

Use the map in section 4 to complete the following.

1. Given the information on the map, identify the crop or type of livestock indicated by A, B, and C on the chart. [9 points]
2. Which of the states numbered 1-5 on the map leads the United States in the production of each of these crops – grapes, cotton, sugarcane, peanuts, corn [10 points]
3. In a paragraph, briefly explain the relationship between agriculture and climate change. How does agriculture contribute to climate change in the United States? How does climate change effect agriculture? [6 points]



2023 United States Geography Championships - Map Examination (Middle School)

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Section 1 - [25 points]

Use the map in section 1 to complete the following. This map shows high-speed rail lines (Shinkansen) in Japan.

1. Identify the Japanese islands indicated by letters A-D. [4 points]
2. Identify the major Japanese cities along the Shinkansen route indicated by numbers 1-4. [8 points]
3. Identify three main reasons why Japan built the Shinkansen network starting in the 1960s. [6 points]
4. Briefly explain why high-speed rail is a reasonable solution to transportation needs in a country like Japan. [3 points]
5. Briefly explain why high-speed rail is unlikely to be developed on a large scale in the United States. [4 points]

Section 2 - [25 points]

Use the map in section 2 to complete the following. This map shows sightings of Burmese pythons in Florida.

1. Identify the major Florida cities indicated by numbers 1-3 on the map. [6 points]
2. Identify the National Park indicated by number 4 on the map. [2 points]
3. Define the term invasive species. [3 points]
4. Briefly explain why so many Burmese pythons have been sighted in the area of South Florida shown on the map. [4 points]
5. Briefly explain 3 reasons why Burmese pythons present a severe environmental problem in Florida. [6 points]
6. Briefly explain 2 methods local or state governments might address the problem of invasive species. [4 points]

Section 3 - [25 points]

Use the map in section 3 to complete the following.

1. Identify the tectonic plates indicated by numbers 1-4 on the map. They are all named for continents. [8 points]
2. Identify the types of plate boundaries indicated by letters A-C on the map legend. [6 points]
3. Briefly define the term convergent boundary. [3 points]
4. Briefly define the term divergent boundary. [3 points]
5. Briefly define the term transform boundary. [3 points]
6. Based on the information on the map, identify which of the following pairs of plates moves a greater distance each year – North American or Pacific; Eurasian or Australian [2 points]

Section 4 - [25 points]

Use the map in section 4 to complete the following.

1. Rank the countries marked 1-6 in order from MOST oil consumed in 2021 to LEAST oil consumed. [12 points]
2. Based on the information in the map, what two countries consume the most oil in the world? [2 points]
3. Briefly explain 3 reasons why these two nations lead the world in oil consumption. [6 points]
4. In a paragraph, briefly explain how these two nations might reduce their oil consumption over the next ten years. [5 points]