

Class 9 | 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 'Paradox of Tolerance' (Karl Popper) states that:

A. tolerance is always a virtue

B. a tolerant society must be intolerant of intolerance to survive

C. tolerance leads to indifference

D. radical tolerance enables democracy

Q2. What is 'digital sovereignty'?

A. state control over all internet content

B. a nation's ability to control its digital infrastructure, data, and standards independent of foreign powers

C. citizens' right to digital privacy

D. sovereign wealth funds investing in technology

Q3. The 'Overton window' was named after:

A. a Canadian architect

B. Joseph Overton, who articulated the range of politically acceptable ideas

C. a US Supreme Court justice

D. a British philosopher

Q4. What is 'narrative hegemony' in media studies?

A. government control of media

B. the dominance of certain narratives that frame public understanding in ways reflecting and reinforcing power

C. the hegemony of visual over textual media

D. advertising dominance over news

Q5. The 'Amartya Sen capability approach' measures development in terms of:

A. GDP per capita

B. human capabilities — what people are actually able to do and be — rather than resources or utility alone

C. literacy rates only

D. life expectancy only

Q6. India's 'Right to Information Act' (RTI, 2005) was significant because:

A. it granted internet access as a right

B. it gave citizens the right to request government information, promoting transparency and accountability

C. it protected whistleblowers

D. it required government to consult citizens on all decisions

Q7. The 'Security Dilemma' in IR occurs when:

A. states fail to form alliances

B. one state's security measures cause other states to feel threatened and rearm, increasing overall insecurity

C. a state lacks nuclear deterrence

D. an alliance fails to defend a member

Q8. What is 'moral realism' in meta-ethics?

A. ethics based on self-interest

B. the view that moral facts are objective and exist independently of what anyone thinks or feels

C. the view that morality is culturally determined

D. the view that moral judgements are merely expressions of emotion

Q9. 'Hyperobjects' (Timothy Morton) in ecological thinking are:

A. large physical objects like mountains

B. things so massively distributed in time and space that they transcend conventional localisation (e.g. global warming, biosphere)

C. objects with hyperlinked digital representations

D. objects beyond human perception due to size

Q10. What is 'anticipatory governance'?

A. governing based on tradition

B. proactively managing emerging risks by integrating foresight, public engagement, and adaptive policymaking

C. bureaucratic forward planning

D. long-term constitutional design

Q11. The 'Tanzimat' reforms in the Ottoman Empire (1839–1876) aimed at:

A. Islamic fundamentalism

B. military expansion into Europe

C. administrative, legal, and social modernisation

D. abolishing the caliphate

Q12. What is 'epistemic democracy'?

A. elections based on educational qualifications

B. the theory that democratic deliberation produces better collective epistemic outcomes than alternatives

C. democracy in academic institutions

D. knowledge as the primary criterion for leadership

Q13. 'Resource curse' describes:

A. the depletion of natural resources

B. the paradox that countries with abundant natural resources often have worse economic and political outcomes

C. environmental damage from mining

D. geopolitical competition for oil

Q14. The 'Hamiltonian' vs 'Jeffersonian' divide in US political thought concerns:

A. Hamilton favouring state rights; Jefferson favouring a strong federal government

B. Hamilton favouring a strong central government and commercial republic; Jefferson favouring agrarian decentralisation

C. monetary policy only

D. foreign policy isolationism

Q15. What is 'epistemic violence' (Spivak)?

A. physical violence against scholars

B. the imposition of dominant knowledge systems that silence and marginalise subaltern knowledges and ways of knowing

C. media disinformation campaigns

D. surveillance of dissidents

Q16. India's 'Panchayati Raj' system (strengthened by the 73rd Constitutional Amendment, 1992) established:

A. a three-tier decentralised local self-government system at village, block, and district levels

B. a national council of village elders

C. compulsory village education

D. land reform at the village level

Q17. The 'Hegelian Left' (Young Hegelians) interpreted Hegel's dialectic as demanding:

A. conservative preservation of existing institutions

B. radical social and political change — the 'ought' of history progressing toward freedom

C. religious orthodoxy

D. nationalist unity

Q18. 'Securitisation theory' (Copenhagen School) argues that security issues are:

A. always objective threats

B. constructed through speech acts that frame issues as existential threats requiring emergency measures

C. determined solely by military power

D. defined by international law

Q19. What is the 'Permanent Court of Arbitration' (PCA)?

A. a permanent tribunal that adjudicates all international disputes

B. an intergovernmental organisation facilitating arbitration and dispute resolution between states and other parties

C. a court under the UN Security Council

D. the predecessor to the ICJ

Q20. India's 'Mission Shakti' (2019) demonstrated:

A. India's first ICBM

B. India's anti-satellite (ASAT) weapon capability

C. India's hypersonic missile programme

D. a supersonic fighter jet

Q21. The 'Nordic Model' of capitalism is characterised by:

A. low taxes and minimal welfare

B. high taxes, extensive welfare state, strong labour unions, and open markets

C. state ownership of major industries

D. currency union with Germany

Q22. What is 'multilateralism' in international relations?

