

**2018 United States Geography Olympiad - Written Examination
Question Packet**

General instructions -

Respond to each of the following questions on the answer document provided. Only answers written in the appropriate space on the answer document will be marked. Where appropriate, you should write sentences or phrases instead of single words. If a question or section asks for a specific number of reasons or answers, give only the required number of answers specified. The examination consists of eight sections, and each section will be worth the specified number of marks. You have one hour to complete this section of the examination and the accompanying multiple choice questions.

Section 1 – Population Growth [14 marks] (Refer to the image in Section 1 of the resource booklet.)

1. Given the information in the graph in Section 1 of the resource booklet, give two reasons for the trend in global population growth rate between 1920 and 1960.
2. Several countries in the world currently have annual population growth rates over 2%. Identify and explain four factors that might account for population growth rates over 2%.
3. Identify two possible educational measures countries with fast-growing populations might implement to decrease growth rate in the future. Briefly explain how each of these measures would help to control population growth.
4. Identify and explain two reasons for the increase in average population age in developed countries. Identify one way in which this increase in average age effects the economy of developed nations, and one way in which it effects the health care system of these nations.

Section 2 – Historical Geography [6 marks]

1. Briefly identify and explain the ways in which each of the following changed American cities in the period from the end of the Civil War to the end of the 1920s – a) immigration, b) industrialization.

Section 3 – Biogeography [10 marks] (Refer to the images in Section 3 of the resource booklet.)

1. Using the images, name the type of forest shown in A, B, and C in the space provided on the answer document. Match each type of forest to the appropriate climate graph shown in 1, 2, and 3.
2. Given the vegetation depicted and the appropriate climate graph, in what specific area of the United States would a forest like the one shown in image B most likely be located?
3. Identify and explain two reasons for the loss of forests worldwide. Of the three types of forests shown in the images, which would be most susceptible to loss?

Section 4 – Cultural Geography [4 marks] (Refer to the images in Section 4 of the resource booklet.)

1. For what common purpose would all three of these structures have been used?
2. Given that purpose, explain why each of these structures is raised off the ground. Explain reason for the slits in the walls of two of the structures. Why are they absent in the third?

Section 5 – Geology [6 marks] (Refer to the images in Section 5 of the resource booklet.)

1. Identify the type of rock in A, B, and C from the microscopic thin sections pictured.
2. Define the term lithification. Which of the rock types depicted in the thin sections would be formed by this process?

Section 6 – Urban Geography [10 marks]

1. Define the term urban heat island.
2. Identify and explain three differences between urban and surrounding rural areas that account for the temperature difference between them.
3. Identify and two characteristics of the urban microclimate that would cause higher levels of air pollution than surrounding rural areas. Explain why each of these characteristics contributes to higher levels of pollution.
4. Identify and explain two possible public policies municipal governments could enact to reduce air pollution.
5. During Hurricane Harvey in 2017, the city of Houston experienced catastrophic flooding. Identify and explain two reasons why urban areas are more susceptible increased flooding during extreme rain events than surrounding rural areas.

Section 7 – Migration [10 marks] (Please refer to the images in Section 7 of the resource booklet)

1. Define the term refugee. According to UNHCR and UNRWA, is the number of refugees in the world closer to 5 million, 25 million, 50 million or 100 million people?
2. Given the information in the chart of refugees resettled by country, which of these countries has resettled the largest number of refugees per capita? Describe the trend in resettlement of refugees in the United States in the years after the time period covered in the chart, and particularly since the beginning of 2017.
3. Given the information in the graph of refugees per capita, why did Lebanon and Jordan have so many refugees within their borders in the period covered by the graph? Explain why a small and relatively remote nation like Nauru made this list.
4. Identify and explain three reasons why refugees would leave their country of origin.