



European History 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. Which of these forces invaded England in 865 CE?
 - A. the Byzantines
 - B. the Golden Horde
 - C. the Great Heathen Army
 - D. the Normans
2. Which leader rose to power in France after the French Revolution and declared himself emperor in 1804?
 - A. Louis Philippe
 - B. Napoleon Bonaparte
 - C. Charles X
 - D. Maximilien Robespierre
3. The Great Schism of 1054 was a break between which of these pairs of religious institutions?
 - A. the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church
 - B. the Roman Catholic Church and the Protestants
 - C. the Sunni and Shi'a branches of Islam
 - D. the Roman Catholic Church and Judaism
4. Which event in 1914 directly triggered the start of World War I?
 - A. The sinking of the Lusitania
 - B. The Russian Revolution
 - C. The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand
 - D. The signing of the Treaty of Versailles
5. The Wars of the Roses were fought between which two royal houses?
 - A. Churchill and Hanover
 - B. Lancaster and York
 - C. Bourbon and Plantagenet
 - D. Stuart and Tudor
6. Operation Husky was the codename for what July 1943 Allied action during World War II?
 - A. the Normandy invasion
 - B. the liberation of Egypt
 - C. a major bombing campaign on Berlin
 - D. the invasion of Sicily
7. Which of these best describes the Mycenaean civilization?
 - A. It was dominated by a warrior aristocracy and expanded through conquest
 - B. It was governed by merchant councils and avoided military expansion
 - C. It was centered in Gaul and spread mainly through Atlantic trade
 - D. It was based in Iberia and ruled chiefly through naval colonies
8. Which Russian leader is most closely associated with the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917?
 - A. Alexander Kerensky
 - B. Vladimir Lenin
 - C. Andrei Gromyko
 - D. Mikhail Gorbachev
9. Which of these cities became the capital of West Germany during the Cold War?
 - A. Munich
 - B. Berlin
 - C. Bonn
 - D. Frankfurt
10. Which administrative development followed the death of Theodosius I in 395 CE?
 - A. The Roman Empire was divided between western and eastern imperial courts
 - B. The Roman Republic was restored under the authority of the Senate
 - C. The capital of the empire was transferred permanently to Carthage
 - D. The army was reorganized into independent Greek city-state militias

11. The Alhambra Decree ordered which of the following in 1492?

- A. the expulsion of Jews from Spain
- B. a voyage of exploration to the New World
- C. war with England due to the Reformation
- D. union with France

12. Which reform is most closely associated with Tsar Alexander II of Russia?

- A. The abolition of serfdom
- B. The establishment of a socialist republic
- C. The creation of a national parliament with full sovereignty
- D. The transfer of power to peasant communes alone

13. Prior to invading England in 1066, William the Conqueror was the ruler of which of these?

- A. Sicily
- B. Brittany
- C. Aquitaine
- D. Normandy

14. Which European event in 1968 became a symbol of resistance to Soviet control in eastern Europe?

- A. The Paris Peace Conference
- B. The Prague Spring
- C. The Munich Putsch
- D. The Yalta Conference

15. Pope Clement V's refusal to move to Rome in 1309 began the so-called 'Babylonian captivity' in what city?

- A. Paris
- B. Avignon
- C. Lyon
- D. Toledo

16. Which of these men led Yugoslavia from 1943 until his death in 1980?

- A. Nicolae Ceaușescu
- B. Alexander Dubček
- C. Josip Broz Tito
- D. Gustáv Husák

17. Which of these was a decisive Greek victory against Persia in 479 BCE?

- A. The Battle of Plataea
- B. The Battle of Cannae
- C. The Battle of Actium
- D. The Battle of Zama

18. Which reform-minded Soviet leader is most closely associated with the policies of glasnost and perestroika in the late twentieth century?

- A. Joseph Stalin
- B. Leonid Brezhnev
- C. Nikita Khrushchev
- D. Mikhail Gorbachev

19. Greece fought for independence from which of the following in the 1820s?

- A. Russia
- B. the Holy Roman Empire
- C. the Ottoman Empire
- D. Prussia

20. Which of these groups settled much of England after Roman rule ended?

- A. The Anglo-Saxons
- B. The Lombards
- C. The Visigoths
- D. The Franks

21. Which of these men orchestrated the 'bonfire of the vanities' in 15th century Florence and was both excommunicated and executed in its aftermath?

- A. Lorenzo di Medici
- B. Rodrigo Borgia
- C. Girolamo Savonarola
- D. Bernard of Clairvaux

22. What was a major effect of industrialization on the social structure of nineteenth-century Europe?

- A. The disappearance of the middle class
- B. The end of migration to cities
- C. The elimination of class tensions
- D. The growth of an urban working class

23. Which of these was introduced to Europe by Johannes Gutenberg in 1450?

- A. the magnetic compass
- B. moveable type printing
- C. an English translation of the Bible
- D. the steam engine

24. The Treaty of Berlin in 1878 ended which of these conflicts in Europe?

- A. the Franco-Prussian War
- B. the War of the Polish Succession
- C. the Jacobite rising
- D. the Russo-Turkish War

25. Ireland, along with much of Northern and Western Europe, experienced starvation during the 'Hungry Forties' due to a failure of what crop?

