

Key Geography Concepts

1. A ratio of the number of items within a defined unit of area measures
 - (A) dispersion
 - (B) direction
 - (C) pattern
 - (D) density
 - (E) diffusion
2. Which of the following best describes the *site* of Manhattan?
 - (A) A regional transportation hub for the northeastern United States
 - (B) A midway point along an urban corridor stretching from Boston to Washington, D.C.
 - (C) An island bordered by the Hudson and East Rivers
 - (D) An important center for international trade and commerce
 - (E) An urban center located two hours northeast of Philadelphia by train
3. Spatial coordinates of latitude and longitude express
 - (A) relative location
 - (B) absolute location
 - (C) relative direction
 - (D) absolute direction
 - (E) relative distance
4. Which of the following concepts refers to the spatial arrangement of items or features within a given area?
 - (A) Distribution
 - (B) Direction
 - (C) Accessibility
 - (D) Trajectory
 - (E) Scale

5. A method for representing the three-dimensional surface of the earth on the two-dimensional surface of a map is known as
- (A) scale
 - (B) globalization
 - (C) proximity
 - (D) ethnography
 - (E) projection
6. A subjective image of an area informed by individual perceptions and experiences in that area is known as a
- (A) thematic map
 - (B) reference map
 - (C) mental map
 - (D) contour map
 - (E) topographic map
7. The notion that the physical environment offers certain constraints and opportunities that influence cultural practices without entirely determining them is known as
- (A) assimilation
 - (B) possibilism
 - (C) diffusion
 - (D) determinism
 - (E) divergence
8. Which of the following is *not* true of culture?
- (A) It is biologically inherited.
 - (B) It varies from place to place.
 - (C) It can converge and diverge over time.
 - (D) It can diffuse across space.
 - (E) It expresses human adaptations and innovations.
9. Which of the following phenomena most directly illustrates the concept of cultural convergence?
- (A) Linguistic drift
 - (B) Ethnic separatism
 - (C) Globalization
 - (D) Gerrymandering
 - (E) Religious fundamentalism
10. The idea that material innovations, such as new technologies, diffuse more rapidly than newly exposed cultures can adequately respond and adapt to them best illustrates the idea of
- (A) cultural divergence
 - (B) stimulus diffusion
 - (C) environmental determinism
 - (D) cultural lag
 - (E) relocation diffusion
11. The principle of distance decay describes
- (A) a positive correlation between distance and degree of relation
 - (B) a neutral correlation between distance and degree of relation
 - (C) a negative correlation between distance and degree of relation
 - (D) an uncertain correlation between distance and degree of relation
 - (E) no correlation between distance and degree of relation
12. The particular conditions that compel individuals or groups to migrate from one place to another are commonly referred to as
- (A) cause and effect issues
 - (B) place and space dynamics
 - (C) local and global conflicts
 - (D) past and future concerns
 - (E) push and pull factors
13. Economic and/or political associations that are comprised of multiple, autonomous member states that cooperate to achieve a common purpose are known as
- (A) transnational corporations
 - (B) supranational organizations
 - (C) multiethnic societies
 - (D) nationalism
 - (E) nongovernmental organizations
14. Which of the following U.S. cities is a site along the Mississippi River and is situated as a major port for offshore petroleum production in the Gulf of Mexico?
- (A) St. Louis
 - (B) Houston
 - (C) Mobile
 - (D) New Orleans
 - (E) Minneapolis

