

XAT General Knowledge

Sample Paper – 3

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 last ruler of the Mughal Empire?

- (A) Aurangzeb
- (B) Akbar II
- (C) Bahadur Shah Zafar (II)
- (D) Shah Jahan

Q2. Who appoints the Chief Justice of India?

- (A) The President of India



- (B) The Prime Minister of India
- (C) The Parliament of India
- (D) The Union Law Minister

Q3. The Reserve Bank of India was established in which year?

- (A) 1935
- (B) 1947
- (C) 1949
- (D) 1950

Q4. Which of the following is the largest freshwater lake in India?

- (A) Chilika Lake
- (B) Wular Lake
- (C) Dal Lake
- (D) Sambhar Lake

Q5. What is the chemical symbol for gold?

- (A) Au
- (B) Ag
- (C) Gd
- (D) Go

Q6. The “Grand Slam” tournaments belong to which sport?

- (A) Tennis
- (B) Golf
- (C) Badminton
- (D) Cricket

Q7. Which of the following is India’s highest civilian award?



- (A) Padma Vibhushan
- (B) Padma Bhushan
- (C) Padma Shri
- (D) Bharat Ratna

Q8. Who is the author of *The God of Small Things*?

- (A) Kiran Desai
- (B) Jhumpa Lahiri
- (C) Anita Desai
- (D) Arundhati Roy

Q9. The headquarters of UNESCO is located in:

- (A) Paris, France
- (B) Geneva, Switzerland
- (C) New York, USA
- (D) Rome, Italy

Q10. The Indian National Congress was founded in which year?

- (A) 1857
- (B) 1875
- (C) 1905
- (D) 1885

Q11. The slogan “*I’m Lovin’ It*” is associated with which brand?

- (A) KFC
- (B) Burger King
- (C) McDonald’s
- (D) Subway

Q12. The ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha is:



- (A) The President of India
- (B) The Speaker of the Lok Sabha
- (C) The Prime Minister of India
- (D) The Vice-President of India

Q13. Which is the highest waterfall in India?

- (A) Jog Falls
- (B) Kunchikal Falls
- (C) Dudhsagar Falls
- (D) Nohkalikai Falls

Q14. In public finance, the “fiscal deficit” is best described as:

- (A) the excess of total government revenue over its total expenditure
- (B) the excess of government revenue expenditure over its revenue receipts
- (C) the excess of total government expenditure over its total revenue
- (D) the total interest the government pays on its past borrowings

Q15. Which of the following is the hardest naturally occurring substance?

- (A) Graphite
- (B) Quartz
- (C) Iron
- (D) Diamond

Q16. The FIFA World Cup is held once every:

- (A) 2 years
- (B) 3 years
- (C) 4 years
- (D) 5 years



Q17. The Jnanpith Award is given for excellence in:

- (A) Science
- (B) Literature
- (C) Sports
- (D) Music

Q18. The *Panchatantra* was composed by:

- (A) Kalidasa
- (B) Valmiki
- (C) Vishnu Sharma
- (D) Ved Vyasa

Q19. The International Court of Justice is located in:

- (A) The Hague, Netherlands
- (B) Geneva, Switzerland
- (C) New York, USA
- (D) Vienna, Austria

Q20. Who is popularly known as the “Nightingale of India”?

- (A) Lata Mangeshkar
- (B) Sarojini Naidu
- (C) Kamala Das
- (D) Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit

Q21. The Taj Mahal at Agra was built by:

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



Q22. The Preamble of the Indian Constitution begins with the words:

- (A) “We, the People of India”
- (B) “India, that is Bharat”
- (C) “We, the Members of the Constituent Assembly”
- (D) “In the name of the People of India”

Q23. In the stock market, a “bull” market is one in which:

- (A) prices are generally falling
- (B) trading has been suspended
- (C) prices remain flat for a long period
- (D) prices are generally rising

Q24. The Nathula Pass connects India with:

- (A) Nepal
- (B) China (Tibet)
- (C) Bhutan
- (D) Pakistan

Q25. The scientific study of earthquakes is called:

- (A) Volcanology
- (B) Seismology
- (C) Geology
- (D) Cartography



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

What is asked: the last ruler of the Mughal Empire.

