

XAT General Knowledge

Sample Paper – 2

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. Who was the founder of the Maurya Empire?

- (A) Bindusara
- (B) Ashoka
- (C) Chandragupta Maurya
- (D) Bimbisara

Q2. What is the minimum age required to become the President of India?

- (A) 25 years



- (B) 30 years
- (C) 40 years
- (D) 35 years

Q3. Which is the oldest stock exchange in Asia?

- (A) National Stock Exchange (NSE)
- (B) Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)
- (C) Calcutta Stock Exchange
- (D) Tokyo Stock Exchange

Q4. Which is the largest Indian state by area?

- (A) Madhya Pradesh
- (B) Maharashtra
- (C) Uttar Pradesh
- (D) Rajasthan

Q5. Which cell organelle is known as the “powerhouse of the cell”?

- (A) Nucleus
- (B) Mitochondria
- (C) Ribosome
- (D) Golgi apparatus

Q6. The Durand Cup is associated with which sport?

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

Q7. The Dronacharya Award honours excellence in which field?



- (A) Playing achievements in athletics
- (B) Literature
- (C) Coaching in sports
- (D) Music

Q8. Who is the author of *Gitanjali*?

- (A) Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay
- (B) Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay
- (C) Michael Madhusudan Dutt
- (D) Rabindranath Tagore

Q9. The headquarters of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is located in:

- (A) New York, USA
- (B) Geneva, Switzerland
- (C) Washington, D.C., USA
- (D) London, UK

Q10. In which year was the Quit India Movement launched?

- (A) 1942
- (B) 1930
- (C) 1920
- (D) 1935

Q11. “Just Do It” is the advertising slogan of which brand?

- (A) Nike
- (B) Adidas
- (C) Puma
- (D) Reebok



Q12. How many Schedules are there in the Indian Constitution at present?

- (A) 8
- (B) 10
- (C) 12
- (D) 14

Q13. Which strait separates India and Sri Lanka?

- (A) Bering Strait
- (B) Palk Strait
- (C) Malacca Strait
- (D) Gibraltar Strait

Q14. In economics, “GDP” stands for:

- (A) Gross Domestic Provision
- (B) General Domestic Product
- (C) Gross Domestic Product
- (D) Gross Development Product

Q15. Which planet is known as the “Red Planet”?

- (A) Venus
- (B) Jupiter
- (C) Saturn
- (D) Mars

Q16. How many rings are there on the Olympic flag?

- (A) Four
- (B) Six
- (C) Seven
- (D) Five



Q17. The Academy Award (Oscar) is associated with which field?

- (A) Music
- (B) Films and cinema
- (C) Literature
- (D) Journalism

Q18. Who is the author of *Malgudi Days*?

- (A) R. K. Narayan
- (B) Mulk Raj Anand
- (C) Ruskin Bond
- (D) Khushwant Singh

Q19. In which city is the European Union headquartered?

- (A) Brussels
- (B) Paris
- (C) Berlin
- (D) Rome

Q20. Who is known as the “Iron Man of India”?

- (A) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- (B) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- (C) Lala Lajpat Rai
- (D) Bhagat Singh

Q21. Who was the first Mughal Emperor?

- (A) Babur
- (B) Humayun
- (C) Akbar
- (D) Shah Jahan



Q22. Which Article of the Indian Constitution abolishes untouchability?

- (A) Article 14
- (B) Article 17
- (C) Article 19
- (D) Article 21

Q23. The “Nifty 50” is the benchmark index of which stock exchange?

- (A) Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)
- (B) Calcutta Stock Exchange
- (C) National Stock Exchange (NSE)
- (D) Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX)

Q24. Which is the smallest Indian state by area?

- (A) Sikkim
- (B) Tripura
- (C) Nagaland
- (D) Goa

Q25. In computing, “WWW” stands for:

- (A) World Wide Web
- (B) Wide World Web
- (C) World Web Wide
- (D) Web World Wide



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

What is asked: the founder of the Maurya Empire.

