

# NAQT Geography Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



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## **Questions**

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- 1. Which mountain range separates Europe from Asia?**
  - A. Andes Mountains**
  - B. Rocky Mountains**
  - C. Ural Mountains**
  - D. Himalayas**
- 2. What river flows through the Grand Canyon?**
  - A. Mississippi River**
  - B. Amazon River**
  - C. Colorado River**
  - D. Yukon River**
- 3. What is the capital of Germany?**
  - A. München**
  - B. Berlin**
  - C. Hamburg**
  - D. Frankfurt**
- 4. What is the driest hot desert in the world, located in Chile?**
  - A. Gobi Desert**
  - B. Rub' al-Khali**
  - C. Atacama Desert**
  - D. Namib Desert**
- 5. What is the only continent without a native species of ants?**
  - A. Asia**
  - B. Africa**
  - C. Antarctica**
  - D. Europe**
- 6. What is the longest river in South America?**
  - A. Amazon River**
  - B. Mississippi River**
  - C. Nile River**
  - D. Orinoco River**

- 7. What famous landmark is located near the Thames River?**
- A. Big Ben**
  - B. Statue of Liberty**
  - C. Eiffel Tower**
  - D. Colosseum**
- 8. What mountain range forms the border between Europe and Asia?**
- A. Alps**
  - B. Andes**
  - C. Himalayas**
  - D. Ural Mountains**
- 9. Which desert is the largest hot desert in the world?**
- A. Sahara Desert**
  - B. Gobi Desert**
  - C. Arabian Desert**
  - D. Kalahari Desert**
- 10. Which river has been significant since the early 17th century and inspired the Hudson River School of American landscape painters?**
- A. Ohio**
  - B. Hudson River**
  - C. Missouri**
  - D. Mississippi**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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## **1. Which mountain range separates Europe from Asia?**

- A. Andes Mountains**
- B. Rocky Mountains**
- C. Ural Mountains**
- D. Himalayas**

The Ural Mountains are the geographic feature that delineates the boundary between Europe and Asia. This mountain range runs approximately from north to south in western Russia, extending about 2,500 kilometers (1,550 miles) from the Arctic Ocean to the Ural River and northwestern Kazakhstan. The Ural Mountains are traditionally considered the dividing line because they represent a natural barrier between the two continents, with Europe to the west and Asia to the east. The significance of the Ural Mountains lies not only in their geographical position but also in their historical importance as a boundary recognized in various cultural and geopolitical terms. In contrast, the other choices, such as the Andes and the Rocky Mountains, are located in the Americas and do not intersect with the continents of Europe or Asia. The Himalayas, while being the highest mountain range in the world and significant to Asia, are located in South Asia and do not separate Europe from Asia. Thus, the Ural Mountains serve as the widely accepted natural boundary between these two major landmasses.

## **2. What river flows through the Grand Canyon?**

- A. Mississippi River**
- B. Amazon River**
- C. Colorado River**
- D. Yukon River**

The river that flows through the Grand Canyon is the Colorado River. This river is significant not only for its geographical features but also for its role in shaping the landscape of the Grand Canyon over millions of years. Erosion caused by the river's continuous water flow has carved the canyon into its distinct shape, showcasing stunning geological formations and strata that reveal the Earth's history. The Colorado River is approximately 1,450 miles long, originating in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado and eventually emptying into the Gulf of California. The other rivers mentioned do not flow through the Grand Canyon. The Mississippi River is primarily located in the central United States, flowing southward from Minnesota to Louisiana. The Amazon River, one of the longest rivers in the world, runs through South America and is known for its role in the vast Amazon rainforest. The Yukon River flows through Canada and Alaska, traveling a different geographic region altogether. Thus, the Colorado River stands out as the key waterway in the Grand Canyon's remarkable ecosystem and geography.

### 3. What is the capital of Germany?

- A. München
- B. Berlin**
- C. Hamburg
- D. Frankfurt

The capital of Germany is Berlin. Berlin is the most populous city in Germany and has a rich history, serving as the capital of various historical states and nations, including the Kingdom of Prussia and West Germany during the Cold War. After the reunification of Germany in 1990, Berlin was designated as the capital, reflecting its political significance and central location in the country. München, or Munich, is known for its culture and Oktoberfest, but it is not the capital. Hamburg is a major port city known for its maritime trade and culture. Frankfurt, while an important financial hub, particularly for the European Central Bank, is also not the capital. Berlin's status as the capital is established in the contemporary political structure of Germany, making it the correct answer.

### 4. What is the driest hot desert in the world, located in Chile?

- A. Gobi Desert
- B. Rub' al-Khali
- C. Atacama Desert**
- D. Namib Desert

The Atacama Desert is known as the driest hot desert in the world and is located in northern Chile. It experiences extremely low precipitation levels, often receiving less than 1 millimeter of rain per year in certain areas. This unique arid climate results from a combination of factors, including the rain shadow effect caused by the Andes Mountains to the east and the cold Humboldt Current offshore to the west. These conditions significantly limit moisture from reaching the desert. The remarkable dryness of the Atacama Desert creates an environment that is often compared to Mars, as it is one of the few places on Earth that shares similar arid conditions and landscape features. This distinction highlights the Atacama's unique geological and climatic characteristics, making it a significant location for scientific research, particularly in understanding extremophiles and space exploration preparations. In contrast, the other deserts mentioned do not match the extreme aridity of the Atacama Desert. For instance, the Gobi and Namib deserts receive more precipitation due to differing climatic influences, while the Rub' al-Khali, while also very dry, is not classified as a hot desert to the same extent as the Atacama.

