

XAT General Knowledge

Sample Paper – 1

Duration: 10 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 25

Instructions

- This paper contains **25** Multiple Choice Questions (Single Correct Answer), modelled on the General Knowledge section of XAT (Xavier Aptitude Test), conducted by XLRI.
- Each correct answer carries **+1 mark**. There is **no negative marking** in the General Knowledge section of XAT.
- The section covers **static General Knowledge and current affairs**, spanning history, polity, economy, business, geography, science, sports, awards and world affairs.
- General Knowledge is **not counted in the XAT percentile**, but your score is considered later at the interview and final selection stage, so attempt every question.
- Attempt this practice paper in one timed sitting of about **10 minutes**. Use of mobile phones and electronic gadgets is prohibited.

General Knowledge

Directions (Q1–Q25): Each question is followed by four options. Choose the one correct answer.

- Q1.** The Dandi March of 1930, led by Mahatma Gandhi, was a protest against which of the following?
- (A) The Rowlatt Act
(B) The partition of Bengal
(C) The Jallianwala Bagh massacre
(D) The salt tax imposed by the British government
- Q2.** The Fundamental Duties were added to the Indian Constitution by which amendment?



- (A) The 44th Amendment
- (B) The 73rd Amendment
- (C) The 61st Amendment
- (D) The 42nd Amendment

Q3. Which body is the statutory regulator of the securities market in India?

- (A) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- (B) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- (C) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI)
- (D) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

Q4. Which of the following is the longest river flowing within India?

- (A) Godavari
- (B) Ganga
- (C) Brahmaputra
- (D) Yamuna

Q5. Which gas is the most abundant in the Earth's atmosphere?

- (A) Oxygen
- (B) Carbon dioxide
- (C) Hydrogen
- (D) Nitrogen

Q6. The Ranji Trophy is a domestic championship associated with which sport?

- (A) Hockey
- (B) Football
- (C) Cricket
- (D) Badminton



- Q7.** Which of the following is India's highest wartime military gallantry award?
- (A) Param Vir Chakra
 - (B) Ashoka Chakra
 - (C) Maha Vir Chakra
 - (D) Vir Chakra
- Q8.** The book *The Discovery of India* was written by:
- (A) Jawaharlal Nehru
 - (B) Mahatma Gandhi
 - (C) B. R. Ambedkar
 - (D) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- Q9.** The headquarters of the World Trade Organization (WTO) is located in:
- (A) New York, USA
 - (B) Geneva, Switzerland
 - (C) Paris, France
 - (D) Vienna, Austria
- Q10.** Who was the first Governor-General of independent India?
- (A) Lord Mountbatten
 - (B) C. Rajagopalachari
 - (C) Lord Canning
 - (D) Warren Hastings
- Q11.** The advertising tagline "*The World's Local Bank*" was long associated with which bank?
- (A) Citibank
 - (B) Standard Chartered
 - (C) HSBC



(D) Barclays

Q12. Who is the constitutional head of a state in India?

(A) The Governor

(B) The Chief Minister

(C) The Chief Justice of the High Court

(D) The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Q13. Which is the highest mountain peak located entirely within India?

(A) Kangchenjunga

(B) Nanda Devi

(C) Mount Everest

(D) Anamudi

Q14. In India, the “Repo Rate” is the rate at which:

(A) commercial banks lend money to the public

(B) commercial banks lend money to one another

(C) the Reserve Bank of India lends money to commercial banks

(D) the government borrows money from the public

Q15. Which vitamin is synthesised in the human body on exposure to sunlight?

(A) Vitamin A

(B) Vitamin D

(C) Vitamin C

(D) Vitamin K

Q16. The Thomas Cup, a major international team championship, is associated with which sport?

(A) Tennis



- (B) Table Tennis
- (C) Squash
- (D) Badminton

Q17. In which of the following fields is the Nobel Prize **not** awarded?

- (A) Chemistry
- (B) Mathematics
- (C) Physics
- (D) Literature

Q18. *Wings of Fire* is the autobiography of:

- (A) Vikram Sarabhai
- (B) Homi J. Bhabha
- (C) A. P. J. Abdul Kalam
- (D) C. V. Raman

Q19. How many permanent members are there in the United Nations Security Council?

- (A) Four
- (B) Five
- (C) Ten
- (D) Fifteen

Q20. Who is popularly known as the “Father of the Indian Constitution”?

