

## The United States Geography Olympiad 2014-2015 National Qualifying Exam – B Set Version

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate & Year: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions: Circle the correct answer or leave it blank. Correct answers are worth 2 points. Incorrect answers are -1 point. Questions left blank are worth 0 points.**

- Which British city is a port on the Mersey River in England where the Beatles got their start?  
a) London                      b) Edinburgh                      c) Newcastle-upon-Tyne                      d) Liverpool
- The Siachen Glacier, sometimes called the world's highest battlefield, sits on the border of which two countries?  
a) Switzerland and Austria                      b) India and Pakistan  
c) North and South Korea                      d) China and Afghanistan
- What two countries share the longest land border in the world?  
a) China and Russia                      b) Mongolia and Kazakhstan  
c) United States and Canada                      d) India and Pakistan
- In which of the following capitals will you be able to find a dock for your ocean-going yacht?  
a) Riyadh                      b) Tehran                      c) Islamabad                      d) Abu Dhabi
- What is the nearest whole-number latitude to that of the Arctic Circle?  
a) 45 degrees                      b) 0 degrees                      c) 67 degrees                      d) 90 degrees
- Downhill skiing would be the most difficult in which of the following regions?  
a) Friesland                      b) Carpathians                      c) Bernese Oberland                      d) South Tyrol
- In 1903, Panama gained independence from what neighboring country?  
a) France                      b) Mexico                      c) Colombia                      d) USA
- A protest movement called the "Umbrella Revolution" closed streets in what Asian city in 2014?  
a) Hong Kong                      b) Tokyo                      c) Pyongyang                      d) Jakarta
- If while researching the causes of the Great Emu War, you got kicked by an angry wild cassowary, in which country would you be?  
a) Australia                      b) Ghana                      c) Argentina                      d) Saudi Arabia
- Denver is the Mile High City, but it's not the highest state capital city. Which city is higher, with an elevation of 7,260 feet?  
a) Santa Fe, New Mexico                      b) Phoenix, Arizona                      c) Topeka, Kansas                      d) Dover, Delaware

11. If an International History Olympiad staffer mistakenly hung the flag of Indonesia upside down during a medals ceremony, which country would be surprised to think it had just won a medal?  
a) Poland                      b) Japan                      c) Malaysia                      d) Nepal
12. What is the term for a person who makes maps?  
a) Cartographer              b) Locadrawer              c) Mappologist              d) Calligrapher
13. If you wanted to see 101 Dalmatians (the native people, not the dogs), then you should head to the shores of what sea?  
a) Philippine Sea              b) North Sea              c) Adriatic Sea              d) Aral Sea
14. Among the following list of countries, which has had the fewest recorded major earthquakes?  
a) Brazil                      b) Peru                      c) Chile                      d) Ecuador
15. How are most canyons formed?  
a) A catastrophic event like a meteorite or volcano              b) Acid dissolving the surrounding rock  
c) Water eroding away the surrounding material              d) Wind removing loose material
16. Which of the following states was not at least partially part of the Louisiana Purchase?  
a) Louisiana                      b) South Dakota                      c) Iowa                      d) Ohio
17. Which African biome is characterized by low, broad trees like baobabs and acacias, as well as grasses and small shrubs?  
a) Mediterranean forests              b) Savanna              c) Sahara                      d) Coniferous forests
18. Which of the following upstate New York cities shares its name with an ancient city in Sicily?  
a) Rome                      b) Troy                      c) Carthage                      d) Syracuse
19. Which *Simpsons* character shares his last name with a region of Belgium?  
a) Ned Flanders                      b) Sideshow Bob Terwilliger  
c) Apu Nahasapemapeitlan              d) Ralph Wiggum
20. Which of the following colorfully-named bodies of water is not in or bordering on Africa?  
a) Black Volta                      b) Red Sea                      c) Blue Nile                      d) White Sea
21. What would be the most non-sensical name for a new Mexican restaurant?  
a) Baja Burritos                      b) Yucatan Grill  
c) Café Coahuila                      d) Gran Chaco Chimichangas
22. Nieuw Amsterdam is a city in what Dutch-speaking South American country?  
a) Costa Rica                      b) Ivory Coast                      c) Algeria                      d) Suriname
23. The Iroquois Confederacy was primarily centered on what state?  
a) North Dakota                      b) Florida                      c) California                      d) New York

