

## The United States Geography Olympiad 2015-2016 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 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 once 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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