



2023 US Geography Championships

Multiple Choice Examination

Middle School Division

Name _____

School _____

State _____

Division _____ Grade _____

Instructions – This examination consists of 80 questions. You will receive two points for a correct answer. You will lose one point for an incorrect answer. Blank responses lose no points. Please fill in the bubbles completely on the answer sheet. You may write on the examination, but all responses must be bubbled on the answer sheet. All images are contained in the resource document. Diacritic marks such as accents may have been omitted from place names and other proper nouns. You have one hour to complete this examination.

Questions 1-10 refer to the image in section 1 on the resource document.

1. What country is indicated by number 10 on the map?

- A. Panama
- B. Guatemala
- C. Nicaragua
- D. Honduras

2. What number indicates a Latin American country that has English as its official language?

- A. 13
- B. 12
- C. 11
- D. 10

3. Which of the following is true of the island indicated with number 3 on the map?

- A. it is a territory of the United States
- B. it is a French overseas department
- C. it is part of the Dominican Republic
- D. it is an independent country

4. The island indicated by number 4 on the map is part of which of the following?

- A. the 'ABC' islands
- B. the Cayman Islands
- C. St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- D. Trinidad and Tobago

5. What number on the map shows the location of Lake Maracaibo?

- A. 7
- B. 8
- C. 9
- D. 10

6. The location marked number 9 on the map is famous for which of these types of forest?

- A. tropical dry forest
- B. cloud forest
- C. temperate deciduous forest
- D. coniferous forest

7. Which of these pairs of numbers indicate the locations of national capitals?

- A. 13 and 12
- B. 4 and 3
- C. 7 and 6
- D. 5 and 1

8. Number 13 on the map indicates which of these within Mexico?

- A. the Yucatan Peninsula
- B. the Sierra Madre Occidental Range
- C. Baja California
- D. the Mexican Altiplano

9. Number 8 on the map shows the approximate location of which of these?

- A. the Equator
- B. the highest mountain in Central America
- C. the Panama Canal
- D. Lake Nicaragua

10. El Salvador is indicated by which number on the map?

- A. 8
- B. 9
- C. 10
- D. 11

Questions 11-20 are about languages.

11. Which of these languages uses the Cyrillic alphabet?

- A. Arabic
- B. Greek
- C. Russian
- D. Hebrew

12. English belongs to which of these language families?

- A. Romance
- B. Germanic
- C. Slavic
- D. Celtic

13. Which of these is NOT an official language of Switzerland?

- A. French
- B. Romansh
- C. German
- D. Dutch

14. Farsi is the official language of which of the following?

- A. Iraq
- B. Iran
- C. Egypt
- D. Syria

15. Which of these languages has the most native speakers in Africa?

- A. Swahili
- B. Yoruba
- C. Amharic
- D. Zulu

16. Which of these pairs of languages are mutually intelligible, that is they can be understood by speakers of the other language without special effort?

- A. Spanish and German
- B. English and French
- C. Arabic and Swahili
- D. Czech and Slovak

17. Levantine, Najdi and Egyptian are all varieties of what Semitic language?

- A. Maltese
- B. Arabic
- C. Hebrew
- D. Amharic

18. The Devanagari script is used to write which of these languages?

- A. Vietnamese
- B. Thai
- C. Hindi
- D. Korean

19. Which of these languages has the most native speakers in the Americas?

- A. Spanish
- B. Portuguese
- C. English
- D. Quechua

20. In which of these regions would the Amharic language be widely spoken?

- A. the Middle East
- B. the Horn of Africa
- C. Sub-Saharan Africa
- D. East Africa

Questions 21-30 refer to the image in section 3 on the resource document.

21. Which of these is shown at number 3 on the image?

- A. alluvial fan
- B. estuary
- C. oxbow lake
- D. gorge

22. Which number on the image indicates a delta?

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 4
- D. 5

23. Regular curves in the channel of a river, like the one shown at 1 on the image, are known by what term?

- A. meander
- B. rapids
- C. source
- D. spur

24. Which of these is most likely to form in the area marked 6 on the image?

- A. a point bar
- B. a salt marsh
- C. a Yazoo tributary
- D. a braided stream

25. Which of these numbers indicates a levee?

- A. 2
- B. 3
- C. 4
- D. 5

26. Which of these results in the formation of natural levees on rivers?

- A. erosion of riverbanks
- B. natural changes in river course
- C. periodic flooding that causes buildup of sediment
- D. heavy wind and rains

27. Which of these is the term for the process by which sediment is dropped or deposited by a river?

- A. erosion
- B. deposition
- C. transportation
- D. weathering

28. Landforms created by rivers are known by what term?

- A. fluvial
- B. topographical
- C. glacial
- D. lacustrine

29. Which of these is NOT a factor that influences the speed of a river?

- A. gradient
- B. discharge
- C. temperature
- D. channel shape

30. Which if these is a landform created when a river erodes through rock and creates a narrow, steep-sided channel?

- A. floodplain
- B. terrace
- C. rapids
- D. canyon

Questions 31-40 refer to the image in section 3 on the resource document. This image is a contour map of the Island of Hawai'i (the 'Big Island').