- (A) Dr. Rajendra Prasad
- (B) Jawaharlal Nehru
- (C) Mahatma Gandhi
- (D) Dr. B. R. Ambedkar



- Q21.** The Battle of Plassey (1757) was fought between the British East India Company and:
- (A) Siraj-ud-Daula, the Nawab of Bengal
 - (B) Tipu Sultan of Mysore
 - (C) Mir Qasim
 - (D) Hyder Ali
- Q22.** The Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Indian Parliament, is also known as the:
- (A) Council of States
 - (B) House of the People
 - (C) Lower House
 - (D) Legislative Assembly
- Q23.** In the stock market, the term “blue chip” company is best described as:
- (A) a newly listed start-up yet to make a profit
 - (B) a loss-making firm under restructuring
 - (C) a large, well-established and financially sound company
 - (D) a company that has recently defaulted on its loans
- Q24.** The Sundarbans, the world’s largest mangrove forest, lies in the delta of which river system?
- (A) Godavari–Krishna
 - (B) Narmada–Tapti
 - (C) Kaveri
 - (D) Ganga–Brahmaputra
- Q25.** ISRO’s Chandrayaan-3 mission, in 2023, successfully soft-landed its lander near which region of the Moon?
- (A) The lunar equator



- (B) The northern plains of the far side
- (C) The lunar south polar region
- (D) The Sea of Tranquillity



Detailed Solutions**Q1.****Solution**

What is asked: the target of the 1930 Dandi March.

Reasoning: The Dandi March, or Salt Satyagraha, saw Gandhi walk about 240 miles to the coastal village of Dandi. There he made salt from seawater, deliberately breaking the government's monopoly on salt. The march was a direct protest against the British salt tax and salt law.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The Rowlatt Act was protested in 1919, not through the Dandi March.
- Option B: The partition of Bengal (1905) sparked the Swadeshi movement, a much earlier event.
- Option C: The Jallianwala Bagh massacre (1919) was not the cause of the 1930 march.

Final Answer: The salt tax $\Rightarrow$

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q1](#)

Q2.**Solution**

What is asked: the amendment that added the Fundamental Duties.

Reasoning: The Fundamental Duties were added by the 42nd Amendment Act of 1976. They were inserted as Part IVA, Article 51A, on the recommendation of the Swaran Singh Committee. Ten duties were added originally, with an eleventh added later by the 86th Amendment.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The 44th Amendment (1978) removed the right to property from Fundamental Rights.
- Option B: The 73rd Amendment dealt with Panchayati Raj institutions.
- Option C: The 61st Amendment lowered the voting age from 21 to 18.

Final Answer: The 42nd Amendment $\Rightarrow$

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q2](#)



Q3.

Solution

What is asked: the regulator of India's securities market.

Reasoning: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) regulates the securities and capital markets. It was given statutory powers by the SEBI Act of 1992. Its role is to protect investors and to develop and regulate the market.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The RBI is the central bank and regulates banking and monetary policy.
- Option C: IRDAI regulates the insurance sector.
- Option D: NABARD supports agriculture and rural development finance.

Final Answer: SEBI $\Rightarrow$ **B**

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q3](#)

Q4.

Solution

What is asked: the longest river flowing within India.

Reasoning: The Ganga runs about 2,525 km, the longest course of any river within India. It rises at Gangotri in the Himalayas and drains into the Bay of Bengal. Among purely Indian courses, it is the longest.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The Godavari (about 1,465 km) is the longest peninsular river but shorter than the Ganga.
- Option C: The Brahmaputra is longer overall but most of its length lies outside India.
- Option D: The Yamuna is a major tributary of the Ganga and is shorter.

Final Answer: Ganga $\Rightarrow$ **B**

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q4](#)



Q5.

Solution

What is asked: the most abundant gas in the atmosphere.

Reasoning: Nitrogen makes up about 78% of the Earth's atmosphere by volume. Oxygen is the second most abundant at about 21%. So nitrogen is clearly the most abundant.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Oxygen is second, at roughly 21%.
- Option B: Carbon dioxide is a trace gas, well under 1%.
- Option C: Hydrogen is present only in tiny amounts.

Final Answer: Nitrogen $\Rightarrow$

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q5](#)

Q6.

Solution

What is asked: the sport of the Ranji Trophy.

Reasoning: The Ranji Trophy is India's premier first-class domestic cricket championship. It is contested between teams representing states and regions. It is named after Ranjitsinhji, a famous early cricketer.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Hockey's national championships are separate events.
- Option B: Football has the Santosh Trophy, not the Ranji Trophy.
- Option D: Badminton has no tournament by this name.

Final Answer: Cricket $\Rightarrow$

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q6](#)



Q7.

Solution

What is asked: India's highest wartime gallantry award.

Reasoning: The Param Vir Chakra is India's highest military decoration for valour in the presence of the enemy. It is awarded for the most conspicuous bravery in wartime. It ranks above the Maha Vir Chakra and the Vir Chakra.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: The Ashoka Chakra is the highest peacetime gallantry award.
- Option C: The Maha Vir Chakra is the second-highest wartime award.
- Option D: The Vir Chakra is the third-highest wartime award.

