



National Historical *Geography Exam*

Historical Geography 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. The 1955 Afro–Asian Conference, which laid the groundwork for the Non-Aligned Movement, was held in which of these Indonesian cities?

- A. Tokyo
- B. Bandung
- C. Rangoon
- D. Saigon

2. Lascaux in France is a major site for which of these dating back to the Paleolithic era?

- A. rock-cut tombs
- B. Roman temples
- C. cave paintings
- D. stone monoliths

3. Which of these cities was a capital of the Mughal Empire under Shah Jahan and is now famous its Taj Mahal?

- A. Agra
- B. Bangalore
- C. Mumbai
- D. Jaipur

4. Which ancient city, famous for rock-cut architecture, was a major center of the Nabataean Kingdom?

- A. Athens
- B. Petra
- C. Rome
- D. Thebes

5. The Union of Lublin in 1569 created a commonwealth between which two polities that lasted into the 18th century?

- A. Austria and Hungary
- B. Poland and Lithuania
- C. Spain and the Netherlands
- D. Greece and Turkey

6. The Akihabara neighborhood of Tokyo, including its namesake 'Electric Town' has been a center of the otaku subculture which includes which of these pairs of interests?

- A. ramen and sushi
- B. drag racing and 'drifting'
- C. manga and video games
- D. literature and art

7. Which West African city became a major center of Islamic learning, trade, and scholarship during the Mali Empire and later the Songhai Empire?

- A. Timbuktu
- B. Kumasi
- C. Mombasa
- D. Luanda

8. In which Tennessee city was Martin Luther King Jr. assassinated at the Lorraine Motel in 1968?

- A. New Orleans
- B. Topeka
- C. Austin
- D. Memphis

9. The Sukhothai Kingdom ruled much of what modern-day Southeast Asian nation from the 13th to 15th centuries?

- A. Thailand
- B. New Zealand
- C. China
- D. Vietnam

10. Which famous statue overlooks Rio de Janeiro from the top of Corcovado Mountain?

- A. Christ the Redeemer
- B. The Motherland Calls
- C. Statue of Liberty
- D. El Ángel de la Independencia

11. The homo erectus fossils found in a cave in China in the early 20th century are known by what name, the former name of China's capital?

- A. Dmanisi man
- B. Solo man
- C. Peking man
- D. Java man

12. Which of these is the generic term for a circular Neolithic earthwork, including a famous one in England?

- A. henge
- B. oppidum
- C. long barrow
- D. cross dike

13. Which ancient city of the Indus Valley Civilization, located in present-day Pakistan, contains remains of planned streets, drainage system, and a large public bath?

- A. Chatalhoyuk
- B. Mohenjo-daro
- C. Pataliputra
- D. Kanchipuram

14. The historical region of Mesopotamia corresponds most closely with the territory of what modern-day nation?

- A. Egypt
- B. France
- C. Iraq
- D. Norway

15. Which British city is most closely associated with the early Industrial Revolution because of its textile production and factory system?

- A. Oxford
- B. Manchester
- C. Canterbury
- D. Plymouth

16. Which of these kingdoms ruled the Korean peninsula from the 10th to 14th century CE?

- A. Silla
- B. Baekje
- C. Dongye
- D. Goryeo

17. Which South African city became internationally associated with the anti-apartheid struggle due to events such as the 1976 uprising in its township of Soweto?

- A. Durban
- B. Pretoria
- C. Johannesburg
- D. Cape Town

18. Which New York location is most closely associated with the women's rights convention of 1848 that produced the Declaration of Sentiments?

- A. Seneca Falls
- B. Albany
- C. Saratoga Springs
- D. West Point

19. The Tydings–McDuffie Act of 1934 was passed by the US Congress to grant independence to which of these territories acquired in the Spanish-American war?

