



**Asian History Examination
IAC Asian Championships 2026
Varsity / Junior Varsity Division**

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 technologies was introduced to Japan in the 16th century by Portuguese traders?

- A. Crossbows
- B. Gunpowder weapons
- C. Plate mail armor
- D. Swords

2. Which of the Three Kingdoms of Korea was the largest, controlling most of the Korean peninsula and parts of Manchuria from 37 BCE until 668 CE?

- A. Joseon
- B. Silla
- C. Goguryeo
- D. Baekje

3. Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated in 1948 by which of the following?

- A. A member of his own security detail
- B. A spy from the Soviet Union
- C. A British soldier upset about Indian independence
- D. A Hindu nationalist

4. Nalanda in ancient India was a Buddhist site for which of these during the 'Golden Age of India'?

- A. Education and philosophy
- B. Warfare and military technology
- C. Economic dominance of the region
- D. Naval developments

5. Which of these ruled much of northern India from the 3rd to 6th century CE?

- A. Mongol empire
- B. Gupta empire
- C. Persian empire
- D. Roman empire

6. An 'economic miracle' following World War II turned what Asian nation into the second largest economy in the world by 1970?

- A. China
- B. Thailand
- C. Japan
- D. Cambodia

7. Which Southeast Asian region, controlled by France from the 1880s until 1954, included the modern-day nations of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia?

- A. East Indies
- B. The Philippines
- C. Indochina
- D. Malaya

8. Aung San Suu Kyi won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 as a democracy activist in which Southeast Asian country?

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

9. Deng Xiaoping is best known for introducing which kind of economic policies in the late 1970s and 1980s in China?

- A. Market-oriented reforms that opened China to foreign investment
- B. A return to agricultural communes
- C. Pure communist central planning
- D. Strict isolationism

10. Singapore became one of Asia's wealthiest nations under the leadership of what prime minister from 1965 to 1990?

- A. Lee Kuan Yew
- B. Yusof Ishak
- C. Benjamin Sheares
- D. Devan Nair

11. What Japanese emperor made a radio broadcast announcing Japan's surrender in August 1945?

- A. Meiji
- B. Naruhito
- C. Hirohito
- D. Taisho

12. Which massive structure, stretching across thousands of miles of northern China, was built over centuries to keep out nomadic invaders from the north?

- A. The Grand Canal
- B. The Forbidden City
- C. The Great Wall of China
- D. The Silk Road

13. What city, formerly known as Saigon, was renamed in 1976 following the end of the Vietnam War?

- A. Ho Chi Minh City
- B. Hanoi
- C. Hue
- D. Da Nang

14. Which clan established Japan's first shogunate in 1185, beginning nearly 700 years of military government?

- A. Fujiwara
- B. Tokugawa
- C. Minamoto
- D. Oda

15. Which dynasty that ruled China from the 7th to the early 10th century saw the invention of woodblock printing and a golden age of poetry and literature?

- A. Song
- B. Tang
- C. Qin
- D. Han

16. Which ancient dynasty names the major ethnic group of modern China?

- A. Song
- B. Zhou
- C. Han
- D. Qin

17. The Opium Wars of the 1840s and 1850s ended with China being forced to sign agreements with Western powers known by what term?

- A. 'Golden alliances'
- B. 'Special economic treaties'
- C. 'Collective security agreements'
- D. 'Unequal treaties'

18. Six parts sulfur to six parts saltpeter to one part birthwort herb was an early recipe for which of these 'great inventions' of ancient China?

- A. Paper
- B. Gunpowder
- C. Tea
- D. Ink

19. South Korea's economic transformation in the late 20th century, driven by companies like Samsung and Hyundai, is known by what name?

- A. The Miracle on the Han River
- B. The Tiger's Leap
- C. The Seoul Spring
- D. The Bamboo Boom

20. Which two Japanese cities were targeted with atomic bombs in 1945 just before the end of World War II?

- A. Sapporo and Nagoya
- B. Tokyo and Kyoto
- C. Osaka and Kobe
- D. Hiroshima and Nagasaki

21. Which of these was defeated in China by the 'Eight-Nation Alliance' in 1901?

- A. Boxer Rebellion
- B. Taiping Rebellion
- C. Red Turban Rebellion
- D. Yellow Turban Rebellion

22. Which religion, arriving in Southeast Asia by sea from India and Arabia around the 12th century, became the dominant faith of Malaysia and Indonesia?

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

23. Which of these is NOT considered one of the three 'Great Unifiers' of Japan from the 16th and early 17th century?

- A. Tokugawa Ieyasu
- B. Emperor Jimmu
- C. Oda Nobunaga
- D. Toyotomi Hideyoshi

24. B.R. Ambedkar was the primary author of the constitution of what nation, adopted in 1950 considered the longest constitution in the world?

