



European Geography Examination IAC European Championships 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. What mountain range runs like a spine down the length of the Italian Peninsula from north to south?
 - A. Pyrenees
 - B. Apennines
 - C. Dinaric Alps
 - D. Caucasus
2. Which of these cities, located at the foot of Vitosha mountain and one of the oldest settlements in Europe, is the capital of Bulgaria?
 - A. Sofia
 - B. Burgas
 - C. Varna
 - D. Plovdiv
3. Which of these is NOT one of Switzerland's four official languages?
 - A. Romansh
 - B. English
 - C. Italian
 - D. French
4. What language spoken in northern Spain and southwestern France has no known relatives in any other language family in the world?
 - A. Occitan
 - B. Galician
 - C. Basque
 - D. Catalan
5. What 1957 treaty established the European Economic Community and is considered the founding moment of the European Union?
 - A. Treaty of Rome
 - B. Treaty of Westphalia
 - C. Treaty of Lisbon
 - D. Maastricht Treaty
6. The dark color of Mount Lovćen is the inspiration for the name of what European nation?
 - A. Slovenia
 - B. Croatia
 - C. Bosnia
 - D. Montenegro
7. What strait connects the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea between the southern tip of Spain and northern Morocco?
 - A. Strait of Messina
 - B. Strait of Gibraltar
 - C. English Channel
 - D. Strait of Kerch
8. What river forms much of the border between Poland and Germany before flowing north to the Baltic Sea?
 - A. Thames River
 - B. Seine River
 - C. Volga River
 - D. Oder River
9. What river flows through the city of Rome and was economically and culturally significant to the ancient Roman Empire?
 - A. Po River
 - B. Volturno River
 - C. Tiber River
 - D. Arno River
10. What tiny city, the capital of Malta, is one of the smallest and least populous capital cities in the EU?
 - A. Valletta
 - B. Mdina
 - C. Floriana
 - D. Rabat

11. What major European river rises in the Swiss Alps and flows south through France before emptying into the Mediterranean Sea near Marseille?

- A. Dnieper River
- B. Murray River
- C. Rhône River
- D. Vistula River

12. What is the highest peak in the Alps, located on the border between France and Italy?

- A. Gross Fiescherhorn
- B. Gross Grünhorn
- C. Mont Blanc
- D. Jungfrau

13. What capital of Slovakia is located on the Danube River just 55 kilometers from Vienna?

- A. Bratislava
- B. Žilina
- C. Košice
- D. Prešov

14. Helsinki, Finland is located within 300 miles of what other two European capitals?

- A. Budapest and Warsaw
- B. Tallinn and Stockholm
- C. Vilnius and Riga
- D. Tbilisi and Yerevan

15. What European country has the world's second longest coastline, much of it carved into dramatic fjords?

- A. Iceland
- B. Norway
- C. Denmark
- D. Sweden

16. What large sea bordered by eight nations including Poland, Sweden, and Estonia is the largest brackish water basin in the world?

- A. Red Sea
- B. Mediterranean Sea
- C. Baltic Sea
- D. Adriatic Sea

17. The city of Dubrovnik and resort island of Hvar are tourist attractions in what European nation?

- A. Croatia
- B. Serbia
- C. Albania
- D. Romania

18. What branch of Christianity, led by the Pope in Vatican City, is the most widely practiced religion across Southern and Central Europe?

- A. Anglicanism
- B. Eastern Orthodoxy
- C. Roman Catholicism
- D. Lutheranism

19. What ancient language of the Roman Empire gave rise to modern French, Spanish, Italian, and Romanian?

- A. Latin
- B. Greek
- C. Germanic
- D. Arabic

20. What narrow strait divides the European and Asian halves of Istanbul?

- A. Strait of Messina
- B. Strait of Otranto
- C. Strait of Kerch
- D. Bosphorus

21. What island nation sits on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and has more active volcanoes and geysers than almost any other country on Earth?

- A. Faroe Islands
- B. Greenland
- C. Iceland
- D. Ireland

22. What large inland sea bordered by Russia, Ukraine, and Turkey receives water from the Danube and Dnieper rivers?

- A. Caspian Sea
- B. Black Sea
- C. Aegean Sea
- D. Aral Sea

23. What wall built in 1961 became the most famous symbol of the Cold War before falling in 1989?

- A. Great Wall
- B. Berlin Wall
- C. Wall of Constantinople
- D. Hadrian's Wall

24. What city, capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina, is historically famous as the site of the 1914 assassination that triggered World War I?