Reasoning: Bahadur Shah Zafar II was the last Mughal Emperor. He was proclaimed the symbolic leader during the Revolt of 1857. After the revolt failed, the British exiled him to Rangoon, ending Mughal rule.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Aurangzeb was the sixth Mughal Emperor, who ruled far earlier.
- Option B: Akbar II ruled before Bahadur Shah Zafar and was his father.
- Option D: Shah Jahan, who built the Taj Mahal, ruled in the seventeenth century.

Final Answer: Bahadur Shah Zafar (II) ⇒

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

Q2.**Solution**

What is asked: who appoints the Chief Justice of India.

Reasoning: The Chief Justice of India is appointed by the President of India. The appointment is made under Article 124 of the Constitution. By convention, the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court is appointed.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: The Prime Minister advises the President but does not make the appointment.
- Option C: Parliament has no role in appointing the Chief Justice.
- Option D: The Law Minister is not the appointing authority.

Final Answer: The President of India ⇒

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



Q3.

Solution

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

Reasoning: The Reserve Bank of India was established in 1935. It was set up under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, which came into force in 1935. It was nationalised later, in 1949.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: 1947 is the year of Indian independence, not the RBI's founding.
- Option C: 1949 is the year the RBI was nationalised.
- Option D: 1950 is the year the Constitution came into force.

Final Answer: 1935 ⇒

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

Q4.

Solution

What is asked: the largest freshwater lake in India.

Reasoning: Wular Lake in Jammu and Kashmir is the largest freshwater lake in India. It is fed mainly by the Jhelum river. It plays an important role in flood control in the valley.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Chilika Lake in Odisha is a brackish-water coastal lagoon, not a freshwater lake.
- Option C: Dal Lake is a smaller freshwater lake in Srinagar.
- Option D: Sambhar Lake in Rajasthan is a salt lake.

Final Answer: Wular Lake ⇒

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



Q5.

Solution

What is asked: the chemical symbol for gold.

Reasoning: The chemical symbol for gold is Au. It comes from the Latin name for gold, aurum. Gold is a dense, soft, precious metal.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: Ag is the symbol for silver, from the Latin argentum.
- Option C: Gd is the symbol for the element gadolinium.
- Option D: Go is not a valid chemical symbol.

Final Answer: Au $\Rightarrow$

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

Q6.

Solution

What is asked: the sport of the Grand Slam tournaments.

Reasoning: The four Grand Slam tournaments belong to tennis. They are the Australian Open, the French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open. Winning all four in one year is called a calendar Grand Slam.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: Golf has its own set of four majors, not called Grand Slams in the same way.
- Option C: Badminton's team events are the Thomas and Uber Cups.
- Option D: Cricket has no event called the Grand Slam.

Final Answer: Tennis $\Rightarrow$

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



Q7.

Solution

What is asked: India's highest civilian award.

Reasoning: The Bharat Ratna is the highest civilian award of India. It is given for exceptional service in any field of human endeavour. It ranks above all the Padma awards.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The Padma Vibhushan is the second-highest civilian award.
- Option B: The Padma Bhushan is the third-highest civilian award.
- Option C: The Padma Shri is the fourth-highest civilian award.

Final Answer: Bharat Ratna ⇒

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

Q8.

Solution

What is asked: the author of *The God of Small Things*.

Reasoning: *The God of Small Things* was written by Arundhati Roy. It won the Booker Prize in 1997. It was her debut novel and is set in Kerala.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Kiran Desai wrote *The Inheritance of Loss*.
- Option B: Jhumpa Lahiri wrote *The Namesake* and *Interpreter of Maladies*.
- Option C: Anita Desai wrote works such as *Clear Light of Day*.