- A. Afghanistan
- B. Iran
- C. India
- D. Vietnam

25. The Khmer Rouge in Cambodia attempted to build an agrarian society in the 1970s by doing which of these things?

- A. Building a democracy with Western support
- B. Inviting foreign investment and factories
- C. Joining the Soviet Union as a republic
- D. Emptying the cities and forcing people into farm labor

26. Which Central Asian conqueror founded the Mughal Empire in India in 1526 after defeating the Delhi Sultanate at the First Battle of Panipat?
- Babur
 - Hannibal
 - Tamerlane
 - David the Builder
27. Which of these 1868 events helped transform Japan into a modern, industrial nation?
- Opening of trade with Portugal
 - The Meiji Restoration
 - The Great Tokyo Earthquake
 - The Russo-Japanese War
28. Which of these best describes the North Korean ideology of Juche?
- International military alliances with the US and UK
 - Partnership with capitalist nations for economic growth
 - Democratic elections guided by the Korean Workers' Party
 - National self-reliance and independence above all else
29. India gained full independence from British rule on in what decade after years of struggle led by the Indian National Congress?
- 1940s
 - 1930s
 - 1920s
 - 1910s
30. Mahatma Gandhi's led a march in 1930 to protest taxes on what good by the British?
- Gasoline
 - Salt
 - Cars
 - Radios
31. Which sacred Indian text, composed between 1500 and 1200 BCE, is one of the oldest surviving Hindu texts?
- Rig Veda
 - Works and Days
 - Theogony
 - Agricola
32. India and Pakistan have fought several wars since independence over what region on the border between the two nations?
- Deccan Plateau
 - Gujarat
 - The Andaman Islands
 - Kashmir
33. Which of these caused the cancellation of the 1940 Olympics in Tokyo?
- A major earthquake
 - World War II
 - Wildfires on the island
 - Protests over the inclusion of women
34. Both 'The Pillow Book' and 'The Tale of Genji' were written by which of these in early 11th century Japan?
- Retired shogun
 - Japanese emperors
 - Noble women in the Heian era
 - Portuguese missionaries
35. Panokseon warships and geobukseon, or 'turtle ships' were used to defeat Japanese invasions of which of these?
- Hawai'i
 - Korea
 - Australia
 - India
36. What Asian nation became the second-largest economy in the world in 2010 after a decade of rapid growth and investment?
- India
 - Vietnam
 - Laos
 - China
37. Which of these was NOT a leader of the Mughal Empire?
- Aurangzeb
 - Akbar the Great
 - Babur
 - Sher Shah Suri
38. Which ancient Chinese thinker is credited with founding Taoism?
- Sun Tzu
 - Laozi
 - Mencius
 - Qin Shi Huang
39. Buddhists make up the majority of the population in all these countries EXCEPT which of the following?
- Myanmar
 - Thailand
 - India
 - Cambodia
40. What US president won the Nobel Peace Prize for helping to end the Russo-Japanese War with the Treaty of Portsmouth in 1905?
- Theodore Roosevelt
 - Calvin Coolidge
 - Abraham Lincoln
 - Ulysses Grant

41. Seo Taiji and Boys are considered the forerunners of what wildly popular music genre that includes groups like Girls' Generation?

- A. Visual kei
- B. J-Euro
- C. Kayokyoku
- D. K-pop

42. Which Chinese dynasty, founded in 1368 and later famous for art and pottery, drove out the Mongols under the Hongwu Emperor?

- A. Later Shu
- B. Pagan
- C. Southern Tang
- D. Ming

43. Which powerful Hindu-Buddhist empire, based on the island of Java, dominated much of maritime Southeast Asia from the 13th to 16th century?

- A. Delhi Sultanate
- B. Majapahit
- C. Golden Horde
- D. Jingan

44. Which Mongol leader unified Mongol tribes in 1206 and conquered one of the largest empires in world history?

- A. Attila the Hun
- B. Timur
- C. Kublai Khan
- D. Genghis Khan

45. Which European power colonized the Philippines for over 300 years beginning in the 1560s and named the islands after their King Philip II?

- A. Spain
- B. France
- C. Netherlands
- D. Portugal

46. Which ancient Indian epic, one of the longest poems in world history, contains the Bhagavad Gita?

- A. The Annals
- B. Mahabharata
- C. Commentary on the Apocalypse
- D. The Iliad

47. Which of the following ruled as the last emperor of the Qing dynasty and over the Japanese puppet state of Manchukuo?

