

Class 6 | 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 the 'Paradox of Thrift' in macroeconomics?

A. saving is always good for the economy

B. if all individuals save more simultaneously, aggregate demand falls, leading to lower income and savings in the economy

C. thrift leads to moral decline

D. government savings cause private spending to rise

Q2. The 'Mandate of Heaven' was a concept in:

A. the Islamic caliphate justifying rule

B. Chinese political philosophy justifying a ruler's right to govern based on virtue and heavenly approval

C. the Byzantine Empire

D. the Roman concept of imperial divinity

Q3. The 'Responsibility to Protect' (R2P) doctrine in international relations holds that:

A. nations have no right to interfere in other nations' affairs

B. the international community has a responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity

C. only the Security Council can authorise military force

D. economic sanctions can replace military intervention

Q4. 'Raison d'état' means:

A. reason for war

B. a nation's right to self-determination

C. the principle that the national interest justifies actions that might otherwise be unethical

D. international law governing diplomacy

Q5. What is 'epistemic injustice' (Miranda Fricker)?

A. unequal access to legal information

B. injustice done to someone in their capacity as a knower — e.g. not being believed due to identity prejudice

C. discrimination in education

D. inequality in scientific publishing

Q6. The 'Democratic Peace Theory' argues that:

A. democracies are always militarily stronger

B. liberal democracies rarely go to war with each other

C. democracy spreads naturally through trade

D. authoritarian regimes always collapse

Q7. India's Chandrayaan-3 mission (2023) achieved:

A. a Mars orbiter

B. the first Indian crewed spaceflight

C. the first soft landing near the Moon's south pole

D. a Jupiter flyby

Q8. The 'Nixon Shock' (1971) ended:

A. the Vietnam War

B. US diplomatic isolation of China

C. the convertibility of the US dollar to gold, effectively ending the Bretton Woods system

D. nuclear testing

Q9. What is 'panopticism' (Foucault) as applied to power and surveillance?

A. total transparency in government

B. the idea that surveillance disciplines subjects because they cannot tell if they are being watched, leading them to self-regulate

C. propaganda techniques in media

D. panoptic design of democratic parliaments

Q10. The 'Bandung Conference' (1955) was significant because it:

A. created the Non-Aligned Movement and voiced solidarity among newly independent Asian and African nations

B. ended the Korean War

C. formed the Organisation of African Unity

D. established the World Bank

Q11. Which philosopher argued for the 'categorical imperative' as a universal moral law?

A. David Hume

B. John Locke

C. Immanuel Kant

D. Aristotle

Q12. The 'Washington Consensus' promoted:

A. multilateral disarmament

B. protectionist economic policies

C. structural adjustment policies: fiscal discipline, privatisation, deregulation, and trade liberalisation

D. redistribution of wealth

Q13. Cyrus the Great founded the:

A. Ottoman Empire

B. Macedonian Empire

C. Achaemenid (Persian) Empire

D. Babylonian Empire

Q14. What is the 'Overton window'?

A. a physical window in the White House

B. the range of policies considered politically acceptable to the mainstream at a given time

C. a diplomatic communication channel

D. a theory of voter behaviour

Q15. The 'East India Company' was chartered by Queen Elizabeth I in:

A. 1580

B. 1600

C. 1620

D. 1650

Q16. 'Tragedy of the Commons' describes:

A. governments mismanaging resources

B. the depletion of shared resources when individuals act independently in self-interest

C. a dramatic genre in ancient Greece

D. the inevitability of economic inequality

Q17. India's Aadhar is:

A. a national health scheme

B. a biometric national identification system

C. a agricultural subsidy programme

D. a national railway card

Q18. The 'Monroe Doctrine' (1823) declared that:

A. the USA would support independence movements globally

B. European powers should not colonise or interfere in the Western Hemisphere

C. free trade was a natural right

D. all nations are equal under international law

Q19. 'Doublethink' (Orwell's 1984) means:

A. holding two conflicting beliefs simultaneously and accepting both as true

B. thinking twice before acting

C. propaganda in totalitarian states

D. the repression of political opposition

Q20. The 'Boomerang Effect' in international relations describes:

A. a weapon used by indigenous Australians

B. the pattern where domestic activists link with international allies to pressure their own governments

C. economic sanctions backfiring on the imposing country

D. military alliances reversing roles

Q21. What is 'judicial review' in constitutional law?

