The United States Geography Olympiad 2014-2015 National Qualifying Exam – C 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.

1) Which country’s high-speed trains have the lowest maximum speed for regular use?
   a) China
   b) Japan
   c) Germany
   d) USA

2) A 2011 earthquake devastated the city of Christchurch in what country?
   a) Canada
   b) South Africa
   c) New Zealand
   d) Ireland

3) The “Rust Belt” is a colloquial name for areas of the United States impacted by the decline of American industry. Which of the following cities is not considered part of the Rust Belt?
   a) Pittsburgh, PA
   b) Charlotte, NC
   c) Cleveland, OH
   d) Detroit, MI

4) Which of the following ethnic groups recently went on strike in protest over conditions they faced while guiding tourist climbers up Mount Everest?
   a) Maoris
   b) Sherpas
   c) Welsh
   d) Yorubas

5) What happens when you cross the Antarctic Circle going southbound, reaching the line at noon on Sunday?
   a) It becomes noon on Saturday.
   b) It becomes noon on Monday.
   c) It becomes midnight on Sunday.
   d) None of the above.
6) In 2014, rebels formed the Donetsk People’s Republic in the eastern portion of what country?
   a) Russia  
   b) Israel  
   c) Ukraine  
   d) Syria

7) Which of the following mountain ranges has the highest point? 
   a) The Appalachians  
   b) The Rockies  
   c) The Andes  
   d) The Pyrenees

8) On what island can you watch a home baseball game of the oddly-named Nippon Ham Fighters?
   a) Hokkaido  
   b) Iwo Jima  
   c) Taiwan  
   d) Jeju

9) By late October 2014, which West African country had had the most success in stopping Ebola? 
   a) Sierra Leone  
   b) Guinea  
   c) Liberia  
   d) Nigeria

10) Which of the following physical features was caused by movement of continental glaciers? 
    a) New York’s Finger Lakes  
    b) Illinois’ Pancreas Ponds  
    c) Wyoming’s Pharynx Gorge  
    d) North Carolina’s Elbow Islands

11) What war-torn country is the largest producer of opium, a drug created from poppies? 
    a) Israel  
    b) Afghanistan  
    c) Syria  
    d) Iraq

12) What does the term geomorphology refer to?
    a) The study of landforms and the processes that create them  
    b) The study of human evolution  
    c) The study of the chemical composition of the Earth’s crust  
    d) The study of the interaction between humans and bodies of water
13) During a recent World Shooting Championships medals ceremony, the “Borat” version of which Central Asian country’s national anthem was erroneously played?  
   a) Paraguay  
   b) Nauru  
   c) Swaziland  
   d) Kazakhstan  

14) Which city in the heart of the Amazon rain forest did US soccer players grumble about playing in during the 2014 World Cup?  
   a) Sao Paulo  
   b) Rio de Janeiro  
   c) Manaus  
   d) Brasilia  

15) Why is “per capita GDP” more useful for comparing the standard of living of countries than total GDP?  
   a) Per capita GDP controls for the population of the countries  
   b) Per capita GDP includes profits from illegal activities  
   c) Per capita GDP does not include government spending  
   d) Per capita GDP controls for the use of different currencies  

16) What state’s highest point, Britton Hill, is 345 feet above sea level, making it the lowest high point of any state?  
   a) Kansas  
   b) Hawai’i  
   c) Florida  
   d) Montana  

17) Which of the following movies depicted members of the Hutu and Tutsi ethnic groups?  
   a) From Russia With Love  
   b) Hotel Rwanda  
   c) The Boys from Brazil  
   d) The China Syndrome  

18) Which of the following rivers does not start in China?  
   a) Mekong  
   b) Yangtze  
   c) Brahmaputra  
   d) Ganges
19) Sardinia lies directly south of what other island, the birthplace of Napoleon?
   a) Sicily
   b) St. Helena
   c) Elba
   d) Corsica

20) The boxing match known as the Rumble in the Jungle took place in which African city?
   a) Kinshasa
   b) Manila
   c) Louisville
   d) Rome

21) Which Mexican city on the US border was one of the world’s most dangerous in 2012?
   a) Ciudad Juarez
   b) Cabo San Lucas
   c) Acapulco
   d) Guadalajara

22) Which of the following islands is least prone to hurricanes, as it lies relatively closer to the equator?
   a) Puerto Rico
   b) Antigua
   c) Aruba
   d) Hispaniola

23) Which of the following “belt” regions does not include any part of the states of Alabama and Mississippi?
   a) Black Belt
   b) Cotton Belt
   c) Bible Belt
   d) Corn Belt

24) What lake, at a depth of 5,387 feet, is the deepest lake in the world?
   a) Lake Baikal
   b) Lake Balkash
   c) Lake Van
   d) Crater Lake

