

XAT General Knowledge

Sample Paper – 4

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 Indus Valley (Harappan) Civilization is especially noted for which of the following?

- (A) Its large stone temples and towering pyramids
- (B) Its use of the horse in large-scale warfare
- (C) Its vast land empire ruled by powerful kings
- (D) Its advanced town planning and drainage system

Q2. What is the normal term of the Lok Sabha?



- (A) 4 years
- (B) 6 years
- (C) 5 years
- (D) 3 years

Q3. Which of the following is the central bank of India?

- (A) State Bank of India (SBI)
- (B) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- (C) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
- (D) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

Q4. The Deccan Plateau lies between which two mountain ranges?

- (A) The Himalayas and the Aravallis
- (B) The Vindhyas and the Himalayas
- (C) The Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats
- (D) The Satpuras and the Himalayas

Q5. What is the chemical symbol for sodium?

- (A) So
- (B) S
- (C) Na
- (D) Sd

Q6. The term “slam dunk” is used in which sport?

- (A) Basketball
- (B) Volleyball
- (C) Cricket
- (D) Tennis

Q7. Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in which year?



- (A) 1969
- (B) 1975
- (C) 1983
- (D) 1979

Q8. Who is the author of *A Brief History of Time*?

- (A) Carl Sagan
- (B) Richard Dawkins
- (C) Stephen Hawking
- (D) Isaac Newton

Q9. The headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is located in:

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

Q10. In which year did the Simon Commission arrive in India?

- (A) 1928
- (B) 1919
- (C) 1935
- (D) 1930

Q11. The advertising slogan “Think Different” was used by which company?

- (A) IBM
- (B) Microsoft
- (C) Samsung
- (D) Apple



Q12. Who administers the oath of office to the President of India?

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

Q13. The Sahara Desert lies on which continent?

- (A) Asia
- (B) Africa
- (C) Australia
- (D) South America

Q14. In economics, “inflation” refers to:

- (A) a general fall in the price level
- (B) a general and sustained rise in prices
- (C) a rise in the rate of unemployment
- (D) an increase in a country’s exports

Q15. Which is the largest planet in the Solar System?

- (A) Saturn
- (B) Neptune
- (C) Jupiter
- (D) Earth

Q16. The Wimbledon tennis championship is played on which surface?

- (A) Clay
- (B) Grass
- (C) Hard court
- (D) Synthetic court



Q17. The Ramon Magsaysay Award is often described as the:

- (A) “Nobel Prize of Europe”
- (B) “Nobel Prize of Asia”
- (C) “Nobel Prize of Africa”
- (D) “Nobel Prize of America”

Q18. Who is the author of *War and Peace*?

- (A) Anton Chekhov
- (B) Fyodor Dostoevsky
- (C) Maxim Gorky
- (D) Leo Tolstoy

Q19. The currency of Japan is the:

- (A) Won
- (B) Yen
- (C) Yuan
- (D) Ringgit

Q20. In India, the title “Father of the Nation” is given to:

- (A) Mahatma Gandhi
- (B) Jawaharlal Nehru
- (C) Subhas Chandra Bose
- (D) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

Q21. Emperor Ashoka belonged to which dynasty?

- (A) The Gupta dynasty
- (B) The Mughal dynasty
- (C) The Chola dynasty
- (D) The Maurya dynasty



- Q22.** How many Fundamental Rights are currently guaranteed by the Indian Constitution?
- (A) Six
 - (B) Four
 - (C) Five
 - (D) Seven
- Q23.** The financial year in India runs from:
- (A) 1 January to 31 December
 - (B) 1 July to 30 June
 - (C) 1 April to 31 March
 - (D) 1 October to 30 September
- Q24.** The Suez Canal connects the Mediterranean Sea with the:
- (A) Red Sea
 - (B) Black Sea
 - (C) Arabian Sea
 - (D) Caspian Sea
- Q25.** Which instrument is used to measure atmospheric pressure?
- (A) Barometer
 - (B) Thermometer
 - (C) Hygrometer
 - (D) Anemometer



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

What is asked: the feature for which the Harappan Civilization is especially noted.