31. Which of these best defines a contour line?

- A. they join points of equal height above or below sea level
- B. they show longitude and latitude
- C. they show the distance of a point away from the Equator
- D. they mark man-made features like roads and trails

32. Based on the information on the map, which of these points is at the HIGHEST elevation?

- A. W
- B. X
- C. Y
- D. Z

33. Based on the information on the map, which of these points is at the LOWEST elevation?

- A. W
- B. X
- C. Y
- D. Z

34. What is the elevation in feet of the point marked Z on the map?

- A. 1000
- B. 2000
- C. 3000
- D. 4000

35. What volcano is shown at number 1 on the map?

- A. Kohala
- B. Mauna Kea
- C. Mauna Loa
- D. Kilauea

36. Based on the information on the map, which of these is true of the volcanoes marked 1 and 2?

- A. volcano 1 is about 5000 feet taller than volcano 2
- B. volcano 1 is about 2000 feet taller than volcano 2
- C. volcano 1 and 2 are roughly the same height
- D. volcano 2 is over 2000 feet taller than volcano 1

37. Based on the information on the map, which of these best describes the height of volcano 2?

- A. between 5,000 and 6,000 feet
- B. between 7,000 and 8,000 feet
- C. between 10,000 and 11,000 feet
- D. between 13,000 and 14,000 feet

38. According to the map, the Island of Hawai'i is roughly how far across at its greatest dimension?

- A. 95 miles
- B. 70 miles
- C. 45 miles
- D. 20 miles

39. Which of these is the most populous settlement on the Island of Hawai'i?

- A. Hilo
- B. Hamakua
- C. Kohala
- D. Puna

40. Which of these is true of rainfall on the Island of Hawai'i?

- A. it contains the driest place in the United States
- B. the tops of the volcanoes on the Island of Hawai'i are among the wettest places on earth
- C. areas on the eastern and northeastern part of the island get rain over 200 days a year due to trade winds
- D. hurricane season has very little effect on rainfall on the island

Questions 41-50 refer to the image in section 5 on the resource document.

41. Number 1 on the map shows the delta of what river?

- A. Ganges
- B. Nile
- C. Sur Darya
- D. Jordan

42. What number on the map indicates the location of the Suez Canal?

- A. 3
- B. 6
- C. 7
- D. 8

43. What national capital is located on the Tigris River at number 4 on the map?

- A. Tehran
- B. Damascus
- C. Beirut
- D. Baghdad

44. Which of these bodies of water is located at number 5 on the map?

- A. Red Sea
- B. Caspian Sea
- C. Persian Gulf
- D. Gulf of Aden

45. The city of Khartoum, located at number 8 on the map, is the place where what two colorfully named tributaries of the Nile meet?

- A. Red and Green
- B. Black and Yellow
- C. Blue and White
- D. Grey and Gold

46. What is the term for a place where two rivers meet?

- A. floodplain
- B. point bar
- C. confluence
- D. swamp

47. What island is indicated by number 2 on the map?

- A. Sicily
- B. Cyprus
- C. Corsica
- D. Crete

48. Which of these is true of the island indicated by number 2 on the map?

- A. it is an independent country
- B. it is part of Greece
- C. it is part of France
- D. it is part of Italy

49. Which of these countries does NOT border the Persian Gulf?

- A. Saudi Arabia
- B. Sudan
- C. Kuwait
- D. Qatar

50. Which of these is NOT touched by the Rub' al Khali or 'Empty Quarter'?

- A. Saudi Arabia
- B. Oman
- C. the United Arab Emirates
- D. Jordan

Questions 51-60 refer to the image in section 6 on the resource document.

