

Class 8 | 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 'Responsibility to Protect' (R2P) was formally adopted at the UN World Summit in:

A. 2000

B. 2003

C. 2005

D. 2008

Q2. What is 'stochastic terrorism'?

A. random acts of violence with no political motive

B. using mass communication to incite random actors to commit violence predictably at a statistical level, without direct coordination

C. state-sponsored terrorism

D. computer-based cyberterrorism

Q3. The concept of 'state of exception' (Giorgio Agamben) refers to:

A. states with exceptional natural resources

B. when sovereign power suspends normal law in emergencies, revealing the basis of legal order

C. diplomatic exceptions in international law

D. special economic zones

Q4. 'Decolonisation' as an intellectual project beyond political independence involves:

A. eliminating all colonial-era infrastructure

B. dismantling epistemic, cultural, and ontological legacies of colonialism, not merely political structures

C. repatriating colonial-era artefacts

D. adopting pre-colonial systems of governance

Q5. The 'Iron Law of Oligarchy' (Robert Michels) states that:

A. oligarchies are always corrupt

B. all complex organisations, even democratic ones, inevitably develop oligarchic tendencies

C. iron production determines political power

D. economic elites always control governments

Q6. What is 'democratic backsliding'?

A. the transition from authoritarianism to democracy

B. the gradual erosion of democratic norms and institutions from within, often by elected leaders

C. electoral fraud

D. military coups

Q7. The 'Bandwagoning' vs 'Balancing' debate in IR concerns:

A. fiscal policy choices

B. whether states align with the dominant power (bandwagon) or counter it by forming coalitions (balance)

C. media framing of foreign policy

D. trade agreements vs military alliances

Q8. 'Benign hegemony' argues that:

A. a dominant power is always exploitative

B. a dominant power can maintain stability and provide public goods benefiting the international community

C. hegemony is only possible through military force

D. multipolar systems are more stable

Q9. India's 'One Sun, One World, One Grid' initiative proposes:

A. a single global carbon tax

B. a global solar power grid for sharing renewable energy across nations

C. India's solar energy independence

D. a UN framework for space solar power

Q10. What is 'moral universalism' in ethics?

A. morality depends on individual preference

B. moral claims are culturally relative

C. there are universal moral truths applicable to all people regardless of culture

D. morality is determined by law

Q11. The 'J-curve' in international relations (after sanctions) describes:

A. immediate economic growth from sanctions

B. a short-term deterioration in relations before improvement after reforming policy

C. the relationship between authoritarianism and GDP

D. the decline in trade following sanctions with eventual recovery

Q12. What is 'technopoly' (Neil Postman)?

A. monopoly in the technology sector

B. a culture in which technology assumes the character of a totalising ideology, displacing other value systems

C. government control of technology

D. the monopoly of internet platforms

Q13. India's 'PM-KISAN' scheme provides:

A. free fertiliser to farmers

B. income support of ₹6000/year to small and marginal farmers

C. crop insurance

D. subsidised farm equipment

Q14. The 'Exclusive Economic Zone' (EEZ) extends how far from a nation's coastline?

A. 12 nautical miles

B. 24 nautical miles

C. 200 nautical miles

D. 350 nautical miles

Q15. What is 'norm localisation' in IR?

A. enforcing international norms at the local level

B. the process by which global norms are adapted and made compatible with local values and structures

C. rejecting international norms

D. replacing local laws with international ones

Q16. The 'Overpopulation' hypothesis by Paul Ehrlich (1968) proved largely incorrect because:

A. the world's population declined

B. the Green Revolution dramatically increased food production, and birth rates fell in developing nations

C. resource wars resolved scarcity

D. colonisation provided new arable land

Q17. What is 'epistemic injustice' and its two main forms?

A. information inequality and propaganda

B. testimonial injustice (not being believed) and hermeneutical injustice (no framework to understand one's own experience)

C. unequal access to education and media

D. judicial bias and political censorship

Q18. 'Weaponised interdependence' refers to:

A. using weapons to enforce trade agreements

B. major powers using their centrality in global networks (trade, finance, information) as leverage against rivals

C. mutual assured destruction

D. economic sanctions as weapons

Q19. India's stance on the 'Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty' (CTBT) is:

A. signed and ratified

B. signed but not ratified

C. neither signed nor ratified

D. ratified but not implemented

Q20. The 'Straussian' reading of political philosophy refers to:

A. Richard Strauss's influence on music policy

B. Leo Strauss's approach of finding esoteric hidden teachings beneath the exoteric surface of political texts

C. a neoconservative foreign policy approach

D. a narrative approach to constitutional history

Q21. What is 'shrinkflation'?

