

Australia Geography Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

Copyright © 2025 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain from reliable sources accurate, complete, and timely information about this product.

SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

- 1. Which Australian state features a wide variety of wildlife and national parks?**
 - A. Queensland**
 - B. Western Australia**
 - C. New South Wales**
 - D. South Australia**
- 2. Which region in Australia is known for its tropical climate?**
 - A. Western Plateau**
 - B. Cairns**
 - C. Nullarbor Plain**
 - D. Sydney**
- 3. Which city is known as the capital of Australia?**
 - A. Sydney**
 - B. Melbourne**
 - C. Canberra**
 - D. Brisbane**
- 4. What is a major consequence of coral bleaching?**
 - A. Increased fish populations**
 - B. Death of coral and no food for fish**
 - C. Expansion of coral species**
 - D. Improved water quality**
- 5. Which statement is true regarding the Aboriginal people before European settlement?**
 - A. They were primarily urban dwellers**
 - B. They had a rich cultural history**
 - C. They were uneducated**
 - D. They lived in poverty**
- 6. Which major desert is found in Australia?**
 - A. Sahara**
 - B. Kalahari**
 - C. Great Sandy Desert**
 - D. Gobi**

- 7. Which Australian region is famous for its unique wildlife?**
- A. Great Barrier Reef**
 - B. Outback**
 - C. Sydney Harbour**
 - D. Blue Mountains**
- 8. What is the role of the Great Dividing Range in relation to rivers?**
- A. Creates new rivers**
 - B. Divides rivers into east and west flowing regions**
 - C. Provides a source of water**
 - D. Acts as a natural boundary**
- 9. What is the main mountain range in Australia?**
- A. Flinders Ranges**
 - B. Great Dividing Range**
 - C. Snowy Mountains**
 - D. Australian Alps**
- 10. What is the most populous city in Australia?**
- A. Brisbane**
 - B. Melbourne**
 - C. Sydney**
 - D. Perth**

Answers

SAMPLE

1. A
2. B
3. C
4. B
5. B
6. C
7. B
8. B
9. B
10. C

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. Which Australian state features a wide variety of wildlife and national parks?

A. Queensland

B. Western Australia

C. New South Wales

D. South Australia

Queensland is renowned for its exceptional biodiversity and is home to a variety of wildlife and numerous national parks. This state boasts several unique ecosystems, ranging from rainforests in the northeast to the arid landscapes in the west. Major national parks in Queensland, such as Daintree National Park and Lamington National Park, are UNESCO World Heritage sites known for their rich flora and fauna, including many endemic species. Additionally, Queensland's Great Barrier Reef is another significant contributor to its biodiversity, attracting countless marine species. The state's commitment to preserving its natural environments through protected areas ensures the conservation of its wildlife for future generations, making it a prime destination for nature lovers and wildlife enthusiasts.

2. Which region in Australia is known for its tropical climate?

A. Western Plateau

B. Cairns

C. Nullarbor Plain

D. Sydney

Cairns is renowned for its tropical climate, characterized by high humidity and significant rainfall, particularly during the wet season from November to April. This region experiences warm temperatures year-round, which supports lush vegetation and diverse ecosystems, including the Great Barrier Reef nearby. The tropical climate creates favorable conditions for tourism and agriculture, particularly in crops like sugarcane and tropical fruits. In contrast, other regions such as the Western Plateau are typically arid and have a more desert-like environment, while the Nullarbor Plain features semi-arid conditions with very little rainfall. Sydney, located in the southeastern part of Australia, has a temperate climate with warm summers and mild winters, differentiating it significantly from the tropical characteristics of Cairns.

3. Which city is known as the capital of Australia?

A. Sydney

B. Melbourne

C. Canberra

D. Brisbane

Canberra is recognized as the capital of Australia primarily due to its strategic location. Established as the capital in 1908, it was chosen to resolve the rivalry between Sydney and Melbourne, the two largest cities. Canberra was specifically designed to serve as the nation's capital and was part of a compromise that allowed both cities to maintain their significance. The city hosts important national institutions, including the Parliament House, the High Court, and numerous embassies, making it central to the governance and representation of Australia. Its design emphasizes nature and open space, aligning with the vision of creating a unique identity for the capital that differs from the major cities. This distinction reinforces Canberra's status as the political and administrative centre of Australia.

4. What is a major consequence of coral bleaching?

- A. Increased fish populations
- B. Death of coral and no food for fish**
- C. Expansion of coral species
- D. Improved water quality

Coral bleaching occurs when corals lose their vibrant colors, often due to stress factors such as rising sea temperatures, pollution, or changes in water quality. This loss of color happens when the symbiotic algae, known as zooxanthellae, that live within the coral tissues are expelled. These algae provide essential nutrients and energy to the coral through photosynthesis. When bleaching occurs, it leads to a severe decline in coral health. Without the algae, the coral struggles to survive, and this often leads to the death of the coral. Healthy coral reefs provide critical habitats and food sources for a diverse array of marine life, including fish. Therefore, when the coral dies, it ultimately results in a lack of food and habitat for these fish populations, which can lead to declines in their numbers or even local extinction. This situation contrasts starkly with the other options, which suggest positive changes such as increased fish populations, expansion of coral species, or improved water quality—outcomes that are unlikely in the face of widespread coral die-offs.

