



## **BRAINIACS OLYMPIAD**

### **HISTORY SAMPLE PAPER**



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## BRAINIACS OLYMPIAD 2026

### HISTORY SAMPLE PAPER (GRADES 11–12)

**1. What event began World War II in Europe?**

- A) Attack on Pearl Harbor
- B) Bombing of London
- C) Invasion of Poland by Germany
- D) Japanese invasion of Manchuria

Answer: C) Invasion of Poland by Germany

**2. The Axis Powers in WWII included:**

- A) United States, Britain, USSR
- B) Germany, Italy, Japan
- C) France, Britain, China
- D) Germany, USSR, Spain

Answer: B) Germany, Italy, Japan

**3. The Nuremberg Trials were held to:**

- A) Try Nazi leaders for war crimes
- B) End the Cold War
- C) Form the League of Nations
- D) Divide Germany into zones

Answer: A) Try Nazi leaders for war crimes

**4. The United Nations was established in:**

- A) 1919
- B) 1939
- C) 1945
- D) 1948

Answer: C) 1945

**5. The Truman Doctrine was designed to:**

- A) Spread communism
- B) Contain Soviet influence
- C) Rebuild Japan
- D) End World War I

Answer: B) Contain Soviet influence

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**6. The Berlin Airlift occurred in response to:**

- A) NATO expansion
- B) East Berlin's rebellion
- C) Soviet blockade of West Berlin
- D) Marshall Plan failure

Answer: C) Soviet blockade of West Berlin

**7. What was the main goal of the Marshall Plan?**

- A) Military defense
- B) Prevent nuclear war
- C) Economic aid for Europe
- D) Control of Middle Eastern oil

Answer: C) Economic aid for Europe

**8. The Korean War ended in:**

- A) Complete U.S. victory
- B) North Korea's defeat
- C) Stalemate and armistice
- D) Communist expansion to Japan

Answer: C) Stalemate and armistice

**9. Which leader initiated de-Stalinization in the Soviet Union?**

- A) Joseph Stalin
- B) Nikita Khrushchev
- C) Leon Trotsky
- D) Mikhail Gorbachev

Answer: B) Nikita Khrushchev

**10. The Cuban Missile Crisis brought the world close to:**

- A) Financial collapse
- B) Global pandemic
- C) Nuclear war
- D) Oil embargo

Answer: C) Nuclear war

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**11. The Domino Theory was used to justify:**

- A) The Berlin blockade
- B) U.S. involvement in Vietnam
- C) Arms sales to Iran
- D) Decolonization of India

Answer: B) U.S. involvement in Vietnam

**12. What year did the Vietnam War end?**

- A) 1965
- B) 1973
- C) 1975
- D) 1980

Answer: C) 1975

**13. Which U.S. president expanded the Vietnam War into Cambodia?**

- A) John F. Kennedy
- B) Lyndon B. Johnson
- C) Richard Nixon
- D) Gerald Ford

Answer: C) Richard Nixon

**14. The Suez Crisis of 1956 involved:**

- A) Soviet invasion of Hungary
- B) U.S. blockade of Cuba
- C) Egypt nationalizing the Suez Canal
- D) Israel joining NATO

Answer: C) Egypt nationalizing the Suez Canal

**15. India's independence from Britain occurred in:**

- A) 1919
- B) 1935
- C) 1947
- D) 1955

Answer: C) 1947

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**16. The apartheid system was dismantled in:**

A) Zimbabwe

B) Egypt

C) South Africa

D) Algeria

Answer: C) South Africa

**17. Who led China's communist revolution in 1949?**

A) Chiang Kai-shek

B) Mao Zedong

C) Deng Xiaoping

D) Sun Yat-sen

Answer: B) Mao Zedong

**18. The Cultural Revolution in China aimed to:**

A) Rebuild cities

B) Reduce poverty

C) Purge capitalist influences

D) Introduce democracy

Answer: C) Purge capitalist influences

**19. Gamal Abdel Nasser is most associated with:**

A) Leading India to independence

B) Forming NATO

C) Pan-Arab nationalism in Egypt

D) Unifying Germany

Answer: C) Pan-Arab nationalism in Egypt

**20. The Iranian Revolution in 1979 resulted in:**

A) Communist rule

B) A Western-style democracy

C) An Islamic theocracy

D) A monarchy

Answer: C) An Islamic theocracy

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**21. What ended the Cold War?**

