



Historical 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. Which Virginia plantation on the Potomac River was the home of President George Washington?

- A. Mount Vernon
- B. Highland
- C. Ash Lawn
- D. Monticello

2. Which South American colonial city was the center of Spanish silver mining and home to a royal mint?

- A. Acapulco
- B. Potosí
- C. Lima
- D. Panama City

3. Fort Sumter, where the first shots of the American Civil War were fired in April 1861, is in what Southern city?

- A. Savannah
- B. Charleston
- C. Mobile
- D. Norfolk

4. The Hindu temple complex of Prambanan, built in the 9th century CE, is near the city of Yogyakarta in what country?

- A. Cambodia
- B. Philippines
- C. Indonesia
- D. Thailand

5. Which Peruvian city was the capital of the Inca Empire?

- A. Arequipa
- B. Lima
- C. Trujillo
- D. Cusco

6. Operation Blue Star was a military operation in 1984 targeting the Golden Temple in what Indian city?

- A. Chandigarh
- B. Chennai
- C. Amritsar
- D. Mumbai

7. The Galápagos Islands, where Darwin observed wildlife key to his theory of evolution in 1835, belong to what country?

- A. Ecuador
- B. Colombia
- C. Peru
- D. Chile

8. The ancient city-states of Veii and Volsinii were part of what civilization in the 7th and 6th centuries BCE?

- A. Cycladic
- B. Etruscan
- C. Minoan
- D. Saxon

9. London's 'Great Stink' of 1858 led directly to the construction of what major city infrastructure?

- A. the Metropolitan Fire Brigade
- B. a system of urban parks
- C. the London Underground subway system
- D. the London sewer system

10. The Smithsonian Institution, the world's largest museum complex with 19 museums, is based in what US city?

- A. Washington, D.C.
- B. Chicago, IL
- C. Boston, MA
- D. New York City, NY

11. The Ellora Caves in Maharashtra, India contain carvings representing all these religious traditions EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. Hinduism
- B. Buddhism
- C. Jainism
- D. Zoroastrianism

12. Which of these Scandinavian kingdoms was a member of the medieval Kalmar Union?

- A. Prussia
- B. Norway
- C. Poland
- D. Austria

13. What is the significance of Seneca Falls, New York, in American history?

- A. It was the site of a major Civil War battle
- B. It was the founding site of the NAACP
- C. It was the site of a women's rights convention in 1848
- D. It was the site of the first Anti-Slavery Society meeting

14. The Little Bighorn Battlefield, site of Custer's Last Stand in June 1876, is in what US state?

- A. Idaho
- B. Wyoming
- C. South Dakota
- D. Montana

15. The Great Sphinx, built around 26th century BCE, is located outside what modern African capital city?

- A. Luxor
- B. Alexandria
- C. Cairo
- D. Aswan

16. What Italian city is home to the Uffizi Gallery, one of the oldest art museums in the world founded in the 1580s?

- A. Florence
- B. Venice
- C. Turin
- D. Rome

17. The Saur Revolution of 1978, which was followed by a Soviet invasion, took place in what country?

- A. Afghanistan
- B. Lebanon
- C. Libya
- D. Syria

18. The 'Belt and Road Initiative' is a major infrastructure program being undertaken and funded by what nation?

- A. Vietnam
- B. China
- C. Australia
- D. Germany

19. Just prior to the Battle of Trenton, George Washington led American troops on a crossing of what river on Christmas night of 1776?

- A. Delaware
- B. Ohio
- C. Hudson
- D. East

20. The Temple of Saturn, the Rostra, and the Tarpeian Rock are surviving landmarks in the ancient Forum of what city?

- A. Athens
- B. Madrid
- C. Rome
- D. Naples

21. Nelson Mandela was imprisoned on which South African island for 18 years along with other anti-Apartheid activists?

- A. Robben Island
- B. Elba
- C. St. Helena
- D. Angel Island

22. The ancient site of Avebury, a massive Neolithic stone circle in Wiltshire, is in what country?

- A. France
- B. Belgium
- C. England
- D. The Netherlands

23. Which major religious division primarily drove the 1947 partition of British India into two nations?

- A. Hinduism and Shinto
- B. Buddhism and Hinduism
- C. Hinduism and Islam
- D. Islam and Christianity

24. The historic colonial port city of Cartagena, encircled by fortified walls, is located in what South American country?

