



**National Recent History Examination
IAC Nationals 2022
Middle School Division**

Name _____

School _____

Grade _____

**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.**

1. Which of these men was inaugurated as the 43rd president on January 20, 2001?

- A. George H.W. Bush
- B. Bill Clinton
- C. George W. Bush
- D. Barack Obama

2. Michael Phelps won a record 8 Olympic gold medals in 2008 in what sport?

- A. golf
- B. tennis
- C. track and field
- D. swimming

3. Which of the following won the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to 'strengthen international diplomacy'?

- A. Jimmy Carter
- B. Barack Obama
- C. Boris Johnson
- D. Justin Trudeau

4. Activist Greta Thunberg is best known for her commitment to which of these causes?

- A. civil rights
- B. educational rights for women
- C. eliminating income inequality
- D. environmentalism

5. In September 2012, Ansar al-Sharia attacked two US government facilities in Benghazi in what North African nation?

- A. Tunisia
- B. Morocco
- C. Libya
- D. Algeria

6. Which of these became the tallest structure in the world when it opened in 2010?

- A. Shanghai Tower
- B. Burj Khalifa
- C. Tokyo Skytree
- D. CN Tower

7. In 2001, the Netherlands became the first nation in the world to legalize which of these, which became legal in the United States in 2015?

- A. the ownership of handguns
- B. same-sex marriage
- C. prayer in schools
- D. all types of drugs

8. By 2019, roughly how many people throughout the world had access to the internet?

- A. 500 million
- B. 1 billion
- C. 2 billion
- D. 4 billion

9. In 2003, a crisis in Darfur in what nation turned into a full-scale ongoing war?

- A. Sudan
- B. Syria
- C. Lebanon
- D. Morocco

10. In 1996, the National Security Agency published a paper called 'How to Make a Mint' which was significant to the establishment of what modern financial system?

- A. cryptocurrency
- B. online stock trading
- C. ATM machines
- D. e-commerce websites

11. What famously neutral country joined the UN in September 2002?

- A. Finland
- B. North Korea
- C. Switzerland
- D. Monaco

12. What company released its Roadster, the first mass production lithium-ion battery electric car, in 2008?
- GM
 - Nissan
 - Stellantis
 - Tesla
13. What nation became the first to leave the European Union on January 31, 2020?
- Vatican City
 - France
 - the United Kingdom
 - Slovenia
14. Which of these started as a DVD delivery service in the 1990s?
- Netflix
 - YouTube
 - Hulu
 - Facebook
15. What supreme leader of North Korea died in December of 2011, paving the way for his son to take control of the country?
- Hu Jintao
 - Kim Jong-il
 - Ban Ki Moon
 - Xi Jinping
16. What country announced an end to its 'one-child policy' in 2015 after 35 years?
- Romania
 - China
 - Bulgaria
 - India
17. In 2005, Angela Merkel became the chancellor of what European nation?
- France
 - Portugal
 - Germany
 - Austria
18. Which of these occurred in the contiguous United States in August of 2017 for the first time since 1918?
- a total lunar eclipse
 - a 'supermoon'
 - a 'blood moon'
 - a total solar eclipse
19. Nelson Mandela, who died in 2013 at age 95, was a civil rights and political leader of what nation?
- Zimbabwe
 - South Africa
 - Botswana
 - Tanzania
20. What country, the second-largest economy in the world, finally joined the World Trade Organization in December 2001?
- Russia
 - Brazil
 - India
 - China
21. Which of these did NOT become an independent nation during the 21st century?
- Montenegro
 - Serbia
 - South Sudan
 - Croatia
22. In 2021, the NCAA began allowing college athletes to be paid for all of these EXCEPT which of the following?
- playing in games or matches
 - their name
 - their image
 - their likeness
23. Which of these was NOT a vice presidential candidate on a major party ticket in the US?
- Hillary Clinton
 - Kamala Harris
 - Sarah Palin
 - Geraldine Ferraro
24. What game console was released by Nintendo in March of 2017?
- the Switch
 - the N64
 - the Gameboy Advance
 - the Wii
25. In September 2020, Serbia said it would normalize economic relations with what neighbor despite ongoing political disputes?
- Montenegro
 - Kosovo
 - Albania
 - Bosnia and Herzegovina
26. The United States government established a prison camp at what overseas military base in 2002 as a result of the September 11 attacks?
- Guantanamo Bay
 - Naval Base Guam
 - Wiesbaden
 - Camp Smedley Butler, Okinawa
27. In 2015, a massacre took place at the offices of Charlie Hebdo in what European capital?
- Vienna
 - Lisbon
 - Paris
 - London