Reasoning: The Indus Valley Civilization is famous for its remarkably advanced town planning. Cities such as Mohenjo-daro and Harappa had streets laid out in a grid pattern. They also had a covered and well-designed underground drainage system, unusual for the ancient world.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The Harappans did not build large stone temples or pyramids.
- Option B: The horse played no major role in Harappan life.
- Option C: There is no clear evidence of a large empire ruled by kings.

Final Answer: Town planning and drainage ⇒

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

Q2.**Solution**

What is asked: the normal term of the Lok Sabha.

Reasoning: The normal term of the Lok Sabha is five years from the date of its first sitting. After five years it stands dissolved and fresh general elections are held. The term can be extended only during a national emergency.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Four years is incorrect; the term is five years.
- Option B: Six years is the term of a Rajya Sabha member, not the Lok Sabha.
- Option D: Three years is not the term of the Lok Sabha.

Final Answer: 5 years ⇒

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



Q3.

Solution

What is asked: the central bank of India.

Reasoning: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is the central bank of the country. It was established in 1935 and manages monetary policy and currency issue. It also acts as the banker to the government and to commercial banks.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The State Bank of India is a commercial bank, not the central bank.
- Option B: SEBI regulates the securities market.
- Option C: NABARD supports agriculture and rural development finance.

Final Answer: The Reserve Bank of India ⇒

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

Q4.

Solution

What is asked: the ranges between which the Deccan Plateau lies.

Reasoning: The Deccan Plateau is bordered by the Western Ghats on the west and the Eastern Ghats on the east. It is a large triangular plateau covering much of peninsular India. The two Ghats meet near the Nilgiri Hills in the south.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The Himalayas and Aravallis lie to the north, not around the Deccan.
- Option B: The Vindhyas and Himalayas do not bound the plateau on both sides.
- Option D: The Satpuras and Himalayas do not enclose the Deccan.

Final Answer: The Western and Eastern Ghats ⇒

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



Q5.

Solution

What is asked: the chemical symbol for sodium.

Reasoning: The chemical symbol for sodium is Na. It comes from the Latin name for the element, “natrium”. Sodium is a soft, highly reactive metal.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: “So” is not a valid chemical symbol.
- Option B: “S” is the symbol for sulfur.
- Option D: “Sd” is not a valid chemical symbol.

Final Answer: Na $\Rightarrow$

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

Q6.

Solution

What is asked: the sport in which the term “slam dunk” is used.

Reasoning: A slam dunk is a shot in basketball where a player forces the ball down through the hoop. It is one of the most valued and spectacular moves in the game. The term is closely tied to basketball.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: Volleyball uses terms like “spike” and “serve”, not “slam dunk”.
- Option C: Cricket has no shot called a slam dunk.
- Option D: Tennis uses terms such as “ace” and “volley”.

Final Answer: Basketball $\Rightarrow$

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

Q7.

Solution

What is asked: the year Mother Teresa won the Nobel Peace Prize.

Reasoning: Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. She was recognised for her work with the poor and the dying in Kolkata. She founded the Missionaries of Charity.



Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: 1969 is too early; the award came in 1979.
- Option B: 1975 is incorrect.
- Option C: 1983 is after the actual year of the award.

Final Answer: 1979 ⇒

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

Q8.

Solution

What is asked: the author of *A Brief History of Time*.

Reasoning: *A Brief History of Time* was written by the physicist Stephen Hawking. It explains cosmology, black holes and the Big Bang for a general audience. It became one of the best-selling popular science books.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Carl Sagan wrote *Cosmos*, not this book.
- Option B: Richard Dawkins wrote *The Selfish Gene*.
- Option D: Isaac Newton lived centuries earlier and did not write it.

Final Answer: Stephen Hawking ⇒

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

Q9.

Solution

What is asked: the headquarters of the FAO.

