

Class 7 | 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 'Thucydides Trap' describes the tendency for:

A. rising powers to ally against existing powers

B. war to occur when a rising power threatens to displace a ruling power (coined by Graham Allison)

C. democracies to fail when threatened

D. empires to fall through internal decay

Q2. 'Realpolitik' as practised by Bismarck emphasised:

A. democratic values in foreign policy

B. pragmatic, power-based politics over ideological considerations

C. military alliances based on cultural similarity

D. economic interdependence as the basis of peace

Q3. The 'Kuznets Curve' in environmental economics predicts that:

A. inequality always increases with development

B. pollution initially increases as countries develop, then decreases beyond a certain income threshold

C. GDP growth reduces inequality

D. environmental standards always raise production costs

Q4. The 'Fourth Estate' refers to:

A. the monarchy in constitutional systems

B. the media and press as an unofficial but powerful pillar of democracy

C. the judiciary

D. civil society organisations

Q5. 'Constructivism' in international relations argues that:

A. states always pursue material interests

B. world politics is shaped by ideational factors — ideas, norms, and identities rather than only material power

C. trade creates peace

D. international institutions are irrelevant

Q6. What is 'judicial activism'?

A. judges participating in political campaigns

B. when courts take an active role in shaping public policy beyond strict legal interpretation

C. expediting judicial proceedings

D. citizen involvement in court proceedings

Q7. The 'Saffron Revolution' (2007) refers to protests in:

A. India

B. Iran

C. Myanmar (Burma)

D. Thailand

Q8. 'Soft power' as a concept in IR was developed by:

A. Henry Kissinger

B. Joseph Nye

C. Samuel Huntington

D. Hans Morgenthau

Q9. The 'Harberger Triangle' in economics represents:

A. the welfare loss (deadweight loss) created by monopoly pricing or taxation

B. a trade deal between three nations

C. the optimal tax rate

D. profit from international trade

Q10. What is 'postcolonial melancholia' (Paul Gilroy)?

A. the sadness of former colonial powers losing influence

B. a form of racism in the UK arising from the inability to come to terms with the end of empire

C. nostalgia for colonial economic systems

D. a type of immigrant identity crisis

Q11. India's 'Operation Polo' (1948) referred to:

A. India's first nuclear test

B. the military action integrating Hyderabad into the Indian Union

C. a counter-insurgency operation in Nagaland

D. India's first submarine mission

Q12. 'Negative liberty' (Isaiah Berlin) means freedom:

A. involving active empowerment by the state

B. from interference or coercion by others

C. to participate in governance

D. from economic want

Q13. The 'Corn Laws' in 19th-century Britain imposed tariffs on grain imports. Their repeal in 1846 symbolised victory for:

A. protectionism

B. free trade

C. labour rights

D. agricultural subsidies

Q14. What is 'Maslow's hierarchy of needs' with the highest level being:

A. safety needs

B. love and belonging

C. esteem needs

D. self-actualisation

Q15. The 'Milgram experiment' (1961) studied:

A. conformity in groups

B. cognitive bias in decision-making

C. obedience to authority — willingness to administer electric shocks under instruction

D. racial prejudice

Q16. What is 'dollar diplomacy'?

A. US policy of using financial power and investment to extend influence abroad

B. fixing the dollar to gold

C. the Marshall Plan's economic aid

D. US isolationism in the early 20th century

Q17. The 'Sapir-Whorf hypothesis' proposes that:

A. all languages share deep universal grammar

B. language shapes and constrains thought

C. culture determines language, not vice versa

D. translation is always imperfect

Q18. 'Creative Destruction' as a concept in economics was introduced by:

A. Karl Marx

B. John Maynard Keynes

C. Joseph Schumpeter

D. Friedrich Hayek

Q19. India's 'Digital India' initiative aims primarily at:

A. strengthening the military's digital capabilities

B. transforming India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy

C. restricting foreign digital companies

D. creating a digital currency

Q20. What is 'epistemic humility'?

