

The United States Geography Olympiad 2014-2015 National Qualifying Exam – A 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 city is not reachable on a direct commercial flight from London, as it is farthest away?
a) Buenos Aires, Argentina c) Los Angeles, California
b) Sydney, Australia d) Casablanca, Morocco

- 2) Which biome is least widespread in Africa?
a) Rain forest b) Desert c) Savannah d) Taiga

- 3) Which Californian cities are considered part of Silicon Valley?
a) La Jolla and San Diego c) Cupertino and Palo Alto
b) Eureka and Yreka d) Fresno and Stockton

- 4) On which continent is it impossible to climb a mountain over 20,000 feet high?
a) North America b) South America c) Asia d) Africa

- 5) If you added the latitude and longitude coordinates together for each of the following cities, for which one would you get the highest total number?
a) Fairbanks, Alaska b) Hilo, Hawaii c) Bangor, Maine d) Key West, Florida

- 6) NATO member countries are currently concerned that Vladimir Putin might attempt to commit acts of aggression against which region?
a) North Korea b) Estonia c) Northern Cyprus d) Faroe Islands

- 7) Why is Spokane dryer than Seattle?
a) Boeing frequently tests new cloud seeding techniques near the Seattle airport.
b) Seattle lies at a higher elevation, and is thus frequently in the middle of rain clouds.
c) The rain shadow effect of the Cascades and Coast Ranges limits the amount of rain in Eastern Washington.
d) Coniferous forests near Seattle release more moisture back into the air compared to the vegetation near Spokane.

- 8) In which Latin American country is baseball a more popular sport than soccer?
a) Cuba b) Brazil c) Colombia d) Argentina

- 9) Which of the following diseases are most associated with tropical climates?
a) Osteoporosis and athlete's foot c) Yellow fever and dengue
b) Hantavirus and mad cow disease d) Bubonic plague and tetanus
- 10) Which body of water was formed most recently?
a) Lake Erie b) Delaware River c) Atlantic Ocean d) Colorado River
- 11) Which countries warn incoming travelers on their arrival cards that drug traffickers get the death penalty?
a) Spain and Portugal b) USA and Canada c) Malaysia and Singapore d) Russia and Finland
- 12) The process of orogeny is concerned with?
a) The art of folding paper in Japan c) The formation of gold in riverbeds
b) The spread of deserts d) The formation of mountains
- 13) Which Asian country could never plausibly host the Winter Olympics?
a) South Korea b) Kazakhstan c) China d) Sri Lanka
- 14) On which continent are most large native mammal species marsupials?
a) Europe b) Africa c) Australia d) North America
- 15) Which of the following countries has had the least GDP growth in the past five years?
a) Mongolia b) Greece c) USA d) India
- 16) The Eastern Continental Divide separates waters that flow into the Atlantic from those flowing into the Gulf of Mexico and is partially found in which mountain range?
a) White Mountains b) Sierra Nevada c) Alleghenies d) Black Hills
- 17) Two of the most famous festivals in Spain feature which of the following two activities?
a) A huge tomato fight, and being chased by bulls through the streets of Pamplona
b) Demonstrations of antique catapults and burning an effigy of Francisco Franco
c) Faking an invasion of Portugal and the world's largest mass bungee jump in Barcelona
d) Purposefully getting head lice by wearing old leather hats, and staying awake for a week
- 18) Which region of China has the most tropical climate?
a) Tibet b) Manchuria c) Xinjiang d) Hainan
- 19) Which country was never conquered by the Axis Powers?
a) Ireland b) Belgium c) Albania d) Luxembourg

