

A Geographic Profile of the Middle East and North Africa

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Which of these is not a Semitic language?
 - a. Hebrew
 - b. Tuareg
 - c. Berber
 - d. Arabic
 - e. Farsi

Answer: e

2. In which of these countries is the Kurdish language not spoken?
 - a. Iraq
 - b. Iran
 - c. Turkey
 - d. Syria
 - e. Afghanistan

Answer: e

3. Which two languages are written in the same script, yet are unrelated?
 - a. Hebrew and Arabic
 - b. Turkish and Farsi
 - c. Farsi and Arabic
 - d. Pashto and Arabic
 - e. Hebrew and Turkish

Answer: c

4. Which of these statements about Judaism is false?
 - a. Judaism does not have a fixed creed or doctrine
 - b. Judaism is a proselytizing religion similar to Islam and Christianity
 - c. Judaism does not have an acknowledged starting point in time
 - d. There are about 13 million Jews around the world today
 - e. Judaism's First Temple was built by King Solomon in about 950 B.C.

Answer: b

5. Of these five events, which would come second in chronological order?
 - a. Romans quash Jewish rebellion in Jerusalem
 - b. Assyrians attack Israel
 - c. Jews head to Canaan for the second time
 - d. United Kingdom of Israel splits into two kingdoms
 - e. Jews exiled to Mesopotamia

Answer: d

6. Which of these statements about the Temple Mount/Haram ash-Sharif is false?
 - a. The Western Wall is the most sacred site accessible to Jews
 - b. The Dome of the Rock is known today as the al-Aqsa mosque
 - c. al-Haram ash-Sharif means "The Noble Sanctuary" in Arabic
 - d. The Temple Mount/Haram ash-Sharif is located in the eastern part of Old Jerusalem

- e. The Second Temple was destroyed by the Romans

Answer: b

7. Which of the following is false?

- a. Jesus' surname only became "Christ" after his death
- b. Jesus' teachings invalidated many Jewish doctrines
- c. Roman Emperor Constantine became a Christian in 324 A.D.
- d. The Church of the Holy Sepulcher lies in the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem
- e. Muslims regard Jesus as a prophet

Answer: d

8. Which of the following statements about Sunni and Shi'ite Islam is correct?

- a. Iran and Syria are the only official Shi'ite Islam countries
- b. Shi'ite troops murdered Hussein at the battle of Karbala
- c. Shi'ite Muslims believe only direct descendants of Muhammad can be caliph
- d. Muhammad named Ali as his successor as caliph
- e. Shi'ite Muslims do not participate in the hajj

Answer: c

9. Which of these statements about Islam is false?

- a. The original polytheistic Ka'aba shrine was destroyed in A.D. 630
- b. Muslim armies quickly overtook the Byzantine and Sassanian empires after Muhammad's death
- c. Mecca, Medina and Jerusalem are all holy cities in Islam
- d. Interpretations of the Koran are stricter in Saudi Arabia than in Egypt
- e. Damascus was once the center of a large Muslim empire

Answer: a

10. Which of these is not one of the five pillars of Islam?

- a. Almsgiving
- b. Fasting
- c. Pilgrimage
- d. Prayer
- e. Humility

Answer: e

11. About _____ of the world's proven petroleum reserves are located around the Persian Gulf.

- a. One-half
- b. One-third
- c. Three-quarters
- d. Two-thirds
- e. Two-fifths

Answer: d

12. Which of these Gulf countries does not have a large reserve of petroleum?

- a. Iraq
- b. Iran
- c. United Arab Emirates
- d. Kuwait
- e. Bahrain

Answer: e

13. Why is Gulf oil relatively cheap to produce?
- The enormous military presence of the United States in the region helps protect the oil producers and lowers the overall cost
 - The vast number of shallow wells reduces the amount of machinery and technology needed to pump the oil, which means lower costs to the consuming nations
 - OPEC subsidizes the Middle Eastern-owned oil companies and all the equipment and labor they need to produce a consistent amount of petroleum
 - The region's oil-bearing strata is thick, which leads to enormous productivity in each individual oil well, leading to lower extraction costs
 - Both a and d

Answer: d

14. OPEC was created in order to:
- Give oil-producing countries higher shares of profits from petroleum
 - Nationalize the oil-producing companies in the Gulf region
 - Provide a stabilizing factor in the output and pricing of oil
 - Make sure profits from oil production were invested wisely in the Gulf countries
 - Give a political voice to oil-producing countries at the United Nations

Answer: a

15. Which of these was not a result of the dramatic rising of oil prices after 1973?
- Coal replaced oil in many electricity-generating power stations
 - The world entered an economic recession due in part to high oil prices
 - Food production in LDCs decreased
 - A dramatic increase of oil production in OPEC members to capitalize on the high prices
 - Tremendous inflation during the oil embargo in the United States