Final Answer: Param Vir Chakra ⇒

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q7](#)

Q8.

Solution

What is asked: the author of *The Discovery of India*.

Reasoning: *The Discovery of India* was written by Jawaharlal Nehru. He wrote it during his imprisonment at Ahmednagar Fort between 1942 and 1946. The book traces India's history, philosophy and culture.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: Gandhi's famous work is *The Story of My Experiments with Truth*.
- Option C: Ambedkar wrote *Annihilation of Caste*, among others.
- Option D: Patel did not author this book.

Final Answer: Jawaharlal Nehru ⇒

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q8](#)



Q9.

Solution

What is asked: the location of the WTO headquarters.

Reasoning: The World Trade Organization is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. It was established in 1995 as the successor to the GATT. Geneva hosts many international bodies, including the WTO.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: New York hosts the UN headquarters, not the WTO.
- Option C: Paris hosts UNESCO.
- Option D: Vienna hosts the IAEA and OPEC.

Final Answer: Geneva $\Rightarrow$

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q9](#)

Q10.

Solution

What is asked: the first Governor-General of independent India.

Reasoning: Lord Mountbatten served as the first Governor-General of independent India, from 1947 to 1948. He had earlier been the last Viceroy of British India. C. Rajagopalachari then became the first Indian, and the last, Governor-General.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: Rajagopalachari was the last Governor-General, not the first.
- Option C: Lord Canning was the first Viceroy of India (1858).
- Option D: Warren Hastings was the first Governor-General of Bengal.

Final Answer: Lord Mountbatten $\Rightarrow$

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q10](#)



Q11.

Solution

What is asked: the bank behind “The World’s Local Bank”.

Reasoning: “The World’s Local Bank” was the long-running slogan of HSBC. The campaign stressed the bank’s global reach with local knowledge. HSBC used it for many years in its global advertising.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Citibank used other slogans such as “Citi never sleeps”.
- Option B: Standard Chartered used “Here for good”.
- Option D: Barclays did not use this tagline.

Final Answer: HSBC ⇒

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q11](#)

Q12.

Solution

What is asked: the constitutional head of a state.

Reasoning: The Governor is the constitutional head of a state, mirroring the President at the Union level. The Chief Minister is the real executive head who leads the government. Executive action is taken in the Governor’s name.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: The Chief Minister heads the government but is not the constitutional head.
- Option C: The Chief Justice heads the judiciary of the state.
- Option D: The Speaker presides over the Legislative Assembly only.

Final Answer: The Governor ⇒

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q12](#)



Q13.

Solution

What is asked: the highest peak located within India.

Reasoning: Kangchenjunga, at 8,586 m, is the highest mountain peak located within India, on the Sikkim border. It is also the third-highest mountain in the world. It is the tallest whose summit lies in Indian territory.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: Nanda Devi (7,816 m) is the second-highest in India, lower than Kangchenjunga.
- Option C: Mount Everest lies on the Nepal–China border, not in India.
- Option D: Anamudi is the highest peak in South India but far lower.

Final Answer: Kangchenjunga ⇒

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q13](#)

Q14.

Solution

What is asked: the meaning of the Repo Rate.

Reasoning: The repo rate is the rate at which the Reserve Bank of India lends short-term funds to commercial banks against securities. It is a key tool of monetary policy. Raising it makes borrowing costlier and helps control inflation.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Banks lending to the public involves lending rates, not the repo rate.
- Option B: Banks lending to one another relates to the call money rate.
- Option D: Government borrowing from the public is done through bonds and securities.

Final Answer: RBI lends to commercial banks ⇒

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q14](#)



Q15.

Solution

What is asked: the vitamin made by sunlight on the skin.

Reasoning: Vitamin D is synthesised in the skin when it is exposed to ultraviolet-B rays in sunlight. It helps the body absorb calcium and keeps bones healthy. This is why it is called the “sunshine vitamin”.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Vitamin A comes mainly from diet and supports vision.
- Option C: Vitamin C comes from citrus fruits and vegetables.
- Option D: Vitamin K, important for clotting, is not made by sunlight.

Final Answer: Vitamin D $\Rightarrow$ **B**

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q15](#)

Q16.

Solution

What is asked: the sport of the Thomas Cup.

Reasoning: The Thomas Cup is the premier international men’s team championship in badminton. India won it for the first time in 2022. Its women’s counterpart is the Uber Cup.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Tennis team events include the Davis Cup.
- Option B: Table tennis has the Swaythling and Corbillon Cups.
- Option C: Squash has no championship by this name.

Final Answer: Badminton $\Rightarrow$ **D**

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q16](#)



Q17.

Solution

What is asked: the field in which no Nobel Prize is given.

