



Ancient History Examination IAC Canadian Nationals 2026

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. Which of the following was built on an island in Lake Texcoco around 1325 CE?
 - A. Cahokia
 - B. Tenochtitlan
 - C. Tikal
 - D. Cusco
2. What Qing emperor ruled for 61 years making him the longest-reigning emperor in Chinese history?
 - A. Qin Shi Huang
 - B. Han Wudi
 - C. Wu Zetian
 - D. Kangxi
3. What Greek city-state was ruled by two kings, a council of elders, and five ephors?
 - A. Sparta
 - B. Golasecca
 - C. Nabatea
 - D. Etruscans
4. Phoenicia's most enduring legacy is the development of which of the following?
 - A. a calendar
 - B. aqueducts
 - C. an alphabet
 - D. masonry
5. Which of the following is the oldest Vedic text believed to have been compiled as early as 2000 BCE?
 - A. Pyramidic Texts
 - B. Rigveda
 - C. Aleppo Codex
 - D. Gathas
6. Ancient Roman began as a small settlement in 753 BCE centered on what river?
 - A. Ebro River
 - B. River Tiber
 - C. Po River
 - D. River Loire
7. What 'father of geometry' wrote Elements after studying at Plato's Academy in Athens?
 - A. Eliade
 - B. Demetrios
 - C. Herodotus
 - D. Euclid
8. The early Shang dynasty settled on the banks of what river in the Huang He Valley?
 - A. Yellow River
 - B. Han River
 - C. Tone River
 - D. Godavari River
9. What third ruler of the Mauryan dynasty is credited with encouraging the spread of Buddhism across Asia?
 - A. Si Inthrahit
 - B. Jayavarman II
 - C. Ashoka the Great
 - D. Anawrahta
10. What region between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers is widely regarded as the cradle of civilization?
 - A. Canaan
 - B. Arabia
 - C. Anatolia
 - D. Mesopotamia
11. What 42 BCE clash was the final battle in a civil war between the Second Tirumvirate and the assassins of Julius Caesar?
 - A. Battle of Philippi
 - B. Battle of Trebia
 - C. Battle of Khaybar
 - D. Battle of Pharsalus

12. Magadha's Mahajanapada was founded in 600 BCE in what capital city south of the Ganges?

- A. Bukhara
- B. Chang'an
- C. Rajagriha
- D. Angkor Thom

13. East African trading cities like Kilwa, Mombasa, and Zanzibar shared what common language?

- A. Kituba
- B. Xhosa
- C. Swahili
- D. Dogon

14. What successor of the Sui dynasty oversaw a golden age of Chinese culture and a coexistence of Buddhism and Taoism?

- A. Haryanka dynasty
- B. Tang dynasty
- C. Silla dynasty
- D. Shang dynasty

15. Scipio Africanus the Younger oversaw the final defeat and destruction of what Roman enemy in the Third Punic War?

- A. Vandals
- B. Sassanids
- C. Boudicca
- D. Carthage

16. Which of the following traditions was spread through West Africa by the 14th century hajj of Mansa Musa?

- A. Islam
- B. Zoroastrianism
- C. Hinduism
- D. Legalism

17. The Umayyads were overthrown in 750 CE by what third Islamic caliphate that established their capital at Baghdad?

- A. Tulunids
- B. Abbasids
- C. Rustamids
- D. Idrisids

18. What island was added to the sovereignty of the Chola Empire when Raja Raja Chola conquered the Anuradhapura Kingdom in 993 CE?

- A. Honshu
- B. Luzon
- C. Java
- D. Sri Lanka

19. Which of the following united nomadic tribes into the Mongol Empire in 1206?

- A. Guyuk Khan
- B. Batu Khan
- C. Mongke Khan
- D. Genghis Khan

20. What 'first citizen of Athens' is credited with transitioning the Delian League into an Athenian Empire?

- A. Lysander
- B. Cimon
- C. Pericles
- D. Cyzicus

21. What adopted son of Caesar was a member of the Second Triumvirate before founding the Roman empire in 27 BCE?

- A. Octavian
- B. Brutus
- C. Lepidus
- D. Marc Antony

22. The land-based trade network that connected East Asia to Europe starting in the second century BCE was named for what commodity?

