

The 2013-2014 United States Geography Olympiad - National Qualifying Exam – A Set
Scoring System: 2 points for a correct answer, -1 for a wrong answer, 0 points for a blank answer!

Name: _____ School: _____ Birthdate: _____

- 1) Which of the following North American cities does NOT have the majority of its population on an island or a series of islands?
 - a) Montreal
 - b) Honolulu
 - c) Vancouver
 - d) New York City

- 2) A bird watching trip to the taiga biome could yield which of the following sightings?
 - a) Pine Grosbeaks huddling to keep warm in spruce trees
 - b) A Crested Mynah singing its mating call in date palms
 - c) The Dusky Seaside Sparrow elusively darting through the sawgrass
 - d) The Standard-winged Nightjar flying at night in Northern Ghana

- 3) What is one thing NOT true about BOTH Oklahoma and West Virginia?
 - a) Resource extraction is an important part of their economy.
 - b) They both have panhandle regions
 - c) Their capitals are their largest cities.
 - d) They both border six states

- 4) Which country is one of the countries you would pass through traveling in a straight line west to east from Lagos, Nigeria to Juba, South Sudan?
 - a) Cameroon
 - b) Uganda
 - c) Sudan
 - d) Gabon

- 5) Guayaquil and Callao are ports along what body of water?
 - a) Rio de la Plata
 - b) Pacific Ocean
 - c) Mediterranean Sea
 - d) Caribbean Sea

- 6) Which of the following is not an Australian state or territorial capital?
 - a) Perth
 - b) Brisbane
 - c) Hobart
 - d) Alice Springs

- 7) Which of the following Chinese cities is NOT coastal?
- a) Dalian
 - b) Qingdao
 - c) Beijing
 - d) Tianjin
- 8) Which of the following UK sites is not in England?
- a) Giant's Causeway
 - b) Stonehenge
 - c) Hadrian's Wall
 - d) Buckingham Palace
- 9) If you wanted to hit the disco in Ibiza, you'd be partying in what archipelago?
- a) Malta
 - b) Canary Islands
 - c) Madeira Islands
 - d) Balearic Islands
- 10) UPS' American hub is what city, across the Ohio River from Jeffersonville, Indiana and also the hometown of Muhammad Ali?
- a) Memphis, Tennessee
 - b) Bloomington, Indiana
 - c) Louisville, Kentucky
 - d) Cincinnati, Ohio
- 11) Dwight Eisenhower is credited for the creation of what important feature of America's geography?
- a) Interstate highway system
 - b) Hoover Dam
 - c) Amtrak
 - d) National park system
- 12) Which of the following mountain ranges is located at a plate boundary?
- a) Appalachians
 - b) Himalayas
 - c) Urals
 - d) Caucasus
- 13) Diwali, the Festival of Lights, is most closely associated with what country?
- a) India
 - b) Canada
 - c) Israel
 - d) Ethiopia

- 14) What is the term for the process by which oceanic crust is pushed under continental crust?
- a) Subversion
 - b) Seafloor discomposition
 - c) Subduction
 - d) Downcasting
- 15) Which of the following is NOT the name of a disputed area in the Caucasus region?
- a) Abkhazia
 - b) Transdnistria
 - c) South Ossetia
 - d) Nagorno-Karabakh
- 16) Which of the following figures is closest to the population of the United States?
- a) 270 million
 - b) 310 million
 - c) 390 million
 - d) 440 million
- 17) Mosul, Kirkuk, and Karbala are cities in what country?
- a) Syria
 - b) Israel
 - c) Afghanistan
 - d) Iraq
- 18) The country of Singapore was a colony of what country?
- a) Portugal
 - b) The Netherlands
 - c) France
 - d) United Kingdom
- 19) Which of the following river systems is the longest?
- a) Congo
 - b) Orange
 - c) Zambezi
 - d) Niger
- 20) Which Latin American country, saw a rare, Southern Hemisphere hurricane make landfall several years ago in its Santa Catarina state?
- a) Venezuela
 - b) Brazil
 - c) Argentina
 - d) Paraguay

- 21) What is the term that refers to the three European nations north of France and west of Germany that uses letters from each of their names?
- a) Switzgiumstein
 - b) Holdenaus
 - c) Benelux
 - d) Swednorlands
- 22) Ras Dashen, located north of Lake Tana, is the highest peak in what landlocked east African country?
- a) Ethiopia
 - b) Malawi
 - c) Somalia
 - d) South Sudan
- 23) What precious stone gives its name to third-longest river system in China?
- a) Diamond
 - b) Ruby
 - c) Pearl
 - d) Opal
- 24) Which island is the world's most linguistically diverse, with over 15% of the world's spoken languages?
- a) Madagascar
 - b) New Guinea
 - c) Sri Lanka
 - d) Rhode Island
- 25) Which of the following African countries has Islam as its predominant religion?
- a) Cameroon
 - b) Zimbabwe
 - c) Kenya
 - d) Sudan
- 26) The Coriolis Effect is created by what phenomena?
- a) Earth's revolution around the sun
 - b) Salinity of the ocean
 - c) Humidity of the atmosphere
 - d) Spin of the earth
- 27) Most common world map projections are of what geometric type?
- a) Cylindrical
 - b) Conic
 - c) Azimuthal
 - d) All types are equally common