**5. What is the only continent without a native species of ants?**

**A. Asia**

**B. Africa**

**C. Antarctica**

**D. Europe**

Antarctica is the only continent without a native species of ants due to its extreme climate and harsh environmental conditions. The continent is characterized by its frigid temperatures, ice-covered terrain, and limited biodiversity, making it inhospitable for many forms of life, including ants. Unlike other continents, where a variety of habitats support ant populations, Antarctica's severe weather and lack of soil suitable for nesting and foraging have prevented the establishment of native ant species. In contrast, the other continents have diverse ecosystems that allow for the presence and proliferation of ants. For example, Asia, Africa, and Europe each have their own unique environments that support various ant species adapted to those climates. As a result, these continents boast a rich diversity of ants that thrive in their respective habitats. Thus, the unique conditions of Antarctica set it apart as the only continent devoid of ants.

**6. What is the longest river in South America?**

**A. Amazon River**

**B. Mississippi River**

**C. Nile River**

**D. Orinoco River**

The Amazon River is recognized as the longest river in South America, spanning approximately 4,345 miles (7,062 kilometers) from its source in the Andes Mountains to its mouth at the Atlantic Ocean. The Amazon River system is also one of the most complex and biodiverse rivers in the world, draining parts of several countries, including Brazil, Peru, and Colombia. While other options might include significant rivers, they are either located in different continents or are shorter in length compared to the Amazon. The Mississippi River, for example, is the longest river in North America and does not play a role in South American geography. Similarly, the Nile River is the longest river in Africa, making it unrelated to the question. The Orinoco River is a major river in Venezuela, but it is not as long as the Amazon, measuring about 1,300 miles (2,100 kilometers). Hence, the Amazon River stands out as the correct answer due to its remarkable length and geographical significance.

**7. What famous landmark is located near the Thames River?**

- A. Big Ben**
- B. Statue of Liberty**
- C. Eiffel Tower**
- D. Colosseum**

Big Ben, officially known as the Great Bell of the clock at the north end of the Palace of Westminster in London, is one of the most iconic landmarks associated with the Thames River. The structure itself is part of the larger Elizabeth Tower, which is located adjacent to the Houses of Parliament and overlooks the river. Its proximity to the Thames makes it a central feature of the London skyline and an important symbol of the city. In contrast, the Statue of Liberty is located on Liberty Island in New York Harbor and is therefore unrelated to the Thames River. The Eiffel Tower, a symbol of Paris, France, stands far from London and again does not relate to the Thames. The Colosseum, situated in Rome, Italy, is also geographically distant from the Thames and not associated with London or its landmarks. This geographical specificity is what highlights Big Ben's prominent relationship with the Thames River.

**8. What mountain range forms the border between Europe and Asia?**

- A. Alps**
- B. Andes**
- C. Himalayas**
- D. Ural Mountains**

The Ural Mountains serve as the traditional boundary between Europe and Asia, effectively dividing the two continents. This mountain range stretches approximately 2,500 kilometers (about 1,550 miles) from the Arctic Ocean in the north to the Caspian Sea in the south. The Ural Mountains are significant not only for their geographical positioning but also due to their rich mineral resources and biodiversity. The other mountain ranges listed do not serve as the dividing line between Europe and Asia. The Alps are located in Central Europe, primarily stretching across France, Switzerland, Italy, and Austria. The Andes are found in South America, forming the longest continental mountain range in the world along the western edge of the continent. The Himalayas, while the highest mountain range globally, are located in South Asia and separate the Indian subcontinent from the Tibetan plateau. Therefore, the Ural Mountains are the only range that defines the border between the continents of Europe and Asia.

**9. Which desert is the largest hot desert in the world?**

- A. Sahara Desert**
- B. Gobi Desert**
- C. Arabian Desert**
- D. Kalahari Desert**

The Sahara Desert is recognized as the largest hot desert in the world, covering an area of approximately 9.2 million square kilometers (about 3.6 million square miles). It spans across several countries in North Africa and has distinct climatic and ecological features typical of hot deserts, such as extreme temperatures and low rainfall. The designation as the "largest hot desert" stems from both its size and its classification; it is characterized by high temperatures during the day, especially in the summer months. In comparison to other deserts listed, the Gobi Desert is classified as a cold desert and is significantly smaller in area than the Sahara. The Arabian Desert, while also large, does not surpass the Sahara in terms of size. The Kalahari Desert is another notable desert in terms of biodiversity and ecosystem but is smaller than the Sahara as well. The distinction of the Sahara as the largest hot desert is firmly established in geographical terminology and data.

**10. Which river has been significant since the early 17th century and inspired the Hudson River School of American landscape painters?**

- A. Ohio**
- B. Hudson River**
- C. Missouri**
- D. Mississippi**

The Hudson River has been significant since the early 17th century, primarily recognized as a crucial waterway in the northeastern United States. Named after the explorer Henry Hudson, it has served as an important route for trade and transportation. Its natural beauty and changing landscapes have deeply inspired artists, particularly during the 19th century, leading to the emergence of the Hudson River School. This group of American landscape painters celebrated the sublime beauty of the river and its surroundings, highlighting themes of nature, exploration, and American identity in their works. The river's scenic vistas, marked by dramatic cliffs and serene waters, provided a perfect subject for artists such as Thomas Cole and Asher Durand, who sought to capture its grandeur in their paintings. The Hudson River School played a pivotal role in elevating landscape painting in America, emphasizing the connection between the land and American nationalism. The other rivers mentioned, while significant in their own right, do not have the same cultural association with this particular movement in American art. The Ohio and Missouri rivers are important geographically and historically, but they did not inspire a dedicated school of artists like the Hudson River did. The Mississippi River, while iconic, primarily evokes themes associated with its vastness and the Southern experience rather than the specific artistic