

XAT General Knowledge

Sample Paper – 10

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 Kalinga War, after which the victor embraced Buddhism, was fought by which ruler?

- (A) Chandragupta Maurya
- (B) Bindusara
- (C) Emperor Ashoka
- (D) Samudragupta

Q2. The Indian National Anthem, “Jana Gana Mana”, was written by:



- (A) Bankim Chandra Chatterjee
- (B) Sarojini Naidu
- (C) Muhammad Iqbal
- (D) Rabindranath Tagore

Q3. In banking, the abbreviation “ATM” stands for:

- (A) Automatic Transfer Machine
- (B) Automated Transaction Money
- (C) Automated Teller Machine
- (D) Any Time Money

Q4. The Kaziranga National Park, famous for the one-horned rhinoceros, is located in which state?

- (A) West Bengal
- (B) Odisha
- (C) Madhya Pradesh
- (D) Assam

Q5. The process by which green plants prepare their own food is called:

- (A) Photosynthesis
- (B) Respiration
- (C) Transpiration
- (D) Germination

Q6. The “Yellow Jersey” is awarded to the overall leader in which event?

- (A) The Boston Marathon
- (B) The Tour de France
- (C) Wimbledon
- (D) The Olympic decathlon



- Q7.** The Dadasaheb Phalke Award is given for:
- (A) lifetime contribution to Indian cinema
 - (B) outstanding achievement in sports
 - (C) excellence in literature
 - (D) distinguished service in journalism
- Q8.** The novel *Crime and Punishment* was written by:
- (A) Leo Tolstoy
 - (B) Fyodor Dostoevsky
 - (C) Anton Chekhov
 - (D) Maxim Gorky
- Q9.** The organisation “Amnesty International” primarily works for:
- (A) wildlife conservation
 - (B) disaster relief
 - (C) nuclear disarmament
 - (D) human rights
- Q10.** The Poona Pact of 1932 was signed between Mahatma Gandhi and:
- (A) Muhammad Ali Jinnah
 - (B) Dr. B. R. Ambedkar
 - (C) Jawaharlal Nehru
 - (D) Subhas Chandra Bose
- Q11.** The advertising slogan “The Ultimate Driving Machine” is associated with which brand?
- (A) Mercedes-Benz
 - (B) Audi
 - (C) BMW



(D) Jaguar

Q12. The oath of office to a state's Chief Minister is administered by:

- (A) the Chief Justice of the High Court
- (B) the Governor
- (C) the President of India
- (D) the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Q13. The Dead Sea lies between Jordan and which country?

- (A) Israel
- (B) Egypt
- (C) Syria
- (D) Lebanon

Q14. The Reserve Bank of India was nationalised in which year?

- (A) 1949
- (B) 1935
- (C) 1969
- (D) 1991

Q15. The gas commonly known as “laughing gas” is:

- (A) Carbon dioxide
- (B) Nitrous oxide
- (C) Carbon monoxide
- (D) Sulphur dioxide

Q16. The Beighton Cup is a long-running tournament associated with which sport?

- (A) Cricket



- (B) Football
- (C) Polo
- (D) Hockey

Q17. The Turing Award is regarded as the highest honour in which field?

- (A) Mathematics
- (B) Physics
- (C) Computer science
- (D) Economics

Q18. The classical work *The Republic* was written by:

- (A) Plato
- (B) Aristotle
- (C) Socrates
- (D) Cicero

Q19. The headquarters of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) is located in:

- (A) Bangkok, Thailand
- (B) Jakarta, Indonesia
- (C) Manila, Philippines
- (D) Singapore

Q20. Who among the following freedom fighters is popularly known as “Desh-bandhu”?

- (A) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- (B) Lala Lajpat Rai
- (C) Bipin Chandra Pal
- (D) Chittaranjan Das



Q21. Who was the first Governor-General of Bengal?

- (A) Lord Cornwallis
- (B) Robert Clive
- (C) Warren Hastings
- (D) Lord William Bentinck

Q22. The words “Socialist” and “Secular” were added to the Preamble of the Constitution in which year?

- (A) 1976
- (B) 1950
- (C) 1971
- (D) 1985

Q23. In India, cooperative banks are regulated primarily by:

- (A) the Reserve Bank of India
- (B) the Securities and Exchange Board of India
- (C) the Ministry of Finance
- (D) the State Bank of India

Q24. The Hirakud Dam, one of the longest dams in the world, is built on which river?