A. the power of a court to review the legality of executive actions and declare laws unconstitutional

B. the process of appointing judges

C. citizens' ability to challenge judges

D. the appeal process to higher courts

Q22. The 'Arrow's Impossibility Theorem' states that:

A. all elections are fair

B. no voting system can satisfy all fairness criteria simultaneously when there are 3+ candidates

C. majority rule is always optimal

D. proportional representation is impossible

Q23. What is 'terra firma' in international law?

A. fixed land boundaries

B. solid ground as distinct from sea or air

C. the right to territory by occupation

D. continental shelf rights

Q24. The 'Glass Ceiling' in workplace contexts refers to:

A. transparent corporate reporting standards

B. invisible barriers preventing minorities and women from advancing to senior positions

C. a legal cap on executive salaries

D. architectural safety standards

Q25. Which Indian leader articulated the 'Panchsheel' principles (Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence)?

A. Mahatma Gandhi

B. Sardar Patel

C. Jawaharlal Nehru

D. B.R. Ambedkar

Q26. 'Decolonisation of the mind' is a concept associated with:

A. Edward Said

B. Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o

C. Frantz Fanon

D. all of the above

Q27. What is 'gerrymandering'?

A. manipulating electoral district boundaries to favour a particular party

B. voter fraud through ballot stuffing

C. electoral reform

D. the process of voter registration

Q28. The 'Social Contract' theory was developed by Hobbes, Locke, and:

A. Machiavelli

B. Rousseau

C. Kant

D. Hegel

Q29. What does 'BRICS' stand for?

A. Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa

B. Brazil, Romania, Indonesia, China, South Africa

C. Britain, Russia, India, China, Spain

D. Brazil, Russia, Iran, China, Saudi Arabia

Q30. Pangaea was:

A. a prehistoric ocean

B. the supercontinent that existed before the continents separated

C. an ancient empire spanning three continents

D. a prehistoric ice age covering Earth

Q31. What is 'epistemic closure' in political discourse?

A. the end of a philosophical argument

B. a tendency to only consume information confirming one's existing beliefs, rejecting contrary evidence

C. scientific consensus being reached

D. classified information withheld from the public

Q32. The 'Meiji Restoration' (1868) was significant because Japan:

A. adopted a feudal system

B. became a British colony

C. rapidly modernised and industrialised, abandoning the shogunate for imperial rule

D. declared independence from China

Q33. India's 'Operation Blue Star' (1984) was a military operation aimed at:

A. removing militants from the Golden Temple in Amritsar

B. defending the Bangladesh border

C. nuclear testing in Rajasthan

D. counter-insurgency in Kashmir

Q34. What is 'constitutional morality' as used by Dr B.R. Ambedkar?

A. morality derived from religious texts

B. adherence to the spirit and letter of constitutional principles, especially by those in power

C. the majority's moral preferences

D. international human rights standards

Q35. 'Noblesse oblige' means:

A. nobility is hereditary

B. privilege entails responsibility — those of high rank must act with generosity and honour

C. aristocracy is superior

D. the nobility is exempt from taxes

Q36. What is the 'Doomsday Clock'?

A. a calendar tracking asteroid impacts

B. a metaphorical clock measuring how close humanity is to catastrophic destruction (midnight = destruction)

C. a nuclear weapon launch sequence

D. a UN environmental warning system

Q37. The 'Tobin Tax' is proposed as a:

A. tax on pollution

B. small tax on financial transactions to reduce speculative currency trading

C. progressive income tax

D. corporate tax reform

Q38. What is India's 'Article 370'?

A. the right to education

B. the directive principles of state policy

C. the provision that formerly gave Jammu & Kashmir special autonomous status (revoked in 2019)

D. the provision for states' rights

Q39. 'Sovereignty' in the Westphalian sense means:

A. monarchs hold absolute power

B. states have supreme authority over their territory and non-interference is the norm

C. sovereignty is shared between states and the UN

D. economic power determines sovereignty

Q40. What is 'cognitive dissonance'?

A. a neurological disorder

B. the psychological discomfort of holding contradictory beliefs, often resolved by rationalisation

C. a philosophical concept about knowledge

D. a type of logical fallacy

Answer Key

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

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