

Geography Olympiad Level 1 Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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Questions

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- 1. Where is Sceilg Mhichil located?**
 - A. Scotland**
 - B. Ireland**
 - C. Wales**
 - D. Northern Ireland**

- 2. Which of the following is NOT a likely cause of internal migration?**
 - A. Warfare or revolution**
 - B. Civil unrest or disturbance**
 - C. Economic opportunity**
 - D. Educational opportunity**
 - E. Natural disaster**

- 3. Which country is known as the Land of the Rising Sun?**
 - A. China**
 - B. Japan**
 - C. South Korea**
 - D. Thailand**

- 4. Which religion does the Prambanan Temple Compounds in Indonesia belong to?**
 - A. Islam**
 - B. Hinduism**
 - C. Buddhism**
 - D. Christianity**

- 5. What is the capital of Tajikistan?**
 - A. Bishkek**
 - B. Tashkent**
 - C. Ashgabat**
 - D. Dushanbe**

- 6. Which capital city in Central Asia restricts vehicles to only white cars on its roads?**
- A. Astana**
 - B. Tashkent**
 - C. Ashgabat**
 - D. Bishkek**
- 7. Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen was the first one to reach the geographic South Pole. In what year did his expedition discover the South Pole?**
- A. 1905**
 - B. 1911**
 - C. 1921**
 - D. 1916**
- 8. The White House houses the president of the United States. What color is the traditional official residence of the head of state in South Korea?**
- A. Red**
 - B. Green**
 - C. Black**
 - D. Blue**
- 9. Which country has a law to ban the importation of horses to maintain pure bloodlines?**
- A. Iceland**
 - B. Finland**
 - C. Norway**
 - D. Sweden**
- 10. Which of these countries was once part of the Soviet Union?**
- A. Romania**
 - B. Bulgaria**
 - C. Hungary**
 - D. Estonia**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Where is Sceilg Mhichil located?

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

Sceilg Mhichil, also known as Skellig Michael, is located off the southwest coast of Ireland, part of County Kerry. This dramatic and rugged island is known for its historical significance, particularly as a monastic settlement dating back to the 6th century, which is why it has garnered recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The island features a well-preserved beehive hut monastic complex and offers breathtaking views of the surrounding Atlantic Ocean. Its remote location also provides a unique ecosystem that supports diverse wildlife, including seabirds. The historical and natural elements of Sceilg Mhichil contribute significantly to its cultural heritage and tourist appeal in Ireland. In contrast, the other locations mentioned do not contain Sceilg Mhichil. Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland each have their own distinct geographic features and cultural landmarks, but the island's specific attributes and historical context are unique to Ireland.

2. Which of the following is NOT a likely cause of internal migration?

- A. Warfare or revolution**
- B. Civil unrest or disturbance
- C. Economic opportunity
- D. Educational opportunity
- E. Natural disaster

In examining the factors that drive internal migration, it is essential to consider the nature of the causes. Warfare or revolution typically results in forced migration, where individuals or groups flee their homes due to conflict, rather than choosing to move voluntarily for reasons such as better economic conditions or education. In contrast, civil unrest, economic opportunities, educational pursuits, and natural disasters generally motivate individuals to relocate within their country. Economic opportunities attract people seeking jobs or improved living standards, while educational opportunities encourage migration toward regions with better schools or universities. Natural disasters can displace populations, prompting relocation to safer areas or places with better infrastructure for recovery. Thus, warfare or revolution is distinct in that it often leads to involuntary movement, setting it apart from the other options that typically indicate voluntary choices for better living conditions or safety.

3. Which country is known as the Land of the Rising Sun?

- A. China
- B. Japan**
- C. South Korea
- D. Thailand

Japan is known as the Land of the Rising Sun primarily due to its name in Japanese, which is "Nihon" or "Nippon." These terms can be translated to mean "origin of the sun," signifying Japan's geographic position to the east of the Asian continent where the sun rises. This phrase symbolizes not only the country's location but also reflects its cultural identity and historical significance, particularly in the context of its mythology and literature. The nickname has been embraced widely and is also seen in Japan's flag, which features a red circle representing the sun on a white background. The other options do not carry the same cultural or historical significance associated with the phrase "Land of the Rising Sun." China, while having many cultural and historical identities, is not referred to in this manner. Similarly, South Korea and Thailand have their own distinct names and cultural symbols that do not relate to this particular designation.

4. Which religion does the Prambanan Temple Compounds in Indonesia belong to?

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

The Prambanan Temple Compounds in Indonesia are associated with Hinduism, particularly as they are dedicated to the Hindu Trimurti, which consists of the deities Shiva, Vishnu, and Brahma. This significant site reflects the architectural and cultural influence of Hindu religion in Indonesia, particularly during the 9th century, when the temples were constructed. The Prambanan temple complex showcases intricate carvings and sculptures that narrate stories from Hindu epics such as the Ramayana and the Bhagavad Gita, underlining its religious significance. The historical context is essential, as Indonesia is predominantly a Muslim country today, yet it has a rich history of Hindu and Buddhist influence that is evident in its ancient architecture, such as in the Prambanan complex. This temple, alongside Borobudur (a significant Buddhist temple nearby), illustrates the diverse religious landscape that existed in Indonesia before the rise of Islam as the dominant faith in the region. In contrast, the other religions represented in the choices don't have a connection to the Prambanan Temple. Islam became prominent in Indonesia after the arrival of traders and missionaries, which occurred centuries after the temple's construction. Christianity, while present in Indonesia, does not have any historical ties to the temple.