24. Almaty, Kyoto, and Lagos all have what in common?
- a) They are all former sites of the synchronized swimming world championships
  - b) They are all former capital cities
  - c) They were all visited by Marco Polo
  - d) They are all centers of the global pistachio trade
25. During World War 2, Leningrad was resupplied by sleds over the ice of which lake?
- a) Lake Ladoga
  - b) Cayuga Lake
  - c) Seneca Lake
  - d) Great Salt Lake
26. Which of the following lakes is natural?
- a) Lake Nasser
  - b) Lake Chad
  - c) Lake Volta
  - d) Lake Mead
27. The condensation step in the water cycle can be seen in what phenomena?
- a) Rain
  - b) Snow
  - c) Lakes
  - d) Clouds
28. What type of tree are you least likely to find at Yellowstone National Park?
- a) Mangrove
  - b) Fir
  - c) Pine
  - d) Spruce
29. Which of the following national capitals is not in the Rio de la Plata watershed?
- a) Caracas, Venezuela
  - b) Sucre, Bolivia
  - c) Asuncion, Paragua
  - d) Brasilia, Brazil
30. Which of the following is not in Egypt?
- a) Mount Sinai
  - b) The Suez Canal
  - c) Petra
  - d) Valley of the Kings
31. Which country's region of Catalonia held a non-binding independence referendum in 2014?
- a) France
  - b) Spain
  - c) Belgium
  - d) Norway
32. The Islamic State, aka ISIS or ISIL, is a terrorist group operating in what 2 neighboring countries?
- a) Peru & Chile
  - b) India & Bangladesh
  - c) Norway & Sweden
  - d) Syria & Iraq
33. Which of the following places belonging to the USA has the highest population?
- a) Guam
  - b) Puerto Rico
  - c) Virgin Islands
  - d) American Samoa
34. Excluding Oceania what is the only continent crossed by both the Tropics of Cancer & Capricorn?
- a) South America
  - b) Africa
  - c) Antarctica
  - d) Europe
35. Which of the following mountain ranges is not in Europe?
- a) Himalayas
  - b) Alps
  - c) Pyrenees
  - d) Apennines
36. Cape York Peninsula, Great Barrier Reef, & Brisbane are all in or closest to what Australian state?
- a) Queensland
  - b) Tasmania
  - c) Northern Territory
  - d) Victoria
37. Which of the following Mexican cities lies on the Pacific Ocean, and is famous for cliff divers?
- a) Mexico City
  - b) Nogales
  - c) Acapulco
  - d) Guadalajara

38. Which of the following is the main cause of global warming?  
a) Ozone layer depletion    b) Greenhouse effect    c) Solar winds    d) Seafloor spreading
39. The Hoover Dam was built on what river?  
a) Mississippi River    b) Sacramento River    c) Colorado River    d) Nevada River
40. Politically marginalized homelands for black South Africans under Apartheid were called?  
a) Tajikistans    b) Afghanistans    c) Bantustans    d) Kurdistan
41. Iowa is the largest producer in the United States of what important crop?  
a) Apples    b) Corn    c) Oranges    d) Poison Ivy
42. What country, straddling the Mid-Atlantic Ridge saw the island of Surtsey appear in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and is home to the Althingi parliament?  
a) Ireland    b) Canada    c) Portugal    d) Iceland
43. Which European nation has sent the most troops since 2010 to Mali & Central African Republic?  
a) Russia    b) Netherlands    c) Germany    d) France
44. If, as an AFS exchange student, you and your schoolmates intimidated your rugby opponents with the *haka*, a traditional Maori chant, you'd be studying in which country?  
a) South Korea    b) Papua New Guinea    c) New Zealand    d) Fiji
45. What is the name for the physical region between the Appalachian Mountains and the coastal plain on the Atlantic Coast?  
a) Veldt    b) Great Basin    c) Black Hills    d) Piedmont
46. Which of the following countries was least affected by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami?  
a) Sri Lanka    b) Angola    c) Thailand    d) Somalia
47. The Cape of Good Hope is near the southernmost point of what landmass?  
a) Africa    b) New Jersey    c) Ireland    d) South Korea
48. Which of the following countries normally uses the Cyrillic alphabet for its official language?  
a) Bulgaria    b) Switzerland    c) Portugal    d) Cyrillia
49. Which of the following American cities currently has the most expensive housing market?  
a) San Antonio    b) San Francisco    c) Memphis    d) Boise
50. Which of the following countries was supposed to be part of the South Stream Pipeline after it emerged from the Black Sea from its origin in Russia?  
a) San Marino    b) Malta    c) Bulgaria    d) Cyprus