

FIFA World Cup General Knowledge 2026

2026

Comprehensive Practice Set for UPSC · SSC · Banking · Railways · State PCS

50

QUESTIONS

75

MINUTES

2026

UPSC · SSC · Banking · Railways · State PCS

v1.0

Instructions

- Each question carries **4 options** — only **one is correct**.
- Correct answers are highlighted in **green ✓** with detailed explanations.
- A **Detailed Answer Key** is provided at the end for quick revision.
- Recommended time: **75 minutes** for all 50 questions.

TOTAL ATTEMPTED

CORRECT

INCORRECT

SCORE %



Questions 1 – 20

1

FIFA was founded in which year?

A 1900

B 1904

C 1910

D 1920

✓ Ans: B

Explanation: FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) was founded on May 21, 1904 in Paris, France by representatives of football associations from Belgium, Denmark, France, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.

2

Which country permanently retained the Jules Rimet Trophy after winning the FIFA World Cup three times?

A Italy

B Germany

C Argentina

D Brazil

✓ Ans: D

Explanation: Brazil won the Jules Rimet Trophy in 1958, 1962, and 1970, earning permanent custody. A brand new FIFA World Cup Trophy was commissioned for the 1974 edition onward.

3

In which year did Morocco become the first African nation to reach the FIFA World Cup semi-finals?

A 2010

B 2014

C 2018

D 2022

✓ Ans: D

Explanation: Morocco's 2022 World Cup run in Qatar was historic - they became the first African and first Arab nation ever to reach the semi-finals of a FIFA World Cup.

4

Who won the Golden Boot (top scorer award) at the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia?

A Romelu Lukaku

B Cristiano Ronaldo

C Kylian Mbappé

D Harry Kane

✓ Ans: D

Explanation: England's Harry Kane finished as the sole top scorer at the 2018 World Cup with 6 goals in 6 matches. No other player matched his tally. He also captained England to the semi-finals - their best World Cup result since 1990.

5

Who scored the winning goal for Germany in the 2014 FIFA World Cup Final against Argentina?

A Thomas Müller

B André Schürrle

C Mesut Özil

D Mario Götze

✓ Ans: D

Explanation: Substitute Mario Götze scored a stunning chest control and volley in the 113th minute of extra time, giving Germany a 1-0 victory. It remains one of the most celebrated winning goals in World Cup final history.

6

Which country hosted the 2006 FIFA World Cup?

A France

B Netherlands

C Germany

D Austria

✓ Ans: C

Explanation: The 2006 World Cup was hosted by Germany, popularly called the Summer Fairy Tale. Italy won the tournament, defeating France 1-1 (AET) and winning 5-3 on penalties in the Berlin final.

7

The highest-scoring match in FIFA World Cup history produced 12 goals. Which two teams played that game?

A Brazil vs Sweden (1958)

B Hungary vs West Germany (1954)

C Austria vs Switzerland (1954)

D Germany vs Brazil (2014)

✓ Ans: C

Explanation: Austria defeated Switzerland 7-5 in the 1954 World Cup quarter-final in Basel - a match with 12 goals, the most in any single World Cup game in history.

8

Which Brazilian right-back uniquely appeared in three consecutive FIFA World Cup Finals in 1994, 1998, and 2002?

A Roberto Carlos

B Cafu

C Aldair

D Lúcio

✓ Ans: B

Explanation: Cafu is the only player to have appeared in three consecutive World Cup Finals. Brazil won two of them (1994 and 2002); France won the 1998 edition, making Cafu a two-time World Cup winner.

9

Who won the Golden Boot at the 2014 FIFA World Cup with 6 goals, including a stunning volley against Uruguay?

A Neymar

B Thomas Müller

C Lionel Messi

D James Rodríguez

✓ Ans: D

Explanation: Colombia's James Rodríguez scored 6 goals in just 5 matches to claim the 2014 Golden Boot. His volley against Uruguay in the Round of 16 was voted the tournament's best goal.

10

In which year did the Indian Super League (ISL) play its inaugural season?

A 2010

B 2012

C 2014

D 2016

✓ Ans: C

Explanation: The first ISL season was played from October to December 2014 with 8 franchise clubs. The league was announced and incorporated in 2013, but competitive football began in 2014. Atletico de Kolkata won the inaugural title.