A. rapid economic contraction

B. the practice of reducing a product's size or quantity while maintaining or raising its price

C. price deflation during economic decline

D. reducing government spending

Q22. India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy includes the sub-policy 'Act East', which focuses on:

A. Pakistan and Bangladesh

B. engagement with Southeast and East Asian nations

C. West Asian nations

D. Central Asian nations

Q23. 'Structural violence' (Johan Galtung) refers to:

A. violence caused by architectural failures

B. harm caused by social structures and institutions that prevent basic needs from being met

C. military violence against civilians

D. violence in failed states

Q24. What is 'regulatory arbitrage'?

A. arbitration of regulatory disputes

B. exploiting differences in regulations across jurisdictions to minimise costs or avoid restrictions

C. an independent regulatory authority

D. setting regulations by market forces

Q25. The 'Responsibility Not to Veto' (RN2V) is a proposal in UN reform that:

A. gives veto power to more nations

B. asks permanent members to abstain from using the veto in cases of mass atrocities

C. abolishes the veto entirely

D. creates a second security council

Q26. What is 'datafication'?

A. converting documents to digital format

B. the transformation of social actions and processes into quantifiable data, enabling new forms of surveillance and control

C. statistical analysis of government data

D. big data management

Q27. India's 'INS Vikrant' (commissioned 2022) is significant as:

A. India's first nuclear submarine

B. India's first indigenously built aircraft carrier

C. India's first destroyer-class warship

D. India's first guided-missile frigate

Q28. The 'Wilsonian moment' after World War I refers to:

A. Wilson's isolation of the US from global affairs

B. the brief hope for a new world order based on self-determination, democracy, and collective security

C. the US entry into WWI

D. the League of Nations' founding

Q29. What is 'affirmative action' or 'positive discrimination'?

A. legally required quotas for all public positions

B. policies giving advantages to underrepresented groups to address historical inequities

C. policies ensuring all citizens receive equal treatment regardless of background

D. policies reducing taxes for the poor

Q30. The 'Bantustan' system in South African apartheid created:

A. separate homelands for Black South Africans that served to deny them citizenship and labour rights

B. integrated townships

C. separate educational systems

D. racially segregated hospitals

Q31. What is 'green washing'?

A. environmental clean-up programmes

B. misleadingly marketing products or practices as environmentally friendly to gain public approval

C. reducing industrial carbon footprint

D. washing products to remove chemicals

Q32. India's 'PM Gati Shakti' initiative is:

A. a digital literacy programme

B. a national master plan for multimodal connectivity integrating infrastructure projects

C. a startup funding programme

D. a renewable energy initiative

Q33. What is 'net assessment' in geopolitics?

A. measuring a country's net economic output

B. a rigorous comparative analysis of the relative military balance between two powers over time

C. an environmental impact assessment

D. a UN peace assessment framework

Q34. The 'Prisoner's Dilemma' illustrates:

A. how prisoners always cooperate

B. why individually rational choices can lead to collectively suboptimal outcomes in non-cooperative games

C. the optimal prison sentencing policy

D. how competition always produces the best outcome

Q35. What is 'brain drain' and its impact on developing nations?

A. excessive study time causing cognitive decline

B. emigration of highly skilled workers to wealthier countries, reducing human capital in their origin nations

C. over-education reducing practical skills

D. corporate recruitment from universities

Q36. The concept of 'Antyodaya' (Deendayal Upadhyaya) means:

A. rising of the middle class

B. upliftment of the last person — the most marginalised individual in society

C. economic growth through agriculture

D. political reform from the grassroots

Q37. What is 'strategic patience' as a foreign policy?

A. waiting indefinitely without action

B. a deliberate, long-term approach avoiding premature concessions while applying gradual pressure

C. diplomatic isolation

D. rapid military deterrence

Q38. India's 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana' aims to:

A. provide housing to the poor

B. ensure financial inclusion by providing bank accounts to unbanked households

C. fund rural infrastructure

D. provide universal health coverage

Q39. The 'Blue Economy' concept refers to:

A. the economic value of blue-chip stocks

B. sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth while preserving marine ecosystems

C. water privatisation

D. investment in water infrastructure

Q40. What is 'competitive authoritarianism' (Levitsky & Way)?

A. competing authoritarian regimes in one country

B. a regime type where elections exist but the playing field is so uneven that incumbents consistently win

C. authoritarianism arising from democratic competition

D. military competition for political power

Answer Key

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