

GK & Mental Ability — Syllabus Guide for Parents

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

What This Olympiad Tests

The iThinkers GK & Mental Ability Olympiad is built on one rule: **awareness in use, not trivia**. A question never simply asks “What is the capital of X?” — it asks something like “A family wants to visit the Taj Mahal — which city should they travel to?” General Knowledge makes up about 60% of the paper, and Mental Ability (reasoning, patterns, puzzles) makes up the other 40%. Current Affairs are drawn only from a free Current Affairs Capsule that iThinkers publishes on the practice portal at least 6 weeks before the exam, so no child is disadvantaged for not reading the newspaper. The paper is politically neutral throughout — no party, leader or religion-linked content, ever.

Exam Format at a Glance

Format	30 to 45 Multiple Choice Questions, 1 mark each, depending on class
Split	About 60% General Knowledge, 40% Mental Ability
Duration	45 minutes
Negative marking	None — every attempt counts, so children can try every question with confidence
Current Affairs	Only from the free, published Current Affairs Capsule — nothing outside it is ever asked
Answer sheet	OMR sheet, filled with a 2B pencil

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)
India & the World	My country's symbols and the helpers around me	Institutions, rights & duties, and world affairs — always in real-life use
Science-Tech & Environment	Everyday inventions and caring for nature	Frontiers of science and technology (space, AI, health) and sustainability
Current Awareness	Big, child-relevant happenings	A rolling 12-month window of events, judged for significance
Mental Ability	Picture series and odd-one-out	Critical reasoning, analytical puzzles and data interpretation

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
Why & What-For	Facts are always tied to a purpose or a real scenario — never asked as a bare “what is” question.
Which Fits Best	Given a situation, choose the option (place, body, resource) that actually fits it.

Reason It Out	Solve a pattern, code, puzzle or logical relationship — the pure thinking-skill part of the paper.
Judge the Argument	At the older classes, weigh whether an argument or conclusion is actually well-supported.



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
India & the World	National flag & anthem, national bird/animal/flower and what they stand for, my state & capital, festivals as shared culture, community helpers, transport & communication	
Science-Tech & Environment	Everyday inventions (wheel to phone) in use, plants & animals around us, caring for water/trees/cleanliness	
Current Awareness	Child-relevant highlights (a big sports win, a space launch), always explained with context	
Mental Ability	Picture series & patterns, odd-one-out with a reason, simple analogies, matching & grouping, left/right and directions	

Class 4		age ~9–10
India & the World	Major states and where they lie, famous monuments and why they matter, India's neighbours introduced, sports & games of India	
Science-Tech & Environment	Inventions that changed life, sources of energy around us, reduce-reuse-recycle in action	
Current Awareness	Window items given with context	
Mental Ability	Number & letter series, word and picture analogies, simple coding, direction sense, ranking & ordering puzzles	

Class 5		age ~10–11
India & the World	States & major capitals, rivers & mountains that shape where cities grew, continents & oceans, famous world landmarks, local government (who fixes the streetlight?)	
Science-Tech & Environment	Space awareness (planets, ISRO), everyday science in the news, endangered animals and why protection matters	
Current Awareness	Window items	
Mental Ability	Coding-decoding, multi-step direction sense, grouping/Venn-diagram feel, mirror & water images, calendar/clock puzzles	

Class 6		age ~11–12
India & the World	The Constitution as our rulebook, Parliament/President/PM — who does what, world geography, why nations talk (the UN), sports events & their significance	
Science-Tech & Environment	How everyday tech works (satellites, vaccines), climate awareness, Digital India	
Current Awareness	Window items	
Mental Ability	Deeper analogies, simple all/some reasoning, blood relations, dice & cube views, non-verbal series	

Class 7 age ~12–13	
India & the World	Milestones of India's freedom story, how India earns (farms/factories/services), states & their special features, world organisations & neighbours' capitals
Science-Tech & Environment	Indian space & science missions and why they matter, health & nutrition awareness, sustainability practices (rainwater harvesting, solar)
Current Awareness	Window items, including awards & honours with context on what they were given for
Mental Ability	Logical sequences, advanced coding, simple seating arrangements, statement-conclusion reasoning, embedded figures

Class 8 age ~13–14	
India & the World	Rights & duties of citizens in scenarios, how governments are chosen, India's states & union territories, world groupings (SAARC/G20 as countries working together)
Science-Tech & Environment	AI in daily life, space milestones, medical advances and what they enable, environment issues & solutions
Current Awareness	Window items
Mental Ability	Full syllogisms, analytical puzzles, mixed series, figure analogies & paper folding, reading a simple data table

Class 9 age ~14–15	
India & the World	Institutions in action (courts, Election Commission, RBI) in scenario form, why industries/cities locate where they do, economy words in use (budget, GDP, inflation — no computation), world institutions & why they exist
Science-Tech & Environment	Space, AI, biotech and clean-energy capability awareness, the Sustainable Development Goals, disaster awareness & response
Current Awareness	Window items
Mental Ability	Critical reasoning (assumptions, strengthen/weaken), analytical puzzles, mixed non-verbal reasoning, reading a single data chart

Class 10 age ~15–16	
India & the World	The citizen's toolkit (RTI, consumer forums, voting, grievance channels), centre-vs-state responsibilities, world-order institutions & groupings
Science-Tech & Environment	AI & society, the space economy, health technology, climate action and real trade-off choices
Current Awareness	Window items
Mental Ability	Full argument evaluation, multi-constraint puzzles, reading two data charts together, abstract non-verbal reasoning

A Sample Question

Class 9 example: “Our school should start a chess club because chess improves focus.” Which of these, if true, **most strengthens** this argument?

- (a) Chess sets are cheap (b) **A study found students who play chess concentrate longer in class ✓** (c) Some students dislike chess (d) The school has a hall

This checks whether a child can pick out the one piece of evidence that genuinely backs up a claim, rather than a fact that is merely related to the topic — reasoning, not recall.

What Makes iThinkers Different

- “GK that asks why” — awareness questions are always tied to real use, never bare trivia recall.
- A free, published Current Affairs Capsule — every child, with or without daily newspaper access, competes fairly.
- A free practice portal for every registered child — no extra books to buy, instant feedback, works on any device.
- 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.