11

Which team won the inaugural Indian Super League (ISL) title in 2014?

A FC Goa

B Mumbai City FC

C Atletico de Kolkata

D Chennaiyin FC

✓ Ans: C

Explanation: Atletico de Kolkata (now ATK Mohun Bagan) won the first ISL title in 2014, defeating Kerala Blasters in the final. This set the tone for Kolkata's strong presence in Indian professional football.

12

Which team did France defeat in the semi-final of the 2018 FIFA World Cup?

A Brazil

B Spain

C Uruguay

D Belgium

✓ Ans: D

Explanation: France beat Belgium 1-0 in the 2018 semi-final through Samuel Umtiti's header. Deschamps became only the third person to win the World Cup as both a player and a manager, after Brazil's Mário Zagallo (1958 player, 1970 coach) and Germany's Franz Beckenbauer (1974 captain, 1990 coach).

13

Which body is responsible for governing football across the Asian continent?

A CAF

B CONCACAF

C AFC

D CONMEBOL

✓ Ans: C

Explanation: The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) was founded in 1954 and governs football across Asia and Australia. India was among its founding members. AFC headquarters are in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

14

In the 2006 FIFA World Cup Final, Zinedine Zidane was sent off for headbutting which Italian player?

A Gennaro Gattuso

B Fabio Cannavaro

C Andrea Pirlo

D Marco Materazzi

✓ Ans: D

Explanation: Zidane headbutted Materazzi in the chest in extra time, reportedly after a verbal provocation. France then lost to Italy on penalties. Tragically, it was Zidane's final professional match before retirement.

15

The term Maracanazo refers to which shocking 1950 World Cup result that stunned the host nation?

A Brazil 0-1 Argentina

B Brazil 1-2 Uruguay

C Brazil 0-3 Germany

D Brazil 1-2 England

✓ Ans: B

Explanation: Uruguay defeated Brazil 2-1 in the decisive final group match of the 1950 World Cup at the Maracanã. Approximately 200,000 fans had packed the stadium expecting a Brazilian victory. The defeat remains one of football's greatest upsets.

16

How many goals did West Germany's Gerd Müller score at the 1970 FIFA World Cup to claim the Golden Boot?

A 7

B 8

C 9

D 10

✓ Ans: D

Explanation: Gerd Müller scored 10 goals across 6 matches at the 1970 World Cup in Mexico - a single-tournament record that stood for over four decades. His career total of 14 World Cup goals was later surpassed only by Miroslav Klose.

17

Which African country became the first to reach the quarter-finals of the FIFA World Cup in 1990?

A Nigeria

B Ghana

C Cameroon

D Ivory Coast

✓ Ans: C

Explanation: Cameroon reached the 1990 World Cup quarter-finals in Italy - the first African nation to achieve this. The 38-year-old Roger Milla came off the bench to score 4 memorable goals, becoming a global symbol of African football.

18

The 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar was historically the first World Cup held in which part of the world?

A Southeast Asia

B South Asia

C East Asia

D Middle East

✓ Ans: D

Explanation: Qatar's 2022 edition was the first FIFA World Cup held in the Middle East and in an Arab nation. It was also held in November–December rather than June–July due to Qatar's extreme summer temperatures.

19

How many goals did Lionel Messi score at the 2022 FIFA World Cup?

A 5

B 6

C 7

D 8

✓ Ans: C

Explanation: Messi scored 7 goals at the 2022 World Cup - including 2 in the final - and added 3 assists. He won the Golden Ball for best player, his second such award after 2014, capping his greatest-ever World Cup tournament.

20

Who won the Best Young Player award at the 2022 FIFA World Cup?

A Pedri

B Gavi

C Eduardo Camavinga

D Enzo Fernández

✓ Ans: D

Explanation: Argentina's Enzo Fernández won the Best Young Player award at just 21 years old. He later signed for Chelsea FC in a record British transfer. His performances were central to Argentina's World Cup title run.



Questions 21 – 40

21

Who coached France to their first FIFA World Cup title in 1998?

A Michel Platini

B Raymond Domenech

C Roger Lemerre

D Aimé Jacquet

✓ Ans: D

Explanation: Aimé Jacquet managed France to their historic home World Cup victory in 1998. Didier Deschamps was the captain of that team; he later managed France to their second title in 2018 - one of football's great story arcs.