5. Which statement is true regarding the Aboriginal people before European settlement?

- A. They were primarily urban dwellers
- B. They had a rich cultural history**
- C. They were uneducated
- D. They lived in poverty

The statement about Aboriginal people having a rich cultural history before European settlement is accurate and reflects their deep connection to the land, traditions, and community practices. Aboriginal cultures are among the oldest continuous cultures in the world, with complex social structures, spiritual beliefs, and a strong emphasis on storytelling, art, and music that have been passed down through generations. They developed intricate knowledge systems related to their environment, including sustainable land management techniques that allowed them to thrive in diverse Australian ecosystems. Their cultural practices and identities are tied to particular regions and landscapes, indicating a profound relationship with the land that encompasses spirituality, kinship, and identity. Understanding this richness highlights the importance of Aboriginal culture in Australia's heritage, contrasting with simplistic views that might characterize them as solely uneducated or impoverished, which do not capture the full scope of their societal complexity before European contact.

6. Which major desert is found in Australia?

- A. Sahara**
- B. Kalahari**
- C. Great Sandy Desert**
- D. Gobi**

The Great Sandy Desert is the correct answer because it is one of the largest deserts in Australia, located in the northeastern part of the continent. It covers an area of approximately 284,993 square kilometers and is characterized by its sand dunes, sparse vegetation, and unique ecosystems. The ecosystem within the Great Sandy Desert supports various forms of wildlife and plant species that have adapted to the arid conditions. In contrast, the Sahara Desert is primarily located in northern Africa, the Kalahari Desert is situated in southern Africa, and the Gobi Desert spans northern China and southern Mongolia. Therefore, these other deserts are not found in Australia, confirming that the Great Sandy Desert is the correct choice for this question.

7. Which Australian region is famous for its unique wildlife?

- A. Great Barrier Reef**
- B. Outback**
- C. Sydney Harbour**
- D. Blue Mountains**

The Outback is renowned for its unique wildlife, making it the correct choice in this context. This vast, arid region that covers much of Australia is home to a diverse array of species that are specially adapted to thrive in harsh conditions. Animals such as kangaroos, emus, and various reptiles are commonly found here, along with a variety of birds. The remoteness and distinct ecosystems of the Outback provide a habitat for many species that are not found elsewhere in Australia, showcasing the country's unique biodiversity. While the Great Barrier Reef is famous for its marine life, including coral and fish species, it is not primarily a terrestrial wildlife region. Sydney Harbour, known for its iconic views and urban wildlife, does not showcase the same level of unique fauna as the Outback. The Blue Mountains offer beautiful landscapes and some native species, but they are not as synonymous with Australia's distinctive wildlife as the vast and varied ecosystems found in the Outback. This combination of factors highlights why the Outback is particularly famous for its unique wildlife.

8. What is the role of the Great Dividing Range in relation to rivers?

- A. Creates new rivers**
- B. Divides rivers into east and west flowing regions**
- C. Provides a source of water**
- D. Acts as a natural boundary**

The Great Dividing Range plays a significant role in shaping the flow of rivers in Australia by acting as a natural divide that separates rivers into two distinct regions: those that flow to the east and those that flow to the west. This mountain range runs along the eastern coast and influences rainfall patterns and the direction of river systems. In the area to the east of the range, rivers typically flow towards the Pacific Ocean, benefiting from higher rainfall due to moisture-laden winds that rise and cool over the mountains. In contrast, rivers west of the Great Dividing Range generally flow towards inland areas, including the Murray-Darling Basin, and often experience drier conditions. The range, therefore, is crucial in determining not just the flow and course of rivers but also in creating distinct hydrological regions within the Australian landscape. Other choices do not accurately capture the primary role of the Great Dividing Range in relation to rivers. While it may indirectly contribute to water sources and natural boundaries, its most defining characteristic in terms of river systems is its function as a divide, impacting the geographical and hydrological characteristics of regions on either side.

9. What is the main mountain range in Australia?

- A. Flinders Ranges**
- B. Great Dividing Range**
- C. Snowy Mountains**
- D. Australian Alps**

The Great Dividing Range is the main mountain range in Australia, stretching along the eastern coast of the continent from Queensland down to Victoria. This significant geological feature plays a crucial role in the country's geography, influencing weather patterns and fertility in the regions it traverses. The range is characterized by a series of mountains and plateaus, making it the longest mountain range in Australia. It serves as a watershed, separating the inland rivers from those flowing to the east coast, which is vital for both natural ecosystems and agricultural activities. While the Flinders Ranges and the Snowy Mountains are notable mountainous regions, they do not encompass the extensive area or the geographical influence that the Great Dividing Range has across Australia. The Australian Alps, located within the broader Great Dividing Range, are also known for containing the highest peaks in the country but are just a part of this larger range. Hence, the Great Dividing Range stands out as the primary and most significant mountain range in Australia.

10. What is the most populous city in Australia?

- A. Brisbane
- B. Melbourne
- C. Sydney**
- D. Perth

Sydney is the most populous city in Australia, known for its iconic landmarks such as the Sydney Opera House and the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The city's development as a major financial and cultural hub in the Asia-Pacific region has attracted a large population. Sydney's diverse economy, educational institutions, and vibrant lifestyle contribute to its status as the largest city, with a metropolitan area that boasts a population exceeding 5 million people. In comparison, while Melbourne is also a significant city with a large population and cultural richness, it is slightly smaller than Sydney in terms of overall population. Brisbane and Perth, although important urban centers, have much smaller populations than both Sydney and Melbourne. Thus, Sydney's combination of economic opportunities, cultural significance, and geographical appeal positions it as Australia's most populous city.