- A. coffee
- B. silk
- C. bananas
- D. cotton

23. Which of the following legalized Christianity in the Roman Empire in 312 CE at the order of Constantine the Great?

- A. Edictum Perpetuum
- B. Cyrene Edict
- C. Edict of Milan
- D. Edict of Serdica

24. What Egyptian city became the seat of Hellenistic culture under Ptolemaic rule?

- A. Alexandria
- B. Carrhae
- C. Susa
- D. Antioch

25. Angkor Wat was built and dedicated to Vishnu by king Suryavarman II of what empire?

- A. Majapahit Empire
- B. Champa Kingdom
- C. Bagan Kingdom
- D. Khmer Empire

26. Which of the following united city-states around 2340 BCE to create the Akkadian Empire?

- A. Enmebaragesi
- B. Sargon the Great
- C. Narmer
- D. Alulim

27. Goguryeo, Paekche, and Silla shared what peninsula during the period of the Three Kingdoms?

- A. Korea
- B. Nepal
- C. Mongolia
- D. Cambodia

28. The plebeian Gracchi brothers were killed for their plan as Roman tribunes to redistribute what resource monopolized by patricians?

- A. gold
- B. wine
- C. land
- D. marble

29. What oldest and most important temple of Ancient Rome was built on Capitoline Hill in 509 BCE?

- A. Temple of Concordia
- B. Maison Carree
- C. The Parthenon
- D. Temple of Jupiter Optimus Maximus

30. What cave complex was constructed across three periods by Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain believers starting as early as 550 CE?

- A. Longmen Grottoes
- B. Ellora Caves
- C. Mountain of Echoing Halls
- D. Thousand Buddha Caves

31. The Jomon period of Japan is so named for the “cord-marked” impressions applied to which of the following?

- A. jewelry
- B. shoes
- C. pottery
- D. mirrors

32. What Indian reformer born in the 6th century BCE is considered by Jains to be the 24th and final Tirthankara?

- A. Mahavira
- B. Dalai Lama
- C. Buddhapalita
- D. Zahathushtra

33. The Amphictyonic League waged the First Sacred War to punish Kirrha for harassing pilgrims visiting the oracle at what site?

- A. Olympia
- B. Delos
- C. Epidauros
- D. Delphi

34. Virgil’s Aeneid tells the story of Aeneas who fled to Rome after the fall of what city?

- A. Samnium
- B. Troy
- C. Assisi
- D. Alba Longa

35. Wujing zongyao includes the earliest recipes of what Chinese invention used for early incendiary and smoke bombs?

- A. paper
- B. gunpowder
- C. bronze
- D. porcelain

36. The Mahabharata and Ramayana were canonised during what classical empire’s reign over the Indian subcontinent?

- A. Sukothai kingdom
- B. Le dynasty
- C. Gupta dynasty
- D. Mataram kingdom

37. The Old Kingdom of Egypt is most known for building which of the following?

- A. pyramids
- B. canals
- C. bridges
- D. roads

38. Which of the following held two dictatorships of Rome after his second march on Rome in 83 BCE defeated the Cinna-Marius faction?

- A. Cicero
- B. Crassus
- C. Drusus
- D. Sulla

39. The Kaaba was last rebuilt in 683 CE after the Umayyads waged what battle?

- A. Siege of Constantinople
- B. Battle of al-Harra
- C. Siege of Mecca
- D. Battle of the Camel

40. What invading force was defeated by a smaller Athenian-led force in the Battle of Marathon in 490 BCE?

- A. Achaemenid Empire
- B. Magadha Empire
- C. Parthian Empire
- D. Hasmonean Kingdom

41. By 2700 BCE, Mesoamerican civilizations were relying heavily on the cultivation of which of the following?

- A. kale
- B. cabbage
- C. yams
- D. maize

42. What Jerusalem church first consecrated in 335 CE is considered by many scholars to be the sight of the burial of Jesus?

