

**The United States Geography Olympiad & The International Geography Bee**  
**2016-2017 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) *Sacher Torte*, *Kaiserschmarrn*, and *Gulaschsuppe* are associated with the culinary heritage of which city?  
a) Istanbul    b) Zurich    c) Vienna    d) Santiago
  
- 2) Which statement about the current state of American political geography is accurate?  
a) Democrats on the whole get higher shares of the vote in rural than urban areas.  
b) Rust Belt states have become more conservative over the last 20 years while Colorado and Virginia have become more liberal.  
c) No Republican candidate for president has won an electoral vote in any of the New England states since 2000.  
d) The percentage of the vote won by Democratic Party candidates for president in Texas has declined in every presidential election since 2004.
  
- 3) Which of the following countries is currently reckoning with the dilemma of a declining population and a historical reluctance to be open to immigration?  
a) India    b) USA    c) Japan    d) Australia
  
- 4) If you wanted to have fun in the capital of Tuvalu, where would you go?  
a) Funafuti    b) Funchal    c) Fundy    d) Funkytown
  
- 5) Which country has never been ruled by a communist government?  
a) China    b) Poland    c) Andorra    d) Laos
  
- 6) The highest peaks of which mountain range were once over twice their current height?  
a) Andes    b) Alps    c) Himalayas    d) Adirondacks
  
- 7) The region that the Romans knew as Cisalpine Gaul corresponds to which Italian region today?  
a) Sicily    b) Lazio    c) Sardinia    d) Lombardy

- 8) In *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, Jared Diamond argues that which of the following historical developments helped Europeans conquer or colonize much of the world?
- a) Europeans had developed immunity to syphilis and cholera since Roman times
  - b) Tomatoes and potatoes native to the Iberian Peninsula helped Columbus and Vasco de Gama survive long sea voyages
  - c) The prevalence of steppe terrain for thousands of miles at the same latitude helped the diffusion of technology across Eurasia
  - d) A lack of natural barriers on the European continent helped preserve political unity within Europe during the Middle Ages
- 9) Which former Dutch colony in South America was once effectively swapped for New York between the Dutch and the British?
- a) Belize
  - b) Brazil
  - c) Guyana
  - d) Suriname
- 10) The spooky Skeleton Coast lies on the Atlantic coastline of which African country?
- a) Chad
  - b) Niger
  - c) Namibia
  - d) Kenya
- 11) Which region of Canada lies in a time zone an hour and a half ahead of Montreal?
- a) Newfoundland
  - b) Ontario
  - c) British Columbia
  - d) New Brunswick
- 12) Christianity is growing most rapidly in terms of overall number of adherents in which region in 2017?
- a) Middle East
  - b) Europe
  - c) Sub-Saharan Africa
  - d) Australia
- 13) Which phenomenon most accounts for why flights in the continental USA from West to East are shorter than equidistant flights from East to West?
- a) The Coriolis effect generated by tornadoes on the Great Plains
  - b) Jet stream winds blow predominantly from west to east across the USA
  - c) The Rocky Mountains and the Appalachians generate updrafts
  - d) Pilots LOVE living on the East Coast and can't wait to return
- 14) If you asked the musical question "How do you get to Carnegie Hall?" and some wiseacres said "Take the A Train to Midtown" you would have been given directions to a landmark where?
- a) Edinburgh
  - b) Pittsburgh
  - c) New York City
  - d) Mogadishu
- 15) This question was written in an airplane above the Ogallala example of which underground geographic feature?
- a) Drumlin
  - b) Karst
  - c) Aquifer
  - d) Escarpment

- 16) Lost in the Arctic? Where would you go to get your Bering Strait?  
a) Between Russia and Alaska      b) Between Canada and Greenland  
c) Between Norway and Iceland      d) Between Hudson Bay and Baffin Bay
- 17) Which region of the Atlantic Ocean extends from near Bermuda to some 1000 km east and is famous for its seaweed?  
a) Mid-Atlantic Ridge      b) Roaring Forties  
c) Sargasso Sea      d) Gulf of Guinea
- 18) Which country never joined the EU?  
a) France      b) United Kingdom  
c) Russia      d) Italy
- 19) What most accounts for the drier climate in Spokane compared to Seattle?  
a) Difference in latitude      b) The greenhouse effect  
c) Cloud seeding in Seattle      d) Rain shadow effect of the Cascades
- 20) Which treaty had the greatest impact on the political geography of South America?  
a) Treaty of Versailles      b) Treaty of Utrecht  
c) Treaty of Tordesillas      d) Treaty of Ghent
- 21) Which continent's coastline largely lacks major peninsulas?  
a) Europe      b) Asia      c) North America      d) Africa
- 22) Which city was renamed upon being captured in 1975?  
a) Saigon      b) Leningrad      c) Bombay      d) Constantinople
- 23) Peat deposits are most commonly found where?  
a) Subarctic regions of Canada and Russia  
b) Antarctica  
c) The ocean floor  
d) Deserts in Asia
- 24) If its students hadn't run into visa problems, which country would have been the first to have a non-rectangular flag on display at the International History Olympiad?  
a) Egypt      b) San Marino      c) Nepal      d) Guinea-Bissau
- 25) The USA has recently reopened its embassy in which city after a decades-long absence?  
a) Kingston      b) Nassau      c) Havana      d) Port of Spain

