

XAT General Knowledge

Sample Paper – 5

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 Ajanta and Ellora caves, famous for their rock-cut art, are located in which state?
- (A) Madhya Pradesh
(B) Karnataka
(C) Gujarat
(D) Maharashtra
- Q2.** The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India is appointed by:



- (A) the President
- (B) the Prime Minister
- (C) the Chief Justice of India
- (D) the Parliament by a majority vote

Q3. The abbreviation “PAN”, issued by the Income Tax Department, stands for:

- (A) Public Account Number
- (B) Personal Access Number
- (C) Primary Assessment Number
- (D) Permanent Account Number

Q4. The Palghat (Palakkad) Gap is a well-known pass in which mountain range?

- (A) The Western Ghats
- (B) The Eastern Ghats
- (C) The Aravalli Range
- (D) The Satpura Range

Q5. What is the chemical formula of water?

- (A) H_2O
- (B) CO_2
- (C) H_2O_2
- (D) $NaCl$

Q6. The “Ashes” is a famous Test cricket series contested between England and:

- (A) South Africa
- (B) West Indies



- (C) Australia
- (D) New Zealand

Q7. The Arjuna Award is given for:

- (A) outstanding achievement in sports
- (B) lifetime contribution to literature
- (C) excellence in classical music
- (D) distinguished service in the armed forces

Q8. The play *Romeo and Juliet* was written by:

- (A) Charles Dickens
- (B) William Shakespeare
- (C) George Bernard Shaw
- (D) John Milton

Q9. The headquarters of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is located in:

- (A) Geneva
- (B) Riyadh
- (C) Vienna
- (D) Paris

Q10. The Battle of Buxar was fought in which year?

- (A) 1764
- (B) 1757
- (C) 1857
- (D) 1748

Q11. The advertising slogan “Because You’re Worth It” is associated with which brand?



- (A) Lakme
- (B) Nivea
- (C) Dove
- (D) L'Oréal

Q12. The Directive Principles of State Policy in the Indian Constitution were borrowed from the constitution of:

- (A) The United States
- (B) The United Kingdom
- (C) Ireland
- (D) Canada

Q13. Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa, is located in which country?

- (A) Kenya
- (B) Tanzania
- (C) Ethiopia
- (D) Uganda

Q14. “Microfinance” mainly provides financial services to:

- (A) large multinational corporations
- (B) foreign institutional investors
- (C) state governments
- (D) low-income individuals and small borrowers

Q15. Which gas is released by green plants during photosynthesis?

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



(D) Hydrogen

Q16. The Santosh Trophy is a national championship associated with which sport?

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

Q17. The Grammy Awards are associated with which field?

- (A) Films
- (B) Journalism
- (C) Music
- (D) Television

Q18. The novel *The Old Man and the Sea* was written by:

- (A) Mark Twain
- (B) Ernest Hemingway
- (C) F. Scott Fitzgerald
- (D) John Steinbeck

Q19. The Great Barrier Reef, the world's largest coral reef system, lies off the coast of:

- (A) Brazil
- (B) South Africa
- (C) Indonesia
- (D) Australia

Q20. Who is popularly known as the “Grand Old Man of India”?

- (A) Bal Gangadhar Tilak



- (B) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
- (C) Dadabhai Naoroji
- (D) Motilal Nehru

Q21. Which period of ancient Indian history is often described as the “Golden Age of India”?

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

Q22. The concept of a “welfare state” in India is chiefly embodied in the:

- (A) Directive Principles of State Policy
- (B) Fundamental Rights
- (C) Fundamental Duties
- (D) Preamble alone

Q23. In India, “GST” stands for:

- (A) Goods and Services Tax
- (B) General Sales Tax
- (C) Gross State Tax
- (D) Government Service Tax

Q24. The longest river in the world is the:

- (A) Amazon
- (B) Nile
- (C) Yangtze
- (D) Mississippi

Q25. The SI unit of electric current is the:



- (A) Volt
- (B) Ohm
- (C) Watt
- (D) Ampere



Detailed Solutions

Q1.

Solution

What is asked: the state where the Ajanta and Ellora caves lie.

Reasoning: The Ajanta and Ellora caves are located in Maharashtra, near Aurangabad (now Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar). Both are UNESCO World Heritage Sites famous for rock-cut architecture, sculpture and paintings. Ajanta is largely Buddhist, while Ellora blends Buddhist, Hindu and Jain art.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Madhya Pradesh has the Bhimbetka and Khajuraho sites, not Ajanta and Ellora.
- Option B: Karnataka has cave temples such as Badami, not these caves.
- Option C: Gujarat is not home to the Ajanta and Ellora caves.

Final Answer: Maharashtra ⇒

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

Q2.

Solution

What is asked: who appoints the CAG of India.

Reasoning: The Comptroller and Auditor General of India is appointed by the President. The CAG audits the accounts of the Union and the states and reports to Parliament. The office is a constitutional one, meant to be independent of the executive.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: The Prime Minister does not appoint the CAG.
- Option C: The Chief Justice of India has no role in this appointment.
- Option D: Parliament does not elect the CAG, though it receives the audit reports.

Final Answer: The President ⇒

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



Q3.

