



Military History 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. The use of hoplites in battle was characteristic of which of these cultures?
 - A. Babylonian
 - B. Roman
 - C. Greek city-states
 - D. Han Chinese
2. Which of these best describes the military innovations of the Sumerians?
 - A. Gunpowder and muskets
 - B. Horse-drawn war chariots and bronze-tipped spears
 - C. Composite bows and naval fleets
 - D. Iron swords and democratic leadership
3. The Battle of Cannae during the Second Punic War has been studied in modern times for which of these reasons?
 - A. It demonstrated Hannibal's double envelopment strategy
 - B. It was Rome's greatest victory
 - C. It ended the war
 - D. It was a major sea battle
4. The Achaemenid Persian Empire was defeated by the Greeks in which major 490 BCE battle?
 - A. Gaugamela
 - B. Thermopylae
 - C. Zama
 - D. Marathon
5. Qin military success in unifying China was due in part to which of these?
 - A. Use of exclusively bronze weapons
 - B. Emphasis on guerrilla tactics
 - C. Bureaucratic and military reforms along with new weapons and tactics
 - D. Reliance on foreign mercenaries
6. The Roman manipular legion differed from the phalanx in which of these important ways?
 - A. Did not use armor or helmets
 - B. Was more flexible and divided into smaller units
 - C. Abandoned shields
 - D. Relied entirely on cavalry
7. The Battle of Gaugamela in 331 BCE resulted in which of the following?
 - A. The collapse of the Roman Republic
 - B. The end of Egyptian independence
 - C. The fall of the Persian Achaemenid Empire
 - D. The death of Julius Caesar
8. Which of the following is true of the armies of the Mauryan Empire under Chandragupta and Ashoka?
 - A. They relied mostly on tribal alliances
 - B. They avoided all use of fortifications
 - C. They used no cavalry
 - D. They fielded one of the largest armies of the ancient world
9. The primary military strength of the Scythians was their use of which of these specialized units?
 - A. Mounted archery
 - B. Siege engines
 - C. Heavy infantry
 - D. Triremes
10. The Battle of Kadesh is notable for which of these reasons?
 - A. It marked the end of the Bronze Age
 - B. It was the first recorded battle in human history
 - C. It ended with one of the earliest known peace treaties
 - D. It introduced gunpowder
11. The Battle of the Teutoburg Forest was significant for which of these reasons?
 - A. It marked the beginning of the Pax Romana
 - B. It stopped Roman expansion into Germania
 - C. It was the first Roman naval battle
 - D. It resulted in the assassination of Augustus

12. The Sassanid Empire was a major rival of which other empire in the 3rd–7th centuries CE?

- A. Byzantine Empire
- B. Gupta Empire
- C. Han Dynasty
- D. Axumite Empire

13. The fall of the Western Roman Empire in 476 CE was primarily caused by which of these?

- A. Plague and famine
- B. Defeat by the Byzantine navy
- C. Invasions by Germanic tribes and internal instability
- D. Collapse of the papacy

14. Which battle in 451 CE halted the advance of Attila the Hun into Gaul?**

- A. Battle of the Catalaunian Plains
- B. Battle of Adrianople
- C. Battle of Ravenna
- D. Battle of Carthage

15. The military campaigns of the early Tang dynasty were especially focused on which of these?

- A. Europe
- B. Central Asia and the Silk Road
- C. Southeast Asia
- D. Sub-Saharan Africa

16. The Battle of Yarmouk in 636 CE was decisive in doing which of these?

- A. Ending the Byzantine Empire
- B. Initiating the Crusades
- C. Unifying the Arabian Peninsula
- D. Securing Muslim control over Syria

17. Which of these were key military advantages of the early Arab armies during the Islamic conquests?

- A. Mobility, light cavalry, and religious motivation
- B. Naval power and war elephants
- C. Use of firearms and heavy cavalry
- D. Reliance on Roman auxiliaries

18. Which of these military innovations helped the Byzantine navy maintain dominance in the eastern Mediterranean in the period before 750 CE?