Final Answer: Arundhati Roy ⇒

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

Q9.

Solution

What is asked: the location of the UNESCO headquarters.

Reasoning: UNESCO is headquartered in Paris, France. It is the United Nations body for education, science and culture. It was founded in 1945.

Why the other options are wrong:



- Option B: Geneva hosts bodies such as the WTO and WHO.
- Option C: New York hosts the UN headquarters.
- Option D: Rome hosts the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Final Answer: Paris $\Rightarrow$

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

Q10.

Solution

What is asked: the founding year of the Indian National Congress.

Reasoning: The Indian National Congress was founded in 1885. It was established in Bombay, with A. O. Hume playing a leading role. Its first session was presided over by W. C. Bonnerjee.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: 1857 was the year of the Revolt of 1857.
- Option B: 1875 is the year the Arya Samaj was founded.
- Option C: 1905 was the year of the partition of Bengal.

Final Answer: 1885 $\Rightarrow$

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

Q11.

Solution

What is asked: the brand behind “I’m Lovin’ It”.

Reasoning: “I’m Lovin’ It” is the slogan of McDonald’s. The campaign was launched in 2003 and used worldwide. It is one of the best-known fast-food taglines.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: KFC used “It’s Finger Lickin’ Good”.
- Option B: Burger King used “Have It Your Way”.
- Option D: Subway used “Eat Fresh”.

Final Answer: McDonald’s $\Rightarrow$

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



Q12.

Solution

What is asked: the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

Reasoning: The Vice-President of India is the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. He presides over the sittings of the upper house. This role is provided for in Article 64 of the Constitution.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The President is not a member of either house and does not chair the Rajya Sabha.
- Option B: The Speaker presides over the Lok Sabha, not the Rajya Sabha.
- Option C: The Prime Minister has no presiding role in the house.

Final Answer: The Vice-President of India ⇒

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

Q13.

Solution

What is asked: the highest waterfall in India.

Reasoning: Kunchikal Falls in Karnataka is the highest waterfall in India. It is formed by the Varahi river and drops in a series of tiers. Its total height is far greater than the better-known Jog Falls.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Jog Falls in Karnataka is famous but lower than Kunchikal.
- Option C: Dudhsagar Falls lies on the Goa–Karnataka border and is lower.
- Option D: Nohkalikai Falls in Meghalaya is a major plunge waterfall but not the highest.

Final Answer: Kunchikal Falls ⇒

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



Q14.

Solution

What is asked: the meaning of the fiscal deficit.

Reasoning: The fiscal deficit is the excess of the government's total expenditure over its total revenue. It shows how much the government needs to borrow in a year. Borrowings are not counted as revenue when this gap is measured.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: An excess of revenue over expenditure would be a surplus, not a deficit.
- Option B: An excess of revenue expenditure over revenue receipts is the revenue deficit.
- Option D: The interest paid on past borrowings alone is the interest payment, not the fiscal deficit.

Final Answer: Total expenditure exceeding total revenue $\Rightarrow$

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

Q15.

Solution

What is asked: the hardest naturally occurring substance.

Reasoning: Diamond is the hardest naturally occurring substance. It is a form of carbon in which each atom is strongly bonded in a rigid lattice. It sits at the top of the Mohs scale of hardness.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Graphite is another form of carbon but is soft and slippery.
- Option B: Quartz is fairly hard but far softer than diamond.
- Option C: Iron is a metal and is much softer than diamond.

Final Answer: Diamond $\Rightarrow$

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



Q16.

Solution

What is asked: how often the FIFA World Cup is held.

Reasoning: The FIFA World Cup is held once every four years. It is the premier international men's football tournament. The years between editions are used for regional qualifiers.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: It is not held every two years.
- Option B: It is not held every three years.
- Option D: The gap is four years, not five.

Final Answer: 4 years $\Rightarrow$

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

Q17.

Solution

What is asked: the field of the Jnanpith Award.