- 28) Pamplona, Lourdes, and Toulouse all cities near what mountain range?
- a) Pennine Alps
 - b) Apennines
 - c) Pyrenees
 - d) Carpathians
- 29) Which of the following rivers is spanned by a bridge featuring the humblebragging slogan "Trenton makes, the world takes"?
- a) Pennsylvania
 - b) Schuylkill
 - c) Hudson
 - d) Delaware
- 30) Which of the following is not an independent, sovereign country?
- a) Anguilla
 - b) Antigua and Barbuda
 - c) Dominica
 - d) St. Lucia
- 31) The Great Enclosure is an Iron Age ruin of a palace in the "Great" complex that shares its name with what country?
- a) Lesotho
 - b) Zimbabwe
 - c) Nigeria
 - d) Central African Republic
- 32) What is the name of the desert that dominates southern Israel?
- a) Rub' al Khali
 - b) Negev
 - c) Nubian
 - d) Karakum
- 33) For what or whom was America named?
- a) From the French "à mer," meaning "to sea"
 - b) Rough translation from the Powhatan word for "place of the succotash-eaters"
 - c) Amerigo Vespucci, an Italian explorer
 - d) Iamriga, the Latvian goddess of cities

- 34) If you wanted to visit the ABBA museum and wear a wreath on St. Lucia's Day as an AFS exchange student, you should apply to study in which country?
- a) Norway
 - b) Denmark
 - c) Sweden
 - d) Iceland
- 35) Which of the following mountains is not part of the Andes?
- a) Huascarán
 - b) Chimborazo
 - c) Aconcagua
 - d) Popocatepetl
- 36) Which of the following capital cities is not on an island?
- a) Mbabane
 - b) Antananarivo
 - c) Praia
 - d) Malabo
- 37) Black Canyon of the Gunnison, Great Sand Dunes, and Mesa Verde are three of the four national parks in what state?
- a) Colorado
 - b) California
 - c) Florida
 - d) Texas
- 38) In November 2013, Typhoon Haiyan, also known as Typhoon Yolanda, took over 6,200 lives in what country, where the island of Leyte was devastated?
- a) Cambodia
 - b) The Philippines
 - c) India
 - d) Indonesia
- 39) The 1805 Battle of Trafalgar took place near Cadiz off the coast of what country?
- a) Algeria
 - b) Italy
 - c) Portugal
 - d) Spain

- 40) What is the name of the body of water that separates Madagascar from the mainland?
- a) da Gama Passage
 - b) Zuba River
 - c) Tanzania Strait
 - d) Mozambique Channel
- 41) In which city can you go skiing indoors and get your picture taken with a flock of confused, imported penguins?
- a) Baghdad
 - b) Dubai
 - c) Kabul
 - d) Tuscaloosa
- 42) In which of the following countries would you have the hardest time attending a Grand Slam tennis event?
- a) China
 - b) United Kingdom
 - c) Australia
 - d) France
- 43) The RCMP might need to respond to a lost hiker on Mount Logan in which country?
- a) Canada
 - b) Australia
 - c) The United Kingdom
 - d) Ireland
- 44) Which of the following countries existed as an independent state with the same name in 1985?
- a) Belarus
 - b) Slovakia
 - c) Romania
 - d) Croatia
- 45) Back Bay, the "T", and the North End are all features of what American city?
- a) Philadelphia, PA
 - b) Chicago, IL
 - c) Boston, MA
 - d) Richmond, VA

- 46) The naval force of what landlocked country is based on Lake Titicaca?
- a) Guyana
 - b) Paraguay
 - c) Bolivia
 - d) Peru
- 47) *Shinkansen* is the name of what transportation innovation?
- a) Taiwan's toll road system
 - b) Japan's bullet train
 - c) Osaka's new airport
 - d) Hiroshima's container port
- 48) What are the name for the six shallow, rocky stretches of the Nile River in Egypt and Sudan?
- a) wadis
 - b) cataracts
 - c) falldowns
 - d) simbels
- 49) Tikal was?
- a) A historic site, featuring a stepped pyramid temple, in the northern part of Guatemala
 - b) A pre-Columbian Aztec tickling ritual, inflicted prior to cannibalism
 - c) A thin wafer of barley, eaten by the priestesses of Demeter in ancient Greece
 - d) The lost, thirteenth month of the French Revolutionary calendar recently rediscovered in a musty, Parisian archive while Dan Brown was researching his next lamentable book
- 50) Lithuania is planning on joining what economic group in 2015, a group to which the United Kingdom is notably not a member?
- a) NATO
 - b) European Coal and Steel Community
 - c) European Union
 - d) Eurozone