



National Historical *Geography Exam*

Historical Geography Examination IAC Canadian Nationals 2025

Instructions – Mark your answers on the scantron provided. Correct answers are worth 2 points. Incorrect answers are worth –1 point. Questions left blank are worth 0 points. Write the answer to your tiebreaker question in the box at the top of your scantron.

1. Portuguese explorers first introduced the Japanese to what belief system in 1549?

- A. Tengriism
- B. Buddhism
- C. Christianity
- D. Islam

2. Which of the following nations was NOT formed after the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire after the Great War?

- A. Sweden
- B. Yugoslavia
- C. Hungary
- D. Czechoslovakia

3. What common language lent its name to the group of trading centers that included Malindi and Zanzibar?

- A. Yoruba
- B. Hindi
- C. Zulu
- D. Swahili

4. Which of the following states was NOT formed from the territory known as the Louisiana Purchase?

- A. Arkansas
- B. Ohio
- C. Nebraska
- D. South Dakota

5. What Hispaniola nation had to fight for independence from both Spain and Haiti?

- A. Barbados
- B. Grenada
- C. Dominican Republic
- D. Bermuda

6. An estimated 10-15 million people were displaced in the 1947 partition of what nation?

- A. India
- B. Russia
- C. China
- D. Korea

7. Peruvian civilizations used terrace farming to adapt to which of the following?

- A. Pampas
- B. Guiana Highlands
- C. Amazon River
- D. Andes Mountains

8. What Egyptian city also served as the capital of the Fatimid and Mamluk Sultanates?

- A. Thebes
- B. Cairo
- C. Memphis
- D. Thinis

9. Which of the following is the oldest continuously functioning capital city of Europe?

- A. Athens
- B. Lisbon
- C. Stockholm
- D. Bucharest

10. Due to its geographic location, Korea was both a battlefield and desired asset in what early 20th century conflict?

- A. Ottoman-Mamluk War
- B. Iraqi-Kurdish conflict
- C. Russo-Japanese War
- D. Arab-Israeli War

11. Romance languages in Spain, Italy, and Portugal all evolved from what Roman Empire language?

- A. Dutch
- B. Russian
- C. German
- D. Latin

12. Tibet's historical struggle for autonomy is largely influenced by what physical feature that separates it from the rest of China?

- A. Thar Desert
- B. Tibetan Plateau
- C. Caucasus Mountains
- D. Deccan Plateau

13. French colonizers established settlements at Quebec and Montreal due to their proximity to which of the following?

- A. Beaufort Sea
- B. Yukon River
- C. St. Lawrence River
- D. Lake Athabasca

14. What Protestant faith spread through Germany after Martin Luther published the 95 Theses?

- A. Lutheranism
- B. Calvinism
- C. Methodism
- D. Anglicanism

15. What most populated province of Canada has historically welcomed the large influxes of immigrants?

- A. Newfoundland
- B. Nova Scotia
- C. Prince Edward Island
- D. Ontario

16. What California port city manages the highest volume of trade in the Western Hemisphere?

- A. Bakersfield
- B. Los Angeles
- C. San Jose
- D. San Francisco

17. What waterway that supported the growth of trade-based sultanates was the target of Portuguese explorers in the 16th century?

- A. Strait of Malacca
- B. Bay of Bengal
- C. Red Sea
- D. Cook Strait

18. Cambodia-based empires like the Khmer relied on what natural resource in developing irrigation and water management systems?

- A. Imjin River
- B. Lena River
- C. Mekong River
- D. Yangtze River

19. European access to energy was significantly disrupted by what 2022 conflict?

- A. Slovakia's separation from Czechia
- B. Kosovo's independence from Serbia
- C. Britain's exit from the European Union
- D. Russian invasion of Ukraine

20. What Iranian dynasty first established Shia Islam as the official religion in 1501?

- A. Safavids
- B. Delhi
- C. Manchus
- D. Timurid

21. Afrikaans is a syncretic dialect of Dutch that formed when the Dutch colonized what region of Africa?

- A. Northeast Africa
- B. South Africa
- C. West Africa
- D. Central Africa

22. What Byzantine capital on the Bosphorus Strait served as a bridge between European and Asian empires?

- A. Persepolis
- B. Kyiv
- C. Venice
- D. Constantinople

23. Dambulla Cave Temple and the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic exhibit what faith's diffusion to Sri Lanka?

- A. Shintoism
- B. Confucianism
- C. Buddhism
- D. Daoism

24. Which of the following best describes the reason both Napoleon and Hitler failed to invade Russia?

- A. Russia has vast geography and harsh winters.
- B. Russia has dense rainforests that were impenetrable by forces.
- C. Russia had a lack of natural resources to nourish and sustain forces.
- D. Russia has a series of mountains and valleys that slowed down the forces.

25. Which of the following serves as the geographical center of the Catholic Church?

- A. Lyon
- B. Vatican City
- C. Budapest
- D. Zagreb

26. The results of the Hundred Years' War helped to define the modern borders of what two nations?

- A. Denmark and Germany
- B. Switzerland and Belgium
- C. Finland and Norway
- D. England and France

27. Which of the following was the first region settled in East Asia due to its abundance of fertile land and access to the Yellow River?