22

In which FIFA World Cup was the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) system officially used for the first time?

A 2014 Brazil

B 2016

C 2018 Russia

D 2022 Qatar

✓ Ans: C

Explanation: VAR was officially introduced at the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia. It reviews four categories of decision: goals, penalty decisions, direct red cards, and cases of mistaken identity.

23

Who scored the winning goal in the 2010 FIFA World Cup Final to give Spain a 1-0 victory over Netherlands?

A David Villa

B Fernando Torres

C Xavi

D Andrés Iniesta

✓ Ans: D

Explanation: Andrés Iniesta scored in the 116th minute of extra time to deliver Spain their first-ever World Cup title. His goal sparked nationwide celebrations in Spain and cemented his status as a Spanish football legend.

24

Brazil's national football team is popularly known by which nickname?

A Os Guerreiros

B The Samba Kings

C Verde-Amarelo

D Canarinha

✓ Ans: D

Explanation: Brazil's team is called Canarinha meaning little canary due to their iconic bright yellow jerseys. They are also referred to as A Seleção meaning The Selection. Both terms are common in exam questions.

25

India's largest football stadium - the venue for major international matches - is located in which city?

A Mumbai

B New Delhi

C Bengaluru

D Kolkata

✓ Ans: D

Explanation: Salt Lake Stadium (officially Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan) in Kolkata seats around 85,000 spectators, making it one of the largest football stadiums in the world. Kolkata is considered the traditional home of Indian football.

26

How many member associations does FIFA have as of 2024?

A 192

B 200

C 204

D 211

✓ Ans: D

Explanation: FIFA has 211 member associations - more than the United Nations' 193 member states. This is because FIFA includes territories and autonomous regions that are not internationally recognised as independent states.

27

How many FIFA World Cup editions were held before the tournament was suspended due to World War II?

A 2

B 3

C 4

D 5

✓ Ans: B

Explanation: Three World Cups were held before WWII: 1930 (Uruguay), 1934 (Italy), and 1938 (France). The 1942 and 1946 editions were cancelled. The tournament resumed in 1950 in Brazil.

28

In how many FIFA World Cup tournaments did Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal participate during his career?

A 3

B 4

C 5

D 6

✓ Ans: C

Explanation: Ronaldo appeared at the 2006, 2010, 2014, 2018, and 2022 World Cups - five tournaments in total. In 2022, his last appearance, Portugal were eliminated in the quarter-finals by Morocco.

29

Which player scored a dramatic hat-trick for Portugal in a 3-3 group stage draw against Spain at the 2018 FIFA World Cup?

A Gonçalo Guedes

B João Moutinho

C Bernardo Silva

D Cristiano Ronaldo

✓ Ans: D

Explanation: Ronaldo's 88th-minute free-kick completed his hat-trick to salvage a 3-3 draw against Spain in one of 2018's most gripping matches. Portugal had briefly trailed before Ronaldo's three goals turned the game.

30

In which year was the golden goal rule - where a match ends immediately on scoring in extra time - first used at a FIFA World Cup?

A 1994

B 1998

C 2002

D 2006

✓ Ans: B

Explanation: The golden goal (sudden death) rule was introduced at the 1998 World Cup in France. Laurent Blanc scored the first World Cup golden goal against Paraguay in the Round of 16. The rule was scrapped after the 2002 World Cup.

31

Which legendary Portuguese footballer was the top scorer at the 1966 FIFA World Cup with 9 goals?

A Luís Figo

B Rui Costa

C João Moutinho

D Eusébio

✓ Ans: D

Explanation: Eusébio da Silva Ferreira - nicknamed The Black Panther - scored 9 goals at the 1966 World Cup in England, where Portugal finished third. He is regarded as one of the greatest forwards of his generation and an all-time Benfica and Portugal legend.

32

What was the name of the official mascot of the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar?

A Fuleco

B Zabivaka

C Naranjito

D La'eeb

✓ Ans: D

Explanation: La'eeb was the 2022 World Cup mascot whose name means super-skilled player in Arabic. Other well-known World Cup mascots include Fuleco (Brazil 2014), Zabivaka (Russia 2018), and Naranjito (Spain 1982).