- (A) The Godavari
- (B) The Krishna
- (C) The Mahanadi
- (D) The Damodar

Q25. The chemical symbol for silver is:

- (A) Si
- (B) Sv



(C) Sl

(D) Ag



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

What is asked: the ruler who fought the Kalinga War.

Reasoning: The Kalinga War was fought around 261 BCE by the Mauryan emperor Ashoka. The heavy bloodshed of the war filled him with remorse. He then embraced Buddhism and turned to a policy of peace and dhamma.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Chandragupta Maurya founded the empire but did not fight the Kalinga War.
- Option B: Bindusara was Ashoka's father and predecessor.
- Option D: Samudragupta belonged to the later Gupta dynasty.

Final Answer: Emperor Ashoka ⇒

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

Q2.**Solution**

What is asked: the author of the national anthem "Jana Gana Mana".

Reasoning: "Jana Gana Mana" was written and composed by Rabindranath Tagore. It was first sung in 1911 and adopted as the national anthem in 1950. Tagore also wrote the national anthem of Bangladesh.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Bankim Chandra Chatterjee wrote "Vande Mataram", the national song.
- Option B: Sarojini Naidu was a poet and leader but did not write the anthem.
- Option C: Muhammad Iqbal wrote "Saare Jahan Se Achha".

Final Answer: Rabindranath Tagore ⇒

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



Q3.

Solution

What is asked: the full form of “ATM”.

Reasoning: ATM stands for Automated Teller Machine. It is an electronic device that lets customers withdraw cash and do basic banking without a human teller. The name comes from its role as an automated stand-in for a bank teller.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: “Automatic Transfer Machine” is not the correct expansion.
- Option B: “Automated Transaction Money” is incorrect.
- Option D: “Any Time Money” is a popular phrase but not the technical full form.

Final Answer: Automated Teller Machine ⇒

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

Q4.

Solution

What is asked: the state where Kaziranga National Park is located.

Reasoning: Kaziranga National Park lies in Assam, along the Brahmaputra river. It holds the largest population of the one-horned rhinoceros in the world. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: West Bengal has the Sundarbans, not Kaziranga.
- Option B: Odisha is known for Similipal, not Kaziranga.
- Option C: Madhya Pradesh has Kanha and Bandhavgarh reserves.

Final Answer: Assam ⇒

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



Q5.

Solution

What is asked: the process by which green plants make their food.

Reasoning: Photosynthesis is the process by which green plants use sunlight, water and carbon dioxide to make food. The green pigment chlorophyll captures the light energy. Oxygen is released as a by-product.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: Respiration releases energy from food, it does not make food.
- Option C: Transpiration is the loss of water vapour from leaves.
- Option D: Germination is the sprouting of a seed into a seedling.

Final Answer: Photosynthesis $\Rightarrow$

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

Q6.

Solution

What is asked: the event whose leader wears the Yellow Jersey.

Reasoning: The Yellow Jersey, or maillot jaune, is worn by the overall leader of the Tour de France. The Tour de France is the world's most famous multi-stage cycling race. The rider with the lowest cumulative time holds the jersey.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The Boston Marathon awards a medal, not a yellow jersey.
- Option C: Wimbledon is a tennis championship.
- Option D: The Olympic decathlon has no yellow jersey.

Final Answer: The Tour de France $\Rightarrow$

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



Q7.

Solution

What is asked: the purpose of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award.

Reasoning: The Dadasaheb Phalke Award is given for lifetime contribution to Indian cinema. It is India's highest award in the field of cinema. It is named after Dadasaheb Phalke, the father of Indian cinema.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: Sports achievements are honoured by awards like the Arjuna Award.
- Option C: Literature is honoured by the Jnanpith and Sahitya Akademi awards.
- Option D: Journalism is recognised by awards such as the Pulitzer Prize.

Final Answer: Lifetime contribution to Indian cinema $\Rightarrow$

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

Q8.

Solution

What is asked: the author of *Crime and Punishment*.