- A. Steam-powered vessels
- B. Composite steel hulls
- C. Greek Fire
- D. Magnetic compasses

19. The Roman military system in the early empire was characterized by which of these?

- A. Volunteer militias only
- B. A small, cavalry-dominant army
- C. Professional legions with standardized training and equipment
- D. Full reliance on mercenaries

20. Which early Islamic leader united Arab tribes under a single religious and military leadership by 632 CE?

- A. Ali ibn Abi Talib
- B. Abu Bakr
- C. Umar ibn al-Khattab
- D. Muhammad

21. The Roman empire reached its largest territorial extent under what emperor?

- A. Augustus
- B. Nero
- C. Trajan
- D. Constantine

22. Which of these was most responsible for the success of Viking conquests during the Medieval period?

- A. Longships with shallow drafts for coastal and riverine travel
- B. Long-range crossbows
- C. War elephants
- D. Heavy cavalry

23. What was the outcome of the Battle of Hastings in 1066?

- A. The defeat of the Mongols in China
- B. The Norman conquest of England
- C. The beginning of the Hundred Years' War
- D. The founding of the Holy Roman Empire

24. The Crusader victory in the First Crusade resulted in which of these?

- A. The capture of Constantinople
- B. The founding of the Kingdom of Jerusalem
- C. The reconquest of Spain
- D. The conversion of the Mongols

25. The Battle of Ain Jalut in 1260 was significant for which of these reasons?

- A. It ended the Crusades
- B. It marked the fall of Baghdad
- C. It united the Islamic world under the Ottomans
- D. It was a major defeat of the Mongols and halted their advance into Arabia

26. Which of these was a major military invention of medieval China?

- A. gunpowder
- B. sails
- C. longbows
- D. saddles

27. The Japanese samurai code of conduct that influenced military behavior was known by which of these terms?

- A. Bushido
- B. Shinto
- C. Seppuku
- D. Ronin

28. The military elite of the Ottoman Empire from the 14th century to the early 19th century was known as which of these?

- A. Spahis
- B. Mamluks
- C. Janissaries
- D. Ghazis

29. The Reconquista in Iberia culminated in 1492 with which of these?

- A. The capture of Granada from the Moors
- B. The Treaty of Tordesillas
- C. The Spanish Civil War
- D. The fall of Constantinople

30. What innovation contributed to English success in early battles of the Hundred Years' War?

- A. War elephants
- B. Crossbow
- C. Longbow
- D. Early rifles

31. The 1380 Battle of Kulikovo is viewed as a turning point in which of these?

- A. Mongol dominance in the Middle East
- B. The unification of China
- C. The Crusader States' resurgence
- D. The decline of Mongol control over Russia

32. The term "gunpowder empires" refers to the military strength of which three Islamic states from the 16th to 18th centuries?

- A. Safavid, Ottoman, Mughal
- B. Abbasid, Seljuk, Mamluk
- C. Umayyad, Almohad, Fatimid
- D. Ottoman, Byzantine, Qing

33. The introduction of rifled muskets and bayonets during the 18th century had which of these effects on warfare of the period?

- A. Making cavalry dominant
- B. Increasing range and accuracy of infantry
- C. Ending the use of artillery
- D. Promoting mass naval battles

34. The 'bull horn' formation for the Zulu military was likely originated by what famous Zulu leader?

- A. Dingane
- B. Mpande
- C. Shaka
- D. Cetshwayo

35. Which of these was a turning point battle of the American Revolution that encouraged French military aid?

- A. Yorktown
- B. Saratoga
- C. Bunker Hill
- D. Cowpens

36. The Battle of Sekigahara was important for which of these?

- A. Establishing Tokugawa rule in Japan
- B. The defeat of European powers in Asia
- C. Ming conquest of Korea
- D. The rise of the samurai class

37. The Spanish conquest of the Aztec Empire was led by which of these men?

- A. Francisco Pizarro
- B. Ferdinand Magellan
- C. Vasco da Gama
- D. Hernán Cortés

38. Which of these describes the impact of the 'Military Revolution' on early modern Europe?

- A. The decline of firearms
- B. An increase in peasant militias
- C. Centralization of state power and larger, professional armies
- D. Disbanding of standing armies

39. The 1815 Battle of Waterloo resulted in which of these?

- A. Napoleon's escape to Egypt
- B. The end of the Napoleonic Wars and Napoleon's exile
- C. The division of Germany
- D. Russian annexation of France