5. The ability to travel and communicate over greater distances in shorter amounts of time, due to technological innovations such as the airplane, automobile, telephone, and Internet, represents the idea of
- (A) time-space compression
 - (B) stimulus diffusion
 - (C) friction of distance
 - (D) relocation diffusion
 - (E) possibilism
6. Which of the following cartographic terms describes the location of a place in terms of its angular distance north or south of the equator?
- (A) Longitude
 - (B) Azimuth
 - (C) Latitude
 - (D) Meridian
 - (E) Legend
7. During the process of mapmaking, in which the three-dimensional surface of the earth is projected onto a flat, two-dimensional surface, all of the following attributes can become distorted EXCEPT
- (A) shape
 - (B) area
 - (C) distance
 - (D) direction
 - (E) relative location
8. The Prime Meridian, which passes through Greenwich, England, is equivalent to which of the following lines of longitude?
- (A) 0° longitude
 - (B) 45° longitude
 - (C) 90° longitude
 - (D) 180° longitude
 - (E) 270° longitude
9. The geographical region whose center is located along the equator and whose area extends roughly 23° north and south of the equator is known as the
- (A) polar region
 - (B) tundra
 - (C) rainforest region
 - (D) tropical zone
 - (E) taiga
20. Which of the following terms refers to a ratio between distances portrayed on a map and actual distances on the earth's surface that correspond to this map?
- (A) Chart
 - (B) Scale
 - (C) Contour
 - (D) Grid
 - (E) Projection
21. Processes of globalization are most closely associated with which of the following forms of socioeconomic organization?
- (A) Mutualism
 - (B) Socialism
 - (C) Feudalism
 - (D) Capitalism
 - (E) Communism
22. A subfield of geography that deals holistically with the environmental and human attributes of a particular territory is known as
- (A) human geography
 - (B) political geography
 - (C) physical geography
 - (D) biogeography
 - (E) regional geography
23. Which of the following terms most directly refers to geographical techniques that collect information about the earth's surface from distanced perspectives?
- (A) Geographic information systems
 - (B) Geomancy
 - (C) Remote sensing
 - (D) Ethnography
 - (E) Demography
24. In cognitive space, perceived boundaries such as frontiers, horizons, and shorelines are known as
- (A) paths
 - (B) nodes
 - (C) edges
 - (D) districts
 - (E) landmarks

25. In the context of the contemporary United States, a strip mall shopping center best exemplifies which of the following types of landscape?
- (A) Ordinary landscape
 - (B) Sacred landscape
 - (C) Tragic landscape
 - (D) Derelict landscape
 - (E) Industrial landscape
26. The forced dispersion of Jews from their ethnic homeland, which took place across many centuries, is a prominent example of
- (A) stimulus diffusion
 - (B) diaspora
 - (C) pilgrimage
 - (D) globalization
 - (E) receptivity
27. Which of the following best describes the *site* of Mexico City?
- (A) The most important financial and political center in Mexico
 - (B) An urban area located approximately two hours from Houston, Texas, by airplane
 - (C) A highland valley and dry lakebed located on a high plateau in southern central Mexico
 - (D) The federal district of Mexico
 - (E) An important node in a global system of flows of goods, information, and people
28. Which of the following examples best illustrates the concept of cognitive distance?
- (A) Distance expressed in terms of the amount of money it costs to travel from one place to another
 - (B) Distance measured in terms of miles or kilometers
 - (C) Distance measured in terms of minutes or hours
 - (D) Distance expressed in terms of the perceived amount of space separating one place from another
 - (E) Distance expressed in terms of how far the average person can walk in one day
29. In cartography, parallels refer to
- (A) lines of latitude
 - (B) meridians
 - (C) the scale of the map
 - (D) lines of longitude
 - (E) the alignment of the poles
30. Which of the following examples is least likely to be perceived as a path in cognitive space?
- (A) A navigable river
 - (B) An interstate highway
 - (C) A running trail
 - (D) A sidewalk
 - (E) An impenetrable forest
31. Which of the following pairs of states possess territory along the Strait of Gibraltar?
- (A) Russia and China
 - (B) Tunisia and Italy
 - (C) Spain and Morocco
 - (D) Australia and New Zealand
 - (E) Chile and Argentina
32. Thematic maps that employ a range of color tones to illustrate how particular values vary across predefined areas, such as counties, provinces, or states, are referred to as
- (A) dot maps
 - (B) choropleth maps
 - (C) proportional symbol maps
 - (D) isoline maps
 - (E) cartograms
33. Curves on a topographic map that are used to illustrate specific values of elevation above or below sea level are known as
- (A) district lines
 - (B) latitudinal lines
 - (C) transmission-lines
 - (D) contour lines
 - (E) longitudinal lines

