The United States Geography Olympiad & The International Geography Bee

2016-2017 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.

1) Which quadrant of the world is home to the majority of the world’s population?
   a) Northern Hemisphere & Eastern Hemisphere quadrant
   b) Northern Hemisphere & Western Hemisphere quadrant
   c) Southern Hemisphere & Eastern Hemisphere quadrant
   d) Southern Hemisphere & Western Hemisphere quadrant

2) It is currently possible for tourists to run laps around the track at the site of the ancient Circus Maximus in which city?
   a) Paris
   b) London
   c) Berlin
   d) Rome

3) What could you always do while standing on a moraine?
   a) View the path taken by a glacier
   b) Admire the ring of coral surrounding you
   c) View active lava flows
   d) Enjoy the midnight sun on June 21

4) In which country could you potentially view the Aurora Australis?
   a) Ecuador
   b) Colombia
   c) Guyana
   d) Chile

5) On the shortest possible flight from Cleveland to Detroit, which of these Great Lakes would you cross?
   a) Michigan
   b) Superior
   c) Erie
   d) Ontario

6) Which country has been at the center of a recent doping scandal due to its abuses when it hosted the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi?
   a) China
   b) Japan
   c) Russia
   d) Italy

7) Alpine vegetation and average annual snowfall totals in excess of 250 inches can be most easily found at the highest summits of which of these mountain ranges?
   a) Berkshires
   b) Poconos
   c) Allegheny
   d) White

8) Which country would be your safest travel destination if you had an all-consuming fear of tsunamis?
   a) Japan
   b) Indonesia
   c) Italy
   d) Central African Republic
9) What do San Marino and Lesotho have in common?
   a) Both consider aardvark a delicacy in their national cuisine
   b) Both are considered international powerhouses in Olympic archery
   c) Both were led by Green Party dictatorships in the 1960’s
   d) Both are entirely surrounded by one other country

10) Airplane turbulence is most commonly found over which terrain?
    a) Deserts   b) Mountain ranges   c) Swamps   d) Salt marshes

11) The name of Australia’s most populous state references which part of the United Kingdom?
    a) England   b) Scotland   c) Wales   d) Northern Ireland

12) Which island or island group is considered part of Melanesia and not Polynesia?
    a) Samoa   b) Hawaii   c) Vanuatu   d) Easter Island

13) During the medieval warm period, grapes were grown on which island to make wine?
    a) Maui   b) Britain   c) Bermuda   d) Spitsbergen

14) Which country is NOT considered part of the Middle East?
    a) Jordan   b) Sri Lanka   c) Qatar   d) Bahrain

15) Which disease has as of 2017 been eradicated from Africa?
    a) AIDS   b) Smallpox   c) Athlete’s Foot   d) Sickle Cell Anemia

16) Which continent has more Portuguese speakers than any other?
    a) Africa   b) Europe   c) Asia   d) South America

17) The Silk Road skirted the southern edge of which desert?
    a) Sahara   b) Gobi   c) Mojave   d) Arabian

18) Which country’s capital is also the name of a city in California with over 1 million people?
    a) Mexico   b) Haiti   c) Peru   d) Costa Rica

19) This question was written near 25 degrees North latitude, 150 degrees West longitude on a flight from Los Angeles to __________?
    a) Beijing   b) Honolulu   c) New York   d) Buenos Aires

20) Which island group was used by the Soviet Union as a testing ground for its nuclear weapons?
    a) Balearics   b) Antilles   c) Marquesas   d) Novaya Zemlya
21) A bottle tossed into the Gulf Stream off the Outer Banks would most likely end up where?
   a) Florida    b) Ireland    c) Barbados    d) South Dakota

22) Which biome is most widespread throughout Kazakhstan?
   a) Tundra    b) Taiga    c) Steppe    d) Mangroves

23) Which state is NOT home to one of the US Armed Forces’ service academies?
   a) New York    b) Colorado    c) Maryland    d) California

24) The Bellagio hotel in Las Vegas is named for a picturesque town on the shores of which Italian lake?
   a) Como    b) Trasimene    c) Geneva    d) Maracaibo

25) Which name is used to refer to a series of climate zone classifications?
   a) München    b) Köln    c) Köppen    d) Lübeck