51. The lakes indicated by 5 on the illustration are named for what kitchen object due to their shape?

- A. kettle
- B. bowl
- C. spoon
- D. plate

52. Which of these numbers on the illustration shows a moraine?

- A. 2
- B. 3
- C. 4
- D. 6

53. The moraine shown in this illustration is of what type that forms at the end of a glacier's path?

- A. lateral
- B. washboard
- C. supraglacial
- D. terminal

54. What is the term for a large, flat area of land that is covered by sediment that was deposited by a glacier?

- A. roche moutonne
- B. outwash fan
- C. cirque
- D. ablation zone

55. Which of these numbers on the illustration shows that type of area of flat land covered by sediment?

- A. 2
- B. 3
- C. 4
- D. 6

56. What number on the illustration shows a drumlin?

- A. 2
- B. 3
- C. 4
- D. 6

57. Which of these best defines a drumlin?

- A. a glacier that grows out of a central point and covers a circular area of land
- B. a glacier that forms on the side of a mountain and flows downward
- C. a small, rounded hill that is composed of till
- D. a steep-walled, bowl shaped depression

58. Number 1 on the illustration shows which of these structures?

- A. esker
- B. cirque
- C. horn
- D. paternoster

59. Which of these structures is formed by erosion caused by a glacier?

- A. esker
- B. moraine
- C. u-shaped valley
- D. kame

60. What is the term for a type of glacial erosion that occurs when a glacier scrapes along bedrock and smooths it out?

- A. abrasion
- B. plucking
- C. sublimation
- D. ablation

Questions 61-70 are about the city of Rome, Italy.

61. Which of these is NOT true of Rome?

- A. it is the capital of Italy
- B. 20% of Italy's population lives in the metro area in and around Rome
- C. it is the most populous city in Italy
- D. it is the capital of the Lazio region

62. What river flows through the city of Rome?

- A. Thames
- B. Tiber
- C. Seine
- D. Danube

63. What famous square in Rome is known for its Spanish Steps?

- A. Piazza del Popolo
- B. Piazza Navona
- C. Piazza di Spagna
- D. Campo de' Fiori

64. Which of these is NOT true of Vatican City?

- A. it is the second-smallest state in the world behind Andorra
- B. it is an independent country
- C. it is an enclave
- D. it is a microstate

65. What major world religion is headquartered in Vatican City?

- A. the Catholic Church
- B. Eastern Orthodox Christianity
- C. Orthodox Judaism
- D. Baha'i

66. Which of these Vatican City buildings, designed in part by Michelangelo and located in a namesake square, is the burial place of over 90 popes?

- A. Saint Paul Outside the Walls
- B. Our Lady of Divine Love
- C. Santa Maria Maggiore
- D. Saint Peter's Basilica

67. Which of these is the common name given to the ancient Roman amphitheater that is one of modern Rome's most famous landmarks?

- A. Pantheon
- B. Trajan's Market
- C. Colosseum
- D. Fontana del Tritone

68. Rome has which of the following climates due to its geographic location?

- A. Humid subtropical
- B. Hot-summer Mediterranean
- C. Subpolar oceanic
- D. Subarctic

69. Which mountain range lies to the east of Rome?

- A. Carpathians
- B. Alps
- C. Apennines
- D. Pyrenees

70. In the 2020 global cities rankings, which rate the economic and international importance of world cities, which of these other cities is ranked higher than Rome in global significance?

- A. Baltimore
- B. Orlando
- C. Phoenix
- D. Los Angeles

Questions 71-80 refer to the image in section 8 on the resource document.

71. Which of these climate types is indicated by number 1 on the map?

- A. cold desert
- B. warm semi-arid
- C. hot desert
- D. cool subarctic

72. What desert is located at number 1 on the map?

- A. Kalahari
- B. Taklamakan
- C. Ogaden
- D. Great Basin

73. Which of these climate types is indicated by number 2 on the map?

- A. temperate oceanic
- B. cool oceanic
- C. oceanic subpolar
- D. cold semi-arid

74. What country is indicated by number 2 on the map?

- A. China
- B. Russia
- C. Mongolia
- D. North Korea

75. Number 5 on the map indicates what type of climate?

- A. tundra
- B. oceanic subpolar
- C. humid subtropical
- D. warm continental

76. Which of these best explains the climate of number 5 on the map?

- A. its proximity to the ocean
- B. its extreme elevation
- C. seasonal monsoons
- D. frequent landfall of tropical cyclones

77. Which number on the map indicates South Korea?

- A. 2
- B. 3
- C. 4
- D. 5

78. Which of these is NOT a climate type that would be found in South Korea?

- A. subarctic
- B. warm continental
- C. humid continental
- D. temperate oceanic

79. Which number on the map indicates Japan?

- A. 2
- B. 3
- C. 4
- D. 5

80. Which of these climate types would NOT be found in Japan?

- A. temperate continental
- B. warm semi-arid
- C. warm oceanic
- D. warm continental