

The United States Geography Olympiad 2015-2016 National Qualifying Exam – A Set Version

ANSWER KEY

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 Chinese city is most at risk from rising sea levels?
 - a) Beijing
 - b) Lhasa
 - c) **Guangzhou**
 - d) Chengdu

- 2) This question was written in a plane directly above Honshu, the largest island in which country?
 - a) **Japan**
 - b) China
 - c) Indonesia
 - d) The Maldives

- 3) The Köppen classification system classifies what?
 - a) Land use practices
 - b) Asteroid and meteorite impacts
 - c) **Climate types**
 - d) Prison camps in the Soviet GULAG

- 4) Which state's highest point, at slightly less than 2000 feet, is unimaginatively known as "High Point"?
 - a) Maine
 - b) Delaware
 - c) New York
 - d) **New Jersey**

- 5) Which country has the greatest percentage of women in its national legislature?
 - a) Saudi Arabia
 - b) United States
 - c) **Rwanda**
 - d) Pakistan

- 6) In December 2015, a man was convicted of insulting the dog of which country's king – a crime that could be punished by up to 37 years in jail due to its strict lèse majesté laws?
- a) Nepal
 - b) India
 - c) Thailand**
 - d) Vietnam
- 7) If Suzie sells sea shells in the Seychelles, then she's peddling her wares surrounded by which ocean?
- a) Atlantic
 - b) Pacific
 - c) Indian**
 - d) Arctic
- 8) Which was not a site of nuclear weapons testing in the mid-twentieth century?
- a) New Mexico
 - b) Bikini Atoll
 - c) Novaya Zemlya
 - d) Bavaria**
- 9) Which is the most populous metropolitan area in the USA which for the 2015-16 season lacks a football team in the National Football League?
- a) Boston
 - b) Los Angeles**
 - c) Chicago
 - d) Houston
- 10) Railroads have been least influential in the economic development of which region?
- a) Siberia
 - b) The US Great Plains
 - c) Nunavut**
 - d) Uttar Pradesh
- 11) Earth's weather takes place primarily in which region of the atmosphere?
- a) Mesosphere
 - b) Ionosphere
 - c) Troposphere**
 - d) Thermosphere

- 12) In 2016, the world's longest non-stop flight will begin between which two cities?
- a) New York and Tokyo
 - b) Reykjavik and Alice Springs
 - c) **Dubai and Panama City**
 - d) St. Petersburg, FL and St. Petersburg, Russia
- 13) Which country's territory was NOT part of the Portuguese Empire?
- a) Mozambique
 - b) Sao Tome and Principe
 - c) **Chad**
 - d) Angola
- 14) Which country did NATO offer an invitation to join in late 2015?
- a) Portugal
 - b) Poland
 - c) **Montenegro**
 - d) Monaco
- 15) Which was a geographic advantage that the South did NOT enjoy in the US Civil War?
- a) Interior lines of communication
 - b) Extensive mountain ranges
 - c) **A Pacific coastline**
 - d) Ideal cotton growing areas
- 16) The process of mountain formation is known by which term?
- a) **Orogeny**
 - b) Topography
 - c) Cyclogenesis
 - d) Continental Drift
- 17) Which of the following is a language isolate, with no known related languages that are presently-spoken?
- a) Russian
 - b) Arabic
 - c) Danish
 - d) **Korean**
- 18) Which of the following countries is home to the greatest number of endemic species?
- a) The Gambia
 - b) Egypt
 - c) **Madagascar**
 - d) Togo

- 19) Which location is found in the Antarctic?
- a) Franz Josef Land
 - b) Ross Ice Shelf**
 - c) Baffin Bay
 - d) Laptev Sea
- 20) Which state will have the greatest number of electoral votes in the 2016 presidential election?
- a) California**
 - b) Texas
 - c) Florida
 - d) Delaware
- 21) The longest rivers of Siberia primarily flow in which direction?
- a) North to South
 - b) East to West
 - c) West to East
 - d) South to North**
- 22) Which country is not predominantly Muslim in regards to its population, but still has a crescent moon on its flag?
- a) Malaysia
 - b) Singapore**
 - c) Turkey
 - d) North Korea
- 23) The Great Migration in US history is a reference to which of the following?
- a) Mass movement from urban to rural areas in the 18th century
 - b) The Norwegian and Finnish immigration to the Dakotas and Minnesota
 - c) The expulsion of the Cherokee from Georgia to Oklahoma
 - d) African Americans moving from the Deep South to the Midwest and North**
- 24) Which New York City borough has the lowest population?
- a) Brooklyn
 - b) Staten Island**
 - c) Manhattan
 - d) Queens
- 25) Which area was mostly dry land at the height of the last major Ice Age?
- a) Marianas Trench
 - b) Sargasso Sea
 - c) North Sea**
 - d) Indian Ocean
- 26) Which country was recently ranked as the highest in the Human Development Index?