- A. St. Paul’s Basilica
- B. Church of the Holy Sepulchre
- C. Vank Cathedral
- D. Cathedral of the Nativity

43. What Numidian king earned his crown after having Hiempsal killed and defeating Adherbal in a civil war?

- A. Endubis
- B. Bocchus
- C. Jugurtha
- D. Hannibal

44. Gojoseon was founded by Dangun in 2333 BCE on what peninsula?
- A. Korea
 - B. Vietnam
 - C. Malaysia
 - D. India
45. The Qin dynasty connected existing fortifications to create what protective barrier in northern China?
- A. Great Wall
 - B. Grand Canal
 - C. Zhaozhou Bridge
 - D. Hanging Temple
46. Kanem Empire was founded around 700 CE on the banks of what West African freshwater lake?
- A. Somali Sea
 - B. Lake Skadar
 - C. Dead Sea
 - D. Lake Chad
47. Japanese myth traces the lineage of its emperors to what Shinto Sun Goddess?
- A. Umay
 - B. Amaterasu
 - C. Vishnu
 - D. Deva
48. What Greek reformer was celebrated for seisachtheia reforms that offered debt relief to Athenians in the 6th century BCE?
- A. Bardiya
 - B. Draco
 - C. Solon
 - D. Lycurgus
49. What Greek king tried to invade the Indian subcontinent but was forced to retreat when his army mutinied at the Beas River in 326 BCE?
- A. Chandragupta
 - B. Hasdrubal
 - C. Agamemnon
 - D. Alexander the Great
50. What historian and friend of Augustus told the story of Ancient Rome in *Ab Urbe Condita*?
- A. Diophantus
 - B. Livy
 - C. Galen
 - D. Thucydides
51. The Horyu-ji temple commissioned by Prince Shotoku in 607 is the oldest still-standing structure made of what material?
- A. wood
 - B. steel
 - C. glass
 - D. brick
52. Al-Andalus was the Muslim ruled section of what area from 711 to 1492?
- A. Turkey
 - B. Nigeria
 - C. Spain
 - D. Cyprus
53. What civilization known for colossal heads was also thought to be the first in America to develop a writing system?
- A. Maya
 - B. Olmec
 - C. Haudenosaune
 - D. Chichimeca
54. The Harappan civilization settled around what river in 3300 BCE?
- A. Mekong River
 - B. Hari River
 - C. Naryn River
 - D. Indus River
55. Srivijaya became a powerful maritime kingdom by building a fleet that could control what strategic waterway?
- A. Taiwan Strait
 - B. Strait of Hormuz
 - C. Strait of Malacca
 - D. Sunda Strait
56. The Almohads of the Maghreb recognized Ibn Tumart as what messianic figure of Islam?
- A. the Mahdi
 - B. Isa
 - C. the Nabi
 - D. Musa
57. European Christian armies were sent to support the Byzantines in trying to reconquer the Holy Land from what Muslim state in the First Crusade?
- A. Sasanian Empire
 - B. Lakhmid Kingdom
 - C. Emirate of Sicily
 - D. Seljuk Empire
58. Which of these kingdoms was not in the ancient Levant?
- A. Judah
 - B. Panchala
 - C. Edom
 - D. Moab
59. Cypselus overthrew the Bacchiad family in 657 BCE to take control of what Peloponnese city?
- A. Tyre
 - B. Corinth
 - C. Byzantium
 - D. Massalia

60. Which of the following was written by Murasaki Shikibu during the Japanese Heian period?

- A. Epic of Gilgamesh
- B. Tale of Genji
- C. Book of the Dead
- D. Diamond Sutra

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 Herodotus, how many Athenians died at the Battle of Marathon?