- A. Sarajevo
- B. Skopje
- C. Podgorica
- D. Tirana

25. Which of these is the longest river in Ireland?

- A. River Avon
- B. Great Ouse
- C. River Clyde
- D. River Shannon

26. What boot-shaped peninsula extends southward from the Alps into the Mediterranean Sea?

- A. Italian Peninsula
- B. Iberian Peninsula
- C. Jutland Peninsula
- D. Balkan Peninsula

27. In 1240, Batu Khan completed the conquest of what Ukrainian city and capital of a namesake East Slavic state?

- A. Kyiv
- B. St. Petersburg
- C. Moscow
- D. Odessa

28. What writing system, borrowed from the Phoenicians and important in both ancient and modern Europe, also forms the basis of the Cyrillic alphabet used in Russia?

- A. Arabic script
- B. Latin alphabet
- C. Runic alphabet
- D. Greek alphabet

29. Which of the following European countries does NOT share a land border with Germany?

- A. France
- B. Denmark
- C. Bulgaria
- D. Poland

30. What peninsula contains Norway, Sweden, and most of Finland?

- A. Iberian Peninsula
- B. Scandinavian Peninsula
- C. Peloponnese
- D. Balkan Peninsula

31. Which of these does NOT border Lithuania?

- A. Latvia
- B. Belarus
- C. Slovakia
- D. the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad

32. What arm of the Mediterranean Sea lies between the northwestern coast of Italy and the island of Corsica?

- A. Aegean Sea
- B. Ionian Sea
- C. Adriatic Sea
- D. Ligurian Sea

33. What Scandinavian country has been ranked the happiest country in the world seven years in a row as of 2024?

- A. Sweden
- B. Norway
- C. Denmark
- D. Iceland

34. What small country sandwiched between France, Germany, and Belgium is the world's only remaining Grand Duchy?

- A. Vatican City
- B. Monaco
- C. Luxembourg
- D. Albania

35. What Polish city was the site of a famous uprising in the spring of 1943 by residents of its Jewish ghetto?

- A. Warsaw
- B. Lodz
- C. Krakow
- D. Gdansk

36. What 1815 conference, held in a European capital after the Napoleonic Wars, redrew the map of Europe and established a new balance of power among nations?

- A. Treaty of Versailles
- B. Potsdam Conference
- C. Congress of Vienna
- D. Yalta Conference

37. What form of Christianity practiced in Russia, Greece, Serbia, and Romania is known for its elaborate icons and domed churches?

- A. Presbyterianism
- B. Quakerism
- C. Methodism
- D. Orthodox Christianity

38. What large island belonging to Italy is the second largest in the Mediterranean Sea and is known for its ancient towers called nuraghi?

- A. Sardinia
- B. Cyprus
- C. Santorini
- D. Crete

39. Which of these is the official currency of the UK?

- A. Krone
- B. Pound sterling
- C. Franc
- D. Dollar

40. What historic cities merged to become the modern capital of Hungary?

- A. Buda and Pest
- B. Kecs and Kemet
- C. Britam and Slava
- D. Buchar and Sesti

41. What vast northern forest of cone-bearing trees stretches across Scandinavia and Russia and is sometimes called the boreal forest?

- A. Temperate rainforest
- B. Taiga
- C. Savanna
- D. Tundra

42. What Dutch city is the headquarters of the International Criminal Court?

- A. The Hague
- B. Bruges
- C. Bratislava
- D. Antwerp

43. Which of these European nations does NOT experience the midnight sun in the summer?

- A. Finland
- B. Norway
- C. Iceland
- D. Germany

44. What Dutch city is the site of the Anne Frank House and the Dutch national museum, the Rijksmuseum?

- A. Rotterdam
- B. Amsterdam
- C. Utrecht
- D. Ostend

45. What country consists of the regions of Flanders and Wallonia?

- A. Andorra
- B. Luxembourg
- C. Austria
- D. Belgium

46. What body of water, rich in oil and natural gas, lies between the United Kingdom, Norway, Denmark, Germany, and the Netherlands?