- A. Texas
- B. the Philippines
- C. Cuba
- D. California

20. Which ancient Maya city in Guatemala is known for its large temples and location in the tropical rainforest?

- A. Tikal
- B. Cusco
- C. Cartagena
- D. Quito

21. The Mausoleum of Qin Shi Huang, the first emperor of the Qin dynasty, is located in what modern Chinese city?

- A. Shanghai
- B. Beijing
- C. Hong Kong
- D. Xi'an

22. Which city was the capital of the Byzantine Empire until its capture by the Ottomans in 1453?

- A. Constantinople
- B. Venice
- C. Vienna
- D. Naples

23. What type of religious building marks the location where the Buddha supposedly gave his first sermon in Sarnath, India?

- A. cathedral
- B. stupa
- C. mosque
- D. gurdwara

24. Which city served as an important center of learning during the Abbasid Caliphate and became famous for the House of Wisdom?

- A. Istanbul
- B. Baghdad
- C. Moscow
- D. Kiev

25. Which city in Bosnia became the site of the 1914 assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, an event that helped trigger World War I?

- A. Belgrade
- B. Zagreb
- C. Sarajevo
- D. Dubrovnik

26. In September of 1950, UN forces made an amphibious invasion at which of these Korean cities, which began an effort to retake South Korea?

- A. Incheon
- B. Busan
- C. Pyongyang
- D. Daegu

27. Which ancient kingdom, centered in what is now northern Ethiopia and Eritrea, became an important center of trade linking Africa, the Red Sea, and the Mediterranean world?
- A. Kush
 - B. Benin
 - C. Mali
 - D. Aksum
28. Which state was the first to secede from the Union in 1860, helping trigger the American Civil War?
- A. New York
 - B. Massachusetts
 - C. South Carolina
 - D. Pennsylvania
29. Which of these Vietnamese cities was renamed for Ho Chi Minh in 1976?
- A. Hue
 - B. Saigon
 - C. Nha Trang
 - D. Long Binh
30. Okiato, also known as Old Russell, was sold to a British merchant in 1832 and became the first capital of which of these in 1840?
- A. New Zealand
 - B. Fiji
 - C. Hawai'i
 - D. Nauru
31. Which of these areas was annexed by the People's Republic of China in the early 1950s with the ratification of the Seventeen Point Agreement?
- A. Macau
 - B. Hong Kong
 - C. Tibet
 - D. Mongolia
32. The signing of the Magna Carta in 1215 took place in which locations England?
- A. Stratford-upon-Avon
 - B. Oxford
 - C. Runnymede
 - D. Richborough Castle
33. Which city in Sri Lanka became an important colonial port under the Portuguese, Dutch, and British and later developed into the country's largest urban center?
- A. Kandy
 - B. Galle
 - C. Anuradhapura
 - D. Colombo
34. Which city in present-day Israel contains sites sacred to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam like the Dome of the Rock and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre?
- A. Jerusalem
 - B. Amman
 - C. Antioch
 - D. Mosul
35. Which Russian city became the center of the Bolshevik seizure of power in November 1917, when revolutionary forces overthrew the Provisional Government?
- A. Minsk
 - B. Kiev
 - C. Petrograd
 - D. Odessa
36. A 'secret camp' on Mount Paektu is listed as the birthplace of what former East Asian leader who died in 2011?
- A. Kim Jong Il
 - B. Pol Pot
 - C. Emperor Hirohito
 - D. King Rama IX
37. Which North African country became the site of a long war of independence against France that ended in 1962?
- A. Morocco
 - B. Tunisia
 - C. Sudan
 - D. Algeria
38. Which location is most closely associated with the 1898 explosion of the USS Maine, an event that helped push the United States toward war with Spain?
- A. San Juan, Puerto Rico
 - B. Manila Bay, Philippines
 - C. Tampico, Mexico
 - D. Havana, Cuba
39. From 1945 to 1949, Indonesia fought a war of independence against which of these nations?
- A. Japan
 - B. the Netherlands
 - C. Spain
 - D. the US
40. The Dutch East India Company ship Duyfken made the first documented European landing in what modern-day nation in 1606?
- A. Canada
 - B. the US
 - C. Australia
 - D. China

41. Buddhism was introduced to Japan in the 6th century CE from which of the following?

- A. India
- B. Korea
- C. Indonesia
- D. Vietnam

42. Which German city became most closely associated with Martin Luther after he published his Ninety-five Theses in 1517?