5. What is the capital of Tajikistan?

- A. Bishkek**
- B. Tashkent**
- C. Ashgabat**
- D. Dushanbe**

The capital of Tajikistan is Dushanbe. Dushanbe has been the capital since 1929 and is the largest city in the country, serving as its political, economic, and cultural center. The name "Dushanbe" translates to "Monday" in Tajik, reflecting its historical significance as a market day. This city is situated in the Hissar Valley, in the southern part of the country, and features various institutions and government buildings important to Tajikistan's governance. Its development has been closely tied to the country's history, particularly following its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. In contrast, the other options represent capitals of neighboring countries: Bishkek is the capital of Kyrgyzstan, Tashkent is the capital of Uzbekistan, and Ashgabat is the capital of Turkmenistan. Each of these cities plays a significant role in their respective nations, but only Dushanbe is the correct answer for the capital of Tajikistan.

6. Which capital city in Central Asia restricts vehicles to only white cars on its roads?

- A. Astana**
- B. Tashkent**
- C. Ashgabat**
- D. Bishkek**

Ashgabat is the capital city of Turkmenistan and is known for its unique urban policies, including the regulation that restricts most vehicles to only white cars. This regulation is part of an effort to promote a harmonious and aesthetically pleasing environment in the city. The choice of white is symbolic, often associated with purity and cleanliness in Turkmen culture. Astana, now called Nur-Sultan, is the capital of Kazakhstan and has its own modern and distinct development but does not have such vehicle restrictions. Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, is a major urban center with diverse vehicle regulations but does not impose restrictions on car colors. Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, similarly does not have regulations pertaining to car colors. Thus, Ashgabat stands out as the city with this specific requirement, making it the correct answer.

7. Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen was the first one to reach the geographic South Pole. In what year did his expedition discover the South Pole?

A. 1905

B. 1911

C. 1921

D. 1916

Roald Amundsen successfully reached the geographic South Pole on December 14, 1911. His expedition was a significant achievement in the history of exploration, as it marked the first time humans had set foot at this remote location. Amundsen's meticulous planning, the use of dog sled teams, and a keen understanding of polar navigation were pivotal in his success. This expedition represented not just a remarkable exploratory feat but also the culmination of intense competition among explorers at the time, notably with Robert Falcon Scott's British expedition that aimed for the same goal. The year 1911 is thus crucial in historical records as it underscores a landmark moment in the Age of Exploration.

8. The White House houses the president of the United States. What color is the traditional official residence of the head of state in South Korea?

A. Red

B. Green

C. Black

D. Blue

The traditional official residence of the head of state in South Korea is known as the "Blue House," or "Cheong Wa Dae" in Korean. The name "Blue House" derives from the distinctive blue tiles that adorn its roof, which is a significant feature of its architecture. This residence serves as both the executive office and the living quarters for the president, much like how the White House functions in the United States. The color blue is not only representative of the building itself but also holds cultural significance in South Korea, symbolizing hope and prosperity. The other colors mentioned do not correspond with the official presidential residence, which clearly underscores the unique identity and symbolism of the Blue House.

9. Which country has a law to ban the importation of horses to maintain pure bloodlines?

A. Iceland

B. Finland

C. Norway

D. Sweden

Iceland is unique in its approach to horse breeding and importation. The country has enacted laws that specifically prohibit the importation of horses from other countries in order to protect and maintain the purity of its horse breed, the Icelandic horse. This breed is celebrated for its unique characteristics and has been isolated for centuries. As a result, any horse introduced from outside could potentially bring new diseases or dilute the genetic pool, which is why Iceland has strict regulations in place. The Icelandic horse cannot be exported from the country once it has left, ensuring that any animals raised in Iceland keep to the established bloodlines. This practice reflects Iceland's commitment to preserving its cultural heritage and the qualities that make the Icelandic horse distinctive, such as its specialized gaits and robust health. In contrast, the other countries mentioned do not have such stringent laws regarding the importation of horses for the similar purpose of protecting bloodlines. While they may have regulations concerning animal health and welfare, they do not restrict the importation of horses to the same extent as Iceland.

10. Which of these countries was once part of the Soviet Union?

A. Romania

B. Bulgaria

C. Hungary

D. Estonia

Estonia was indeed one of the countries that was part of the Soviet Union. It became a constituent republic of the USSR when the Union was established in 1922 and remained so until it regained independence in 1991 following the dissolution of the Soviet Union. This connection to the Soviet Union is significant in understanding Estonia's historical, political, and cultural development. In contrast, the other countries listed—Romania, Bulgaria, and Hungary—were not part of the Soviet Union. Instead, they were socialist states in Eastern Europe that had their own communist governments, but they remained independent and were not integrated into the USSR. This distinction is important as it illustrates the varying political landscapes of Eastern Europe during the Cold War period.