Financial Literacy — Syllabus Guide for Parents

Classes 3 to 10 · What your child will be tested on, and how

What This Olympiad Tests

The iThinkers Financial Literacy Olympiad is India's only Olympiad built directly on the OECD-PISA Financial Literacy framework — the world's leading benchmark for this subject. Every question is a **decision scenario**: a real money situation, asking "what is the wiser choice, and why?" The numbers are kept deliberately easy — this subject checks judgement, not arithmetic (arithmetic itself is tested in Maths, the same year it is taught in school). Scenarios are designed to work fairly for every family's economic reality, and borrowing is always shown as a normal financial tool with a cost — never as something to feel ashamed of.

Exam Format at a Glance

Format	30 to 45 Multiple Choice Questions, 1 mark each, depending on class
Duration	45 minutes
Negative marking	None — every attempt counts, so children can try every question with confidence
Answer sheet	OMR sheet, filled with a 2B pencil
Question style	Real money decision scenarios (a shop offer, a family budget, a message to judge) with easy numbers

The Skill Areas Your Child Will Build

Every question — from LKG to Class 10 — falls under one of these four skill areas. They stay the same every year, so you can watch your child's growth along a single thread as they move up the classes.

Skill Area	Starts as (early years)	Grows into (by Class 10)
Money & Transactions	Coins, notes, buying and getting change	The full payments landscape — cash, UPI, cards, invoices and pay slips
Planning & Managing	Needs vs wants, and the piggy bank	Budgets, saving and investing basics, credit and EMIs, goal planning
Risk & Reward	"Sometimes things break or get lost"	Weighing risk against return, understanding diversification and insurance, inflation
Financial Landscape	Shops and banks exist; ads want you to buy	Rights & responsibilities, recognising scams, taxes, banks & regulators, contracts

How We Ask Questions

iThinkers questions are not about memorising facts. Each question is designed to check one of these four thinking abilities:

How questions are asked	What it means for your child
Identify	Read a price tag, a bill, a pay slip, or a bank statement, and pull out the information that matters.
Analyse	Compare two prices, two plans, or two loans on a fair, like-for-like basis.

Evaluate	Judge whether a deal is fair, an offer is trustworthy, or a risk is worth taking — this is the heart of the subject.
Apply	Make an actual decision — save, spend, borrow, insure, or report a problem.

What Your Child Will Learn, Class by Class

Find your child's class below to see exactly which topics are covered. These are the same topics your child's school already teaches (NCERT/CBSE/state-board common core) — iThinkers simply asks about them in a more thoughtful, real-life way.

Class 3	age ~8–9
Money & Transactions	Identifying coins & notes, counting money, reading price tags, paying and checking change
Planning & Managing	Needs vs wants, saving in a piggy bank, the patience of waiting to buy
Risk & Reward	Taking care of money and things — understanding that loss can happen
Financial Landscape	Where money comes from (work), shops & markets, the idea that ads want us to buy

Class 4	age ~9–10
Money & Transactions	Making the same amount in different ways, simple bills with 2–3 items, checking a bill is correct
Planning & Managing	A simple pocket-money plan (save some, spend some), saving for a goal
Risk & Reward	Keeping money safe, sharing money information carefully
Financial Landscape	Why the same item can cost different amounts in different shops, ads vs reality

Class 5	age ~10–11
Money & Transactions	Bills with more items, knowing that digital money (UPI/cards) exists alongside cash, giving exact money vs getting change
Planning & Managing	A simple budget (money in vs money out), a spending-diary feel, short vs long-term goals
Risk & Reward	Spotting “too good to be true” offers, understanding that borrowing from a friend means returning it
Financial Landscape	What banks do (keep money safe, help it grow a little), giving & sharing as a choice

Class 6	age ~11–12
Money & Transactions	Reading a full shop bill, the feel of how UPI works, OTP/PIN secrecy
Planning & Managing	A monthly-style budget with categories, saving first vs saving what's left, comparing prices before buying
Risk & Reward	Why banks give interest (a simple-interest feel), the risk of keeping all money in one place
Financial Landscape	Bank account basics (deposit, withdraw, ATM), advertising tricks (sale boards, “limited time”), what MRP means

Class 7	age ~12–13
Money & Transactions	Comparing recharge/data plans fairly (cost per day), reading receipts and understanding returns/exchange
Planning & Managing	Applying simple interest to a decision (numbers kept easy), needs/wants/goals and the idea of trade-offs
Risk & Reward	“High return, no risk” as a red flag, understanding that borrowing has a cost
Financial Landscape	Why governments collect taxes, online-shopping safety basics, a first feel for entrepreneurship (cost vs price)

Class 8	age ~13–14
Money & Transactions	Reading GST on a bill, understanding discount-then-tax on a final price, comparing payment methods (cash/UPI/card)
Planning & Managing	The feel of compound growth (coordinated with Maths), budgeting for a family event, why to keep emergency money aside
Risk & Reward	The feel of inflation (■100 buys less over time), the concept of insurance, in-app purchase and loot-box risks
Financial Landscape	Phishing/OTP fraud anatomy, consumer rights basics (bill, MRP, complaint), why regulated banks are safer than informal lenders

Class 9	age ~14–15
Money & Transactions	Reading a pay slip and a bank statement, and what a savings account vs FD/RD is for
Planning & Managing	A personal budget with percentage allocations, saving vs borrowing for a goal, the true cost of an EMI
Risk & Reward	The risk-return relationship (savings < FD < shares/funds), recognising “guaranteed doubling” schemes as fraud
Financial Landscape	How to escalate a complaint, reporting financial fraud, why financial regulators exist, telling paid promotion apart from proof

Class 10	age ~15–16
Money & Transactions	Full bill and invoice literacy (GST, discounts, final payable), digital-finance hygiene (UPI limits, autopay awareness)
Planning & Managing	Comparing loans by rate, tenure and total repayment, an introduction to saving & investing (FD, gold, mutual funds) and diversification, goal-based planning
Risk & Reward	The risk-return-time relationship, inflation vs real returns, the different types of insurance (life/health/vehicle)
Financial Landscape	Income-tax basics, borrower's and consumer's rights & duties, full scam anatomy, the habit of reading terms before agreeing

A Sample Question

Class 10 example: Two loans for ■50,000 — Loan A: repay ■55,000 over 1 year. Loan B: repay ■62,000 over 3 years (“smaller EMI!”). Which statement best captures the trade-off?
(a) B is cheaper because the EMI is smaller (b) **B's monthly burden is lighter, but its total cost is ■7,000 more — decide using both capacity and total cost ✓** (c) A is worse because it is faster (d) Both cost the same

This checks whether a child can look past a tempting “smaller monthly payment” and weigh the full picture — exactly the judgement that protects adults from costly borrowing mistakes.

What Makes iThinkers Different

- India's only Olympiad built directly on the OECD-PISA Financial Literacy framework.
- A flagship subject — activity-based learning on the free practice portal, not just an exam.
- Scenarios are designed to work fairly for every family's economic reality; borrowing is never shown with shame.
- Deep, question-level reports for parents and teachers — beyond a rank, showing genuine strengths and gaps.
- Children are benchmarked, not ranked against each other — the focus stays on each child's own growth.

This guide is a parent-friendly summary. It does not change or add to what your child's school teaches — every topic here sits inside your child's regular curriculum.