28. Which of the following disintegrated upon reentry in February of 2003, killing all seven astronauts on board?

- A. the Space Shuttle Endeavor
- B. the Space Shuttle Columbia
- C. SpaceShipOne
- D. the SpaceX Crew Dragon

29. The UN predicts that the world population will be roughly which of the following by 2050?

- A. 6 billion
- B. 7 billion
- C. 8 billion
- D. 9 billion

30. In December 2001, what energy company, based in Houston, TX, declared bankruptcy after a series of financial and accounting scandals?

- A. Enron
- B. ExxonMobil
- C. Texaco
- D. ERCOT

31. In June of 2010, Julia Gillard became the first female Prime Minister of what Commonwealth nation?

- A. Great Britain
- B. Australia
- C. New Zealand
- D. Canada

32. Since 2000, Queen Elizabeth II has had all of these anniversary celebrations EXCEPT which of the following?

- A. Golden
- B. Diamond
- C. Platinum
- D. Ruby

33. What country voted in 2014 to remain a part of the United Kingdom?

- A. Northern Ireland
- B. Wales
- C. Scotland
- D. England

34. Which of these has recently started to make a comeback after being abandoned in the early 2000s in favor of CDs and digital music?

- A. 8 track tapes
- B. reel-to-reel tapes
- C. cassette tapes
- D. vinyl records

35. In 2008, the Phoenix probe discovered water ice on which of these?

- A. the Moon
- B. Venus
- C. Titan
- D. Mars

36. In November 2018, leaders and nations worldwide marked the 100-year anniversary of the end of what conflict?

- A. the Crimean War
- B. World War I
- C. World War II
- D. the Korean War

37. In 2017, a coup was attempted against the government of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in what nation?

- A. Georgia
- B. Iran
- C. Turkey
- D. Armenia

38. The 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill took place in what body of water?

- A. the Gulf of Mexico
- B. the North Sea
- C. the Persian Gulf
- D. the Indian Ocean

39. Meghan Markle married what member of the British royal family in May of 2018?

- A. Prince William
- B. Prince Andrew
- C. Prince Harry
- D. Prince Charles

40. What controversial entrepreneur is known for founding several companies, including SpaceX and the Boring Company?

- A. Elon Musk
- B. Steve Jobs
- C. Warren Buffet
- D. Bill Gates

41. In August 2008, Russia invaded what neighboring country, using the separatist regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia as a pretext?

- A. Belarus
- B. Poland
- C. Ukraine
- D. Georgia

42. Steve Fossett became the first person to do which of these in 2002?

- A. fly solo nonstop across the Pacific Ocean
- B. fly solo nonstop over Antarctica
- C. fly solo nonstop around the world
- D. break the sound barrier without a vehicle

43. Hugo Chavez, president of what South American nation, died of prostate cancer in March 2013?

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

44. The first case of Covid-19 was reported in China in what year?

- A. 2019
- B. 2020
- C. 2021
- D. 2022

45. LIGO announced the discovery of what disturbances in spacetime in 2016?

- A. dark matter
- B. gravitational waves
- C. cosmic microwave background radiation
- D. the Higgs boson

46. In 2009 there was a pandemic of a flu virus that was commonly known for what animal?

- A. swine
- B. monkey
- C. bat
- D. cow

47. The eruption of Eyjafjallajökull in what country in 2010 caused major travel disruptions, especially in Europe?

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

48. The baiji, a freshwater species of what animal, was declared functionally extinct in 2006?

- A. whale
- B. seal
- C. shark
- D. dolphin

49. The April 2011 'Super Outbreak' in the Southern US was the deadliest outbreak of what weather phenomenon in American history?

- A. hurricanes
- B. tornadoes
- C. floods
- D. hail

50. Which of these is NOT true of the 'Great Recession' of 2007-2009?

- A. it was worse throughout the world than the Great Depression of the 1930s
- B. it was caused in part by the subprime mortgage crisis
- C. Asian markets and Oceania were far less affected than Europe and North America
- D. the US unemployment rate peaked at 10% in 2009

51. What country conducted its first nuclear test in October 2006?

- A. Russia
- B. North Korea
- C. Pakistan
- D. India

52. What commonly used internet browser was released in 2008?

- A. Internet Explorer
- B. Netscape Navigator
- C. Opera
- D. Google Chrome

53. Through the spring and summer of 2019, millions of protesters took to the streets in what Asian city to oppose a new extradition law?