34. A travel agency surveys 100 adults in the local area regarding their travel habits. Among the findings, the travel agency discovers that 90 percent of survey participants indicate that they are willing to travel between 100 and 200 miles to attend a family reunion. However, beyond a distance of 200 miles, the percentage of survey participants willing to travel to a family reunion plummets to under 30 percent. Within this context, 200 miles represents a(n)
- (A) pull factor
 - (B) critical distance
 - (C) intervening opportunity
 - (D) push factor
 - (E) regional bias
35. Map projections that preserve and accurately represent the *shape* of the geographical areas and features are said to be
- (A) conformal
 - (B) equidistant
 - (C) equal-area
 - (D) azimuthal
 - (E) useless
36. Which of the following geometric map projections would be most appropriate for producing a world map in which the equatorial zone is least distorted?
- (A) Cylindrical
 - (B) Conical
 - (C) Planar
 - (D) Azimuthal
 - (E) Pseudoconical
37. The cardinal points north, east, south, and west correspond to
- (A) relative location
 - (B) absolute distance
 - (C) absolute location
 - (D) relative distance
 - (E) absolute direction
38. Which of the following fields of study is *least associated* with human geography?
- (A) Psychology
 - (B) Cultural ecology
 - (C) Sociology
 - (D) Geomorphology
 - (E) Political science
39. *Accessibility* and *connectivity* are two interrelated ways to describe
- (A) absolute locations
 - (B) spatial concentrations
 - (C) relative directions
 - (D) geographical sites
 - (E) spatial interactions
40. Relative to lines of latitude near the equator, lines of latitude near the poles are
- (A) longer
 - (B) straighter
 - (C) shorter
 - (D) wider
 - (E) more accurate
41. The geographical concept of a *network* is an important tool in human geography for describing complex spatial interactions, particularly those that have been created or modified by globalization.
- (A) Define a network.
 - (B) Briefly explain how each of the following four terms relate to the concept of a network: *mobility*, *diffusion*, *interdependence*, and *situation*.
 - (C) Briefly explain why networks are particularly relevant tools for describing spatial interactions in a globalized era. Cite two real-world examples to help illustrate your explanation.

42. The concept of *placelessness* was coined in human geography in the 1970s to describe places that feel inauthentic or lack a unique sense of identity. Many geographers theorize that a sense of placelessness is becoming more prevalent among people living in modern, highly developed societies. Discuss how each of the following has contributed to this sense of placelessness in developed societies.
- (A) Popular culture
 - (B) Industrialization
 - (C) Globalization
 - (D) Mobility

Population

43. An example of a country with a population pyramid that has a large base is
- (A) Japan
 - (B) Germany
 - (C) Nigeria
 - (D) United States
 - (E) Russia
44. The demographic transition model suggests that as countries industrialize
- (A) in-migration increases over time
 - (B) migration increases from rural to urban areas
 - (C) birth and death rates decrease over time
 - (D) life expectancy decreases over time
 - (E) fertility rates increase over time
45. The first stage of the demographic transition model indicates that
- (A) total population is low and constant with high birth rates and low death rates
 - (B) total population is low and constant with low birth rates and high death rates
 - (C) total population is increasing with high birth rates and low death rates
 - (D) total population is low and constant with high birth rates and high death rates
 - (E) total population is low and constant with low birth rates and low death rates
46. Which of the following is not a contributing factor to the low birth rates in stage four of the demographic transition model?
- (A) Less dependence on child labor
 - (B) Reliance on subsistence agriculture
 - (C) The education of women
 - (D) Availability of health care
 - (E) Increased sanitation