a) Norway

b) Oman

c) Peru

d) Qatar

27) Which of the following Mexican states has the highest percentage of its population with Mayan ancestry?

a) Yucatan

b) Baja California

c) Sonora

d) Chihuahua

28) If you go to the 2016 Olympics, you could take a day off from watching sports and do what instead in the same city?

a) Visit the athletes' village on a tributary of the Amazon River

b) Go swimming off Ipanema Beach and visit Sugarloaf Mountain

c) Take in the sights and sounds of the most populous Portuguese speaking city on earth

d) Visit the War Memorial to those who died in the Soccer War

29) Which two cities are at roughly the same line of latitude?

a) New York and London

b) New York and Rome

c) Chicago and Moscow

d) Los Angeles and Madrid

30) As of 2016, which of the following countries has the highest percentage of its citizens infected with the HIV virus?

a) Switzerland

b) Swaziland

c) Guyana

d) Guinea

31) Which city is an Alpha World City?

a) Vilnius

b) Vientiane

c) Vienna

d) Varna

32) What city is being referenced when people talk about the "Inside-the-Beltway" mentality of some of its residents?

a) New York City

b) Los Angeles

c) Seattle

d) Washington, DC

- 33) Which of the following deserts is home to the greatest number of the Bedouin people?
- a) **Sinai**
 - b) Taklimakan
 - c) Mojave
 - d) Atacama
- 34) After reaching independence, which country revived an ancient language to become its official language?
- a) India
 - b) North Korea
 - c) **Israel**
 - d) Ukraine
- 35) Which of the following is not part of the reason why Silicon Valley has been economically successful?
- a) Proximity to major research universities at Stanford and Berkeley
 - b) Network effects of companies wanting to be near each other
 - c) **California has the lowest personal and corporate taxes of any US state**
 - d) A favorable climate and proximity to San Francisco have helped attract workers
- 36) Which US state is divided into parishes instead of counties and traces its legal system to the Napoleonic Code?
- a) Texas
 - b) **Louisiana**
 - c) South Carolina
 - d) Illinois
- 37) Which country has made the greatest progress towards democracy in recent years?
- a) Vietnam
 - b) China
 - c) **Myanmar**
 - d) North Korea
- 38) Which mountain range isn't the site of a Continental Divide?
- a) Rockies
 - b) Alps
 - c) Andes
 - d) **Ozarks**

- 39) If the UK votes to leave the European Union, what is one likely consequence?
- a) The Channel tunnel will be shut down due to visa concerns
 - b) The UK will give up using the Euro as its currency
 - c) **The pro-EU region of Scotland will again seek to have an independence referendum which it might win this time**
 - d) The UK territory of Gibraltar would likely vote to become part of Spain
- 40) Which country is home to no US military bases as of early 2016?
- a) Japan
 - b) Italy
 - c) South Korea
 - d) **Armenia**
- 41) The trade route known as the Silk Road passed through which of the following countries?
- a) Burkina Faso
 - b) East Timor
 - c) **Uzbekistan**
 - d) Grenada
- 42) Over the last 20 years, India developed a world-beating economic sector in which of the following areas?
- a) Producing top soccer players for the English Premier League and the German Bundesliga
 - b) **Outsourcing business services, such as back offices and call centers**
 - c) The manufacturing of commercial jet aircraft
 - d) Salmon and tuna fisheries
- 43) Which Muslim countries are predominantly Shi'ite?
- a) **Iran and Iraq**
 - b) Jordan and Saudi Arabia
 - c) The UAE and Qatar
 - d) Egypt and Tunisia
- 44) Which country thought it would be a capital idea to move its capital from Lagos to Abuja?
- a) South Africa
 - b) **Nigeria**
 - c) Sumatra
 - d) New Guinea
- 45) In 2016, which of the following most exemplifies the geopolitical concept of a "failed state"?

- a) Algeria
 - b) Somalia**
 - c) Uruguay
 - d) Wyoming
- 46) Which country's cuisine includes delicacies such as escargots, bouche de Noel, and bouillabaise?
- a) Sweden
 - b) Spain
 - c) France**
 - d) Italy
- 47) If, as an AFS exchange student, you learned that Suomi was the name of your host country in its native Uralic language, you'd be studying where?
- a) Austria
 - b) Sweden
 - c) Finland**
 - d) Albania
- 48) Which phrase was often added to Renaissance Era maps to indicate that a region's land features were unknown?
- a) Terra incognita**
 - b) Terra nullius
 - c) Terra firma
 - d) Terra nova
- 49) In developing countries, as education of girls spreads and improves, what is a typical demographic consequence?
- a) Fertility increases
 - b) Fertility decreases**
 - c) Per capita GDP falls
 - d) Overall Immigration rates increase
- 50) Which location is in the continental USA?
- a) Bora Bora
 - b) Pago Pago
 - c) Walla Walla**
 - d) Bandar Seri Begawan