Reasoning: The Jnanpith Award is given for excellence in literature. It is one of the highest literary honours in India. It recognises outstanding contribution to Indian literature.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Science has separate honours such as the Bhatnagar Prize.
- Option C: Sports have awards such as the Arjuna Award.
- Option D: Music is honoured through awards such as the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.

Final Answer: Literature $\Rightarrow$

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



Q18.

Solution

What is asked: the composer of the *Panchatantra*.

Reasoning: The *Panchatantra* is traditionally attributed to Vishnu Sharma. It is an ancient collection of interlinked animal fables. The stories were meant to teach practical wisdom.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Kalidasa wrote works such as *Abhijnanashakuntalam*.
- Option B: Valmiki is credited with the *Ramayana*.
- Option D: Ved Vyasa is credited with the *Mahabharata*.

Final Answer: Vishnu Sharma ⇒

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

Q19.

Solution

What is asked: the location of the International Court of Justice.

Reasoning: The International Court of Justice is located in The Hague, Netherlands. It is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It sits in the Peace Palace.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: Geneva hosts many UN agencies but not the ICJ.
- Option C: New York hosts the UN General Assembly and Secretariat.
- Option D: Vienna hosts the IAEA and other bodies.

Final Answer: The Hague ⇒

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



Q20.

Solution

What is asked: who is called the “Nightingale of India”.

Reasoning: Sarojini Naidu is known as the Nightingale of India. She was a poet and a leader in the freedom movement. She became the first woman Governor of an Indian state.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Lata Mangeshkar was a celebrated singer but not given this title.
- Option C: Kamala Das was a noted poet and writer, not called by this name.
- Option D: Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit was a diplomat and politician.

Final Answer: Sarojini Naidu ⇒

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

Q21.

Solution

What is asked: who built the Taj Mahal.

Reasoning: The Taj Mahal was built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan. He raised it in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal. It stands on the bank of the Yamuna at Agra.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Akbar built structures such as Fatehpur Sikri.
- Option B: Aurangzeb, Shah Jahan’s son, did not build the Taj Mahal.
- Option D: Babur was the founder of the Mughal Empire, long before the Taj was built.

Final Answer: Shah Jahan ⇒

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



Q22.

Solution

What is asked: the opening words of the Preamble.

Reasoning: The Preamble of the Indian Constitution begins with “We, the People of India”. This phrase shows that the Constitution derives its authority from the people. It reflects the idea of popular sovereignty.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: “India, that is Bharat” appears in Article 1, not the Preamble’s opening.
- Option C: The Preamble does not open by naming the Constituent Assembly.
- Option D: This is not the wording used in the Preamble.

Final Answer: “We, the People of India” ⇒ A

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

Q23.

Solution

What is asked: the meaning of a “bull” market.

Reasoning: A bull market is one in which prices are generally rising. It reflects investor confidence and optimism. The opposite, a falling market, is called a bear market.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Falling prices describe a bear market, not a bull market.
- Option B: Suspension of trading is a separate event, not a bull market.
- Option C: Flat prices describe a stagnant market, not a bull run.

Final Answer: Prices are generally rising ⇒ D

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



Q24.

Solution

What is asked: the country that the Nathula Pass connects India with.

Reasoning: The Nathula Pass connects the Indian state of Sikkim with China's Tibet region. It is an important mountain pass on the old trade route. It is one of the highest motorable passes in the world.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Passes into Nepal lie elsewhere along the border.
- Option C: Nathula does not connect India with Bhutan.
- Option D: It has no link with the border with Pakistan.

Final Answer: China (Tibet) ⇒ B

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

Q25.

Solution

What is asked: the scientific study of earthquakes.

Reasoning: The study of earthquakes is called seismology. It examines seismic waves and how they travel through the Earth. Instruments called seismographs record these waves.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Volcanology is the study of volcanoes.
- Option C: Geology is the broad study of the Earth and its rocks.
- Option D: Cartography is the study and making of maps.

Final Answer: Seismology ⇒ B

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



Answer Key

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

