

**Class 5 | 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.** The 'Bretton Woods' conference (1944) established:

A. the United Nations

B. the World Bank and IMF

C. NATO

D. the Marshall Plan

**Q2.** 'Pax Romana' refers to:

A. a Roman military conquest

B. Roman law codes

C. a period of relative peace and stability in the Roman Empire (~27 BC – AD 180)

D. the fall of the Roman Republic

**Q3.** Who coined the term 'survival of the fittest'?

A. Charles Darwin

B. Jean-Baptiste Lamarck

C. Herbert Spencer

D. Gregor Mendel

**Q4.** The 'Truman Doctrine' (1947) was primarily aimed at:

A. rebuilding post-war Europe

B. creating NATO

C. containing the spread of communism by supporting free peoples resisting subjugation

D. establishing the United Nations

**Q5.** What is 'moral hazard' in economics?

A. a tax that creates ethical problems

B. the tendency to take more risks when protected from consequences (e.g. by insurance)

C. a market failing to price environmental damage

D. government corruption affecting markets

**Q6.** The 'Hegelian dialectic' is a process of:

A. logic through empirical observation

B. synthesis emerging from the tension between thesis and antithesis

C. moral reasoning from first principles

D. inductive scientific method

**Q7.** Turing's test measures:

**A.** a computer's processing speed

**B.** whether a machine's responses are indistinguishable from a human's in conversation

**C.** the security of an encryption system

**D.** a computer's memory capacity

**Q8.** The concept of 'comparative advantage' in trade theory was developed by:

**A.** Adam Smith

**B.** David Ricardo

**C.** John Stuart Mill

**D.** Alfred Marshall

**Q9.** The 'Stonewall Uprising' (1969) is associated with:

**A.** anti-war protests in the US

**B.** civil rights marches

**C.** the LGBTQ+ rights movement

**D.** labour union protests

**Q10.** Who was the first person to circumnavigate the globe?

**A.** Christopher Columbus

**B.** Vasco da Gama

**C.** Ferdinand Magellan (expedition; he died en route; Juan Sebastián Elcano completed it)

**D.** Francis Drake

**Q11.** In international law, 'jus cogens' norms are:

**A.** optional rules that states may follow

**B.** peremptory norms from which no derogation is permitted

**C.** rules specific to developing nations

**D.** bilateral treaties between two states

**Q12.** The 'Cultural Revolution' (1966–1976) was led by:

**A.** Deng Xiaoping

**B.** Zhou Enlai

**C.** Mao Zedong

**D.** Jiang Zemin

**Q13.** The 'Scramble for Africa' refers to:

**A.** African nations gaining independence in the 1960s

**B.** European colonisation and partition of Africa (mainly 1881–1914)

**C.** internal conflicts among African nations

**D.** the migration of peoples across Africa

**Q14.** Who authored 'The Wealth of Nations' (1776)?

**A.** David Ricardo

**B.** Thomas Malthus

**C.** Jeremy Bentham

**D.** Adam Smith

**Q15.** What is 'stagflation'?

**A.** rapid economic growth with low inflation

**B.** simultaneous high inflation and economic stagnation (high unemployment)

**C.** deflation during recession

**D.** inflation caused only by rising wages

**Q16.** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) was established to:

**A.** fund development projects in poor countries

**B.** maintain global monetary stability and provide financial support to countries in crisis

**C.** promote free trade between nations

**D.** fund scientific research globally

**Q17.** 'Terra nullius' (Latin: nobody's land) was a doctrine used to justify:

**A.** maritime boundaries

**B.** diplomatic immunity

**C.** colonisation of lands declared uninhabited or unused by indigenous people

**D.** international trade routes

**Q18.** The 'Dreyfus Affair' (1894) in France revealed widespread:

**A.** political corruption

**B.** anti-semitism in the military and government

**C.** worker exploitation

**D.** colonial abuses

**Q19.** Who was the first Chancellor of a unified Germany (1871)?

**A.** Kaiser Wilhelm I

**B.** Kaiser Wilhelm II

**C.** Otto von Bismarck

**D.** Helmut Kohl

**Q20.** What is 'quantitative easing' (QE)?

**A.** raising interest rates to reduce money supply

**B.** a monetary policy where a central bank buys assets to inject money into the economy

**C.** reducing government spending during recession

**D.** setting a fixed exchange rate

**Q21.** The 'Green Revolution' in India (1960s–1970s) was primarily associated with:

**A.