- A. Macau
- B. Hong Kong
- C. Tokyo
- D. Singapore

54. What major auto company was caught in a huge scandal over software for its diesel engines in 2015?

- A. Ford
- B. Volkswagen
- C. Jeep
- D. GM

55. French surgeons completed the first transplant of which of these in 2003?

- A. heart
- B. liver
- C. lungs
- D. a face

56. In 2021, Ingenuity became the first vehicle to do which of the following?

- A. land on Mars
- B. enter Jupiter's atmosphere
- C. make a controlled flight on Mars
- D. circumnavigate the lunar surface

57. How many Super Bowls did the New England Patriots win between 2001 and 2018?

- A. 0
- B. 6
- C. 10
- D. 15

58. What massively popular game creation system was released in 2006 and has over 150 million active monthly users as of 2021?

- A. Roblox
- B. World of Warcraft
- C. Call of Duty
- D. Dota 2

59. Which tennis player has dominated the professional circuit in the 21st century, winning 23 Grand Slam titles since 2000?

- A. Maria Sharapova
- B. Caroline Wozniacki
- C. Serena Williams
- D. Naomi Osaka

60. Which of these is NOT part of the BRICS economic bloc formed in 2009?

- A. Brazil
- B. Russia
- C. India
- D. Sri Lanka

61. Which of the following served as pope from 2005 until his 2013 resignation?

- A. Francis
- B. Benedict XVI
- C. John Paul II
- D. John Paul I

62. Which of these nations has NOT won a men's World Cup in soccer since 2002?

- A. Brazil
- B. Italy
- C. Germany
- D. England

63. Which of these protest events occurred immediately following President Trump's inauguration in cities throughout the United States and across the world?

- A. the Million-Man March
- B. the March for Our Lives
- C. the Women's March
- D. the March for Jobs and Opportunity

64. Which of these happened to Mother Theresa of Calcutta in 2016?

- A. she died in India
- B. she was beatified by Pope John Paul II
- C. she was canonized by Pope Francis
- D. she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Trump

65. The 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami caused a nuclear disaster at what Japanese reactor?

- A. Tokai
- B. Onagawa
- C. Rokkasho
- D. Fukushima

66. Which of these was added to the Panama Canal in the 2010s at a cost of over \$5 billion that doubled its cargo capacity?

- A. a railway
- B. a bridge
- C. an artificial lake
- D. a new traffic lane for ships and new locks

67. Tencent, Spotify and Gaana are all current leaders in what type of online service?

- A. video content
- B. music streaming
- C. website hosting
- D. internet service providers

68. What recently discontinued piece of technology was introduced in October 2001?

- A. the iPod
- B. the iPhone
- C. the Blackberry
- D. the Chromebook

69. What online 'free encyclopedia' was launched in January of 2001?

- A. Microsoft Encarta
- B. World Book
- C. Encyclopedia Britannica
- D. Wikipedia

70. Both YouTube and Reddit were founded in what year?

- A. 2000
- B. 2005
- C. 2015
- D. 2020

71. On March 11, 2004, a terrorist bombs on the train system killed nearly 200 people in what European capital?

- A. Paris
- B. Madrid
- C. Lisbon
- D. Berlin

72. The Twenty20 match format and the creation of the Indian Premier League have greatly increased the popularity of which of these sports since 2000?

- A. cricket
- B. soccer
- C. American football
- D. rugby

73. What Japanese emperor abdicated in 2019 after 30 years on the throne?

- A. Yoshihito
- B. Hirohito
- C. Akihito
- D. Naruhito

74. Which of these 2019 films ranks second on the list of highest-grossing films of all time?

- A. Black Panther
- B. Avengers: Endgame
- C. Justice League
- D. Wonder Woman

75. The Occupy movement of the 2010s, including 'Occupy Wall Street', was aimed at addressing which of these in the United States?

- A. police misconduct
- B. social and economic inequality
- C. rights for LGBTQ Americans
- D. rights for Native Americans

Tiebreaker

Write your answer on the BACK of your scantron. Please label your responses 1-5.

Besides the New England Patriots, name five teams that appeared in multiple Super Bowls between 2001 and 2018.