

## UNITED STATES GEOGRAPHY OLYMPIAD

### Middle School and Elementary Divisions - Sample National Qualifying Exam

Scoring Rules: Two points are awarded for a correct answer. One point is deducted for an incorrect answer. Zero points are added or deducted for a question left blank.

1. Cheese production is most associated with which U.S. state?
  - a. Florida
  - b. Wisconsin
  - c. Alaska
  - d. South Carolina
  
2. What is the name for the craft of mapmaking?
  - a. Maptometry
  - b. Cartography
  - c. Calligraphy
  - d. Enterology
  
3. The Space Needle is a landmark in which city?
  - a. Washington, D.C.
  - b. Seattle
  - c. Paris
  - d. Dubai
  
4. Which country's continued existence is most threatened by global warming?
  - a. Kiribati
  - b. Australia
  - c. New Zealand
  - d. Fiji
  
5. Sikhism originated in and is practiced the most in which country?
  - a. Canada
  - b. India
  - c. Indonesia
  - d. China
  
6. Robben Island, located near Cape Town, was the site of a prison that held what man?
  - a. Nelson Mandela
  - b. Robert Mugabe
  - c. Jomo Kenyatta
  - d. Haile Selassie

7. The 2014 World Cup was held in many sites across Brazil. The United States played Portugal to a draw in what city, at the confluence of the Negro and Amazon Rivers, deep in the country's interior?

- a. Brasilia
- b. Rio de Janeiro
- c. Recife
- d. Manaus

8. Mark Twain wrote primarily about life on and around what body of water in his book *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*?

- a. Mississippi River
- b. Kansas River
- c. Chesapeake Bay
- d. Puget Sound

9. The Tower of London and the Houses of Parliament are found along what river?

- a. Seine
- b. Thames
- c. Mersey
- d. Potomac

10. New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania are all what?

- a. Islands in the South Pacific
- b. Counties of England
- c. Provinces of New Zealand
- d. States of Australia

11. Which would you not find currently in Bolivia?

- a. Two different national capitals
- b. A coastline on an ocean
- c. Mountain peaks in the Andes
- d. The eastern shore of Lake Titicaca

12. What symbol appears on the flag of Canada?

- a. Maple Leaf
- b. Snowflake
- c. Cross
- d. Question mark

13. How many countries does Africa have?

- a. 14
- b. 25
- c. 54
- d. 101

14. Which of the following pairs of countries do not border?

- a. Nepal and Bhutan
- b. North Korea and China
- c. Laos and Myanmar (Burma)
- d. Iran and Pakistan

15. Which Asian country's king died in 2016, leading to political instability?

- a. Russia
- b. Thailand
- c. China
- d. Japan

16. Which of the following time zones does NOT include territory in the continental United States?

- a. Pacific
- b. Mountain
- c. Central
- d. Atlantic

17. Which state is the largest in area?

- a. Alaska
- b. Hawai'i
- c. Illinois
- d. Montana

18. If you wanted to climb the highest mountain on each continent, which of the following mountains could you skip?

- a. Mount Kenya
- b. Vinson Massif
- c. Mount McKinley
- d. Mount Everest

19. Which of the following seas is not directly connected to the Mediterranean Sea?

- a. Ionian Sea
- b. Aegean Sea
- c. Adriatic Sea
- d. Caspian Sea

20. Which Great Lake is furthest east?

- a. Michigan
- b. Huron
- c. Erie
- d. Ontario

21. Which of the following countries does not include part of the Alps?

- a. Austria
- b. France
- c. Luxembourg
- d. Liechtenstein

22. In 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall in the United States, inundating the Lower Ninth Ward and other sections of what American city?

- a. Miami
- b. Tampa
- c. New Orleans
- d. Atlanta

23. Which state has its highest point at Britton Hill, which, at just 345 feet above sea level, is the lowest high point of any state in the country?