- A. Ionian Sea
- B. Black Sea
- C. North Sea
- D. Irish Sea

47. What tiny nation high in the Pyrenees between France and Spain uses Catalan as its official language?

- A. Monaco
- B. San Marino
- C. Andorra
- D. Liechtenstein

48. What large Mediterranean island belonging to France is the birthplace of Napoleon Bonaparte?

- A. Sardinia
- B. Corsica
- C. Sicily
- D. Malta

49. What river flows through the heart of Paris and empties into the English Channel near the city of Le Havre?

- A. Garonne River
- B. Rhine River
- C. Loire River
- D. Seine River

50. Which of the following is NOT considered a Scandinavian country?

- A. Denmark
- B. Estonia
- C. Sweden
- D. Norway

51. The Azores, located in the Atlantic Ocean west of the Iberian Peninsula, are a territory of what nation?

- A. Portugal
- B. the UK
- C. Germany
- D. Denmark

52. What mild climate type commonly found in Spain, Italy, and Greece features hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters?

- A. Mediterranean
- B. Tropical
- C. Continental
- D. Subarctic

53. What is Europe's largest country by land area?

- A. Belarus
- B. Germany
- C. Ukraine
- D. Russia

54. Palermo is the capital and largest city of what major European island?

- A. Fetlar
- B. Sicily
- C. Bressay
- D. South Havra

55. Longyearbyen is the largest settlement of what Norwegian archipelago that sits roughly midway between Norway and the North Pole?

- A. Greenland
- B. Shetland Islands
- C. Faroe Islands
- D. Svalbard

56. What Greek city is home to the Parthenon and the Acropolis?

- A. Corinth
- B. Sparta
- C. Thessaloniki
- D. Athens

57. What nation, which declared independence in 2008 and is recognized by over 100 countries, is the newest European nation?

- A. North Macedonia
- B. Bosnia
- C. Kosovo
- D. Montenegro

58. What tiny microstate on the French Riviera is famous for its Formula 1 Grand Prix race?

- A. San Marino
- B. Monaco
- C. Liechtenstein
- D. Andorra

59. The government of San Marino, which consists of a legislature and two heads of state, is most similar in structure to what famously neutral European nation?

- A. Belarus
- B. Slovenia
- C. Switzerland
- D. Slovakia

60. What Italian city served as the capital of both the Western Roman Empire and the Ostrogothic Kingdom in the 5th and 6th century CE?

- A. Genoa
- B. Verona
- C. Pisa
- D. Ravenna

61. What Mediterranean island has been divided between a Greek south and a Turkish north since 1974?

- A. Cyprus
- B. Malta
- C. Rhodes
- D. Crete

62. Which of these is a landlocked European nation?

- A. Croatia
- B. Romania
- C. Hungary
- D. Bulgaria

63. What European agreement allows citizens to travel freely across most European nations without showing a passport?

- A. Lisbon Treaty
- B. Schengen Agreement
- C. Copenhagen Accords
- D. Maastricht Treaty

64. What London borough's Royal Observatory serves as the defining point of the Prime Meridian?

- A. Greenwich
- B. Oxford
- C. Westminster
- D. Cambridge

65. Which of these is both the second largest city in Russia is both a strategic port and a major cultural center?

- A. Vilnius
- B. Moscow
- C. Saint Petersburg
- D. Magnitogorsk

66. The Prado and Reina Sofia Museum are among the cultural landmarks of what capital of Spain?

- A. Seville
- B. Madrid
- C. Valencia
- D. Barcelona

67. Which of these served as the capital of West Germany while that nation existed during the Cold War?

- A. Hamburg
- B. Bonn
- C. Munich
- D. Frankfurt

68. What mountain range contains Europe's highest peak, Mount Elbrus?

- A. Caucasus Mountains
- B. Carpathian Mountains
- C. Ural Mountains
- D. Alps

69. The treaty that ended the War of 1812 between the US and Great Britain was signed in what Belgian city?

- A. Bruges
- B. Liège
- C. Brussels
- D. Ghent

70. Gurnsey and Jersey are both a part of what archipelago off the coast of Normandy in France?

- A. Channel Islands
- B. Faroe Islands
- C. Shetland Islands
- D. British Isles

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.

What was the population of Malta according to the 2021 census?