Reasoning: *Crime and Punishment* was written by the Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoevsky. It was published in 1866. It explores the guilt and psychology of its protagonist, Raskolnikov.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Leo Tolstoy wrote *War and Peace* and *Anna Karenina*.
- Option C: Anton Chekhov is known for his short stories and plays.
- Option D: Maxim Gorky wrote *The Mother*.

Final Answer: Fyodor Dostoevsky $\Rightarrow$

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



Q9.

Solution

What is asked: the main focus of Amnesty International.

Reasoning: Amnesty International is a global movement that works for the protection of human rights. It campaigns against injustice such as unfair imprisonment and torture. It won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Wildlife conservation is the focus of bodies like the WWF.
- Option B: Disaster relief is handled by agencies such as the Red Cross.
- Option C: Nuclear disarmament is a related but distinct cause.

Final Answer: Human rights ⇒

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

Q10.

Solution

What is asked: the other signatory of the Poona Pact with Gandhi.

Reasoning: The Poona Pact of 1932 was signed between Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. It settled the question of representation for the depressed classes. It replaced separate electorates with reserved seats within the general electorate.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Jinnah was not a party to the Poona Pact.
- Option C: Nehru did not sign the pact.
- Option D: Subhas Chandra Bose was not involved in this agreement.

Final Answer: Dr. B. R. Ambedkar ⇒

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



Q11.

Solution

What is asked: the brand behind “The Ultimate Driving Machine”.

Reasoning: “The Ultimate Driving Machine” is the long-running slogan of BMW. It has been central to the carmaker’s advertising for decades. It stresses the driving experience of BMW cars.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Mercedes-Benz used “The best or nothing”.
- Option B: Audi used “Vorsprung durch Technik”.
- Option D: Jaguar did not use this tagline.

Final Answer: BMW ⇒

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

Q12.

Solution

What is asked: who administers the oath to a state’s Chief Minister.

Reasoning: The Governor of a state administers the oath of office to the Chief Minister and other ministers. The Governor is the constitutional head of the state. This mirrors the President’s role at the Union level.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The Chief Justice of the High Court does not administer this oath.
- Option C: The President administers the oath to the Prime Minister, not to a Chief Minister.
- Option D: The Speaker presides over the Assembly but does not administer this oath.

Final Answer: The Governor ⇒

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



Q13.

Solution

What is asked: the country, besides Jordan, on the shores of the Dead Sea.

Reasoning: The Dead Sea lies between Jordan to the east and Israel to the west. It is the lowest point on the Earth's land surface. Its very high salt content lets bathers float easily.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: Egypt borders the Red Sea and the Mediterranean, not the Dead Sea.
- Option C: Syria lies to the north and does not touch the Dead Sea.
- Option D: Lebanon is further north on the Mediterranean coast.

Final Answer: Israel $\Rightarrow$

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

Q14.

Solution

What is asked: the year the Reserve Bank of India was nationalised.

Reasoning: The Reserve Bank of India was nationalised in 1949. It had been set up in 1935 as a shareholder-owned bank. After nationalisation it came fully under government ownership.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: 1935 is the year the RBI was established, not nationalised.
- Option C: 1969 was the year 14 major commercial banks were nationalised.
- Option D: 1991 marked the start of economic liberalisation.

Final Answer: 1949 $\Rightarrow$

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



Q15.

Solution

What is asked: the gas known as “laughing gas”.

Reasoning: Nitrous oxide is commonly known as laughing gas. It is used as a mild anaesthetic and can cause a euphoric effect. Its chemical formula is N_2O .

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Carbon dioxide is a product of respiration and combustion.
- Option C: Carbon monoxide is a toxic, colourless gas.
- Option D: Sulphur dioxide is a pungent pollutant.

Final Answer: Nitrous oxide $\Rightarrow$ **B**

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

Q16.

Solution

What is asked: the sport of the Beighton Cup.

Reasoning: The Beighton Cup is one of the oldest field hockey tournaments in the world. It has been held in India since the late nineteenth century. It is a prestigious event in Indian hockey.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Cricket has trophies like the Ranji Trophy.
- Option B: Football has the Santosh and Durand tournaments.
- Option C: Polo has its own separate championships.

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

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

Q17.

Solution

What is asked: the field in which the Turing Award is the highest honour.

Reasoning: The Turing Award is the highest honour in computer science. It is often called the “Nobel Prize of Computing”. It is named after the pioneer Alan Turing.



Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The top honour in mathematics is the Fields Medal.
- Option B: Physics has the Nobel Prize.
- Option D: Economics has the Nobel Memorial Prize.

Final Answer: Computer science $\Rightarrow$

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

Q18.

Solution

What is asked: the author of *The Republic*.

Reasoning: *The Republic* was written by the Greek philosopher Plato. It is a dialogue on justice and the ideal state. Plato was a student of Socrates and the teacher of Aristotle.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: Aristotle wrote works such as *Politics* and *Ethics*.
- Option C: Socrates left no written works of his own.
- Option D: Cicero was a Roman statesman and orator.

Final Answer: Plato $\Rightarrow$

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

Q19.

Solution

What is asked: the location of the ASEAN headquarters.

Reasoning: The headquarters of ASEAN is located in Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia. ASEAN was formed in 1967 to promote regional cooperation in Southeast Asia. Jakarta hosts its permanent Secretariat.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Bangkok is where the founding declaration was signed but not the headquarters.
- Option C: Manila is a member capital, not the headquarters.
- Option D: Singapore is a member state but not the seat of ASEAN.



Final Answer: Jakarta, Indonesia $\Rightarrow$ B

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

Q20.

Solution

What is asked: the leader known as “Deshbandhu”.

Reasoning: Chittaranjan Das is popularly known as “Deshbandhu”, meaning friend of the nation. He co-founded the Swaraj Party with Motilal Nehru. He was a leading figure in the freedom struggle in Bengal.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Bal Gangadhar Tilak was called “Lokmanya”.
- Option B: Lala Lajpat Rai was called “Punjab Kesari”.
- Option C: Bipin Chandra Pal was part of the Lal-Bal-Pal trio but not “Desh-bandhu”.

Final Answer: Chittaranjan Das $\Rightarrow$ D

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

Q21.

Solution

What is asked: the first Governor-General of Bengal.

Reasoning: Warren Hastings was the first Governor-General of Bengal, from 1774. He was appointed under the Regulating Act of 1773. He carried out major administrative reforms in the Company’s rule.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Lord Cornwallis came later and introduced the Permanent Settlement.
- Option B: Robert Clive was Governor of Bengal but not the first Governor-General.
- Option D: Lord William Bentinck was a later Governor-General of India.

Final Answer: Warren Hastings $\Rightarrow$ C

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



Q22.

Solution

What is asked: the year “Socialist” and “Secular” were added to the Preamble.

Reasoning: The words “Socialist” and “Secular” were added to the Preamble in 1976. This was done by the 42nd Amendment Act during the Emergency. The word “Integrity” was added at the same time.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: 1950 was when the Constitution came into force, without these words.
- Option C: 1971 is not the year of this amendment.
- Option D: 1985 is unrelated to this change.

Final Answer: 1976 ⇒

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

Q23.

Solution

What is asked: the primary regulator of cooperative banks in India.

Reasoning: Cooperative banks in India are regulated primarily by the Reserve Bank of India. The RBI oversees their banking functions, as it does for other banks. This role was further strengthened by later banking regulation amendments.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: SEBI regulates the securities market, not banks.
- Option C: The Ministry of Finance frames policy but is not the banking regulator.
- Option D: The State Bank of India is itself a commercial bank.

Final Answer: The Reserve Bank of India ⇒

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



Q24.

Solution

What is asked: the river on which the Hirakud Dam is built.

Reasoning: The Hirakud Dam is built on the Mahanadi river in Odisha. It is among the longest earthen dams in the world. It provides irrigation, flood control and hydropower.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The Godavari hosts other projects, not Hirakud.
- Option B: The Krishna has dams such as Nagarjuna Sagar.
- Option D: The Damodar is served by the Damodar Valley project.

Final Answer: The Mahanadi $\Rightarrow$

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

Q25.

Solution

What is asked: the chemical symbol for silver.

Reasoning: The chemical symbol for silver is Ag. It comes from the Latin name for silver, argentum. Silver is a highly conductive precious metal.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Si is the symbol for silicon.
- Option B: Sv is the sievert, a unit of radiation dose, not silver.
- Option C: Sl is not a valid element symbol.

Final Answer: Ag $\Rightarrow$

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



Answer Key

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