26) In which of the following countries is cocoa a major agricultural product?
   a) Canada    b) Sweden    c) Uruguay    d) Côte d’Ivoire

27) Islam, Christianity, and Buddhism all began on which continent?
   a) Europe    b) Asia    c) Africa    d) Antarctica

28) Which National Park is found east of the Mississippi River?
   a) Grand Canyon    b) Acadia    c) Yosemite    d) Yellowstone

29) In which mountain range is it easiest to ski in August?
   a) Pyrenees    b) Andes    c) Atlas    d) Appalachians

30) Desertification is currently of greatest concern in which region?
   a) Eastern France    b) Northern Russia
   c) Northern China    d) Western Norway

31) Which African city is the capital of a landlocked country?
   a) Bamako    b) Rabat    c) Timbuktu    d) Cairo

32) Which country is home to more native bird species than the other three choices combined?
   a) Peru    b) Iceland    c) Mongolia    d) Antigua and Barbuda

33) Which Caribbean island is least at risk of hurricane strikes due to its low latitude?
   a) Puerto Rico    b) Cuba    c) Aruba    d) Grand Bahama
34) Which house of worship could you find along Boston’s historic Freedom Trail?
   a) St. Peter’s Basilica       b) Blue Mosque
   c) Golden Temple             d) Old North Church

35) If as an AFS exchange student, you flew into Keflavik Airport and then participated with your classmates on the quiz show Gettu Bettur, you’d be studying where?
   a) Austria    b) Thailand  c) Iceland   d) New Zealand

36) The U2 album Joshua Tree was named for a plant and national park found in which US state?
   a) Michigan   b) Vermont   c) California d) Rhode Island

37) Which ocean contains the deepest point on the earth’s surface at Challenger Deep, miles below the ocean surface?
   a) Arctic      b) Atlantic   c) Pacific    d) Indian

38) Which river is home to a set of waterfalls known as cataracts, which have historically impeded navigation?
   a) Delaware    b) Nile       c) Amazon     d) Ob

39) It’s AD 116, and you’re the Roman Emperor Trajan. You decide to send a pesky senator into exile in the newly conquered province of Dacia, which shares territory with what modern-day country?
   a) France      b) Bhutan     c) Denmark   d) Romania

40) Which polity was once divided into the Districts of Keewatin, Mackenzie, and Franklin?
   a) Nunavut     b) Quebec     c) Northwest Territories d) Prince Edward Island

41) Voter turnout in urban precincts in Wayne County and rural counties in the Upper Peninsula was crucial to the 2016 election results in which swing state?
   a) Wisconsin   b) Maine      c) Michigan   d) Florida

42) US battleships in World War II were typically named for which things?
   a) US cities    b) US states  c) US allies  d) US rivers

43) Which most heavily bombed country in world history has now oddly turned into a popular destination for river tubing on the Mekong River?
   a) Laos        b) Bangladesh c) Cambodia d) Malaysia
44) Which country features a crescent moon on its flag even though its population is not predominantly Muslim?
   a) Libya   b) Sweden   c) Paraguay   d) Singapore

45) Empty Shelves in Supermarkets! Oil Wealth Squandered! Riots against Nicolas Maduro’s Regime! Talk of the End of Chavismo! Fracas in Caracas! These are some of your 2017 headlines as a journalist writing on the political situation where?
   a) Kansas   b) Norway   c) Venezuela   d) French Guiana

46) Instead of going to college, after turning 18, you decide to join the fight with Kurdish guerrillas against ISIS. Which Northern Iraqi city would you book a flight to, to meet with your Pesh Merga brothers-in-arms?
   a) Dublin   b) Erbil   c) Aleppo   d) Yerevan

47) US special forces have been active in fighting the Taliban in which mountain range?
   a) Tien Shan   b) Caucasus   c) Urals   d) Hindu Kush

48) Which African city would be the best choice for a base of operations for a hiking trip into the Great Rift Valley?
   a) Cape Town   b) Conakry   c) Tunis   d) Addis Ababa

49) Which of the lower 48 US states was once known as “Indian Territory”?
   a) Oklahoma   b) Utah   c) Texas   d) New Jersey

50) Which Canadian province is considered the most conservative in its politics in 2017?
   a) British Columbia   b) Ontario   c) Alberta   d) Nova Scotia