

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
Department of Geography, Planning and Environment
GEOG 220

“The Human Environment: Place, Space and Identity”

TEST 1

EXAMPLE OF QUESTIONS

NOTE 1: I DO NOT GIVE THE RIGHT ANSWERS – You NEED to work those out for yourselves as part of your revision

NOTE 2: SAMPLE MAP QUESTIONS FOLLOW AT END

1. The word “geomancer” comes from the same root as the word “geography”. What does a “geomancer” do?
 - (a) eat the earth
 - (b) read the earth
 - (c) weed the earth**
 - (d) heat the earth
2. The word “geography” was first used by:
 - (a) Ptolemy
 - (b) Eratosthenes**
 - (c) Ibn Battuta
 - (d) Aristotle
3. The Ancient Greeks knew that the Earth was round because:
 - (a) They noticed that the earth made a circular shadow on the moon during eclipses.**
 - (b) In Eratosthenes’ wells at Aswan, water drained away in a clockwise fashion.
 - (c) Desert mirages only showed images of oases over the horizon.
 - (d) The noonday sun shone directly through the Parthenon only on the solstices.
4. The Ancient Greeks had accurately calculated the circumference of the Earth. Approximately what was their answer?
 - (a) 4,000 kms
 - (b) 14,000 kms
 - (c) 40,000 kms**
 - (d) 44,000 kms
5. In the medieval maps known as “T-O” maps, the “T” was :
 - (a) The mountain chains of Europe
 - (b) Coastal areas raided by the Vikings
 - (c) The route known as the “Silk Road”
 - (d) Two rivers (one being the Nile) and the Mediterranean**

6. During the period that European mapmakers were fitting their world into the shape dictated by the “T-O” maps, much more accurate maps were being made in other parts of the world. As an example, the textbook uses a map from where?

- (a) Australia
- (b) Colombia
- (c) Zimbabwe
- (d) China

7. In the period 450AD to 1450AD, the Ancient Greeks’ geographic knowledge was preserved by

- (a) Arab scholars
- (b) Maya astronomers
- (c) The medieval universities of Oxford and the Sorbonne
- (d) Irish monasteries

8. Christopher Columbus partly based his voyage of discovery on whose map:

- (a) Michelin
- (b) Eratosthenes
- (c) Ptolemy
- (d) Mercator

9. Which of the great founders of modern geography developed the “ecological” or comparative method?

- (a) Friedrich Ratzel
- (b) Charles Darwin
- (c) The Baron Alexander von Humboldt
- (d) The Count of Monte Cristo

10. Geography was revolutionized by the publication of Charles Darwin’s book “On the Origin of Species”. In which year was it published?

- (a) 1839
- (b) 1849
- (c) 1949
- (d) 1859

.....Qs 11 and 12 under repair

13. If we were able to attend a lecture by an environmental determinist, it is likely that we would be told that

- (a) Although they lived in approximately the same latitudes, the fact that the Chinese were more “advanced” than the Europeans on the eve of the Great Age of Discovery showed that culture was more important than the environment in shaping human society.
- (b) That North American society had become less “advanced” during the Great Age of Discovery.
- (c) European civilization was more “advanced” than African societies because the challenges of living in hotter environments made people less creative.
- (d) Aboriginal cultures were as “advanced” as European cultures because they also had developed culturally sophisticated ways of coping with their environments.

14. Which of these geographers is most closely associated with the practice of “regional geography” in France?

- (a) Alexander von Humboldt;
- (b) Antoine de St Exupéry
- (c) Carl Ortwin Sauer;
- (d) Paul Vidal de la Blache.

