

Class 10 | General Knowledge Olympiad

Instructions: Each question has one correct answer. Choose the best option (A/B/C/D). Answer key is provided at the end. This paper is for practice only — not an official exam paper. Recommended time: **45 minutes**.

Q1. What is 'epistemic injustice' and what distinguishes 'testimonial' from 'hermeneutical' injustice (Fricker)?

A. both concern access to information; testimonial is systemic, hermeneutical is personal

B. testimonial injustice: a speaker is given less credibility due to identity prejudice; hermeneutical injustice: a gap in collective interpretive resources harms someone in understanding their own experience

C. hermeneutical injustice occurs in courts; testimonial in education

D. they are the same phenomenon in different academic disciplines

Q2. The 'Deleuzian rhizome' as a political metaphor suggests that:

A. power is hierarchical and tree-like

B. political and social structures should be thought of as non-hierarchical, multi-directional, and without a single root

C. revolutionary movements always fail

D. capitalism is a root system sustaining democracy

Q3. What is 'astroturfing' in political communication?

A. decorating political venues with artificial turf

B. creating the false impression of a grassroots movement, typically funded and coordinated by corporations or political interests

C. targeted political advertising on social media

D. political lobbying in agricultural sectors

Q4. What is the 'Overton window's' relevance to revolutionary political change?

A. revolutionary change is impossible without electoral victory

B. radical ideas can become mainstream by shifting the Overton window through advocacy, crisis, or charismatic leadership

C. revolutions always destroy the existing political spectrum

D. only centre parties can shift the Overton window

Q5. The 'Third Image' in Kenneth Waltz's levels of analysis locates the cause of war in:

A. human nature

B. the nature of individual states

C. the structure of the international system (anarchy)

D. economic interdependence

Q6. What is 'world-systems theory' (Wallerstein)?

A. a theory about global governance

B. a theory dividing the world into core, semi-periphery, and periphery nations, with the core exploiting the periphery through capitalist exchange

C. a geographical theory of trade zones

D. a theory about the spread of democracy

Q7. 'Negative capability' (Keats) applied to political leadership means:

A. leaders achieving goals through negative means

B. the capacity to remain in uncertainty without irritably reaching after facts and reason — holding complexity without premature resolution

C. using negative campaigning

D. leveraging a leader's negative traits as strengths

Q8. India's 'Arthashastra' by Kautilya is considered an early treatise on:

A. philosophy and metaphysics

B. statecraft, political economy, military strategy, and espionage

C. Hindu religious law

D. agricultural science

Q9. What is 'agnotology'?

A. the study of unknown unknowns

B. the study of culturally induced ignorance — how doubt, misinformation, and uncertainty are deliberately manufactured

C. the philosophy of scepticism

D. the study of ancient knowledge systems

Q10. 'Permanent revolution' (Trotsky) argued that:

A. revolution must be repeated every generation

B. socialist revolution cannot be completed in one country alone and must spread globally

C. the proletariat must permanently hold power

D. revolutions are cyclical in history

Q11. The 'Machiavellian moment' (J.G.A. Pocock) refers to:

A. Machiavelli's coup in Florence

B. the confrontation between republican institutions and the corruption of time — the effort to make virtuous civic order endure

C. political manipulation becoming acceptable

D. Renaissance art's political patronage

Q12. What is 'heterodox economics'?

A. orthodox economics with minor modifications

B. schools of economic thought that challenge neoclassical and mainstream assumptions (e.g. MMT, institutional, ecological economics)

C. economics in theocratic societies

D. international development economics

Q13. 'Bare life' (Giorgio Agamben) refers to:

A. simple, minimal living

B. biological life stripped of political and social existence — life that can be killed but not sacrificed (e.g. concentration camp prisoners)

C. indigenous lifestyles

D. life in pre-political nature

Q14. India's 'Operation Sankat Mochan' (2023) was:

A. an anti-corruption drive

B. evacuation of Indian nationals from Sudan during civil conflict

C. a disaster relief operation in Turkey

D. a cyber-security operation

Q15. What is 'competitive multipolarity' in the current international order?

A. a world with one dominant power

B. a world with multiple great powers competing across economic, military, and technological domains without a clear hegemon

C. a perfectly balanced bipolar system

D. an international system governed entirely by multilateral institutions

Q16. 'Civilisational states' (Remo Bodei, Martin Jacques) are states that:

A. prioritise cultural tourism

B. define themselves as the embodiment of a distinct civilisation rather than a Westphalian nation-state — e.g. China, India, Russia

C. follow the Roman civilisational model

D. reject all foreign cultural influences

Q17. India's 'Nalanda University' was restored as a modern institution because:

A. UNESCO required it

B. India sought to reclaim its heritage as a centre of global learning and project soft power in Asia

C. it was a constitutional mandate

D. a domestic policy to boost Bihar's economy

Q18. What is 'regulatory state' theory?

A. states that own all industries

B. the shift from the welfare/developmental state to a state that primarily governs through independent regulatory agencies rather than direct provision

C. a state governed by corporate boards

D. a minimal state with only security functions

Q19. What is 'meritocratic hubris' (Michael Sandel)?

A. the justified pride of those who earned success through merit

B. the attitude of meritocratic winners that success reflects superior virtue, leading to contempt for 'losers' and loss of common identity

C. corruption in merit-based systems

D. nepotism disguised as meritocracy

Q20. The 'Global South' term encompasses:

A. nations located south of the equator

B. a political and economic category generally including Africa, Latin America, Asia, and Oceania — formerly colonised or developing nations

C. the southern hemisphere's island nations

D. OPEC member nations

Q21. What is 'agonism' vs 'antagonism' in Chantal Mouffe's political theory?

