Sample HS Competition Questions - NWESD

2017
1. Hadji Ali, otherwise known as Hi Jolly, worked for the U.S. Army in Arizona. He was primarily responsible for driving what kind of animals?  
camels

2. What leader penned these words in 1836?  
   I am besieged by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna. I have sustained a continual bombardment of cannonade for 24 hours and have not lost a man. I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible and die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor and that of his country. Victory or death.  
   William Travis

3. As with other soft-tissue injuries, the standard treatment for a hip pointer involves rest, ice, compression, and what else?  
elevation

4. What is the shell on a crab's back called?  
carapace

5. Gray hair results when the body no longer produces what naturally occurring dark pigment?  
melanin

6. During the Great Raid of 1840, Comanches attacked settlements from west Texas to the Texas coast under the leadership of what chief?  
Buffalo Hump

7. There are four prepositional phrases in the first two lines of the hymn of which branch of the American military?  
Marine Corps

8. More than 90% of the wildlife found on the world's fourth largest island is found nowhere else on the planet. Name this African country.  
Madagascar

9. What is the name of the country on the Arabian Peninsula indicated in this passage?  
In the late 15th century, the Portuguese arrived there, occupied Muscat, and built a fortress as an outpost to protect their sea lanes.  
Oman

10. What historical river flows close to Vatican City?  
Tiber
11. Ho Chi Minh is regarded as the founder of what modern country?
   Vietnam

12. Various legends suggest that buried beneath what island in Nova Scotia could be any or all of the following?
   - Marie Antoinette's jewels
   - Shakespearean manuscripts
   - the Ark of the Covenant
   - the Holy Grail
   - Captain Kidd's treasure
   Oak Island

13. What material is used in parquetry?
   wood

14. In 1876, the headline "Calamity Jane Has Arrived" appeared in the "Black Hills Pioneer," the local newspaper of what town?
   Deadwood

15. The ancient Nazca culture flourished in the region that became what modern country?
   Peru

16. In the 1972 Furman v. Georgia case, the Supreme Court ruled that the use of the death penalty was unconstitutional, citing it as what kind of punishment proscribed by the 8th Amendment?
   cruel and unusual

17. In what kind of agreement does a defendant give up the right to go to trial in exchange for the prosecution's consent to a conviction for a lesser offense?
   plea bargain

18. What autoantonym that means either a predicament or a solution can complete both of these sentences?
   The climbing rope was fraying and Tenzing found himself in a real ...
   The strut was easily repaired with duct tape, which proved to be an adequate ...
   fix

19. What structure uncoils to allow butterflies and moths to sip food and coils up into a spiral when not in use?
   proboscis

20. One goal of the alchemists was to change base metals into gold. Using a combination of the Latin words for "across" and "change," what did they call this process?
   transmutation (transmuting)
21. These lines are examples of what literary technique?
- You're easy on the eyes but hard on the heart.
- Not that I loved Caesar less but that I loved Rome more.
- Patience is bitter but it has a sweet fruit.
- Many are called but few are chosen.
- Give every man thy ear but few thy voice.

   antithesis

22. What is the nationality of the painters who created these works?
   - The Raft of the Medusa
   - Liberty Leading the People
   - Tahitian Women on the Beach

   French

23. Mutagens that cause cancer are also called what?

   carcinogens

24. What legal defense may be used if the government has induced the defendant to commit a crime?

   entrapment

25. Delegation empowers subordinates to make largely independent decisions. But if a manager routinely tries to direct and control those decisions, she might be accused of what kind of management?

   micromanagement

26. Complete this line from the Katha Upanishad.
   Abiding in the midst of ignorance, thinking themselves wise and learned, fools go aimlessly hither and thither, like the blind led by the ...

   blind

27. "Fifteen minutes of fame" is an allusion to a statement by what American artist?

   Andy Warhol

28. Vega is the brightest star in what constellation named for a stringed instrument of the harp family?

   Lyra

29. Named for the fossil hunter who made the discovery, Sue is the largest and best preserved T-rex ever found. In what U.S. state was this discovery made in 1990?

   South Dakota

30. These are descriptions of what characteristic of certain minerals?
   - pyrite - isometric
   - quartz - hexagonal
   - gypsum - monoclinic
   - zircon - tetragonal

   crystal structure
31. What sport is featured in these two novels by Ernest Hemingway?
   The Sun Also Rises
   Death in the Afternoon
   - bullfighting

32. What adjective meaning "airtight," "secret," or "mysterious" was derived from the name the mythical Greek emissary and messenger of the gods?
   - hermetic

33. In "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy," what kind of fish, when inserted into your ear, allows you to understand any alien tongue?
   - Babel fish

34. Located between New York, Vermont, and Quebec, name the largest lake in New England.
   - Lake Champlain

35. In a magic square of the first nine numbers, what is the sum of any row or column?
   - 15

36. What kind of reflection occurs when light strikes a rough surface?
   - diffuse reflection

37. If $8x = 3y - 11$, then $y$ equals what?
   - $(8x - 11)/3$

38. What candidate in the 1912 presidential election began a 90-minute campaign speech with this?
   - Ladies and gentlemen, I don't know whether you fully understand that I have just been shot, but it takes more than that to kill a Bull Moose.
   - Theodore Roosevelt

39. What country sits at the northeastern edge of the Arabian Peninsula at the head of the Persian Gulf?
   - Kuwait

40. On what continent are most of the 16 countries with the lowest per capita incomes?
   - Africa
41. Express the hexadecimal number 79 as a decimal number.

42. Sounding like the term for a loop in a rope, what is the term for a recessed shoreline or a wide bay?

43. What long-legged, long-necked birds with pinkish plumage that thrive in the Great Lakes of eastern Africa sometimes comprise flocks numbering up to several million?

44. What tense is used in both of these lines?
   In ten minutes, she will have danced all night.
   By August, I will have gone bananas.

45. These are main characters in what novel by Ray Bradbury set in October in the Midwest?
   Will and Charles Halloway, Jim Nightshade,
   G.M. Dark, J.C. Cooger, Miss Foley

46. Until the arrival of the Maori, what enormous New Zealand birds were hunted only by the Haast's eagle?

47. Impaneling is the process of selecting what body?

48. The national animal of Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, and Pakistan is what kind of leopard?

49. In the largest amphibious assault in the Pacific Theater during World War II, the Allies suffered more than 14,000 deaths and a total of some 65,000 casualties in a battle that lasted 82 days. This battle was fought on what Japanese island?

50. These are examples of what kind of wordplay?
   -"Don't you dare shoot that rubber band at me," she snapped.
   -"Watch out for that broken glass," he said sharply.
   -"The wind is awful," he blustered.
   -"I just got another flat," he said tiredly.