- 20) The controversial Keystone XL pipeline is meant to?
- a) Supply Southern California with water from sources in the Sierra Nevadas
 - b) Provide Ukraine with natural gas sources in Western Europe
 - c) Send shale gas deposits through the Susquehanna River Valley of Pennsylvania
 - d) Transport Canadian oil through the Midwest US to destinations near the Gulf of Mexico
- 21) Which British region lost much of its population during ethnic cleansing in the 18th century?
- a) Midlands
 - b) Kent
 - c) Oxfordshire
 - d) Scottish Highlands
- 22) Which US city posted record snowfall amounts in January and February 2015?
- a) Washington, DC
 - b) San Francisco
 - c) Pittsburgh
 - d) Boston
- 23) Which hat is named after a city in Morocco?
- a) Fedora
 - b) Fez
 - c) Bowler
 - d) Kepi
- 24) Why are the Dry Tortugas, an island group off the Florida Keys, called “Dry”?
- a) They’re the only part of Florida with a desert climate
 - b) They were the first place in the US to institute prohibition
 - c) They had limited sources of fresh water to offer early explorers
 - d) Jeb Bush was once thirsty there on a family trip and subsequent renamed them while governor
- 25) Which river’s basin was never part of the Roman Empire?
- a) Rubicon
 - b) Tiber
 - c) Seine
 - d) Dvina
- 26) Which two religions trace their origins to present-day Iran?
- a) Christianity and Buddhism
 - b) Bahai and Zoroastrianism
 - c) Christianity and Islam
 - d) Voodoo and Santeria
- 27) Which two cities were major destinations for hippy travelers on the so-called “Overland Route” in the 1960’s and 1970’s?
- a) Goa, India and Kathmandu, Nepal
 - b) Cape Town, South Africa and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
 - c) Woodstock, NY and Youngstown, OH
 - d) Hanoi, Vietnam and Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- 28) On which US interstate highway can you (or at least your parents) drive from Maine to Florida?
- a) I-5
 - b) I-10
 - c) I-80
 - d) I-95
- 29) Which of the following Slavic languages has the greatest number of native speakers?
- a) Bulgarian
 - b) Polish
 - c) Slovak
 - d) Sorbian

- 30) Which predominantly Buddhist country has recently been accused of repression against its Rohingya Muslim population?
 a) Bangladesh b) India c) Myanmar d) Maldives
- 31) The musical *South Pacific* is partially based on events that took place in which country?
 a) Grenada b) Comoros c) Solomon Islands d) Malta
- 32) The falafel and hummus are considered native cuisine of which region?
 a) Russia b) Southeast Asia c) Middle East d) South America
- 33) If you wanted to fly from Ronald Reagan National Airport to George H.W. Bush Intercontinental Airport to Bill and Hillary Clinton National Airport, which state could you avoid visiting?
 a) Indiana b) Arkansas c) Virginia d) Texas
- 34) Which country is a peninsula ruled by the al-Thani family and the home of al-Jazeera?
 a) Oman b) Bahrain c) Qatar d) United Arab Emirates
- 35) Which of the following areas is a plausible *urheimat*, or ultimate origin, of the Indo-European language family?
 a) The Basque Country c) The steppe region north of the Black and Caspian Seas
 b) Malay Peninsula d) Iceland
- 36) Zydeco music and jazz concerts at Preservation Hall are part of the music heritage of what state?
 a) New York b) Texas c) Tennessee d) Louisiana
- 37) Which of the following countries sent the most immigrants to the USA between 1880 and 1914?
 a) Norway b) France c) Italy d) Spain
- 38) What do the words “terra nullius” imply on a map?
 a) A map of the Roman Empire c) Land reclaimed from the water
 b) Land not claimed by any country d) Deserts
- 39) Which country currently has the highest birthrate?
 a) Singapore b) Italy c) Niger d) China
- 40) Which of the following is not considered a major wine growing region?
 a) Napa Valley b) Tuscany c) Southwest France d) Nunavut
- 41) Which of the following Virginia sites is located farthest from the site of the 2015 International History Olympiad in Williamsburg?
 a) Jamestown b) Yorktown c) Norfolk Naval Base d) Appomattox Court House

- 42) Which of these is an independent country?
a) Kurdistan b) Khuzestan c) Kyrgyzstan d) Boise
- 43) Canals are often built at the site of what landforms?
a) Drumlins b) Buttes c) Isthmuses d) Cols
- 44) Which country's political system is designed to maintain a delicate balance of power between Shiites, Druze, Maronite Christians, and other groups?
a) Iraq b) Saudi Arabia c) Yemen d) Lebanon
- 45) Which of the following is not a lake in the Great Rift Valley?
a) Lake Victoria b) Lake Chad c) Lake Tanganyika d) Lake Malawi
- 46) Which states are currently considered swing states in US presidential elections?
a) Utah and Idaho c) Massachusetts and Rhode Island
b) Alaska and Hawaii d) Ohio and Florida
- 47) If, as an AFS exchange student, you lived with a family in a *favela* in the state of Bahia who spoke highly of Lula da Silva's *bolsa familia* policy, you'd be studying where?
a) Romania b) Mexico c) Brazil d) Guyana
- 48) Which two regions currently feature the Union Jack on their flags?
a) Hawaii and Tuvalu c) Wales and the Republic of Ireland
b) Hong Kong and Macau d) Maine and Gibraltar
- 49) The world championships of which two pastimes are annually held in Finland?
a) Air guitar and wife carrying c) Quizbowl and Scrabble
b) Bird watching and lion hunting d) Yak calling and recitation of the digits of pi
- 50) Which is the name of the longest river in Canada?
a) Danube b) Mackenzie c) St. Lawrence d) Parana