Reasoning: The Maurya Empire was founded by Chandragupta Maurya in about 322 BCE. With the guidance of his mentor Chanakya, he overthrew the Nanda dynasty. He built the first large empire to unite most of the Indian subcontinent.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Bindusara was the son of Chandragupta and the second ruler.
- Option B: Ashoka, the grandson of Chandragupta, came later.
- Option D: Bimbisara belonged to the earlier Haryanka dynasty of Magadha.

Final Answer: Chandragupta Maurya ⇒

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

Q2.**Solution**

What is asked: the minimum age to become President of India.

Reasoning: Article 58 of the Constitution sets the minimum age for the President at 35 years. The person must also be qualified for election to the Lok Sabha. This is the same minimum age as for the Vice-President.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: 25 years is the minimum age to become a member of the Lok Sabha.
- Option B: 30 years is the minimum age to become a member of the Rajya Sabha.
- Option C: 40 years is not the required minimum for the President.

Final Answer: 35 years ⇒

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



Q3.

Solution

What is asked: the oldest stock exchange in Asia.

Reasoning: The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), established in 1875, is the oldest stock exchange in Asia. It began under a banyan tree as the Native Share and Stock Brokers' Association. Its benchmark index is the Sensex.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The NSE was set up much later, in 1992.
- Option C: The Calcutta Stock Exchange was founded after the BSE.
- Option D: The Tokyo Stock Exchange is not the oldest in Asia.

Final Answer: Bombay Stock Exchange ⇒

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

Q4.

Solution

What is asked: the largest Indian state by area.

Reasoning: Rajasthan, at about 342,239 square km, is the largest Indian state by area. It lies in the north-west and includes the Thar Desert. No other state covers as much land.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Madhya Pradesh is the second-largest state by area.
- Option B: Maharashtra ranks third by area.
- Option C: Uttar Pradesh is the most populous but smaller in area.

Final Answer: Rajasthan ⇒

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



Q5.

Solution

What is asked: the organelle called the powerhouse of the cell.

Reasoning: The mitochondria are known as the powerhouse of the cell. They generate most of the cell's energy in the form of ATP through respiration. This energy powers the cell's activities.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The nucleus controls the cell and stores genetic material.
- Option C: Ribosomes are the sites of protein synthesis.
- Option D: The Golgi apparatus packages and sorts proteins.

Final Answer: Mitochondria ⇒

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

Q6.

Solution

What is asked: the sport of the Durand Cup.

Reasoning: The Durand Cup is a football tournament, one of the oldest in the world. It was first held in 1888 and is named after Mortimer Durand. It is a major club football competition in India.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: Hockey has other national trophies, not the Durand Cup.
- Option C: Cricket's domestic events include the Ranji Trophy.
- Option D: Tennis has no tournament by this name.

Final Answer: Football ⇒

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



Q7.

Solution

What is asked: the field honoured by the Dronacharya Award.

Reasoning: The Dronacharya Award is given to outstanding coaches in sports. It recognises coaches who have produced medal winners at major events. It is named after Dronacharya, the teacher in the Mahabharata.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Playing achievements in sport are recognised by the Arjuna Award.
- Option B: Literature is honoured by awards such as the Sahitya Akademi Award.
- Option D: Music is not the field of the Dronacharya Award.

Final Answer: Coaching in sports $\Rightarrow$

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

Q8.

Solution

What is asked: the author of *Gitanjali*.

Reasoning: *Gitanjali* was written by Rabindranath Tagore. Its English translation won him the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913. He was the first Asian to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay wrote *Anandamath*.
- Option B: Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay wrote *Devdas*.
- Option C: Michael Madhusudan Dutt wrote *Meghnad Badh Kavya*.

Final Answer: Rabindranath Tagore $\Rightarrow$

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



Q9.