A. bilateral trade agreements

B. cooperation among three or more nations based on shared rules, norms, and institutions

C. unilateral military action

D. regional trade blocs only

Q23. What was the significance of the 'Simla Agreement' (1972)?

A. India-Pakistan trade agreement

B. India and Pakistan resolved to settle disputes bilaterally without third-party mediation, after the 1971 war

C. ceasefire in Kashmir

D. normalisation of diplomatic relations with China

Q24. The 'Contact Hypothesis' (Gordon Allport) in social psychology proposes:

A. social media increases prejudice

B. under appropriate conditions, intergroup contact reduces prejudice

C. integration increases conflict

D. prejudice is innate and cannot be reduced

Q25. 'Lawfare' refers to:

A. fair legal processes

B. the use of law as a weapon of war — exploiting legal systems to delegitimise or harm an adversary

C. international humanitarian law

D. legal warfare between corporations

Q26. The 'demographic dividend' describes:

A. the decline in population growth

B. the economic growth potential from a high proportion of working-age people relative to dependants

C. benefits from immigration

D. economic growth from urbanisation

Q27. What is 'ontological security' in IR (Mitzen, Steele)?

A. physical security of a nation's territory

B. a state's need for a stable sense of identity and continuous self-narrative to function and make decisions

C. nuclear deterrence

D. cybersecurity

Q28. India's 'UDAN' scheme aims to:

A. provide free education in under-developed areas

B. enhance regional air connectivity by making flying affordable in small cities

C. develop unmanned aerial vehicle technology

D. provide urban development loans

Q29. What is 'polycrisis'?

A. governance by multiple crises simultaneously

B. a situation where multiple, interconnected global crises reinforce each other, exceeding the sum of their individual impacts

C. a constitutional crisis with multiple parties

D. multiple economic crises in one year

Q30. The 'Trente Glorieuses' (Thirty Glorious Years) refers to:

A. France's imperial era

B. the period of high economic growth in Western Europe from 1945–1975

C. the French Revolutionary period

D. France's years of decolonisation

Q31. 'Agonistic democracy' (Chantal Mouffe) emphasises:

A. consensus as the goal of democracy

B. legitimate conflict and adversarial pluralism as essential to democracy

C. technocratic governance

D. deliberative democracy

Q32. What is 'strategic autonomy' in India's foreign policy?

A. total isolationism

B. pursuing an independent foreign policy aligning with Indian interests rather than committing to any bloc

C. military self-sufficiency

D. economic self-reliance

Q33. India's 'National Education Policy 2020' introduced a curriculum framework called:

A. 5+4+3+2

B. 5+3+3+4

C. 6+3+3+4

D. 4+4+4+4

Q34. What is 'cosmopolitanism' in political philosophy?

A. urban cultural sophistication

B. the view that all human beings belong to a single moral community, transcending national boundaries

C. global governance replacing nation-states

D. support for globalisation

Q35. The 'Partition Violence' (1947) resulted in approximately how many deaths and displaced people?

A. tens of thousands dead; hundreds of thousands displaced

B. hundreds of thousands dead; 10–20 million displaced

C. a few thousand dead; a million displaced

D. millions dead; a billion displaced

Q36. What is 'extraterritoriality' in international law?

A. territory beyond a state's borders

B. the exemption of persons or entities from local jurisdiction and their subjection to the laws of another state

C. laws governing outer space

D. diplomatic immunity

Q37. The 'Bolsonaro-Modi-Trump' style of politics is often characterised as:

A. classical liberalism

B. right-wing populism — using nativist, anti-establishment, and majoritarian appeals

C. social conservatism without populism

D. technocratic governance

Q38. What is 'post-truth politics'?

A. politics after all truth has been established

B. a political culture where appeals to emotion override objective facts, and public opinion is shaped by feelings rather than evidence

C. scientific consensus in governance

D. evidence-based policymaking

Q39. India's 'GST' (Goods and Services Tax, 2017) replaced:

A. income tax

B. a complex system of central and state indirect taxes, unifying them into one nationwide tax

C. property tax

D. corporate tax

Q40. What is 'planetary boundaries' framework (Rockström et al.)?

A. the political boundaries between nations

B. nine Earth-system processes within which humanity can safely operate to maintain a stable Holocene-like state

C. the limits of outer space exploration

D. the maximum sustainable population

Answer Key

Q1: B Q2: B Q3: B Q4: B Q5: B Q6: B Q7: B Q8: B Q9: B Q10: B
Q11: C Q12: B Q13: B Q14: B Q15: B Q16: A 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