33

In which year did Argentina win their very first FIFA World Cup title?

A 1966

B 1970

C 1974

D 1978

✓ Ans: D

Explanation: Argentina won their first World Cup on home soil in 1978, defeating Netherlands 3-1 in extra time in Buenos Aires. Mario Kempes scored twice in the final and won both the Golden Boot and the Golden Ball.

34

The 2022 FIFA World Cup was the last edition with 32 teams. From which edition onwards will 48 teams participate?

A 2030

B 2026

C 2034

D 2038

✓ Ans: B

Explanation: From the 2026 World Cup (co-hosted by USA, Canada, and Mexico), the field expands to 48 teams. The total number of matches increases from 64 to 104.

35

At what age did Pelé win his first FIFA World Cup title in 1958?

A 15 years old

B 17 years old

C 18 years old

D 20 years old

✓ Ans: B

Explanation: Pelé won the 1958 World Cup at just 17 years old in Sweden, making him the youngest player ever to win a World Cup. He scored 6 goals in the tournament including 2 in the final against the host nation Sweden.

36

Brazil won the 2002 FIFA World Cup - the first held in Asia. Which country did they defeat in the final?

A South Korea

B Japan

C Germany

D France

✓ Ans: C

Explanation: Brazil defeated Germany 2-0 in the 2002 World Cup Final held in Yokohama, Japan. Ronaldo scored both goals in a man-of-the-match performance. The tournament was co-hosted by South Korea and Japan.

37

The 2014 FIFA World Cup Final was held at which famous stadium in Rio de Janeiro?

A Arena Corinthians

B Mineirão

C Mané Garrincha

D Maracanã

✓ Ans: D

Explanation: The iconic Maracanã Stadium in Rio de Janeiro hosted the 2014 World Cup Final where Germany beat Argentina 1-0 through Götze's extra-time goal. Coincidentally the same venue witnessed Brazil's heartbreaking 1950 Maracanazo defeat.

38

Which Brazilian player holds the record as the all-time top scorer for Brazil in FIFA World Cup history?

A Pelé

B Rivaldo

C Romário

D Ronaldo

✓ Ans: D

Explanation: Ronaldo Nazário (R9) scored 15 goals across three World Cups from 1998 to 2006 - the most by any Brazilian. Pelé scored 12, Romário scored 5. Ronaldo's record makes him Brazil's greatest World Cup scorer.

39

Who was the head coach of Germany when they won the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil?

A Rudi Völler

B Hansi Flick

C Jürgen Klinsmann

D Joachim Löw

✓ Ans: D

Explanation: Joachim Löw managed Germany from 2006 to 2021. His greatest achievement was the 2014 World Cup title in Brazil, which also included the infamous 7-1 semi-final victory over the host nation.

40

Which Indian city is widely regarded as the traditional heartland and football capital of India?

A Mumbai

B Goa

C Chennai

D Kolkata

✓ Ans: D

Explanation: Kolkata has the richest football heritage in India, home to historic clubs like Mohun Bagan (est. 1889) and East Bengal (est. 1920). The city has historically dominated both the Durand Cup and the Santosh Trophy.



Questions 41 – 50

41

How many goals in total did Pelé score across all his FIFA World Cup appearances from 1958 to 1970?

A 10

B 12

C 14

D 15

✓ Ans: B

Explanation: Pelé scored 12 World Cup goals in total: 6 in 1958, 1 in 1962 before injury ended his tournament, 1 in 1966, and 4 in 1970. Brazil won three of the four World Cups in which he participated.

42

Which player scored a hat-trick in the 2022 FIFA World Cup Final for France despite his team losing on penalties?

A Antoine Griezmann

B Olivier Giroud

C Ousmane Dembélé

D Kylian Mbappé

✓ Ans: D

Explanation: Mbappé scored in the 80th, 81st, and 118th minute (penalty) - the second player ever to score a hat-trick in a World Cup Final after Geoff Hurst in 1966. Despite his heroics, France lost 4-2 on penalties to Argentina.

43

Which country has reached the FIFA World Cup Final three times without ever winning the trophy?

A Belgium

B Portugal

C Hungary

D Netherlands

✓ Ans: D

Explanation: Netherlands have lost all three finals they have reached: 1974 (to West Germany), 1978 (to Argentina), and 2010 (to Spain). No other country has appeared in more finals without lifting the trophy.