15. The “regional” approach to geography was replaced in the 1950s by the “locational analysis” (or “spatial analysis”) approach. This new approach was enthusiastically adopted by geographers because they thought this new approach was

- (a) better suited to new satellite tracking
 - (b) more scientific**
 - (c) more subjective
 - (d) More postmodern
16. GIS techniques have rapidly grown to become one of the most important methods of geographical analysis. What does the abbreviation GIS stand for?
- (a) General Interactive Systems
 - (b) Geographic Integrative Symbolization
 - (c) Geographic Information Systems**
 - (d) Geographical Information Sessions
17. Which of the fundamental concepts of geography is defined as “the opportunity for contact or interaction from a given point or location, in relation to other locations”?
- (a) diffusion
 - (b) location
 - (c) spatial interaction
 - (d) accessibility**
18. The “locational analysis” (or “spatial analysis”) approach to geography was itself replaced recently by the “postmodern” approach which says that geography should focus on the study of
- (a) Places as unique and interesting in their own right;**
 - (b) The general similarities between regions
 - (c) The Environment
 - (d) The laws of location.
19. Ptolemy’s *Atlas* was forgotten by Western geographers for over 1,000 years. In which city was it “rediscovered” by European scholars?
- (a) Rome
 - (b) Venice
 - (c) Constantinople**
 - (d) Marseilles
20. The main purpose of the Mercator map projection is to:
- (a) deliberately emphasize the size of the equatorial regions and Southern hemisphere;
 - (b) minimize the distortion in shape of the world’s oceans;
 - (c) preserve the correct compass direction between any two points;**
 - (d) only use dots to show the spatial distribution of phenomena.
21. The Antikythera Mechanism is
- (a) A cartographer’s tool used to minimize the distortion in shape of the world’s major land masses;
 - (b) Used to predict the end of the Mayan Long Count calendar
 - (c) A device used by the Ancient Greeks to predict eclipses**
 - (d) A weapon used by the Kytherans
22. Maps, such as the Montreal Metro map, or the London Underground map, are examples of:
- (a) Tropical maps
 - (b) Topographic maps
 - (c) Topological maps**
 - (d) Topical maps
23. The Polynesians navigated by the stars. Which type of stars was the most important for this?
- (a) those which appeared to be stationary in the sky all night;**
 - (b) Only those that were part of the Earth’s galaxy;
 - (c) those stars we now call “shooting stars” or comets;

- (d) those stars which could also be seen by day.
24. The Hawaiian Islands were first settled in about 3-400AD by Polynesians who had sailed directly from:
- (a) the north
 - (b) the south
 - (c) the west
 - (d) the east
25. no q 25 in this example
26. Our Global Positioning Systems (GPS), depends on information from:
- (a) the space probes Voyager 1 and 2
 - (b) the Transit of Venus
 - (c) 21 orbiting satellites
 - (d) the HAL 9000 computer series
27. Complete this sentence “Lines of longitude, called meridians, always run”
- (a) from the Azimuth to the Equinox
 - (b) across the International Date Line
 - (c) from the North Pole to the South Pole
 - (d) parallel to the Equator
28. The “T-O” map always had one particular city at its centre. Which was it?
- (a) Jerusalem
 - (b) Venice
 - (c) Constantinople
 - (d) Alexandria
29. Which of these terms is NOT one of the “fundamental concepts of geography”
- (a) scale
 - (b) space
 - (c) accessibility
 - (d) visibility
30. The main effect of the “friction of distance” is
- (a) that work fills out to occupy the time devoted to it;
 - (b) the distance-decay function;
 - (c) diminished *feng shui*;
 - (d) smaller scale mapping.
31. The phrases “the North-South Divide” or “the West” are actually thinking of the world in which sort of “space”
- (a) topographic
 - (b) relative
 - (c) absolute
 - (d) Dymaxion
32. “Absolute space” is best described as
- (a) behavioural space
 - (b) mathematical space
 - (c) cultural space
 - (d) Romulan space
33. A “region” is best described as an area ... *[if it helps, think about a weather map and its regions]*
- (a) within which the variation of chosen characteristics is minimized;
 - (b) within which the variation of chosen characteristics is maximized;