- A. potato
- B. wheat
- C. barley
- D. oats

26. The Diplomatic Revolution took place between what two major 18th century European conflicts?
- the War of the Holy League and the Nine Years' War
 - the War of the Austrian Succession and the Seven Years' War
 - the Great Northern War and the War of the Spanish Succession
 - the Hungarian Revolution and the Crimean War
27. Which writing system is associated with the earliest records of the Greek language in Bronze Age Europe?
- Cuneiform
 - Hieroglyphics
 - Linear B
 - Etruscan
28. The War of the Spanish Succession began following the death of what monarch?
- Louis XIV of France
 - Charles II of Spain
 - Joseph I of the Holy Roman Empire
 - Charles VI of the Holy Roman Empire
29. The Ten-Day War in 1991 resulted in the independence of which of the following from Yugoslavia?
- Kosovo
 - Albania
 - Slovenia
 - Serbia
30. What was the result of the Battle of Tours in 732?
- Byzantine forces recovered Italy from the Lombards
 - Visigothic forces retook most of Iberia
 - Slavic forces captured Constantinople
 - Frankish forces stopped an Umayyad advance
31. The Peace of Westphalia recognized the independence of which of the following countries from Spain?
- Switzerland
 - Luxembourg
 - Prussia
 - the Dutch Republic
32. Which nineteenth-century political ideology placed the greatest emphasis on preserving traditional institutions and resisting rapid change?
- Conservatism
 - Socialism
 - Liberalism
 - Nationalism
33. The Twelve Tables were the written laws of which of these?
- classical Athens
 - Sparta
 - the Roman Republic
 - the Macedonian Empire
34. What Russian private military company started an uprising against the government in June of 2023?
- Blackwater
 - Titan Corp.
 - Aegis Defense
 - Wagner Group
35. The expedition initially led by Ferdinand Magellan became the first to accomplish which of the following in 1522?
- discovery of North America
 - circumnavigation of the globe
 - finding the Northwest Passage
 - rounding the Cape of Good Hope
36. In February of 1921, the Democratic Republic of Georgia was invaded and conquered by what neighboring nation?
- Turkey
 - Armenia
 - the Soviet Union
 - Azerbaijan
37. Which ruler succeeded Philip II and built a Macedonian empire that fragmented after his death in 323 BC?
- Alexander the Great
 - Pyrrhus of Epirus
 - Leonidas of Sparta
 - Philip V of Macedon
38. Which of these was the result of the Hundred Days Offensive in 1918?
- a declaration of war by the US on Germany
 - the withdrawal of the Russian Empire from the war
 - the surrender of France
 - the collapse of the German front line and the abdication of Wilhelm II
39. The Easter Rising of 1916 saw which of the following rebel against British rule?
- Indian nationalists
 - Nigerian rebels
 - Irish republicans
 - Scottish separatists

40. What did Charlemagne's coronation in 800 CE symbolize in Europe?
- A. A revival of imperial rule in western Europe
 - B. The end of Byzantine power in the east
 - C. The defeat of the Franks by the Lombards
 - D. The reunification of the Roman Empire
41. Which king was executed during the English Civil War?
- A. Charles I
 - B. Charles II
 - C. James I
 - D. George I
42. What was the main significance of the Crimean War for Russia?
- A. It confirmed Russia as the strongest industrial power in Europe
 - B. It exposed Russia's military and administrative weaknesses
 - C. It led directly to the unification of the German states
 - D. It secured Russian control over the Mediterranean Sea
43. The Investiture Controversy was a struggle between the Church and Holy Roman Emperor over which of the following?
- A. control of Crusader armies
 - B. the ability to choose and install bishops
 - C. the administration of public lands
 - D. slavery
44. Vlad the Impaler, also known as Vlad Dracula, ruled which of the following during the 15th century?
- A. Moscow
 - B. Hungary
 - C. Kievan Rus'
 - D. Wallachia
45. What European dynasty occupied the throne of the Holy Roman Empire from 1440 to 1740?
- A. Bourbon
 - B. Hanover
 - C. Hapsburg
 - D. Windsor
46. Which of these nations is NOT a member of the Benelux Union that was created in the 1940s?
- A. Belgium
 - B. Liechtenstein
 - C. Luxembourg
 - D. the Netherlands
47. Which Roman leader's crossing of the Rubicon is associated with the beginning of a civil war in 48 BCE?
- A. Julius Caesar
 - B. Pompey the Great
 - C. Scipio Africanus
 - D. Marcus Antonius
48. Which of these was the subject of the Berlin Conference in the late 19th century?
- A. Borders between France and Germany
 - B. Independence for the Balkan states
 - C. Rules for European colonization in Africa
 - D. Reform of the Russian serf system
49. The Pillersdorf Constitution and Kremsier Constitution were both short-lived governing documents adopted in 1848 in what European nation?
- A. Switzerland
 - B. Austrian Empire
 - C. France
 - D. Ireland
50. The 'Plague of Justinian' in the 6th century CE was an outbreak of which of these devastating illnesses?
- A. the flu
 - B. measles
 - C. smallpox
 - D. bubonic plague
51. Which of the following was the result of the Fourth Crusade?
- A. the capture of Jerusalem by the Crusaders
 - B. the sack of Constantinople by the Crusaders
 - C. the establishment of the Crusader states
 - D. the capture of Acre by Saladin
52. Which goal was shared by many liberal reformers in 19th century Europe?
- A. The defense of absolute monarchy
 - B. The preservation of aristocratic privilege
 - C. The support for constitutional government
 - D. The rejection of individual civil rights
53. Vladimir the Great and Yaroslav the Wise were rulers of which of these during the 10th and 11th centuries?
- A. Kievan Rus'
 - B. the Principate of Iberia
 - C. the Kingdom of Georgia
 - D. the Grand Duchy of Finland
54. The Sonderbund War in Switzerland was a conflict between which of the following?
- A. southern Swiss cantons and northern Italian city-states
 - B. an alliance of Germany and Austria against the nation of Switzerland
 - C. Italian speaking cantons and Romansh speaking cantons
 - D. seven Catholic cantons and most of the rest of the Swiss Confederation