- A. Russia
- B. Iraq
- C. China
- D. Afghanistan

28. The border between Colombia and Peru largely follows a tributary of what river?

- A. Parana
- B. Amazon
- C. Sao Francisco
- D. Orinoco

29. The Maya make up almost half of the population of what Central American nation?
- Belize
 - Guatemala
 - Panama
 - Jamaica
30. The volcanic soil of the Maluku Islands have made the area successful in cultivating and trading which of these throughout history?
- cows
 - spices
 - books
 - silver
31. Bangladesh is extremely vulnerable to extreme weather and natural disaster due to its location at the convergence of what rivers?
- Mississippi and Yazoo
 - Tigris and Euphrates
 - Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna
 - Shei Bay and Dong
32. What Australian state with the longest coastline also has the strongest economy in Australia due mineral and energy exports?
- Western Australia
 - Tasmania
 - Victoria
 - South Australia
33. South America's Rio de la Plata is so named due to European colonizers' discovery of what resource?
- iron
 - gold
 - copper
 - silver
34. A quarter of the Philippine population speaks what language native to the archipelago?
- Malay
 - Pijin
 - Fijian
 - Tagalog
35. What city generates approximately \$12 billion annually from tourism due to the hajj and umrah?
- Alexandria
 - Bethlehem
 - Mecca
 - Antioch
36. What 19th century infrastructure project integrated the sparsely populated but resource rich Siberia into the Russian Empire?
- Trans-Siberian Railway
 - Royal Road
 - Asian Highway Network
 - Saudi Railway Company
37. Before the Great Wall was built, which of the following mostly protected China from northern invasions?
- Indus River
 - Gobi Desert
 - Tigris River
 - Himalayas
38. What capital of the Shaanxi Province served as a major cultural and commercial center for ancient Silk Road trade?
- Samarkand
 - Bukhara
 - Tamralipta
 - Xi'an
39. Which of the following regions was never fully controlled by the Roman Empire?
- England
 - the Balkans
 - Persia
 - the Netherlands
40. During the Renaissance, Italian city-states rose the prominence of centers of trade on what body of water?
- Mediterranean Sea
 - North Sea
 - Norwegian Sea
 - Baltic Sea
41. Islam was introduced to Indonesia by the movement of which of the following in Indian Ocean trade?
- English colonizers
 - Arab merchants
 - Chinese soldiers
 - Spanish miners
42. What nation began consolidating influence and control over Eastern European neighbors after World War II?
- Greece
 - Turkey
 - France
 - Soviet Union
43. Ancient empires in Ghana and Mali benefitted from access to what naturally occurring resources?
- fish and buffalo
 - rice and grains
 - gold and salt
 - coffee and beans
44. While some writing systems did develop, much of East Africa's imperial history has been preserved by what oral historians?
- griots
 - angels
 - scribes
 - priests

45. The Harappa and Mohenjo-daro peoples were drawn to South Asia and supported by what natural resource?

- A. Volga River
- B. Limpopo River
- C. Coatzacoalcas River
- D. Indus River

46. What polity formed in the 10th century did not actually aim to unite all Catholics despite its chosen name?

- A. Sassanid Empire
- B. Holy Roman Empire
- C. Carthaginian Empire
- D. Frankish Empire

47. Typhoon winds and storms served as protection for Japan against two 13th century invasions from which of the following?

- A. Berbers
- B. Mughals
- C. Mongols
- D. Moors

48. What people were able to settle Hawaii, New Zealand, and Easter Island using double-hulled canoes and star navigation?

- A. Polynesians
- B. Celebes
- C. Balinese
- D. Dayak

49. Saudi Arabia's major geopolitical influence on the world is due to its status as the second largest holder of which of the following?

- A. developmental real estate
- B. tropical fruits like pineapple and mango
- C. gold and silver
- D. proven oil reserves

50. Which of the following was the first modern state to be founded in the name of Islam in 1947?

- A. Malaysia
- B. Pakistan
- C. Iraq
- D. Turkey

51. What Iraqi capital has been a center of commerce and trade since its rise during the Islamic Golden Age?

- A. Baghdad
- B. Islamabad
- C. Riyadh
- D. Tehran

52. What Southeast Asian state maintained its independence due to its status as a buffer between English and French colonies?

- A. Thailand
- B. Nepal
- C. Yemen
- D. China

53. Which of the following nations was NOT colonized by France?

- A. Guadeloupe
- B. Dominica
- C. Saint Lucia
- D. Bahamas

54. Queensland's tropical coastal regions make it ideal for producing what major Australian agricultural export?

- A. carrots
- B. sugarcane
- C. wheat
- D. potatoes

55. What divided German capital became the destination of constant American airlifts after supply lines were blocked by Soviet soldiers?

- A. Paris
- B. Warsaw
- C. Berlin
- D. Amsterdam

56. What physical feature was named a barrier to colonial expansion by the British empire in 1763?

- A. Cascade Range
- B. Sierra Nevada
- C. Rocky Mountains
- D. Appalachian Mountains

57. What belief system that draws from both Islam and Hinduism formed in the Punjab region?

- A. Protestantism
- B. Buddhism
- C. Sikhism
- D. Catholicism

58. Which of the following best describes how the Black Plague affected Europe?

- A. It caused a significant population decrease which accelerated the fall of feudalism.
- B. It helped Italy and France unify their empires through economic success.
- C. It necessitated the establishment of the Austro-Hungarian empire.
- D. It caused European nations to begin colonizing other nations around the world.

59. What 19th century American conflict pitted the industrial North against the agricultural South over the use of slavery?

- A. War of 1812
- B. Metacom's War
- C. Mexican War
- D. Civil War

60. What early Chinese neighbor and trading partner adopted kanji characters to develop their own writing system?

- A. Iran
- B. Philippines
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Japan

Tiebreaker

This question will only be scored if there is a tie for placement on the exam. **This is a required question, but there is no penalty for a wrong answer to this question.**

Write your answer legibly in the space provided on your scantron.

According to the First National Population Census of the People's Republic of China, what was the population of Shanghai in 1953?