



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY CHALLENGE - 2015

GRADE 10 - GRADE 11 - GRADE 12 CONTEST

- ANSWER KEY -

1. B
2. D
3. A
4. D
5. B
6. C
7. B
8. A
9. B
10. D
11. A
12. B
13. C
14. D
15. B
16. C
17. A
18. C
19. A
20. B
21. D
22. C
23. D
24. A
25. B

26. D
27. A
28. C
29. D
30. B
31. D
32. C
33. D
34. A
35. C
36. B
37. A
38. D
39. B
40. A
41. D
42. B
43. C
44. A
45. C
46. B
47. A
48. D
49. C
50. D

**National Council for Geographic Education
The National Geography Challenge – 2015**

Grades 10-12

1. What mountain range dominates Switzerland?
A. Apennines B. Alps
C. Pyrenees D. Carpathians
2. A county seat in rural Georgia will likely be the center of all of the following except _____.
A. political and governmental activity
B. the location of a significant number of law offices
C. a regional shopping mall
D. a clinic specializing in joint replacements

Note: Column A identifies four of the world's most strategic straits. Match each with the bodies of water it connects.

Column A

Column B

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 3. Strait of Bosphorus | A. Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea |
| 4. Bering Strait | B. North Sea and the English Channel |
| 5. Strait of Dover | C. Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean |
| 6. Strait of Gibraltar | D. Arctic Ocean and Pacific Ocean |
-
7. All but one of these cities is an Asian capital. Which one is the exception?
A. Kuala Lumpur B. Ho Chi Minh City
C. Katmandu D. Bangkok
 8. Large forested areas are found in what physical region?
A. high middle latitudes B. the steppes
C. dry subtropical zones D. high mountain elevations

9. When climatologists talk about the *greenhouse effect*, to what are they referring?

- A. the continuous movement of water across Earth's surface that is fairly constant as it goes through physical processes and phases that change it from liquid to ice to vapor
- B. the warming that results when solar energy that is reflected back into the atmosphere from Earth's surface is absorbed by atmospheric gasses and radiated back
- C. the effect of the turn of the wind to the right in the Northern Hemisphere and to the left in the Southern Hemisphere that is caused by Earth's rotation on its axis
- D. the large-scale processes affecting the structure of Earth's crust mainly through the process of continental drift

10. Political geographers in the United States and the European Union identify Vladimir Putin's argument that the restoration of Crimea to Russia is an example of _____.

- A. factionalism
- B. imperialism
- C. supranationalism
- D. irredentism

11. The population of Earth is above 7 billion people. By the year 2050, it is expected to reach 10 billion. Which of these reasons is primarily responsible for the present population size and the soaring growth rate anticipated over the next thirty-five years or so?

- A. A reliable food supply and improved health care are extending life expectancy for increasing numbers of the world's peoples.
- B. Formal schooling is available now to more people than ever before in history, a trend that will continue.
- C. There are more people living in cities than in rural areas.
- D. The consistent increase in per capita income in almost every country over the last hundred years indicates that poor and disadvantaged populations will soon be a thing of the past.

12. In what world region is Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan located?

- A. North Africa
- B. Middle East
- C. Far East
- D. Mediterranean Basin

13. When glaciers break and fragment into smaller pieces as they melt, the process is called _____.

- A. fracking
- C. calving

- B. polarization
- D. amputation

14. As a center of worship, the building pictured here is likely to be a familiar part of the cultural landscape in _____.



- A. Israel
- C. Saudi Arabia

- B. Italy
- D. India

15. Which one of the following is the Earth scientist who studies earthquakes?

- A. meteorologist
- C. hydrologist

- B. seismologist
- D. agronomist

16. What is the Atlantic Ocean current that flows in a northerly direction along the east coast of North America?

- A. Humboldt Current
- C. Gulf Stream

- B. Labrador Current
- D. North Atlantic Drift

17. The rail tunnel under the English Channel connects Great Britain with what other European country?

- A. France
- C. The Netherlands

- B. Norway
- D. Belgium

18. Many tunnels and bridges connect New York City's island of Manhattan to other sections of the city and to New Jersey. Of the four connectors identified below, which one is *not* a Manhattan connector?

- A. Brooklyn Bridge
- C. Tappan-Zee Bridge

- B. Holland Tunnel
- D. George Washington Bridge

19. What is the reason weather patterns typically move from west to east across Earth's surface?
- A. They follow the movement of the westerly winds, which blow mainly from southwest to northeast
 - B. The rotation of Earth on its axis is from west to east.
 - C. Just as the moon's gravitational force affects ocean tides, it also causes weather to move in a specific west to east formation.
 - D. The clash of the tectonic plates in Earth's lithosphere influences air movement in the atmosphere thus causing the direction of weather.
20. Mr. Gray, a lawyer in San Francisco, plans to attend a legal conference in Boston. It is set to begin at 6:30 P.M. at a downtown hotel. The non-stop flight to Boston is six hours and travel time from Boston's Logan Airport to the hotel is about an hour. Using San Francisco time, when should Mr. Gray book a flight to make the meeting on time if there are no unexpected delays?
- A. 6:30 A.M.
 - B. 8:30 A.M.
 - C. 10:30 A.M.
 - D. 12:30 P.M.
21. What is the purpose of aqueducts?
- A. to dredge harbors
 - B. to drain swamps
 - C. to bridge rivers
 - D. to transport water
22. Which one of these urban corridors in the United States is the most densely populated?
- A. Seattle-Portland
 - B. San Francisco-San Diego
 - C. Washington-Boston
 - D. Atlanta-Miami
23. Geographers identify an urban corridor such as those named in the question above as _____.
- A. an ecumenopolis
 - B. an agglomerate
 - C. a conurbation
 - D. a megalopolis
24. What city in the United States is located at the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers?
- A. St. Louis, Missouri
 - B. St. Paul, Minnesota
 - C. Omaha, Nebraska
 - D. Des Moines, Iowa
25. Africa is to the Sahara Desert as _____ is to the Atacama Desert.
- A. Australia
 - B. South America
 - C. Asia
 - D. North America