- (c) within which the variation of chosen characteristics is ignored;
 - (d) within which the variation of chosen characteristics is random.
34. Diffusion is defined as
- (a) “the way that things spread over time”
 - (b) “the way that things spread from place to place”
 - (c) “the way that things spread through space and over time”
 - (d) “the way that things spread through different types of barriers”
35. Which disease was used in class as an example of diffusion?
- (a) The Black Death
 - (b) Scurvy
 - (c) Yellow Fever
 - (d) Coronavirus
36. Eventually, the approach known as “Environmental determinism” was rejected by geographers because:
- (a) It is now known that global warming will affect the whole earth;
 - (b) archaeologists showed that “advanced” civilizations developed in “hot areas”;
 - (c) continental drift had moved the continents from their original position;
 - (d) GIS techniques produced improved climate maps.
37. Hierarchical diffusion is the term used when diffusion occurs:
- (a) through absolute space
 - (b) down the urban system
 - (c) along mountain valleys
 - (d) by hire car operators
38. According to a recent sample of Concordia students, where in Canada would most wish to go on holiday?
- (a) Nova Scotia
 - (b) Quebec
 - (c) British Columbia
 - (d) Nunavut
39. What is the main reason that the study of geography has gone through so many changes in its history?
- (a) Rising sea levels have changed the shape of the continents
 - (b) explorers have discovered new lands
 - (c) knowledge is a social and cultural construct
 - (d) the development of new navigational technologies (such as the compass)
40. The well-known expression “think globally, act locally” is an example of the geographical concept of
- (a) scale
 - (b) accessibility
 - (c) diffusion
 - (d) distance
41. Which of the following terms best describes how spices spread to Europe?
- (a) “random” diffusion
 - (b) “hierarchical” diffusion
 - (c) “expansion” diffusion (also called “contagious”, or “spread”)
 - (d) “relocation” diffusion
42. The concept of “place” says that
- (a) places are defined in terms of latitude and longitude
 - (b) places have objective and subjective meanings
 - (c) places are important only in topological maps

(d) the Ancient Greeks defined geography as the search for place.

43. In order to navigate around the Arctic, the Inuit utilize information derived from *uqalurait*. What are these?

- (a) narwhale tusks
- ☒ (b) snowdrifts
- (c) winds
- (d) ice bergs

44. The French geographer Henri Lefebvre is important to geographers because of his work on:

- ☒ (a) the production of space
- (b) the concept of the region
- (c) the role of joie de vivre
- (d) the concept of nordicity

45. During the period known as the “Enlightenment” in Europe, many attempts were made to find ways to organize the increasing amount of geographical information that was becoming known about the world. One of these was developed by the philosopher Immanuel Kant, and said that:

- (a) all of the world’s phenomena could be divided by their location according to latitude and longitude
- (b) all of the world’s phenomena could be divided by their location as perceived by mind and body
- ☒ (c) all of the world’s phenomena could be divided by their location in time and space
- (d) all of the world’s phenomena could be divided by their location according to metaphysical axioms.

46. If they could all be alive today, who would be oldest?

- ☒ (a) Ibn Battuta
- (b) Mercator
- (c) Fred K. Schaefer
- (d) Charles Darwin

47. According to most historians where was the early compass first developed?

- (a) Colombia
- (b) The Congo
- (c) Cambodia
- ☒ (d) China

.no 48 yet

49. Early employees of the Hudson Bay Company often relied on maps drawn by Canada’s native people. These maps were usually made of:

- ☒ (a) animal skins
- (b) the wooden lids of Hudson Bay crates used to ship tea
- (c) the woollen cloth of Hudson’s Bay blankets
- (d) they were drawn on the ground

50. The leading occupational hazard for early European navigators was that they:

- ☒ (a) eventually went blind;
- (b) fell off their ships;
- (c) died of sunstroke;
- (d) died of hypothermia.

MAP QUESTIONS – please use the attached world map (on next page below). Show as clearly as you can --- obviously the closer you are the better (yes – there are half marks for being close)

1. Where on the attached world map is **Alexandria, Egypt** (the place where Eratosthenes calculated the circumference of the world)?
 2. Where is **Constantinople**? (Sometimes called Istanbul or Byzantium)?
 3. Where is **Hawaii**?
 4. Where is **Alabama**?
 5. Where is **Montreal**.
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