

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 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