Reasoning: The Nobel Prizes are awarded in Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Literature and Peace, plus Economic Sciences. There is no Nobel Prize in Mathematics. The top honour in mathematics is instead the Fields Medal.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Chemistry is one of the original Nobel Prizes.
- Option C: Physics is one of the original Nobel Prizes.
- Option D: Literature is one of the original Nobel Prizes.

Final Answer: Mathematics $\Rightarrow$ **B**

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q17](#)

Q18.

Solution

What is asked: whose autobiography *Wings of Fire* is.

Reasoning: *Wings of Fire* is the autobiography of Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, co-written with Arun Tiwari. It traces his life from Rameswaram to India's missile and space programmes. Kalam later became the President of India.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Vikram Sarabhai is regarded as the father of the Indian space programme, but this is not his book.
- Option B: Homi Bhabha was the architect of India's nuclear programme.
- Option D: C. V. Raman won the Nobel Prize in Physics but did not write this book.

Final Answer: A. P. J. Abdul Kalam $\Rightarrow$ **C**

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q18](#)



Q19.

Solution

What is asked: the number of permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Reasoning: The Security Council has five permanent members: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States. Each holds veto power over substantive decisions. Ten other members are elected for two-year terms.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Four is incorrect; there are five.
- Option C: Ten is the number of non-permanent members.
- Option D: Fifteen is the total membership of the Council.

Final Answer: Five $\Rightarrow$

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q19](#)

Q20.

Solution

What is asked: the “Father of the Indian Constitution”.

Reasoning: Dr. B. R. Ambedkar chaired the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly. For his central role in shaping the document, he is called the Father of the Indian Constitution. He later became independent India’s first Law Minister.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Dr. Rajendra Prasad was President of the Constituent Assembly and the first President of India.
- Option B: Nehru moved the Objectives Resolution but did not draft the Constitution.
- Option C: Gandhi was not a member of the Constituent Assembly.

Final Answer: Dr. B. R. Ambedkar $\Rightarrow$

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q20](#)



Q21.

Solution

What is asked: the opponent of the British at Plassey (1757).

Reasoning: The Battle of Plassey was fought in 1757 between the British East India Company, led by Robert Clive, and Siraj-ud-Daula, the Nawab of Bengal. The betrayal by Mir Jafar helped the British win. The victory laid the foundation of British rule in India.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: Tipu Sultan fought the Anglo-Mysore Wars, much later.
- Option C: Mir Qasim was defeated at the Battle of Buxar (1764).
- Option D: Hyder Ali fought in Mysore, not at Plassey.

Final Answer: Siraj-ud-Daula ⇒ A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q21](#)

Q22.

Solution

What is asked: another name for the Rajya Sabha.

Reasoning: The Rajya Sabha is the upper house and is known as the Council of States. Its members largely represent the states and union territories. It is a permanent house that is not subject to dissolution.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: The House of the People is the Lok Sabha.
- Option C: “Lower House” also refers to the Lok Sabha.
- Option D: The Legislative Assembly is a state body, not a house of Parliament.

Final Answer: Council of States ⇒ A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q22](#)



Q23.

Solution

What is asked: the meaning of a “blue chip” company.

Reasoning: A blue chip company is a large, well-established and financially sound firm with a long record of stable earnings. Such stocks are seen as relatively safe and reliable. The term is borrowed from the highest-value chips in poker.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: A new, unprofitable start-up is the opposite of a blue chip.
- Option B: A loss-making firm under restructuring is not a blue chip.
- Option D: A defaulting company is not financially sound.

Final Answer: A large, well-established, sound company ⇒

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q23](#)

Q24.

Solution

What is asked: the river system of the Sundarbans delta.

Reasoning: The Sundarbans lie in the delta formed by the Ganga, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers. It is the world’s largest mangrove forest, shared by India and Bangladesh. It is home to the Royal Bengal Tiger.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The Godavari–Krishna delta is on the eastern coast, not the Sundarbans.
- Option B: The Narmada and Tapti flow west into the Arabian Sea.
- Option C: The Kaveri delta lies in Tamil Nadu.

Final Answer: Ganga–Brahmaputra ⇒

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q24](#)



Q25.

Solution

What is asked: where Chandrayaan-3 landed on the Moon.

Reasoning: Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander touched down near the Moon's south polar region in August 2023. India became the first country to land near the lunar south pole. The landing site was named Shiv Shakti Point.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The landing was near the south pole, not the equator.
- Option B: It did not land on the far side's northern plains.
- Option D: The Sea of Tranquillity was the Apollo 11 landing site.

Final Answer: The lunar south polar region $\Rightarrow$

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q25](#)



Answer Key

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	D	2	D	3	B	4	B	5	D
6	C	7	A	8	A	9	B	10	A
11	C	12	A	13	A	14	C	15	B
16	D	17	B	18	C	19	B	20	D
21	A	22	A	23	C	24	D	25	C