44

The 1966 FIFA World Cup Final was played at Wembley Stadium. Which country did host nation England defeat?

A France

B Brazil

C Italy

D West Germany

✓ Ans: D

Explanation: England beat West Germany 4-2 in extra time at Wembley on July 30, 1966. Geoff Hurst scored a famous hat-trick including a controversial goal that is still debated. It remains England's only major international football title.

45

The 2010 FIFA World Cup was the first held in Africa. In which country was it hosted?

A Kenya

B Egypt

C Nigeria

D South Africa

✓ Ans: D

Explanation: South Africa hosted the 2010 World Cup - the first on African soil. Spain won the tournament, and the vuvuzela plastic horn blown by fans became globally iconic during this edition.

46

How many countries have won the FIFA World Cup as the host nation?

A 4

B 5

C 6

D 7

✓ Ans: C

Explanation: Six nations have won the World Cup on home soil: Uruguay (1930), Italy (1934), England (1966), West Germany (1974), Argentina (1978), and France (1998). No host nation has won the tournament since France in 1998.

47

The FIFA Women's World Cup was first held in which year?

A 1987

B 1991

C 1995

D 1999

✓ Ans: B

Explanation: The inaugural FIFA Women's World Cup was held in China in 1991. The United States won the first edition, defeating Norway 2-1 in the final. The USA went on to become the most successful team in Women's World Cup history with four titles.

48

The 1990 FIFA World Cup was held in Italy. Which country won the tournament?

A Argentina

B Brazil

C Italy

D West Germany

✓ Ans: D

Explanation: West Germany defeated Argentina 1-0 in the 1990 final in Rome through Andreas Brehme's winning penalty. It was a rematch of the 1986 final which Argentina had won 3-2. Argentina thus appeared in two consecutive World Cup Finals, winning one and losing one.

49

The FIFA U-17 World Cup 2017 was hosted by India. Which country won that tournament?

A Spain

B Brazil

C Mali

D England

✓ Ans: D

Explanation: England won the 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup in India, defeating Spain 5-2 in the final held at Salt Lake Stadium, Kolkata. Phil Foden won the Golden Ball. India hosting this tournament was a landmark moment for youth football development in the country.

50

In Germany's famous 7-1 defeat of Brazil in the 2014 World Cup semi-final, how many goals did Germany score in the first 30 minutes?

A 3

B 4

C 5

D 6

✓ Ans: C

Explanation: Germany scored 5 goals in the first 29 minutes - Müller (11'), Klose (23'), Kroos (24'), Kroos (26'), and Khedira (29'). Four of those came in a devastating 6-minute spell. The match is called the Mineirazo and remains one of the most astonishing results in football history.

Answer Key

FIFA World Cup General Knowledge 2026 — 2026 · 50 Questions

Q.	ANS	CORRECT ANSWER	Q.	ANS	CORRECT ANSWER
1	B	1904	26	D	211
2	D	Brazil	27	B	3
3	D	2022	28	C	5
4	D	Harry Kane	29	D	Cristiano Ronaldo
5	D	Mario Götze	30	B	1998
6	C	Germany	31	D	Eusébio
7	C	Austria vs Switzerland (1954)	32	D	La'eeb
8	B	Cafu	33	D	1978
9	D	James Rodríguez	34	B	2026
10	C	2014	35	B	17 years old
11	C	Atletico de Kolkata	36	C	Germany
12	D	Belgium	37	D	Maracanã
13	C	AFC	38	D	Ronaldo
14	D	Marco Materazzi	39	D	Joachim Löw
15	B	Brazil 1-2 Uruguay	40	D	Kolkata
16	D	10	41	B	12
17	C	Cameroon	42	D	Kylian Mbappé
18	D	Middle East	43	D	Netherlands
19	C	7	44	D	West Germany
20	D	Enzo Fernández	45	D	South Africa

Q.	ANS	CORRECT ANSWER	Q.	ANS	CORRECT ANSWER
21	D	Aimé Jacquet	46	C	6
22	C	2018 Russia	47	B	1991
23	D	Andrés Iniesta	48	D	West Germany
24	D	Canarinha	49	D	England
25	D	Kolkata	50	C	5

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