Answer: d

16. What event led to the Suez Crisis of 1956?
- An Israeli attack upon the Suez Canal
 - A joint French and British invasion of Egypt
 - The closure of the Gulf of Aqaba to Israeli shipping
 - The construction of new pipelines across Israel to bypass the canal
 - The Egyptian nationalization of the canal

Answer: e

17. Which body of water lies to the east of the Strait of Hormuz?
- The Red Sea
 - The Gulf of Aqaba
 - The Indian Ocean
 - The Persian Gulf
 - The Gulf of Oman

Answer: d

18. What was one of the first major oil pipelines constructed in the region?
- Petroline
 - Iraq-Saudi Arabia Pipeline
 - Tapline
 - SUMED

Answer: c

19. Which country has been the most dependent on oil pipelines?

- a. Iran
- b. Israel
- c. Saudi Arabia
- d. Turkey
- e. Iraq

Answer: e

20. Most of the Gulf's oil is marketed to _____ and _____.

- a. the United States; Western Europe
- b. the United States; Japan
- c. Western Europe; China
- d. Western Europe; Japan
- e. the United States; China

Answer: d

21. Which of these statements about hydropolitics is false?

- a. Israel receives about 40 percent of its fresh water from an aquifer that lies largely under the West Bank
- b. The Nile Water Agreement allows Egypt to inspect the entire length of the Nile River to ensure the compliance of other nations with the agreement
- c. Turkey increased the flow of the Euphrates River into Syria in 1987 in exchange for stopping Syria from arming and supporting Kurds in Turkey
- d. There are fears that Egypt's Toshka Canal project will waste money and that evaporation and salinization will take a huge toll on the country's water supply
- e. Israel bombed the joint Syrian-Jordanian Unity Dam in 1967 to prevent Israel's loss of fresh water from the Jordan River

Answer: e

22. Arrange this selection of post-September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the correct chronological order.

- a. Bali, Indonesia; Mombasa, Kenya; Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; Madrid, Spain; Taba, Egypt
- b. Mombasa, Kenya; Bali, Indonesia; Madrid, Spain; Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; Taba, Egypt
- c. Bali, Indonesia; Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; Mombasa, Kenya; Taba, Egypt; Madrid, Spain
- d. Mombasa, Kenya; Bali, Indonesia; Taba, Egypt; Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; Madrid, Spain

Answer: a

23. The broadest definition of "Islamist" usually refers to people who (choose the best answer):

- a. Are members of militant or jihadist terrorist organizations
- b. Practice Wahhabism and other forms of "fundamentalist" Islam
- c. Call for Muslim nations to reject Western-style materialism and morality
- d. Want the overthrow of governments in the region that do not practice *shari'a* law
- e. Follow the teachings of the Hadith instead of the Koran

Answer: c

24. The Hadith is:

- a. The second volume of the Koran
- b. A collection of writings by 19th and 20th-century Islamists
- c. A series of religious edicts and injunctions used by al-Qa'ida to justify their actions
- d. The sayings of the Prophet Muhammad
- e. None of the above

Answer: d

25. In Osama bin Laden's 1996 *fatwa*, which of these was not one of his stated goals?
- a. Liberate the cities of Mecca and Medina
 - b. Drive the Jews out of occupied Palestine
 - c. Remove the U.S. forces from the Arabian Peninsula
 - d. Overthrow the government of Saudi Arabia
 - e. None of the above

Answer: b

26. What does Rohan Gunaratna believe al-Qa'ida's ultimate goal is?
- a. The liberation of the Ka'aba and the al-Aqsa mosque from "Crusaders and Jews"
 - b. The removal of all Western (particularly American) influences from the Arabian Peninsula
 - c. The destruction of Israel, the United States, and other Western nations
 - d. The reestablishment of the caliphate of Islam's early golden age
 - e. The unification of all Arabs into one nation under *shari'a* law

Answer: d

27. Which of these countries has not suffered a major al-Qa'ida related terrorist attack between 1998 and 2004?
- a. Morocco
 - b. Tunisia
 - c. Turkey
 - d. Israel
 - e. Philippines

Answer: d

28. The first terrorist attack upon the World Trade Center occurred in:
- a. 1991
 - b. 1992
 - c. 1993
 - d. 1994
 - e. 1995

Answer: c

29. The Islamic Salvation Front would have won a majority of seats in which country's 1991 election?
- a. Algeria
 - b. Tunisia
 - c. Egypt
 - d. Syria
 - e. Lebanon

Answer: a

30. Israel regards which country as an "existential threat"?
- a. Jordan
 - b. Syria
 - c. Iraq
 - d. Iran
 - e. Lebanon

Answer: d