A. intellectual arrogance masked as modesty

B. the recognition of the limits of one's knowledge and openness to being wrong

C. refusing to take intellectual positions

D. deferring to authority on all matters

Q21. The 'Tipping Point' (Gladwell) describes:

A. the point at which a product fails

B. the moment when an idea, trend, or social behaviour crosses a threshold and spreads rapidly

C. the optimal tax rate

D. the point where inequality becomes unsustainable

Q22. India's 'Project Tiger' was launched in:

A. 1960

B. 1965

C. 1973

D. 1980

Q23. 'False consciousness' in Marxist theory refers to:

A. propaganda spread by the state

B. workers' failure to recognise their own class interests due to ideological manipulation

C. mental illness caused by capitalism

D. the ruling class's self-deception

Q24. What is 'anarchism' as a political philosophy?

A. government by the strongest

B. the belief that all forms of involuntary governance and hierarchy should be abolished

C. a form of democracy without parties

D. rule by anarchists

Q25. The 'Great Game' in 19th-century geopolitics was a rivalry between:

A. France and Germany

B. USA and UK

C. Britain and Russia over influence in Central Asia

D. China and Japan

Q26. The United Nations' 'Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGs) aim to be achieved by:

A. 2025

B. 2030

C. 2035

D. 2050

Q27. 'Civil disobedience' as a tactic was developed by:

A. Martin Luther King Jr.

B. Mahatma Gandhi

C. Henry David Thoreau

D. both B and C

Q28. The 'Nairobi Agreement' and 'Paris Agreement' are related to:

A. nuclear nonproliferation

B. climate change

C. biodiversity

D. trade

Q29. India's 'Operation Shakti' (1998) referred to:

A. India's first satellite launch

B. Pokhran-II nuclear tests

C. the Kargil War response

D. a counter-terrorism operation

Q30. What is 'cultural relativism'?

A. the view that all cultures are equal in moral value

B. the view that beliefs and practices should be understood in their cultural context rather than judged by external standards

C. the supremacy of Western culture

D. the study of cultural evolution

Q31. 'Weltpolitik' was a German foreign policy under Kaiser Wilhelm II aiming at:

A. continental European domination

B. German global power and colonial expansion

C. peaceful coexistence with Britain

D. alliance with France against Russia

Q32. What is 'regulatory capture'?

A. environmental agencies being captured by activists

B. regulatory agencies coming to be dominated by the industries they are supposed to regulate

C. foreign governments influencing domestic regulation

D. courts overriding regulatory decisions

Q33. The 'Rashomon effect' describes:

A. a type of Japanese government

B. contradictory interpretations of the same event by different observers

C. the fog of war in military strategy

D. propaganda in authoritarian systems

Q34. Chandragupta Maurya was the founder of which empire?

A. Gupta Empire

B. Mughal Empire

C. Mauryan Empire

D. Kushan Empire

Q35. What is 'intersectionality' (Kimberlé Crenshaw)?

A. a traffic management strategy

B. the way overlapping social identities (race, gender, class) create unique, compounded forms of discrimination

C. the intersection of law and politics

D. cross-cultural political alliances

Q36. India's Chandrayaan-1 (2008) made a key discovery that:

A. there are no minerals on the Moon

B. water molecules exist on the Moon

C. the Moon has a dense atmosphere

D. the Moon's far side has active volcanoes

Q37. The 'Peterloo Massacre' (1819) involved:

A. cavalry charging a crowd at a reform rally in Manchester, killing 15

B. the Boston Massacre in colonial America

C. the Paris Commune uprising

D. a factory fire killing workers

Q38. What is 'deterrence theory' in international security?

A. using military force to defeat an enemy

B. the strategy of discouraging aggression by threatening unacceptable retaliation

C. promoting international law compliance

D. diplomatic isolation of rogue states

Q39. What is 'adverse selection' in economics?

A. governments choosing bad policies due to lobbying

B. market failure where one party has more information, leading to poor-quality options dominating (e.g. insurance, used cars)

C. consumers choosing inferior products

D. adverse weather affecting agricultural markets

Q40. India's 'Neighbourhood First' foreign policy prioritises:

A. ASEAN nations

B. South Asian neighbours (SAARC region)

C. the Middle East

D. Central Asia

Answer Key

Q1: B Q2: B Q3: B Q4: B Q5: B Q6: B Q7: C Q8: B Q9: A Q10: B

Q11: B Q12: B Q13: B Q14: D Q15: C Q16: A Q17: B Q18: C Q19: B

Q20: B Q21: B Q22: C Q23: B Q24: B Q25: C Q26: B Q27: D Q28: B

Q29: B Q30: B Q31: B Q32: B Q33: B Q34: C Q35: B Q36: B Q37: A

Q38: B Q39: B Q40: B