- A. Wittenberg
- B. Cologne
- C. Augsburg
- D. Frankfurt

43. Which of these empires ruled much of northern India from the 3rd to 6th centuries CE?

- A. Chola
- B. Pandya
- C. Gupta
- D. Vijayanagara

44. Which city became the capital of the Republic of Turkey in 1923, marking a shift away from the Ottoman imperial center at Istanbul?

- A. Ankara
- B. Izmir
- C. Bursa
- D. Konya

45. Which of these was founded at the Lenin Shipyards in Gdansk in 1980?

- A. the FSB
- B. the Presidium
- C. the Warsaw Pact
- D. Solidarity

46. Which of these is the term for the system of prison labor camps in the Soviet Union that imprisoned millions during the reign of Stalin?

- A. gulags
- B. curragh
- C. new villages
- D. dretelj

47. Which of these groups was massacred in the 1990s in Rwanda by Hutu extremists?

- A. Twa
- B. Tuareg
- C. Tiv
- D. Tutsi

48. Which of these is an indigenous people of the Pacific Northwest of North America known for their totem poles and Chilkat weaving?

- A. Anasazi
- B. Tlingit
- C. Nez Perce
- D. Inupiat

49. Temasek was the name of an early settlement recorded in Malay and Javanese literature on the site of what modern-day nation?

- A. Laos
- B. Brunei
- C. Singapore
- D. Australia

50. The 1713 Treaty of Utrecht gave the British control of what eastern area of Canada?

- A. Newfoundland
- B. Quebec
- C. Saint Pierre and Miquelon
- D. Nova Scotia

51. Following the Genpei War, samurai Minamoto no Yoritomo established a military government at which of these locations?

- A. Kamakura
- B. Kyoto
- C. Osaka
- D. Tokyo

52. Which city became the political center of the western Roman Empire after repeated pressures on Rome encouraged emperors to govern from a more defensible location?

- A. Ravenna
- B. Carthage
- C. Syracuse
- D. Alexandria

53. The Sikh Empire was based in which of these regions, now divided between India and Pakistan, in the 18th and 19th centuries?

- A. Bengal
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Bactria
- D. Punjab

54. Which of these was the site of a 1978 peace summit that led to a peace agreement between Egypt and Israel?

- A. Casablanca
- B. Oslo
- C. Camp David
- D. Dayton

55. Which of these was not considered one of the five European 'great powers' in the aftermath of the Congress of Vienna?

- A. Prussia
- B. Portugal
- C. Austria
- D. Russia

56. Which city in northern India became one of the most sacred centers of Hindu pilgrimage because of its location on the Ganges River and its association with ritual bathing and cremation?

- A. Varanasi
- B. Jaipur
- C. Chandigarh
- D. Srinagar

57. Which of these best describes the reason Nigeria moved its capital from Lagos to Abuja in the 1990s?

- A. Abuja is the most populous city in Nigeria
- B. Abuja was the center of British Nigeria in colonial times
- C. Abuja is both centrally located in the country and deemed 'neutral' to Nigeria's major ethnic groups
- D. Abuja is the center of Nigeria's oil industry

58. Castillo de San Marcos, the oldest masonry fort in the US, is located in what city?

- A. Williamsburg, VA
- B. Boston, MA
- C. New Orleans, LA
- D. St. Augustine, FL

59. Which city became a major symbol of division and conflict during the Lebanese Civil War because it was split by the so-called Green Line?

- A. Beirut
- B. Amman
- C. Damascus
- D. Kuwait City

60. In the 1990s, the Zapatista movement rose to prominence in what southernmost Mexican state?

- A. Quintana Roo
- B. Chiapas
- C. Yucatan
- D. Sonora

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 official records, what was the population of greater London in 1901?