55. Which development best explains the rise of Prussia as a major European power in the eighteenth century?

- A. The expansion of a highly disciplined standing army
- B. The adoption of direct democracy in urban centers
- C. The protection of peasant independence from taxation
- D. The withdrawal from dynastic conflict in central Europe

56. The imposition of martial law in 1981 by General Wojciech Jaruzelski was meant to silence opposition, notably from the Solidarity trade union, in what European nation?

- A. Hungary
- B. Ukraine
- C. Poland
- D. Lithuania

57. Which Roman emperor is most closely associated with the Edict of Milan in 313 CE, which granted religious toleration to Christians?

- A. Diocletian
- B. Constantine I
- C. Theodosius I
- D. Marcus Aurelius

58. Which of these men has led Belarus since his election in 1994?

- A. Viktor Yanukovych
- B. Leonid Kravchuk
- C. Eduard Shevardnadze
- D. Alexander Lukashenko

59. Juan Carlos became both king and head of state in Spain in 1975 following the death of what Spanish leader?

- A. Felipe VI
- B. Antonio Maura
- C. Francisco Franco
- D. Manuel Azaña

60. The Battle of Guadalete in 711 CE was a major step in the conquest of Iberia by what group?

- A. Muslims
- B. Vikings
- C. Anglo-Saxons
- D. Franks

61. Attila and Bleda led which of the following groups in the fifth century CE?

- A. Gauls
- B. Celts
- C. Picts
- D. Huns

62. Which European leader is most closely associated with the unification of Italy in the nineteenth century?

- A. Count Camillo di Cavour
- B. Klemens von Metternich
- C. Otto von Bismarck
- D. Napoleon III

63. The Piast dynasty ruled which of these from the 10th to 14th centuries?

- A. England
- B. Poland
- C. France
- D. Spain

64. The powers of the English monarchy were limited in 1689 by which of the following documents?

- A. the English Bill of Rights
- B. the Townshend Duties
- C. the Act of Settlement
- D. the Coercive Acts

65. What was the primary purpose of mercantilist economic policies in early modern Europe?

- A. To encourage free trade without state regulation
- B. To increase national wealth through state control
- C. To reduce competition among European empires
- D. To transfer economic planning to local guilds

66. What English political theorist described life in the state of nature as a 'war of all against all' in his work *Leviathan*?

- A. John Locke
- B. Alexis de Tocqueville
- C. Thomas Hobbes
- D. Francis Bacon

67. What was the main historical importance of the Battle of the Teutoburg Forest in 9 CE?

- A. It led Rome to abandon expansion east of the Rhine.
- B. It gave Carthage control of the western Mediterranean.
- C. It marked the beginning of the Punic Wars.
- D. It ended the rule of Augustus in Rome.

68. Cosimo de' Medici established the Medici family as the rulers of what birthplace of the Italian Renaissance?

- A. Genoa
- B. Milan
- C. Venice
- D. Florence

69. The 'Velvet Revolution' and 'Velvet Divorce' refer to the late 20th century transition of what European nation from communism into two separate modern-day republics?

- A. the Soviet Union
- B. Yugoslavia
- C. Czechoslovakia
- D. Romania

70. What was the main issue in the Byzantine iconoclasm?

- A. Whether Latin should replace Greek in the mass
- B. Whether priests could marry
- C. Whether bishops could also be political rulers
- D. Whether icons should be venerated

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 government statistics, what was the population of the British Empire in 1939 just prior to the beginning of World War II?