- A) Vietnam War
- B) Cuban Missile Crisis
- C) Collapse of the Soviet Union
- D) Treaty of Versailles

Answer: C) Collapse of the Soviet Union

**22. The fall of the Berlin Wall occurred in:**

- A) 1985
- B) 1987
- C) 1989
- D) 1991

Answer: C) 1989

**23. The Gulf War (1990–91) was triggered by:**

- A) U.S. invasion of Iran
- B) Iraq's invasion of Kuwait
- C) Oil embargo on Saudi Arabia
- D) Al-Qaeda attacks

Answer: B) Iraq's invasion of Kuwait

**24. Which country broke apart in the 1990s due to ethnic conflict?**

- A) Poland
- B) Yugoslavia
- C) Czechoslovakia
- D) Hungary

Answer: B) Yugoslavia

**25. Rwanda's genocide occurred in:**

- A) 1980
- B) 1989
- C) 1994
- D) 1998

Answer: C) 1994

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### HISTORY SAMPLE PAPER (GRADES 11–12)

**26. The Arab Spring began in which country in 2010?**

- A) Egypt
- B) Tunisia
- C) Syria
- D) Libya

Answer: B) Tunisia

**27. Which international body investigates genocide and war crimes?**

- A) NATO
- B) ICC
- C) IMF
- D) WTO

Answer: B) ICC

**28. Globalization has increased:**

- A) Economic isolation
- B) Worldwide interconnectedness
- C) Imperialism
- D) Environmental protections only

Answer: B) Worldwide interconnectedness

**29. The Korean War ended in:**

- A) A victory for South Korea
- B) Communist unification
- C) An armistice and division at the 38th parallel
- D) U.S. occupation of North Korea

Answer: C) An armistice and division at the 38th parallel

**30. The United Nations' main purpose is to:**

- A) Promote global business
- B) Prevent war and promote peace
- C) Fund world militaries
- D) Promote global religions

Answer: B) Prevent war and promote peace

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### HISTORY SAMPLE PAPER (GRADES 11–12)

**31. Which event best replaces the question mark in this sequence?**

**Russia 1917-1918**

- **Czar Nicholas II abdicated Russian Imperial throne**
- ?
- **Bolsheviks seized power and became the Communist Party**
- **Russia signed a peace treaty with the Central Powers**

- A) Vladimir Lenin returned to lead the Russian Revolution
- B) Leon Trotsky escaped Russia for exile in Mexico
- C) The Russian government adopted the New Economic Policy
- D) The Red Army won the Russian Civil War

Answer: A) Vladimir Lenin returned to lead the Russian Revolution

**32. «... The key-stone of the Fascist doctrine is its conception of the State, of its essence, its functions, and its aims. For Fascism the State is absolute, individuals and groups relative. Individuals and groups are admissible in so far as they come within the State. Instead of directing the game and guiding the material and moral progress of the community, the liberal State restricts its activities to recording results. The Fascist State is wide awake and has a will of its own. For this reason, it can be described as ethical'....»**

**— Benito Mussolini, Fascism: Doctrine and Institutions, Howard Fertig, 1932**

**Which statement expresses the main idea of the passage?**

- A) The people have a right to overthrow ineffective governments.
- B) The state is more important than the individuals within it.
- C) The state gets its authority from the power of individuals.
- D) The establishment of an empire will cause division and chaos.

Answer: B) The state is more important than the individuals within it.

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**33. All of the following were members of the Axis powers EXCEPT:**



- A) Germany
- B) Italy
- C) Japan
- D) Soviet Union

Answer: D) Soviet Union

**34. This cartoon is showing a German soldier beating up a French, British, and Russian soldier. This represents which idea?**

- A) Militarism
- B) Alliances
- C) Imperialism
- D) Nationalism

Answer: D) Nationalism



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**35. He ruled Mexico for almost 35 years, winning reelection as president again and again. He welcomed foreign investors who developed mines, built railroads, and drilled for oil. However, underneath the surface, discontent rippled through Mexico. The country's prosperity benefited only a small group.**

- A) Francisco Madero
- B) Porfirio Díaz
- C) Victoriano Huerta
- D) Venustiano Carranza

Answer: B) Porfirio Díaz



**36. The photograph shows the aftermath of which event during WWII?**

- A) D-Day landings
- B) Atomic bombing of Hiroshima
- C) Battle of Stalingrad
- D) Evacuation of Dunkirk