40. Which revolution involved a successful slave uprising against a European colonial power?

- A. French Revolution
- B. American Revolution
- C. Haitian Revolution
- D. Mexican War of Independence

41. The Crimean War was primarily fought between which of these?

- A. Britain and France
- B. Russia and the Ottomans, British, and French
- C. Austria and Prussia
- D. Russia and China

42. The American Civil War was militarily significant for the early use of which of these?

- A. Gunpowder
- B. Railroads for troop movement
- C. Tanks
- D. Aerial bombing

43. The Meiji Restoration in Japan in the late 19th century brought military reforms modeled after which of these?

- A. Chinese dynastic systems
- B. Mongol traditions
- C. British and German armies
- D. Roman military structure

44. The First Sino-Japanese War in the 1890s resulted in which of these?

- A. Japanese victory and control over Taiwan
- B. The collapse of British influence in Asia
- C. Qing victory and control over Korea
- D. Russian annexation of Korea

45. Which of these events is widely considered the immediate catalyst for World War I?

- A. The German invasion of Belgium
- B. The German naval blockade of the UK
- C. The fall of the Ottoman Empire
- D. The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary

46. The Zimmerman Telegram contributed to which of these countries entering WWI?

- A. France
- B. the United States
- C. Italy
- D. Japan

47. Which new weapon had a significant psychological and physical impact during World War I?

- A. Poison gas
- B. Crossbows
- C. Gunpowder
- D. Steam-powered tanks

48. The Gallipoli Campaign during World War I was a failed attempt by the Allies to do which of these?

- A. Invade Russia
- B. Bring the US into the war
- C. Control the Dardanelles and open a supply route to Russia
- D. Conquer Egypt

49. Which of these empires did NOT collapse as a direct consequence of World War I?

- A. Russian Empire
- B. Austro-Hungarian Empire
- C. Ottoman Empire
- D. British Empire

50. Blitzkrieg tactics were first tested in which conflict just before World War II?

- A. Spanish Civil War
- B. World War I
- C. Russo-Japanese War
- D. Second Sino-Japanese War

51. What event on September 1, 1939, marked the beginning of World War II?

- A. the German invasion of the Soviet Union
- B. the Italian invasion of Ethiopia
- C. the German invasion of Poland
- D. the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor

52. The largest amphibious invasion in history occurred at which of these locations during World War II?

- A. Guadalcanal
- B. Normandy
- C. Okinawa
- D. Sicily

53. Which of the following technologies did NOT play a significant role in WWII?

- A. Aircraft carriers
- B. Radar
- C. Tanks
- D. ICBMs

54. Which of these World War II engagements is considered the largest tank battle in history?

- A. Battle of El Alamein
- B. Battle of Kursk
- C. Battle of the Bulge
- D. Battle of Kharkov

55. The Nazi German military's last major offensive on the Western Front was which of these?

- A. Battle of the Bulge
- B. Operation Barbarossa
- C. Invasion of Greece
- D. Battle of Monte Cassino

56. The Soviet Union detonated its first atomic bomb in which of these years?

- A. 1940
- B. 1945
- C. 1949
- D. 1970

57. The Korean War began in 1950 when which of these occurred?

- A. China invaded South Korea
- B. North Korea invaded South Korea
- C. The U.S. bombed North Korea
- D. Japan invaded the Korean Peninsula

58. The military alliance formed by the Soviet Union and its allies in response to NATO was which of these?

- A. Warsaw Pact
- B. Eastern Coalition
- C. Red Army Alliance
- D. COMECON

59. The Bay of Pigs invasion was an attempt by the U.S. to do which of these?

- A. Overthrow the Castro government
- B. Assassinate Che Guevara
- C. Rescue American hostages in Cuba
- D. Reclaim Guantánamo Bay

60. The French defeat at Dien Bien Phu in 1954 led directly to which of these outcomes?

- A. French withdrawal from Algeria
- B. U.S. invasion of Cambodia
- C. Division of Vietnam into North and South
- D. Vietnamese independence under Ho Chi Minh

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.

How long did the Thirty Years' War officially last? Express your answer in years, months, and days.