Reasoning: The Food and Agriculture Organization is headquartered in Rome, Italy. It is a specialised agency of the United Nations. It works to defeat hunger and improve nutrition and food security.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Geneva hosts bodies such as the WTO and WHO.
- Option C: Paris hosts UNESCO.
- Option D: New York hosts the UN headquarters.

Final Answer: Rome ⇒



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

Q10.

Solution

What is asked: the year the Simon Commission arrived in India.

Reasoning: The Simon Commission arrived in India in 1928. It was an all-British body set up to review the working of the government. Because it had no Indian member, it was met with black-flag protests and the slogan “Simon Go Back”.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: 1919 was the year of the Rowlatt Act and Jallianwala Bagh.
- Option C: 1935 was the year of the Government of India Act.
- Option D: 1930 was the year of the Dandi March.

Final Answer: 1928 $\Rightarrow$ **A**

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

Q11.

Solution

What is asked: the company behind “Think Different”.

Reasoning: “Think Different” was the advertising slogan of Apple. It was launched in 1997 as part of a well-known campaign. It celebrated creative and unconventional thinkers.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: IBM used the slogan “Think”.
- Option B: Microsoft used slogans such as “Where do you want to go today?”.
- Option C: Samsung did not use “Think Different”.

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

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



Q12.

Solution

What is asked: who administers the oath of office to the President of India.

Reasoning: The oath of office to the President is administered by the Chief Justice of India. In the absence of the Chief Justice, the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court does so. This is provided for under Article 60 of the Constitution.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: The Prime Minister does not administer this oath.
- Option C: The Vice-President does not administer the President's oath.
- Option D: The Speaker of the Lok Sabha has no such role.

Final Answer: The Chief Justice of India ⇒

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

Q13.

Solution

What is asked: the continent on which the Sahara Desert lies.

Reasoning: The Sahara Desert lies in Africa. It is the largest hot desert in the world and covers much of North Africa. It stretches across many countries from the Atlantic to the Red Sea.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Asia has deserts such as the Thar and the Gobi, not the Sahara.
- Option C: Australia has the Great Victoria Desert.
- Option D: South America has the Atacama Desert.

Final Answer: Africa ⇒

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



Q14.

Solution

What is asked: the meaning of “inflation”.

Reasoning: Inflation is a general and sustained rise in the overall level of prices in an economy. As prices rise, the purchasing power of money falls. It is usually measured through price indices such as the CPI.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: A general fall in prices is deflation, the opposite of inflation.
- Option C: A rise in unemployment is a separate economic concept.
- Option D: An increase in exports is not what inflation means.

Final Answer: A sustained rise in prices $\Rightarrow$

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

Q15.

Solution

What is asked: the largest planet in the Solar System.

Reasoning: Jupiter is the largest planet in the Solar System. Its diameter is more than eleven times that of the Earth. It is a gas giant with a famous Great Red Spot.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Saturn is the second-largest planet, smaller than Jupiter.
- Option B: Neptune is much smaller than Jupiter.
- Option D: Earth is far smaller than Jupiter.

Final Answer: Jupiter $\Rightarrow$

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

Q16.

Solution

What is asked: the surface on which Wimbledon is played.

Reasoning: The Wimbledon Championships are played on grass courts. It is the oldest tennis tournament and the only Grand Slam still played on grass. It is held every year in London.



Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The French Open is played on clay.
- Option C: The US Open and Australian Open use hard courts.
- Option D: A synthetic court is not the Wimbledon surface.

Final Answer: Grass $\Rightarrow$

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

Q17.

Solution

What is asked: the popular description of the Ramon Magsaysay Award.

Reasoning: The Ramon Magsaysay Award is often called the “Nobel Prize of Asia”. It honours people and organisations in Asia for outstanding public service. It is named after a former President of the Philippines.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: It is linked to Asia, not Europe.
- Option C: It is not called the Nobel Prize of Africa.
- Option D: It is not called the Nobel Prize of America.

Final Answer: “Nobel Prize of Asia” $\Rightarrow$

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

Q18.

