The History of Svalbard - Exercise 2019
Mandatory exercise. 66 % correct answers required to pass for final exam.

Discovery and early history
3. According to the so-called "Viking" hypothesis – when was Svalbard discovered?
   In 1194

4. In the early 17th century the British claimed that Hugh Willoughby discovered Svalbard -- when?
   In 1553

5. Willem Barentsz was pilot on three Arctic expeditions. When did they take place?
   In 1594, 1595 and 1596-97

6. Which of the following persons did NOT take part in the Dutch expedition that visited Svalbard in 1596?
   Hessel Gerritsz, Peter Plancius

7. What is Svalbard called on the first map of the islands published by Cornelis Claesz in 1598?
   Het Nieuwe Land (The New Land)

Whaling and sealing
8. Which species was the commercially most valuable in 17th century whaling at Svalbard?
   Bowhead whale (B. Mysticetus)

9. Which nationality sent the largest number of whaling ships to Svalbard during the 17th century?
   The Dutch

10. When did the land-based whaling start to come to an end on Svalbard?
    Around 1650

11. Which seal species were hunted commercially in the so-called 'West Ice' in the North Atlantic?
    Hooded seal and Harp seal

Hunters and trappers
12. Who were the first hunters and trappers to winter regularly on Svalbard?
    Russians (the Pomors)

13. Which geographical region did the Pomors come from?
    White Sea

14. When did the Russian hunting and trapping on Svalbard come to an end?
    Around 1850

15. Which were the long-term most valuable products of Norwegian winter trapping?
    Furs of polar bear and fox

16. Which period saw the highest number of Norwegian winter trapping expeditions to Svalbard?
    1900-1950
Exploration and science
17. The Russian Chichagov lead the (possibly) first scientific expedition to Svalbard. When? 1765-1766
19. During the first International Polar Year 1882-1883 a winter station was operated on Svalbard. By whom? Sweden
20. For the International Geophysical Year 1957-1958 a number of new scientific winter stations were built on Svalbard. Which? Hornsund and Kinnvika
21. Which international scientific organization initiated the station that operated in Ny-Ålesund 1967-1974? The European Space Research Organization, ESRO
22. When did the University Center on Svalbard UNIS open? 1993

Polar Expeditions from Svalbard
23. Who was the first to try and walk across the ice from Svalbard to the North Pole, and when was it? William Edward Parry, 1827, starting from Sorgfjorden
24. Who was the LAST of the following to attempt to reach the North Pole by aircraft? Umberto Nobile in the airship ‘Italia’ in 1928
25. How many polar expeditions did Roald Amundsen carry out starting from Ny-Ålesund? 2, in 1925 (airplanes N-24 and N-25) and 1926 (airship ‘Norge’)

The industrial era
26. Which company is associated with the establishment of Longyearbyen in 1906? Arctic Coal Co.
27. What is the name of the Russian coal-mining company that operates on Svalbard today? Trust Arktikugol
28. Which of these mining sites have actually produced coal after 2000? Longyearbyen, Sveagruva, and Barentsburg

Political history
29. Which of the following states did NOT sign the original Svalbard Treaty in 1920? Russia
30. What is the title of the highest ranking Government official on Svalbard, and when was the office established? Sysselmannen på Svalbard (The Governor on Svalbard), in 1925
31. The population of Svalbard was evacuated during World War 2 – when?
1941

32. The most serious confrontation between Norway and the Soviet Union regarding Svalbard took place in 1978. What was it about, and where?
In 1978 the Soviets expanded their helicopter base near Barentsburg, which caused a lot of suspicion. However, the most serious incident that year happened in late August when a Soviet military intelligence plane crashed at Hopen, on Norwegian territory, and the whole crew was killed. This was an obvious breach of the Svalbard Treaty. The Soviets had naval vessels at the border and demanded that they might enter territorial waters and collect the remains. Norwegian authorities refused until a proper investigation of the crash site had been conducted. They also refused to release the ‘black box’ to the Soviets, who protested officially. In the end, there was no military confrontation and the diplomatic crisis blew over.

33. When was local democracy (Lokalstyret) established in Longyearbyen?
In 2002

End of exercise!