

Nichols School - 2005
General Information Test

1. George Washington appointed two “heavyweights” to the first American Presidential cabinet. His Secretary of State, a fellow Virginian, _____ later became President himself.
2. Washington’s Secretary of Treasury, _____, chartered the course of American industrial capitalism and is depicted on a denomination of American currency.
3. Which character in the “Doonesbury” comic strip is based on the recently deceased “gonzo” journalist, Hunter Thompson?
B.D Roland Hedley Rick Redfern Uncle Duke Zonker Harris
4. In the “Pre-Steroid” era Babe Ruth hit more than 50 home runs in 4 separate seasons. Three players did it twice. They were Mickey Mantle, Willie Mays, and _____.
Hank Aaron Lou Gehrig Harmon Killebrew Ralph Kiner Ted Williams
5. “The Maltese Falcon”, “The Treasure of the Sierra Madre”, and “The African Queen” were 3 masterpieces of the great American film director, _____.
John Ford Howard Hawks John Huston Stanley Kubrick
6. In Jane Austen’s Pride and Prejudice which of these “inferior males” briefly attracts the heroine, Elizabeth Bennet, before she settles on Mr. Darcy?
Charles Bingley William Collins Mr. Hurst Sir William Lucas George Wickham
7. Name the capital of New Zealand.
Auckland Christchurch Dunedin Wellington
8. Of what Asian country is Katmandu the capital?
Bangladesh Cambodia Myanmar Nepal Thailand
9. She has just won an Academy Award as best actress for her performance as Maggie Fitzgerald in “Million Dollar Baby.” Name her.
10. Name the author of the classic American plays, The Crucible and Death of a Salesman, who died this year at age 90.
11. The Kalevala is the national epic of what northern European country?
Denmark Estonia Finland Norway Sweden
12. “O brave new world, that hath such people in ’t!” This well-known line is uttered by the only human female character in Shakespeare’s The Tempest. Name her:
Hermione Imogen Miranda Perdita Rosalind
13. This nine-headed monster of Greek Mythology was slain, after a terrific struggle, by Hercules.
14. The Columbine is the state flower of _____.
15. What of these religiously inclined Johns was the founder of the Methodist branch of Protestantism?
Bunyan Calvin Knox Wesley Woolman
16. In what state is the Badlands National Monument located?
Idaho Kansas Montana South Dakota Utah
17. What country – partly in Asia and partly in Europe – was ruled between 1923 and 1938 by Mustafa Kemal?

18. A Gibbon is a species of _____.
 Ape Beetle Fish Lizard Rodent
19. What large nation employs the Cyrillic alphabet in its official language?
20. Which of these is not an Indo-European language?
 English Greek Hebrew Hindi Polish
21. What was the height of a typical Lilliputian in Swift's Gulliver's Travels?
22. The technique of plucking instead of bowing the strings of a musical instrument is called _____.
23. Name the more famous son of the Carthaginian general, Hamilcar Barca.
24. What is the largest mammal belonging to the Cetacean order?
25. In what game is a shuttlecock used?
26. The word ursine denotes the qualities of a _____.
 Bear Deer Hog Sheep Tiger
27. In what state is Glacier National Park located?
 Colorado Idaho Montana Utah Wyoming
28. Which of these words denotes the opposite of mandacity?
 Beauty Courage Foolishness Honesty Timidity
29. Name the son of Agamemnon who avenged his father's murder by killing his mother, Clytemnestra, and her lover.
 Ajax Hector Laertes Orestes Telemakhos
30. Name the son of Isaac in the Old testament who tricked his blind father into awarding him the birthright of his older brother, Esau.
 Absalom Jacob Joseph Joshua Lot
31. The virulent Bubonic Plague, which killed close to a third of Europe's population in the 14th Century, is more familiarly known as the _____.
32. Which of these words is opposite in meaning to blatant?
 Brash Compassionate Daring Nervous Subtle
33. Renee Fleming, Jessye Norman, and Dawn Upshaw have in common that they are famous _____.
34. Which of these great American writers was not awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature?
 William Faulkner T.S. Eliot Robert Frost Ernest Hemingway Eugene O'Neill
35. Which was the first Southern state to secede from the Union after the election of Abraham Lincoln to the presidency?
 Alabama Georgia Mississippi South Carolina Virginia
36. What famous American entertainer lived in a mansion called Graceland?
37. The notorious Alien and Sedition Acts, which severely restricted the Free Speech of American citizens, were passed during the Administration of America's last Federalist President. Name him.

38. A “Peeler” was 19th century British and Irish colloquialism for a _____.
 Jockey Pickpocket Policeman Prostitute “Sturdy Beggar”
39. The most recent “cold snap” on Earth, the so-called “Little Ice Age” lasted from AD _____.
 200-500 600-800 900-1300 1400-1800
40. What still-extant, short-legged and flightless aquatic bird is closely related to the now extinct GREAT AUK?
41. Among the so-called “benevolent despots” of late 18th century Europe were two women: Maria Theresa of Austria-Hungary and _____ the Great of Russia.
42. Of what country is the YEN a basic monetary unit?
43. What was the distinctive physical feature of the Fairy Tale Princess, Rapunzel?
44. J.R.R. _____ was the author of the spectacularly popular “Ring Cycle”.
45. Write down the numerical value of π to the first four decimal places: (Half credit for first 3 decimal places).
46. Express 2005 in Roman Numerals.
47. Which African nation contains the largest population?
 Egypt Libya Kenya Nigeria South Africa
48. A Jonquil is a species of _____.
49. Who, in the Old Testament, was the father of King Solomon?
50. Who, in Greek Mythology, was the wife of Zeus?
51. Jackie Robinson was the first black player in Major League baseball. Who was the second?
 Roy Campanella Larry Doby Monte Irvin Satchel Paige Frank Robinson
52. What musical instrument is played by the Irish-born virtuoso, James Galway?
53. What British Military Commander surrendered to George Washington at Yorktown, thereby ending military operations in the Revolutionary war?
 Burgoyne Clinton Cornwallis Howe Tarleton
54. An Iguana is a species of _____.
 Bat Lizard Mollusk Raptor Shrub
55. What is the fractional equivalent of the decimal figure .625?
56. In what year was Charles Darwin’s The Origin of Species published?
57. He was the only bachelor President of the United States, the last President born in the 18th Century, and Abraham Lincoln’s immediate predecessor as President. Name him.
58. Great Britain’s Queen Victoria ascended the throne in 1837. When did her long reign end?
 1887 1893 1898 1901 1906
59. England’s Queen Elizabeth I ascended the throne in 1558. When did her long reign end?
 1588 1595 1603 1611 1613