26. What is the strategically important strait at the western end of the Mediterranean Sea?
- A. Strait of Hormuz
 - B. Strait of Magellan
 - C. Bering Strait
 - D. Strait of Gibraltar
27. What is the Caribbean archipelago with George Town as its capital that serves as a tax haven and major offshore finance center for many American and European companies?
- A. Grand Cayman Islands
 - B. The Bahamas
 - C. Bermuda
 - D. Greater Antilles
28. Even though they are in the northern latitudes, Ireland and the British Isles have a generally moderate climate called *Marine West Coast* that is similar to the climate of what other world region?
- A. Japan and the Korean peninsula
 - B. Atlantic Canada
 - C. coastal areas of the Pacific Northwest
 - D. Southern California
29. Over what kind of landforms do tornadoes most often develop?
- A. hills
 - B. plateaus
 - C. mountains
 - D. plains
30. Because of the nature of its ecoregion, only one of the major river deltas identified below has no urban center. Which one is it?
- A. Nile River Delta
 - B. Amazon River Delta
 - C. Mississippi River Delta
 - D. Rhine River Delta
31. In studying the patterns of human settlement, demographers conclude that about sixty percent of the world population lives in _____.
- A. river deltas and wetlands
 - B. plateaus and highlands
 - C. piedmont and fall lines
 - D. estuaries and coastal plains
32. Which of the following is an example of *absolute location*?
- A. downtown St. Louis
 - B. 6 miles north of town
 - C. 711 Oak St., Boise, Idaho
 - D. Tucson, Arizona 85705
33. A fracture deep into Earth's crust is most likely _____.
- A. a crater.
 - B. an isthmus.
 - C. a moraine.
 - D. a fault.

34. Three of Australia's most populous cities are located in the eastern part of the country on the Pacific Ocean side. One is on the Indian Ocean in western Australia. Which one is in the western part of the country?

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

35. Where are the world's major urban areas most generally located?

- A. in humid subtropical climates
- B. in areas easily accessible by air transportation
- C. along coastlines and transportation routes
- D. in the central areas of developing countries

36. The illustration below is a citadel, a center of government, and a historic site. It is _____.

- A. Washington, D.C.
- B. the Kremlin in Moscow
- C. the tower of London
- D. the Acropolis in Athens



37. What is a periodic market?

- A. a trading market held on one or more days of each week
- B. a market system where commodities are sold door-to-door
- C. a long-established indoor market selling a variety of goods
- D. a securities market such as the New York Stock Exchange

38. Which of the following is an example of an extractive economic activity?

- A. assembling cars and trucks
- B. processing poultry
- C. manufacturing tractor tires
- D. mining bauxite

39. The following paragraph describes one of world's well-known major cities. Based on the information presented, it is _____.

This national capital has a cityscape characterized by graceful and scenic canals. Because most of the country is below sea level, (excess) water has always been a problem. The solution meant digging canals so that the water flows in a way that can be controlled. Over the last several centuries, the canals have been used for water management, transportation and defense purposes. Nowadays, the canals are mainly used for recreational activities and as tourist venues. These waterways have another bonus - hundreds of bridges! Spanning the centuries as well as the canals, bridges provide a glimpse into the past, and make wonderful observation points for photographing the city or just circular reflection in the water below.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A. St. Petersburg, Russia | B. Amsterdam, The Netherlands |
| C. Venice, Italy | D. Cairo, Egypt |

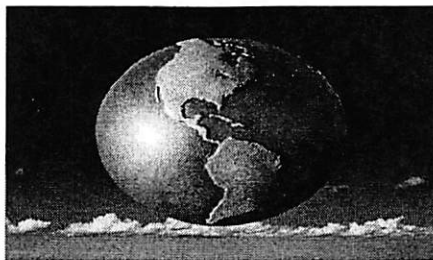
40. What is the *Sahel*?

- A. the grassland region bordering the Sahara Desert in North Africa
- B. the grassland region stretching across Eastern Europe and Asia
- C. a biome where tree growth is hindered by low temperatures and short growing season
- D. an often swampy coniferous forest zone in the northern latitudes

41. What is the vegetation common to prairie?

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| A. moss and lichens | B. sage brush |
| C. low-lying shrubs | D. tall and short grasses |

42. What two continents are shown on this space photograph of Earth?



- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| A. Europe and Asia | B. North and South America |
| C. Asia and Australia | D. Europe and Africa |

43. All of the following are Canadian Maritime Provinces except _____.
A. Prince Edward Island B. Nova Scotia
C. Quebec D. New Brunswick
44. The geographic terms for Earth's crust is _____.
A. lithosphere B. atmosphere
C. hydrosphere D. biosphere
45. Latitude and longitude are always measured in _____.
A. hours B. kilometers
C. degrees D. miles
46. The nation that is the USA's most active trade partner is _____.
A. Japan B. Canada
C. Mexico D. China
47. The abbreviation for Montana authorized by the United States Postal Service is _____.
A. MT B. MO
C. MN D. MA
48. What peninsula does Norway and Sweden share?
A. Jutland B. Iberian
C. Baltic D. Scandinavian
49. Many of the countries that have joined the European Union use a currency known as the _____.
A. Franc B. Dollar
C. Euro D. Pound
50. All of the following are alternative energy resources except _____.
A. wind power B. biofuels
C. solar power D. anthracite