A. both represent conflict without distinction

B. antagonism is a relation between enemies; agonism is a relation between adversaries who accept shared rules while competing

C. antagonism is productive; agonism is destructive

D. they describe different forms of authoritarian conflict

Q22. 'Petrodollar recycling' refers to:

A. converting petrol profits to currency

B. oil-exporting nations investing their dollar revenues in US assets, sustaining demand for US dollars and financing US deficits

C. using oil profits for domestic infrastructure

D. foreign exchange reserves management

Q23. What is 'isomorphic mimicry' in development studies (Andrews et al.)?

A. developing nations mimicking developed nations successfully

B. governments adopting the form of effective institutions without the function, creating a facade of reform

C. institutional learning between similar states

D. economic convergence between nations

Q24. What is 'state capacity' as a concept in political science?

A. the physical size of state territory

B. the ability of state institutions to implement policy and achieve goals

C. the number of government employees

D. GDP as a measure of state power

Q25. India's 'Mission LiFE' (Lifestyle for Environment) initiative proposes:

A. mandatory green taxes

B. individual and community behavioural change for sustainable consumption as India's contribution to global climate action

C. electric vehicle adoption incentives

D. a global environmental treaty

Q26. 'Black Swan' events (Nassim Taleb) are characterised as:

A. predictable but ignored risks

B. highly improbable, high-impact events that are rationalised in hindsight but not predicted in advance

C. known unknowns in risk management

D. rare but low-impact events

Q27. The 'Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh' (RSS) is described in comparative politics as a:

A. paramilitary organisation

B. a Hindu nationalist volunteer organisation with significant ideological influence on Indian politics

C. a political party

D. a government welfare agency

Q28. What is 'cognitive warfare'?

A. psychological operations only

B. efforts to influence adversaries' cognitive processes, perceptions, and decision-making through information, propaganda, and manipulation

C. computer network operations

D. intelligence-gathering operations

Q29. What is 'methodological nationalism' as a critique in social science?

A. using national statistical data

B. the assumption that the nation-state is the natural unit of analysis, obscuring transnational processes and global structures

C. nationalistic research priorities

D. biased research favouring certain nations

Q30. India's 'National Security Strategy' (unofficial) is guided by concepts including:

A. nuclear first-use and offensive alliances

B. strategic autonomy, credible minimum deterrence, and multi-alignment

C. non-alignment with all great powers

D. exclusive alignment with the US-led order

Q31. What is 'accumulation by dispossession' (David Harvey)?

A. wealth accumulation through innovation

B. neo-liberal capitalist processes (privatisation, financialisation, commodification of commons) that appropriate and enclose public goods

C. colonial resource extraction

D. rent extraction from property

Q32. The 'biopolitics' concept (Foucault) refers to:

A. the politics of biodiversity

B. the administration and regulation of populations and biological life itself as a domain of political power

C. political ecology

D. environmental policy

Q33. What is 'ontological pluralism' in political theory?

A. the view that only one political system is legitimate

B. the view that multiple irreducible ways of being and knowing exist, challenging universalist assumptions in political philosophy

C. pluralism as a voting system

D. the coexistence of multiple political parties

Q34. 'Subaltern Counter-Publics' (Nancy Fraser) are:

A. underground political movements

B. spaces where marginalised groups can formulate counter-discourses and strategies outside the dominant public sphere

C. alternative media platforms

D. international advocacy networks

Q35. What is 'anticipatory self-defence' in international law?

A. pre-emptive nuclear launch

B. the disputed right to use force in anticipation of an imminent attack before it is launched

C. defensive alliances

D. defensive military posturing

Q36. India's 'Semiconductor Mission' launched in 2021 aims to:

A. reduce semiconductor imports to zero in 5 years

B. build domestic semiconductor manufacturing capability to reduce strategic dependence on foreign chipmakers

C. train semiconductor engineers for export

D. develop quantum computing chips

Q37. What is 'mimetic desire' (René Girard) and its political implications?

A. desire created by advertising

B. we desire what others desire; rivalry and conflict arise from mimesis, explaining scapegoating and social violence

C. imitation as a form of cultural learning

D. democratic elections as competitive desire for power

Q38. The 'Global Commons' (in international law) includes:

A. global public parks

B. areas beyond national jurisdiction shared by all humanity: high seas, Antarctica, outer space, and international airspace

C. commonly owned resources within states

D. UNESCO world heritage sites

Q39. What is 'liminal sovereignty' in postcolonial states?

A. sovereignty limited by natural borders

B. a state of incomplete or contested sovereignty — neither fully dependent nor fully autonomous — common in post-colonial contexts

C. sovereignty defined by linguistic borders

D. sovereignty shared between federal states

Q40. India's G20 Presidency (2023) adopted the theme:

A. 'Recover Together, Recover Stronger'

B. 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — One Earth, One Family, One Future'

C. 'Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development'

D. 'Transforming our World'

Answer Key

Q1: B Q2: B Q3: B Q4: B Q5: C Q6: B Q7: B Q8: B Q9: B Q10: B
Q11: B Q12: B Q13: B Q14: B Q15: B Q16: B Q17: B Q18: B Q19: B
Q20: B Q21: B Q22: B Q23: B Q24: B Q25: B Q26: B Q27: B Q28: B
Q29: B Q30: B Q31: B Q32: B Q33: B Q34: B Q35: B Q36: B Q37: B
Q38: B Q39: B Q40: B