- A. Brazil
- B. Venezuela
- C. Argentina
- D. Colombia

25. In 1996, Tanzania moved its capital from Dar es Salaam to what interior city?

- A. Dodoma
- B. Mwanza
- C. Arusha
- D. Zanzibar City

26. Following the Mukden Incident in 1931, Japan invaded what region of China?

- A. Gansu
- B. Manchuria
- C. Fujian
- D. Hainan

27. In 1975, Cape Verde, Mozambique, and Angola all gained independence from what European nation?

- A. France
- B. Portugal
- C. Great Britain
- D. Germany

28. The Minuteman National Historical Park, preserving the first battles of the Revolution fought in April 1775, is in what state?

- A. Connecticut
- B. New York
- C. Rhode Island
- D. Massachusetts

29. The ruins of the ancient city of Troy, made famous by Homer's Iliad, are in what modern country?

- A. Turkey
- B. Cyprus
- C. Bulgaria
- D. Greece

30. The ancient temples of Bagan, a plain with over 2,000 Buddhist pagodas built from the 9th to 13th centuries, were built by the Pagan Kingdom in what country?

- A. Myanmar
- B. Brazil
- C. Honduras
- D. Cameroon

31. The National Civil Rights Museum is located at the Lorraine Motel, the site of the 1968 assassination of MLK the in what city?

- A. Memphis, TN
- B. Montgomery, AL
- C. Birmingham, AL
- D. Atlanta, GA

32. One stop on the 'Underground Railroad' was the Rochester, New York home of what abolitionist who had himself escaped from slavery in Maryland in 1838?

- A. Gabriel Prosser
- B. Denmark Vesey
- C. Frederick Douglass
- D. Nat Turner

33. The Ford's Theater National Historic Site commemorates the assassination of which US president?

- A. John F. Kennedy
- B. Abraham Lincoln
- C. James Garfield
- D. William McKinley

34. Which of these, located in modern day Iran, was the ceremonial capital of the Persian Empire?

- A. Thebes
- B. Pergamum
- C. Alexandria
- D. Persepolis

35. The city of Bukhara, a major Silk Road trading and learning center, is located in what Central Asian country?

- A. Uzbekistan
- B. Pakistan
- C. Mongolia
- D. Nepal

36. Simón Bolívar was born in what South American country that uses the bolivar as its official currency?

- A. Peru
- B. Venezuela
- C. Ecuador
- D. Colombia

37. The ancient city of Ur contained a famous example of what type of religious building common in Sumerian and Babylonian culture?

- A. Ziggurat
- B. Mandir
- C. Mosque
- D. Cathedral

38. The Principality of Antioch and the Kingdom of Jerusalem were established as a result of what conflict?

- A. The Wars of the Roses
- B. The Hundred Years' War
- C. The First Crusade
- D. The Crimean War

39. Bao Dai, the last ruler of the Nguyen Dynasty, declared an 'Empire' in what country in 1945 that was then under Japanese occupation?

- A. Vietnam
- B. Myanmar
- C. Cambodia
- D. Thailand

40. The site of the Wright Brothers' first powered airplane flight in 1903 is near what North Carolina town?

- A. Durham
- B. Wilmington
- C. Cape Hatteras
- D. Kitty Hawk

41. The ancient fortress of Masada, where Jewish rebels held out against Rome in 73 CE, is in what modern country?

- A. Jordan
- B. Egypt
- C. Israel
- D. Lebanon

42. Dido is the legendary founder of what North African city-state that became an empire that fought three major wars against the Roman Republic?