- A. Puyi
- B. Lin Biao
- C. Zhu De
- D. Zhou Enlai

48. Which revolutionary leader, known as the 'Father of Modern China,' founded the Chinese Republic in 1912?

- A. Jiang Zemin
- B. Deng Xiaoping
- C. Kublai Khan
- D. Sun Yat-sen

49. Which ancient Chinese text, written around 500 BCE, is considered one of the most important works on military strategy ever written?

- A. The Art of War
- B. The Book of Songs
- C. The Tao Te Ching
- D. The Analects

50. Which European power conquered the wealthy trading port of Malacca in 1511, marking the beginning of European colonization of Southeast Asia?

- A. Germany
- B. Russia
- C. Portugal
- D. Greece

51. Which of these was NOT one of the founding members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations?

- A. Pakistan
- B. Malaysia
- C. Indonesia
- D. Thailand

52. What mythical animal, known as the Druk, appears on Bhutan's flag?

- A. bear
- B. snake
- C. merlion
- D. dragon

53. Which ancient Indian religion, founded around the same time as Buddhism, teaches complete nonviolence?

- A. Coptic Christianity
- B. Jainism
- C. Baha'i
- D. Mithraism

54. The ancient Silk Road was most important to China because it allowed which of these things?

- A. Chinese soldiers to march quickly to Central Asia
- B. Han emperors to inspect their western territories
- C. Trading of goods and ideas between China and the rest of the world
- D. Chinese ships to sail to Africa

55. Which volcanic mountain, considered sacred in Japanese culture and depicted in countless artworks, is Japan's highest peak?

- A. Mount Aso
- B. Mount Fuji
- C. Mount Hiei
- D. Mount Koya

56. What women led a successful Vietnamese revolt against Chinese occupation in 40 CE?

- A. The Trung sisters
- B. The Icenii
- C. The Sabines
- D. The Meitei

57. Which of the following served as the first and only female prime minister of India?

- A. Sheikh Hasina
- B. Golda Meir
- C. Benazir Bhutto
- D. Indira Gandhi

58. Which of the following names was adopted by East Pakistan when it declared independence in 1971?

- A. Myanmar
- B. Laos
- C. Bangladesh
- D. Sri Lanka

59. Which Japanese art form, created using woodblock printing and popular during the Edo period, is known for colorful prints of everyday life?

- A. Ikebana
- B. Ukiyo-e
- C. Manga
- D. Origami

60. Angkor Wat, the largest religious monument in the world, was originally built in the 12th century as a temple dedicated to which Hindu god?

- A. Brahma
- B. Ganesha
- C. Vishnu
- D. Shiva

61. Sumer is the earliest known civilization of what West Asia region situated between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers?

- A. Iberian Peninsula
- B. Yellow River basin
- C. Gobi Desert
- D. Mesopotamia

62. In 1858 the British government created which of the following to rule over India after the Indian Rebellion of 1857?

- A. The Virginia Company
- B. The Kowloon Company
- C. The British Raj
- D. The Friendship Colony

63. The city of Jakarta, Indonesia's capital, was known by which colonial name when the Dutch ruled the region for over 300 years?

- A. Saigon
- B. Batavia
- C. Manila
- D. Rangoon

64. The Korean War, which started in 1950 and still has no formal peace agreement, is an example of which of these?

- A. Guerilla war
- B. Global war
- C. Nuclear war
- D. Frozen conflict

65. Which ancient Indus Valley city, excavated in modern-day Pakistan, featured a sophisticated street plan and advanced drainage systems?

- A. Pataliputra
- B. Varanasi
- C. Mohenjo-daro
- D. Ayodhya

66. Which Mughal emperor is remembered for his religious tolerance and his abolition of the jizya tax on non-Muslims?

- A. Akbar
- B. Aurangzeb
- C. Babur
- D. Humayun

67. Indonesian president Sukarno championed which of these during the Cold War?

- A. NATO
- B. The Non-Aligned Movement
- C. The World Bank
- D. A military alliance with both the US and USSR

68. India's space agency launched the Mangalyaan mission in 2013, making India the first Asian nation to successfully reach which planet?

- A. Venus
- B. Saturn
- C. Jupiter
- D. Mars

69. Which Southeast Asian country is unique in the region for never having been formally colonized by a European power?

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

70. Which massive palace complex in Beijing has a nickname that refers to the fact that ordinary people were not allowed inside?

- A. The Summer Palace
- B. The Ming Tombs
- C. The Temple of Heaven
- D. The Forbidden City

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 historical estimates, what was the population of the Mughal Empire in 1700?