- a. Texas
- b. Hawai'i
- c. Rhode Island
- d. Florida

24. What was the major force behind the creation of the Grand Canyon?

- a. Wind erosion
- b. Chemical weathering
- c. Water erosion
- d. Human impacts

25. What is the currency of Spain?

- a. The Spanish dollar
- b. The peso
- c. The pound
- d. The euro

26. Which island is home to territory of only one country?

- a. Hispaniola
- b. Borneo
- c. Honshu
- d. New Guinea

27. Which of the following rivers is not in Africa?

- a. Nile
- b. Niger
- c. Jordan
- d. Volta

28. Which of the following state capitals is also the largest city by population in its state?

- a. Lansing
- b. Springfield
- c. Austin
- d. Phoenix

29. Which of the following cities is not considered part of California's Bay Area?

- a. San Diego
- b. San Jose
- c. San Francisco
- d. Oakland

30. The Yellow Sea is on the western shore of which peninsula?

- a. Italian Peninsula
- b. Korean Peninsula
- c. Florida Peninsula
- d. Kamchatka Peninsula

31. Which of the following islands is not Canadian?

- a. Kodiak Island
- b. Vancouver Island
- c. Baffin Island
- d. Prince Edward Island

32. The Mojave, Atacama, Nubian, and Negev are all what?

- a. Rivers
- b. Deserts
- c. Mountains
- d. Toyota brands

33. What is the name for the imaginary lines that run east to west across the Earth parallel to the Equator?

- a. Longitude lines
- b. Isobars
- c. Transposons
- d. Latitude lines

34. Which country has had a woman as head of state?

- a. Saudi Arabia
- b. Afghanistan
- c. North Korea
- d. India

35. The Petronas Towers, once the tallest buildings in the world, are in Kuala Lumpur, the largest city in which country?

- a. Singapore
- b. India
- c. Malaysia
- d. Indonesia

36. If, as an AFS exchange student, you planned on living for six months with a family in Patagonia, you'd be looking forward to spending time on which continent?

- a. North America
- b. South America
- c. Europe
- d. Africa

37. Which natural disaster, by definition, does not directly impact Arctic regions?

- a. Blizzards
- b. Earthquakes
- c. Hurricanes
- d. Droughts

38. Which European country's official language is classified as a Germanic language?

- a. Denmark
- b. Portugal
- c. Macedonia
- d. Hungary

39. Which activity can you do in Andorra?

- a. Scuba dive in Lake Geneva
- b. See the home of the European Parliament
- c. Ski in the Pyrenees
- d. Visit Ban Ki-Moon's birthplace

40. Which ocean borders both Africa and South America?

- a. Indian
- b. Pacific
- c. Arctic
- d. Atlantic

41. Which city's cultural life benefited from being a place of exile in Siberia?

- a. Moscow
- b. St. Petersburg
- c. Irkutsk
- d. Kiev

42. Which archipelago is a popular vacation spot between the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean?

- a. Florida Keys
- b. Bermuda
- c. Lesser Antilles
- d. Turks and Caicos

43. Which city on the Mediterranean Sea is home to most embassies in Israel?

- a. Jerusalem
- b. Haifa
- c. Eilat
- d. Tel Aviv

44. Which location saw fighting during the Battle of the Bulge in 1944?

- a. Kalahari Desert
- b. Yosemite National Park
- c. Isthmus of Panama
- d. Ardennes Forest

45. The Wright Brothers were from Dayton, Ohio, but flew the first airplane in Kitty Hawk, on the Outer Banks of what state?

- a. Indiana
- b. Georgia
- c. North Carolina
- d. Texas

46. Which African country was colonized by France?

- a. Kenya
- b. Algeria
- c. Ethiopia
- d. Liberia

47. Which biome lies in between the savannah and the Sahara Desert?

- a. Tundra
- b. Taiga
- c. Sahel
- d. Temperate Rain Forest

48. Which mountain's famous glaciers may disappear by 2050 due to climate change?

- a. Denali
- b. Mt. Everest
- c. K2
- d. Mt. Kilimanjaro

49. Which river forms part of the border between the USA and Mexico?

- a. Rio Grande
- b. Mississippi
- c. Rio de la Plata
- d. Juarez

50. Which country has not seen a major civil war during the past 200 years?

- a. Syria
- b. Spain
- c. USA
- d. Switzerland