Answer: B) Atomic bombing of Hiroshima



**37. The image depicts a major turning point battle in Europe. Name it?**

- A) Battle of Britain
- B) Battle of Stalingrad
- C) Battle of Midway
- D) Battle of El Alamein

Answer: B) Battle of Stalingrad



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**38. The image shows a concentration camp during the Holocaust.**

**Name it?**

- A) Auschwitz
- B) Dachau
- C) Treblinka
- D) Bergen-Belsen

Answer: A) Auschwitz



**39. The conference shown in the image shaped post-war Europe.**

**Which one is it?**

- A) Tehran Conference
- B) Potsdam Conference
- C) Yalta Conference
- D) Paris Peace Conference

Answer: C) Yalta Conference



**40. The photograph shows trials of war criminals after WWII?**

- A) Nuremberg Trials
- B) Tokyo Trials
- C) Hague Tribunal
- D) Geneva Convention

Answer: A) Nuremberg Trials



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**41. The emblem in the image represents which international organization founded after WWII?**

- A) League of Nations
- B) United Nations
- C) NATO
- D) IMF

Answer: B) United Nations



**42. The map shows a division of Europe during the early Cold War. What is it called?**

- A) Iron Curtain
- B) Berlin Wall
- C) Maginot Line
- D) Eastern Bloc

Answer: A) Iron Curtain



**43. The photograph shows a famous protest in India. Which leader is it associated with?**

- A) Jawaharlal Nehru
- B) Mahatma Gandhi
- C) Muhammad Ali Jinnah
- D) Bhagat Singh

Answer: B) Mahatma Gandhi



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**44. The image shows a key figure in the Chinese Revolution. Who is he?**

- A) Mao Zedong
- B) Chiang Kai-shek
- C) Sun Yat-sen
- D) Deng Xiaoping

Answer: A) Mao Zedong



**45. The photograph shows a major protest against apartheid. Where did it occur?**

- A) South Africa
- B) Kenya
- C) Algeria
- D) Egypt

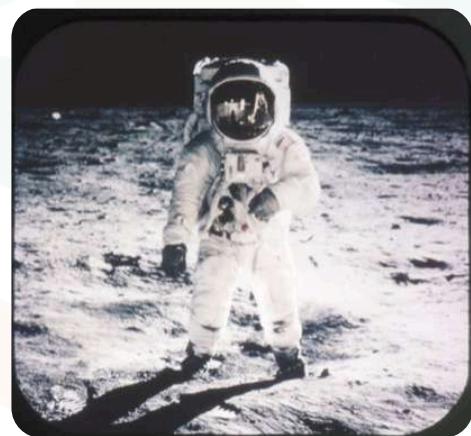
Answer: A) South Africa



**46. The photograph shows a space achievement by the USA during the Cold War. What is it?**

- A) Apollo 11 Moon Landing
- B) Sputnik launch
- C) Yuri Gagarin flight
- D) Hubble Telescope launch

Answer: A) Apollo 11 Moon Landing



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**47. The image shows the Cuban Missile Crisis. Who are the leaders shown?**

- A) JFK and Khrushchev
- B) Eisenhower and Brezhnev
- C) Kennedy and Mao
- D) Johnson and Gorbachev

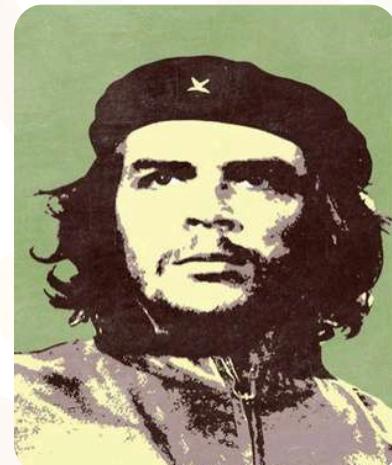
Answer: A) JFK and Khrushchev



**48. The image shows a revolutionary leader in Latin America. Who is he?**

- A) Fidel Castro
- B) Che Guevara
- C) Hugo Chávez
- D) Juan Perón

Answer: B) Che Guevara



**49. The photograph shows a landmark in global digital transformation. Which invention is it?**

- A) Personal computer
- B) Internet server
- C) Smartphone
- D) Satellite

Answer: B) Internet server



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**50. The photograph shows leaders signing a climate agreement.  
Which agreement?**

- A) Kyoto Protocol
- B) Paris Climate Agreement
- C) Montreal Protocol
- D) Rio Declaration

Answer: B) Paris Climate Agreement



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