60. The Air Force of Germany's Third Reich in World War II was known as the _____.
61. Which city will be hosting the 2008 Summer Olympic Games?
62. Located on the Indian Ocean coast of Western Australia, this is the most isolated (i.e. furthest from any other) city of over one million people in the world.
 Adelaide Brisbane Darwin Hobart Perth
63. A furlong consists of how many feet?
 110 220 440 660 880
64. Which of these Asian cities lies furthest south?
 Beijing Hong Kong Manila Shanghai Tokyo
65. In 1967 Christiaan Barnard, a South African physician performed the world's first _____.
66. The ancient Greek Hippocratic Oath sets ethical standards which are followed by _____s throughout the world.
67. What member of Pro Basketball Hall of Fame graduated from Bennett High School in Buffalo?
68. An Archipelago is a cluster of _____s?
69. The Gulag Archipelago of the Soviet Union was a cluster of _____s.
70. The Strait of Messina separates _____ from _____.
71. At 3,500,000 square miles the Sahara is the world's largest desert area. What desert ranks second in area?
 Arabian Australian Gobi Kalahari Libyan
72. A cygnet is a young _____.
73. Professor Henry Higgins and Eliza Doolittle are the central characters of George Bernard Shaw's play, Pygmalion, and in the Broadway musical adapted from it. Name the musical.
74. At what sport did Margaret Court, Althea Gibson, and Billie Jean King excel?
75. Arches, Bryce Canyon, and Zion are three National Parks all located in the same Western state. Name it.
 California Colorado Montana Nevada Utah
76. This 18th Century Scotsman invented the steam engine.
 James Boswell Robert Burns David Hume Adam Smith James Watt
77. In Greet Mythology a 3-headed _____ named _____ guarded the entrance to Hades.
78. What punctuation mark should be used to separate 2 independent clauses in the same sentence?
79. Which of the United States shares a border with only one other state?
80. Name the American novelist who wrote The Age of Innocence, The House of Mirth, and Ethan Frome.
 Willa Cather Edna Ferber Henry James William Dean Howells Edith Wharton
81. What is the area (in square inches) of a trapezoid whose bases are 3 and 5 inches and whose height is 4 inches?
82. In what Canadian province are Calgary and Edmonton located?
 Alberta British Columbia Manitoba Ontario Saskatchewan

83. In 1916 Woodrow Wilson appointed the first Jewish Supreme Court Justice, after whom a prominent New England University was later named. He was _____.
84. What European nation lost its colonial power over Vietnam after being defeated in the Battle of Dienbieuphu in 1954?
85. Unrhymed Iambic Pentameter, the poetic meter of Shakespeare's plays, is more familiarly known as _____.
86. This Canadian-born point guard of the Phoenix Suns currently leads the NBA in assists by a margin of 3 per game. Name him.
87. Which of these words would most closely describe an officious person.
 Competent Considerate Energetic Meddlesome Serene
88. What song, composed by Buffalo-born Harold Arlen, became famous after Judy Garland sang it in The Wizard of Oz (1939).
89. This disease, characterized by spongy gums, debility, and hemorrhages, results from a lack of Vitamin C. Name it.
90. Name the English navigator and admiral who circumnavigated the globe during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, who subsequently knighted him.
91. Niacin, Riboflavin, and Thiamine are all found among the _____ vitamins.
92. The Pontificate of the recently deceased John Paul II was one of the longest in papal history. In what year did he become Pope?
93. "The Harlot's Progress" and "The Rake's Progress" were among the powerful graphic works through which this great artist realistically portrayed 18th century London.
 Thomas Gainsborough David Garrick Oliver Goldsmith William Hogarth Sir Joshua Reynolds
94. Name the beautiful witch in the Odyssey who turned some of Odysseus' mariners into swine.
95. Marlon Brando (1924-2004), perhaps the greatest American film actor of his era, won Academy Awards for two performances. One was for The Godfather. What was the other?
 A Streetcar Named Desire On The Waterfront One-Eyed Jacks Viva Zapata! The Young Lions
96. What Union General's "march through Georgia" in the summer and fall of 1864 helped to break the back of the Confederacy and to guarantee the November re-election of President Lincoln?
97. The First 10 Amendments to the Constitution of the United States are better known under their collective name: The _____ of _____s.
98. Name the brother of Mary and Martha in the New Testament whom Jesus raised from the dead.
99. A Daguerreotype was an early variety of _____.
100. Which of these Spanish explorers led an expedition into parts of Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas?
 Balboa Coronado Cortes De Soto Ponce De Leon