25) Which country belongs to the Schengen area of passport-free travel within the EU?
   a) United Kingdom
   b) Ireland
   c) France
   d) Moldova
26) Which of the following countries does not have Islam as a majority religion?
   a) Libya
   b) Somalia
   c) Angola
   d) Mali

27) What is a major advantage globes have over maps?
   a) Maps require some amount of inaccuracies due to the fact that maps are flat
   b) The scale is smaller, allowing for more details
   c) Globes can show all landmasses at once
   d) Globes are more portable

28) If Huck Finn kept rafting down the Mississippi from Missouri, eventually he would have passed by which Tennessee city?
   a) Knoxville
   b) Memphis
   c) Chattanooga
   d) Nashville

29) Which of the following languages is not an official language of a country or territory in the Caribbean?
   a) Dutch
   b) English
   c) French
   d) Portuguese

30) If you wanted to see a tiger in the wild, which country could you NOT go to?
   a) Kenya
   b) India
   c) Russia
   d) Bangladesh

31) Which of the following islands did German paratroopers invade in World War 2?
   a) Cyprus
   b) Crete
   c) The Azores
   d) Crimea

32) Which of the following countries would most benefit from a fall in the world oil price?
   a) Iran
   b) India
   c) Russia
   d) Venezuela
33) Where does water leaving through Lake Champlain’s outlet flow to?
   a) Down the Hudson River into the Atlantic
   b) Through tributaries of the Susquehanna into the Chesapeake Bay
   c) North into the St. Lawrence River and then into the Atlantic
   d) Lake Champlain has no outlet.

34) Which of the following deserts is the largest hot desert in the world?
   a) Sonoran
   b) Gobi
   c) Sahara
   d) Kalahari

35) If someone said “Bun Di!” to you, you should reply in what official language of Switzerland?
   a) Romaine
   b) Romany
   c) Romanian
   d) Romansh

36) It is considered inconsiderate to Aboriginal Australians to climb what landform?
   a) Carstenz Pyramid
   b) Olympus Mons
   c) Ngorongoro Crater
   d) Uluru

37) Guinea pigs, in addition to not being pigs, are not from Guinea. Where did guinea pigs originate?
   a) Eastern Madagascar
   b) Brooklyn
   c) The Andes Mountains
   d) Narnia

38) How do choropleth maps primarily show distinction between areas with different traits?
   a) Size
   b) Shape
   c) Imbedded graphs
   d) Color

39) Which Hawaiian island did billionaire businessman Larry Ellison recently purchase 98% of?
   a) Lanai
   b) Oahu
   c) Maui
   d) French Frigate Shoals
40) Captain Phillips probably regrets sailing the *Maersk Alabama* into pirate-infested waters near what country?
   a) Kyrgyzstan
   b) Zanzibar
   c) Barbados
   d) Somalia

41) Which of the following is not an island in the Canadian Arctic?
   a) Prince Edward Island
   b) Victoria Island
   c) Baffin Island
   d) Ellesmere Island

42) Which of the following rivers flows through multiple countries as well as Lake Geneva?
   a) Volga
   b) Po
   c) Rhône
   d) Missouri

43) Port Said is at the northern end of what body of water?
   a) Dead Sea
   b) Suez Canal
   c) Tigris River
   d) Persian Gulf

44) What city, home to The Bund, is the largest by population in China, and indeed, the world?
   a) Beijing
   b) Shanghai
   c) Macau
   d) Nanjing

45) If you attend the International History Olympiad next summer in Williamsburg, Virginia, which nearby bizarrely named city’s airport might you fly into?
   a) Newport News
   b) Walla Walla
   c) Truth or Consequences
   d) Nome

46) During the Cold War, US submarines eavesdropped on undersea Soviet telephone cables in what body of water west of the Kamchatka Peninsula?
   a) Bering Sea
   b) Barents Sea
   c) Sea of Okhotsk
   d) Sea of Japan
47) If, as an AFS exchange student, you lived with a Xhosa speaking family near Durban, you’d be studying in what country?
   a) South Africa
   b) Ghana
   c) Malawi
   d) Botswana

48) Which Scandinavian country do we get to blame for giving us the pop groups ABBA and Ace of Base, along with indecipherable furniture instructions from IKEA?
   a) Norway
   b) Denmark
   c) Chad
   d) Sweden

49) In which Caribbean country would you find the island of Tobago?
   a) Trinidad and Tobago
   b) Canada and Tobago
   c) Grenada and Tobago
   d) Tobago is not an island.

50) In which city did Disco Demolition Night, an ill-advised baseball promotion, turn into a riot in Comiskey Park in the South Side in 1979?
   a) Montreal
   b) Chicago
   c) Little Rock
   d) New York City