Solution

What is asked: the location of the IMF headquarters.

Reasoning: The International Monetary Fund is headquartered in Washington, D.C. It was set up in 1944 to promote global monetary cooperation and stability. The World Bank is based in the same city.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: New York hosts the United Nations headquarters.
- Option B: Geneva hosts the WTO and many other bodies.
- Option D: London is not the seat of the IMF.

Final Answer: Washington, D.C. ⇒

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

Q10.

Solution

What is asked: the year the Quit India Movement was launched.

Reasoning: The Quit India Movement was launched in 1942 by Mahatma Gandhi. It called on the British to leave India and gave the slogan “Do or Die”. It began after the All India Congress Committee session in Bombay.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: 1930 saw the Civil Disobedience Movement and the Dandi March.
- Option C: 1920 was the year of the Non-Cooperation Movement.
- Option D: 1935 saw the passing of the Government of India Act.

Final Answer: 1942 ⇒

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



Q11.

Solution

What is asked: the brand behind “Just Do It”.

Reasoning: “Just Do It” is the well-known slogan of Nike. The sportswear company introduced it in 1988. It is one of the most recognised advertising slogans in the world.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: Adidas has used slogans like “Impossible is Nothing”.
- Option C: Puma is a different sportswear brand.
- Option D: Reebok did not use this tagline.

Final Answer: Nike $\Rightarrow$

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

Q12.

Solution

What is asked: the number of Schedules in the Constitution.

Reasoning: The Indian Constitution currently has 12 Schedules. It began with 8 Schedules, and four more were added by later amendments. The Schedules list matters such as state names, salaries and languages.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: 8 was the number of Schedules in the original Constitution.
- Option B: 10 is not the current total.
- Option D: 14 is more than the actual number of Schedules.

Final Answer: 12 $\Rightarrow$

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



Q13.

Solution

What is asked: the strait separating India and Sri Lanka.

Reasoning: The Palk Strait separates India and Sri Lanka. It lies between Tamil Nadu and the northern part of Sri Lanka. It connects the Bay of Bengal with the Palk Bay.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The Bering Strait lies between Asia and North America.
- Option C: The Malacca Strait lies between Malaysia and Sumatra.
- Option D: The Strait of Gibraltar lies between Spain and Morocco.

Final Answer: Palk Strait $\Rightarrow$ **B**

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

Q14.

Solution

What is asked: the full form of GDP.

Reasoning: GDP stands for Gross Domestic Product. It is the total value of all goods and services produced within a country in a year. It is a key measure of the size of an economy.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: “Gross Domestic Provision” is not a real term.
- Option B: “General Domestic Product” is incorrect.
- Option D: “Gross Development Product” is not the correct expansion.

Final Answer: Gross Domestic Product $\Rightarrow$ **C**

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



Q15.

Solution

What is asked: the planet known as the Red Planet.

Reasoning: Mars is called the Red Planet. Its reddish colour comes from iron oxide, or rust, on its surface. It is the fourth planet from the Sun.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Venus is the hottest planet, not the Red Planet.
- Option B: Jupiter is the largest planet.
- Option C: Saturn is known for its prominent rings.

Final Answer: Mars $\Rightarrow$

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

Q16.

Solution

What is asked: the number of rings on the Olympic flag.

Reasoning: The Olympic flag has five interlocking rings. They represent the five inhabited continents united by the Olympic movement. The rings are blue, yellow, black, green and red on a white background.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Four is fewer than the actual number.
- Option B: Six is more than the number of rings.
- Option C: Seven is not correct.

Final Answer: Five $\Rightarrow$

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

Q17.

Solution

What is asked: the field of the Academy Award (Oscar).

Reasoning: The Academy Award, or Oscar, is associated with films and cinema. It is presented every year by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. It honours excellence in filmmaking, including acting and direction.



Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Music is recognised by awards such as the Grammy.
- Option C: Literature has awards like the Booker Prize.
- Option D: Journalism is honoured by the Pulitzer Prize.

Final Answer: Films and cinema ⇒

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

Q18.

Solution

What is asked: the author of *Malgudi Days*.

Reasoning: *Malgudi Days* was written by R. K. Narayan. It is a collection of short stories set in the fictional town of Malgudi. Narayan is one of India's best-known English-language writers.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: Mulk Raj Anand wrote *Untouchable* and *Coolie*.
- Option C: Ruskin Bond wrote *The Room on the Roof*.
- Option D: Khushwant Singh wrote *Train to Pakistan*.

Final Answer: R. K. Narayan ⇒

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

Q19.

Solution

What is asked: the city where the European Union is headquartered.

Reasoning: The European Union is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium. Brussels hosts the European Commission and the Council of the European Union. It is often called the capital of the EU.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: Paris is the capital of France, not the EU seat.
- Option C: Berlin is the capital of Germany.
- Option D: Rome is the capital of Italy.

Final Answer: Brussels ⇒



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

Q20.

Solution

What is asked: who is called the Iron Man of India.

Reasoning: Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel is known as the Iron Man of India. He led the integration of over 500 princely states into the Indian Union. He was independent India's first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Bal Gangadhar Tilak was called "Lokmanya".
- Option C: Lala Lajpat Rai was known as "Punjab Kesari".
- Option D: Bhagat Singh was a revolutionary freedom fighter.

Final Answer: Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel $\Rightarrow$ **B**

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

Q21.

Solution

What is asked: the first Mughal Emperor.

Reasoning: Babur was the first Mughal Emperor. He founded the Mughal Empire after winning the First Battle of Panipat in 1526. He defeated Ibrahim Lodi, the last Sultan of Delhi.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: Humayun was Babur's son and the second Mughal Emperor.
- Option C: Akbar was the third and one of the greatest Mughal Emperors.
- Option D: Shah Jahan, who built the Taj Mahal, came much later.

Final Answer: Babur $\Rightarrow$ **A**

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



Q22.

Solution

What is asked: the Article that abolishes untouchability.

Reasoning: Article 17 of the Constitution abolishes untouchability. It forbids its practice in any form. Enforcing any disability arising out of untouchability is a punishable offence.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Article 14 guarantees equality before the law.
- Option C: Article 19 protects freedoms such as speech and expression.
- Option D: Article 21 protects the right to life and personal liberty.

Final Answer: Article 17 ⇒

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

Q23.

Solution

What is asked: the exchange whose benchmark is the Nifty 50.

Reasoning: The Nifty 50 is the benchmark index of the National Stock Exchange (NSE). It tracks 50 large, actively traded companies. It is one of the two main indices of the Indian equity market.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The BSE's benchmark index is the Sensex.
- Option B: The Calcutta Stock Exchange does not use the Nifty.
- Option D: The MCX is a commodity exchange, not the home of the Nifty.

Final Answer: National Stock Exchange ⇒

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



Q24.

Solution

What is asked: the smallest Indian state by area.

Reasoning: Goa, at about 3,702 square km, is the smallest Indian state by area. It lies on the western coast and was a Portuguese colony until 1961. No other state is smaller in size.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Sikkim is the second-smallest state by area.
- Option B: Tripura is larger than Goa.
- Option C: Nagaland is also larger than Goa.

Final Answer: Goa $\Rightarrow$

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

Q25.

Solution

What is asked: the full form of WWW.

Reasoning: WWW stands for World Wide Web. It is the system of interlinked web pages accessed over the Internet. It was invented by Tim Berners-Lee in 1989.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: “Wide World Web” is an incorrect ordering.
- Option C: “World Web Wide” is not the correct expansion.
- Option D: “Web World Wide” is wrong.

Final Answer: World Wide Web $\Rightarrow$

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



Answer Key

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