Solution

What is asked: the author of *War and Peace*.

Reasoning: *War and Peace* was written by the Russian author Leo Tolstoy. It is set against the backdrop of the Napoleonic wars in Russia. It is regarded as one of the greatest novels ever written.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Anton Chekhov is known for his plays and short stories.
- Option B: Fyodor Dostoevsky wrote *Crime and Punishment*.
- Option C: Maxim Gorky wrote *The Mother*, not *War and Peace*.

Final Answer: Leo Tolstoy $\Rightarrow$



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

Q19.

Solution

What is asked: the currency of Japan.

Reasoning: The currency of Japan is the Yen. It is one of the most traded currencies in the world. Its symbol is the character that looks like the letter Y with two strokes.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The Won is the currency of South Korea.
- Option C: The Yuan is the currency of China.
- Option D: The Ringgit is the currency of Malaysia.

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

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

Q20.

Solution

What is asked: who is given the title “Father of the Nation” in India.

Reasoning: Mahatma Gandhi is honoured as the “Father of the Nation” in India. He led the freedom struggle through non-violence and mass movements. He is widely called Bapu.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: Jawaharlal Nehru was the first Prime Minister, not the Father of the Nation.
- Option C: Subhas Chandra Bose led the Indian National Army.
- Option D: Sardar Patel is called the Iron Man of India.

Final Answer: Mahatma Gandhi $\Rightarrow$ **A**

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



Q21.

Solution

What is asked: the dynasty to which Emperor Ashoka belonged.

Reasoning: Emperor Ashoka belonged to the Maurya dynasty. He was the grandson of Chandragupta Maurya, the founder of the empire. After the Kalinga War he embraced Buddhism and spread its message.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The Gupta dynasty came several centuries after the Mauryas.
- Option B: The Mughal dynasty ruled much later, from the sixteenth century.
- Option C: The Cholas were a South Indian dynasty, not Ashoka's line.

Final Answer: The Maurya dynasty $\Rightarrow$

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

Q22.

Solution

What is asked: the number of Fundamental Rights currently guaranteed.

Reasoning: The Constitution currently guarantees six Fundamental Rights. These are the Right to Equality, Right to Freedom, Right against Exploitation, Right to Freedom of Religion, Cultural and Educational Rights, and the Right to Constitutional Remedies. The Right to Property was removed as a Fundamental Right in 1978.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: Four is too few; there are six.
- Option C: Five is incorrect.
- Option D: Seven was the count before the Right to Property was dropped.

Final Answer: Six $\Rightarrow$

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



Q23.

Solution

What is asked: the span of the financial year in India.

Reasoning: In India the financial year runs from 1 April to 31 March of the next year. Government budgets and accounts follow this period. It is different from the calendar year.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: 1 January to 31 December is the calendar year, not the financial year.
- Option B: 1 July to 30 June is used in some other countries.
- Option D: 1 October to 30 September is not India's financial year.

Final Answer: 1 April to 31 March ⇒

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

Q24.

Solution

What is asked: the sea that the Suez Canal connects to the Mediterranean.

Reasoning: The Suez Canal connects the Mediterranean Sea with the Red Sea. It runs through Egypt and provides a short sea route between Europe and Asia. It removes the need to sail around Africa.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: The Black Sea is not linked by the Suez Canal.
- Option C: The Arabian Sea is reached only after passing through the Red Sea.
- Option D: The Caspian Sea is a landlocked body, not connected by this canal.

Final Answer: Red Sea ⇒

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



Q25.

Solution

What is asked: the instrument used to measure atmospheric pressure.

Reasoning: A barometer is the instrument used to measure atmospheric pressure. Changes in the reading help in forecasting the weather. Common types include the mercury barometer and the aneroid barometer.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: A thermometer measures temperature.
- Option C: A hygrometer measures humidity.
- Option D: An anemometer measures wind speed.

Final Answer: Barometer ⇒

[Go Back to Q25](#)



Answer Key

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