** conservation of forests

**B.** high-yield variety crops and modern agricultural techniques increasing food production

**C.** solar energy adoption

**D.** water conservation projects

**Q22.** The 'Rawlsian veil of ignorance' is a thought experiment used to:

**A.** test a leader's decision-making

**B.** determine principles of justice by imagining choosing rules without knowing your place in society

**C.** design tax systems

**D.** train judges to be impartial

**Q23.** Which organisation was the predecessor to the WTO?

**A.** NAFTA

**B.** GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade)

**C.** G7

**D.** UNCTAD

**Q24.** What is 'Orientalism' as described by Edward Said?

**A.** the study of Eastern philosophy

**B.** a Western tradition of representing the East as exotic, backward, and 'Other', serving colonial interests

**C.** Eastern migration to Western countries

**D.** diplomatic relations between East and West

**Q25.** The 'Indian Ocean Tsunami' (December 2004) was triggered by an earthquake near:

**A.** Sri Lanka

**B.** Aceh, Sumatra, Indonesia

**C.** Thailand

**D.** the Maldives

**Q26.** The city of Carthage (modern Tunisia) was destroyed by Rome in:

**A.** 264 BC

**B.** 216 BC

**C.** 146 BC

**D.** 31 BC

**Q27.** What does 'veto power' mean in the UN Security Council?

**A.** the right to propose resolutions

**B.** the right of the five permanent members to block resolutions by voting against them

**C.** the right to expel a member nation

**D.** the right to call emergency sessions

**Q28.** The 'Chipko Movement' in India was related to:

**A.** labour rights

**B.** women's suffrage

**C.** forest conservation — villagers hugged trees to prevent logging

**D.** water rights

**Q29.** Who wrote 'The Second Sex', a foundational feminist text?

A. Virginia Woolf

B. Betty Friedan

C. Simone de Beauvoir

D. Gloria Steinem

**Q30.** What is 'seigniorage' in monetary economics?

A. a type of property tax

B. the profit made by a government from issuing currency (face value minus cost of production)

C. a medieval land tax

D. interest earned on government bonds

**Q31.** The 'Rohingya Crisis' involves refugees primarily from:

A. Bangladesh

B. India

C. Myanmar

D. Afghanistan

**Q32.** Who coined the term 'Gross National Happiness' (GNH)?

A. the UN

B. Bhutan's Fourth King, Jigme Singye Wangchuck

C. the World Bank

D. Joseph Stiglitz

**Q33.** What is 'Dunning-Kruger effect'?

A. the phenomenon where experts overestimate their peers' knowledge

B. the cognitive bias where people with limited knowledge overestimate their competence

C. the tendency for groups to make riskier decisions

D. the effect of stress on decision-making

**Q34.** Which Indian mathematician developed the concept of 'zero' as a number?

A. Aryabhata

B. Brahmagupta

C. Bhaskara II

D. Ramanujan

**Q35.** 'Habeas corpus' is a legal principle ensuring:

A. defendants have access to evidence

B. a person held in custody can be brought before a court to determine legality of detention

C. appeals are heard within 90 days

D. bail is available for all crimes

**Q36.** The 'Stockholm Syndrome' describes:

**A.** hostages developing positive feelings towards their captors

**B.** a diplomatic immunity clause

**C.** a type of financial crisis

**D.** a form of political neutrality

**Q37.** What is 'purchasing power parity' (PPP)?

**A.** the right to equal wages

**B.** an exchange rate adjustment measuring the relative value of currencies based on what they can buy

**C.** trade surplus equalisation

**D.** interest rate equalisation across borders

**Q38.** The 'Rwandan Genocide' (1994) was primarily directed against the:

**A.** Hutu people

**B.** Tutsi people

**C.** Twa people

**D.** Bantu people

**Q39.** What is the 'Laffer Curve'?

**A.** a graph showing that higher taxes always raise more revenue

**B.** a curve showing that extremely high or low tax rates produce zero revenue, with an optimal rate in between

**C.** the relationship between inflation and unemployment

**D.** the trade-off between growth and equality

**Q40.** Mahatma Gandhi's 'Dandi March' (Salt March) in 1930 was a protest against:

**A.** British taxation on textiles

**B.** the partition of Bengal

**C.** the British salt monopoly and salt tax

**D.** forced labour in plantations

### Answer Key

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