- 26) Which city hosted the 1979 World Disco Dancing Championships and the 2012 Summer Olympics?  
a) Beijing      b) London      c) Athens      d) Rio de Janeiro
- 27) If Johnny Cash had wanted to travel to a Ring of Fire, he could have visited regions prone to volcanoes and earthquakes that surround much of which ocean?  
a) Atlantic      b) Pacific      c) Indian      d) Arctic
- 28) Which US state's population was considered least religious according to a 2014 poll?  
a) Utah      b) Alabama      c) Iowa      d) Vermont
- 29) The world's most southerly national capital...  
a) is in Africa      b) is on an island  
c) is in Patagonia      d) is Canberra
- 30) If as an AFS exchange student your host family called its hometown Bozen in German, but the map at your school called your town Bolzano in Italian, then you'd be studying in the largely bilingual region of...  
a) Piedmont      b) Bavaria      c) South Tyrol      d) Quebec
- 31) The land area of which Mexican state was never part of the Mayan civilization?  
a) Oaxaca      b) Yucatán      c) Sonora      d) Quintana Roo
- 32) Which American river somewhat unusually flows predominantly to the north?  
a) Delaware      b) Ohio      c) Hudson      d) Red River of the North
- 33) Which phenomenon is primarily due to post-glacial isostatic rebound?  
a) The sinking of Venice into the Adriatic Sea  
b) The coastline of the Gulf of Bothnia gradually receding over the past millennia  
c) The cooling of the Gulf Stream  
d) Iceberg calving off the Ross Ice Shelf near Antarctica
- 34) Which Latin American country does not consider soccer as its most popular spectator team sport?  
a) Argentina      b) Brazil      c) Mexico      d) Dominican Republic
- 35) What do isobars on a map indicate?  
a) Locations of identical air pressure      b) Average annual snowfall totals  
c) Alcoholism rates for a region      d) Distortion from the Mercator projection

- 36) The only one of the Seven Ancient Wonders of the World still standing is...  
a) Found south of the Tropic of Cancer      b) In North Africa  
c) The one constructed most recently      d) Constructed entirely of marble
- 37) Which island in the Caribbean is not usually considered part of Latin America?  
a) Hispaniola    b) Cuba      c) Jamaica      d) Puerto Rico
- 38) Most of the population of Canada...  
a) Lives within ten degrees of latitude of each other  
b) Lives in Ontario  
c) Lives in rural areas  
d) Secretly wishes the USA had annexed Canada back in the 19<sup>th</sup> century
- 39) Which flight typically comes the closest to the North Pole?  
a) Fairbanks to Seattle      b) Reykjavik to London  
c) Vancouver to Hong Kong      d) Dubai to Los Angeles
- 40) The Serengeti National Park, home to some of its continent's most iconic wildlife, is in...  
a) Africa      b) Europe      c) Australia      d) South America
- 41) Who grew up speaking a language that includes clicks as part of its sound inventory?  
a) Vladimir Putin      b) Nelson Mandela  
c) Angela Merkel      d) Mike Pence
- 42) If your dream in life was to be prosperous on the Bosphorus, where would you go to live in luxury?  
a) Istanbul      b) Athens      c) Ankara      d) Antakya
- 43) Michigan Avenue is the main high-end shopping thoroughfare in which city?  
a) Chicago      b) Phoenix      c) Detroit      d) Beverly Hills
- 44) Democracy activist Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has been criticized for not sufficiently speaking out against ill-treatment of the Rohingya people in which country?  
a) Vietnam      b) Myanmar      c) Malaysia      d) North Korea
- 45) Which NHL team plays in a prairie province of Canada?  
a) Winnipeg Jets      b) Vancouver Canucks  
c) Ottawa Senators      d) Toronto Maple Leafs

- 46) You'd be most likely to find an oxbow lake where?
- a) Next to a swiftly flowing mountain stream
  - b) Wherever cattle ranching is an important industry
  - c) Near estuaries or coastal flood plains
  - d) In a broad valley created by a river with a meandering course
- 47) If you win a place on Team USA at the 2017 International Geography Olympiad in Belgrade, what might you do there in your spare time?
- a) Go for a boat ride on the Danube
  - b) Visit the Louvre
  - c) Enjoy the view from Table Mountain
  - d) Beg your coaches to go to a local *buzkashi* match
- 48) Angola is both...
- a) A country in Africa and a prison in Louisiana
  - b) A mountain in Florida and a glacier in Haiti
  - c) A permanent member of the UN Security Council and NATO
  - d) The world leader in burlap sack production and salmon farming
- 49) The Trans-Alaskan and the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan are two famous examples of what?
- a) High speed railways
  - b) Continental divides
  - c) Oil pipelines
  - d) Migration corridors for wildlife
- 50) What geographic feature exists in less than 20 places worldwide in 2017?
- a) Mountains over 20,000 feet
  - b) Persistent lava lakes
  - c) Places where 3 countries' borders meet
  - d) River deltas