

Geopolitics Fundamental Knowledge

Geopolitics · Answer Key · 25 Questions

1. Which strait, located between the Arabian Peninsula and Iran, is a critical chokepoint for global oil supplies?

- A) Strait of Malacca
- B) Strait of Hormuz**
- C) Bab-el-Mandeb
- D) Bosphorus Strait

2. What is the primary function of the 'exclusive economic zone' (EEZ) as defined by UNCLOS?

- A) Granting full sovereignty over the seabed
- B) Permitting military base construction
- C) Regulating mineral and fishing rights up to 200 nautical miles**
- D) Defining international maritime borders

3. Which country is currently a member of the 'Five Eyes' intelligence alliance alongside the US, UK, Canada, and New Zealand?

- A) Germany
- B) Japan
- C) Australia**
- D) France

4. The 'Heartland Theory', which argues that whoever controls Eastern Europe commands the world, was proposed by which geographer?

- A) Halford Mackinder**
- B) Alfred Thayer Mahan
- C) Nicholas Spykman
- D) Friedrich Ratzel

5. Which nation is the only one in the world that maintains a policy of permanent neutrality, enshrined in its constitution since 1815?

- A) Sweden
- B) Finland
- C) Switzerland**
- D) Austria

6. The 'Caspian Sea' is legally disputed regarding whether it is a sea or a lake; which of these countries does NOT border it?

- A) Kazakhstan
- B) Turkmenistan
- C) Armenia**
- D) Azerbaijan

7. What term describes a state that is geographically located between two larger, rival powers, serving as a buffer zone?

- A) Enclave
- B) Buffer state**
- C) Archipelago
- D) Sovereign nation

8. Which organization was formed in 1949 specifically as an intergovernmental military alliance to counter Soviet influence in Europe?

- A) Warsaw Pact
- B) European Union
- C) NATO**
- D) OSCE

9. The 'Belt and Road Initiative' is a massive infrastructure development strategy primarily led by which nation?

- A) India
- B) China**
- C) Russia
- D) Brazil

10. Which African nation was historically formed as a colony for freed slaves from the United States and was never colonized by a European power?

- A) Ghana
- B) Liberia**
- C) Ethiopia
- D) Sierra Leone

11. Which geopolitical term refers to the process of fragmentation or division of a region into smaller, often hostile, regions or states?

- A) Balkanization**
- B) Imperialism
- C) Devolution
- D) Annexation

12. The 'Suez Canal' connects which two major bodies of water?

A) Mediterranean Sea and Red Sea

B) Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean

C) Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea

D) Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea

13. Which country is the only member of the G7 that is not located in Europe or North America?

A) South Korea

B) Japan

C) Australia

D) Brazil

14. What is the 'Line of Actual Control' (LAC)?

A) A border between North and South Korea

B) A disputed boundary between India and China

C) The maritime border between Greece and Turkey

D) The border between Russia and Ukraine

15. Which organization maintains the 'NPT' (Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons)?

A) UN

B) WHO

C) WTO

D) ICC

16. The 'Kuril Islands' dispute involves which two countries?

A) Japan and Russia

B) China and Vietnam

C) Philippines and Malaysia

D) India and Pakistan

17. What defines a 'landlocked' country?

A) A country with no access to international trade

B) A country surrounded entirely by land with no coastline

C) A country situated in the middle of a desert

D) A country that has no rivers

18. The 'Arctic Council' is an intergovernmental forum that addresses issues faced by Arctic governments and the indigenous people of the Arctic; which of these is NOT a member?

- A) Canada
- B) Norway
- C) China**
- D) Iceland

19. Which country holds the world's largest proven oil reserves as of 2023?

- A) Saudi Arabia
- B) USA
- C) Venezuela**
- D) Iran

20. The 'Thucydides Trap' is a theory often used to describe the risk of war between which two types of powers?

- A) An established power and an emerging power**
- B) Two colonial powers
- C) A democracy and a dictatorship
- D) A land power and a sea power

21. Which treaty ended the Thirty Years' War and is often cited as the origin of the modern concept of state sovereignty?

- A) Treaty of Versailles
- B) Peace of Westphalia**
- C) Congress of Vienna
- D) Treaty of Tordesillas

22. Which of these countries is NOT a permanent member of the UN Security Council?

- A) France
- B) Germany**
- C) China
- D) Russia

23. The 'Khyber Pass' is a strategically important mountain pass connecting which two countries?

- A) India and China
- B) Pakistan and Afghanistan**
- C) Iran and Iraq
- D) Turkey and Syria

24. What is the 'Golan Heights'?

- A) A mountain range in Nepal
- B) A disputed territory between Israel and Syria**
- C) A coastal region in Morocco
- D) An island group in the Philippines

25. Which country is known as the 'Gateway to the Mediterranean' due to its control of the Strait of Gibraltar?

- A) Spain
- B) Morocco
- C) United Kingdom**
- D) Algeria