- A. Beirut
- B. Tyre
- C. Tripoli
- D. Carthage

43. The ancient Kingdom of Aksum was based in what modern East African nation?

- A. Tanzania
- B. Kenya
- C. Uganda
- D. Ethiopia

44. The D-Day beaches where Allied forces landed on June 6, 1944, are found in what region of France?
- A. Normandy
 - B. Alsace
 - C. Brittany
 - D. Provence
45. The Potala Palace, once the winter residence of the Dalai Lamas, is found in what capital of the Tibet Autonomous Region?
- A. Almaty
 - B. Lhasa
 - C. Ulaanbaatar
 - D. Nur-Sultan
46. Portugal moved its royal court from Lisbon to what colonial city in 1807 due in part to the Napoleonic Wars?
- A. Rio de Janeiro
 - B. Mexico City
 - C. Kingston
 - D. San Salvador
47. Iraq invaded what neighboring country in 1980 and began a war that lasted nearly eight years?
- A. Kuwait
 - B. Syria
 - C. Iran
 - D. Saudi Arabia
48. The site of the inauguration of President Jefferson Davis in February 1861 was in what Confederate city?
- A. Washington, DC
 - B. Baltimore
 - C. Nashville
 - D. Montgomery
49. The Battle of Tsushima Strait was an important engagement in the 20th century war between what two world powers?
- A. The US and UK
 - B. Germany and France
 - C. Japan and Russia
 - D. Spain and Belgium
50. Ashurbanipal and Esarhaddon were kings of what empire that included the ancient city of Nineveh?
- A. Egyptian
 - B. Assyrian
 - C. Phoenician
 - D. Athenian
51. Which of these names the US region that suffered economic decline in the 1960s and 1970s as factories closed?
- A. the Sun Belt
 - B. the Frozen Belt
 - C. the Bible Belt
 - D. the Rust Belt
52. The Berghof, located near the town of Berchtesgaden in Bavaria, was the home of what leader during World War II?
- A. Joseph Stalin
 - B. Benito Mussolini
 - C. Adolf Hitler
 - D. Francisco Franco
53. The Reconquista was an effort by European Christians to remove Muslims from the territory of what modern-day nation?
- A. Switzerland
 - B. Germany
 - C. Denmark
 - D. Spain
54. The sacred city of Lumbini in Nepal is considered the birthplace of what major religious figure?
- A. Buddha
 - B. Mohammed
 - C. Guru Nanak
 - D. Gobind Singh
55. The Dome of the Rock, one of the oldest Islamic religious structures, is located in what city?
- A. Cairo
 - B. Jerusalem
 - C. Medina
 - D. Mecca
56. Which Caribbean island is home to El Yunque, the only tropical rainforest in the US National Forest System?
- A. Jamaica
 - B. Puerto Rico
 - C. Hispaniola
 - D. Cuba
57. The ancient ruins of Pompeii, preserved under volcanic ash since 79 CE, lie near what modern Italian city?
- A. Naples
 - B. Palermo
 - C. Florence
 - D. Rome
58. Bollywood, the world's largest film industry by number of films produced annually, is based in what Indian city?
- A. Mumbai
 - B. Chennai
 - C. Kolkata
 - D. New Delhi
59. A famous October 1066 battle that changed the course of European history was fought near what English town?
- A. Winchester
 - B. Canterbury
 - C. Hastings
 - D. London

60. The most decisive land victory for the US in the War of 1812 was the 1815 battle fought just outside what city?

- A. Baltimore
- B. Philadelphia
- C. Quebec
- D. New Orleans

61. Michelangelo famously painted the ceiling of which of these between 1508 and 1512?

- A. Notre-Dame de Paris
- B. St. Peter's Basilica
- C. The Sistine Chapel
- D. Santa Maria Maggiore

62. The Valle dei Templi is collection of ancient Greek temples outside Agrigento on what Italian island?

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

63. The First Fleet arrived at Port Jackson in 1788 and established the settlement that became which modern Australian city?

- A. Sydney
- B. Melbourne
- C. Canberra
- D. Adelaide

64. The ancient city of Damascus, believed to be the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world, is the capital of what country?

- A. Jordan
- B. Lebanon
- C. Syria
- D. Iraq

65. The Three Mile Island nuclear disaster occurred in 1979 just outside what US state capital?

- A. Dover
- B. Boston
- C. Harrisburg
- D. Charleston

66. Temperance activist Carrie A. Nation became famous for smashing saloons with a hatchet in what state?

- A. Louisiana
- B. Maine
- C. Ohio
- D. Kansas

67. Streets like Ulica Zmaja od Bosne and Meša Selimović Boulevard were known as 'sniper alleys' during the early 1990s in what city?

- A. Tehran
- B. Kuwait City
- C. Baghdad
- D. Sarajevo

68. The Brandenburg Gate, built in the late 18th century by King Frederick William II, stands in the center of what European capital?

- A. Berlin
- B. Prague
- C. Warsaw
- D. Vienna

69. Which Indian city on the banks of the Ganges River is considered the holiest city in Hinduism?

- A. Patna
- B. Varanasi
- C. Allahabad
- D. Haridwar

70. What is the historical significance of the Palace of Versailles, built by Louis XIV beginning in 1661?

- A. It was the birthplace of the French Revolution
- B. It was a symbol of absolute royal power
- C. It was a center of Catholic authority
- D. It was the home of the French parliament

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 London in 1801?