Solution

What is asked: the full form of PAN.

Reasoning: PAN stands for Permanent Account Number. It is a ten-character alphanumeric identifier issued by the Income Tax Department. It is used to track financial transactions and to file income tax.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: “Public Account Number” is not the correct expansion.
- Option B: “Personal Access Number” is unrelated to the tax PAN.
- Option C: “Primary Assessment Number” is not a real term here.

Final Answer: Permanent Account Number ⇒ D

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

Q4.

Solution

What is asked: the range in which the Palghat Gap lies.

Reasoning: The Palghat (Palakkad) Gap is a low pass in the Western Ghats. It connects Tamil Nadu with Kerala and carries major road and rail routes. It is one of the few natural breaks in the Western Ghats.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: The Eastern Ghats are a separate, more broken range on the east coast.
- Option C: The Aravalli Range lies in the northwest, mainly in Rajasthan.
- Option D: The Satpura Range lies in central India.

Final Answer: The Western Ghats ⇒ A

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



Q5.

Solution

What is asked: the chemical formula of water.

Reasoning: Water is made of two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom, giving the formula H_2O . Each molecule has two hydrogen atoms bonded to a single oxygen atom. It is one of the most basic formulas in chemistry.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: CO_2 is carbon dioxide, not water.
- Option C: H_2O_2 is hydrogen peroxide.
- Option D: $NaCl$ is common salt.

Final Answer: $H_2O \Rightarrow$

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

Q6.

Solution

What is asked: the other team in the Ashes series.

Reasoning: The Ashes is a Test cricket series contested between England and Australia. It is one of the oldest rivalries in the sport, dating to 1882. The two sides have played for the urn ever since.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: South Africa is not part of the Ashes.
- Option B: The West Indies are not part of the Ashes.
- Option D: New Zealand is not part of the Ashes.

Final Answer: Australia $\Rightarrow$

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



Q7.

Solution

What is asked: the field for which the Arjuna Award is given.

Reasoning: The Arjuna Award is given for outstanding achievement in sports and games. It recognises consistent performance by an athlete over several years. It is one of India's major sporting honours.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: Literature is honoured by awards such as the Sahitya Akademi Award.
- Option C: Classical music has its own separate honours.
- Option D: Armed forces service is recognised by gallantry and service awards.

Final Answer: Outstanding achievement in sports ⇒

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

Q8.

Solution

What is asked: the author of *Romeo and Juliet*.

Reasoning: *Romeo and Juliet* is a tragedy written by William Shakespeare. It tells the story of two young lovers from feuding families in Verona. It remains one of the most famous plays in English literature.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Charles Dickens was a novelist, not the author of this play.
- Option C: George Bernard Shaw wrote much later plays.
- Option D: John Milton is known for *Paradise Lost*.

Final Answer: William Shakespeare ⇒

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



Q9.

Solution

What is asked: the location of OPEC's headquarters.

Reasoning: The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries is headquartered in Vienna, Austria. OPEC coordinates the petroleum policies of its member states. The secretariat has been based in Vienna since 1965.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Geneva hosts bodies such as the WTO, not OPEC.
- Option B: Riyadh is the capital of Saudi Arabia but not the OPEC seat.
- Option D: Paris hosts UNESCO and the OECD, not OPEC.

Final Answer: Vienna $\Rightarrow$

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

Q10.

Solution

What is asked: the year of the Battle of Buxar.

Reasoning: The Battle of Buxar was fought in 1764. The British East India Company defeated the combined forces of Mir Qasim, the Nawab of Awadh and the Mughal Emperor. The victory gave the Company the Diwani rights of Bengal, Bihar and Odisha.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: 1757 was the year of the Battle of Plassey.
- Option C: 1857 was the year of the great Revolt.
- Option D: 1748 does not mark the Battle of Buxar.

Final Answer: 1764 $\Rightarrow$

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



Q11.

Solution

What is asked: the brand behind “Because You’re Worth It”.

Reasoning: “Because You’re Worth It” is the long-running slogan of L’Oréal. The cosmetics company has used it in global advertising for decades. It is one of the best-known taglines in the beauty industry.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Lakme uses different slogans.
- Option B: Nivea is not linked to this tagline.
- Option C: Dove is known for its “Real Beauty” campaign.

Final Answer: L’Oréal ⇒

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

Q12.

Solution

What is asked: the source of the Directive Principles of State Policy.

Reasoning: The Directive Principles of State Policy were borrowed from the Constitution of Ireland. The Irish had themselves drawn the idea from the Spanish Constitution. These principles guide the state in making laws for social and economic welfare.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: From the United States, India borrowed features such as Fundamental Rights and judicial review.
- Option B: From the United Kingdom came the parliamentary system.
- Option D: From Canada came the idea of a strong centre.

Final Answer: Ireland ⇒

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



Q13.

Solution

What is asked: the country where Mount Kilimanjaro lies.

Reasoning: Mount Kilimanjaro is located in Tanzania. At about 5,895 metres, it is the highest mountain in Africa. It is a free-standing volcanic mountain near the border with Kenya.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Kenya lies to the north but does not hold the summit.
- Option C: Ethiopia has its own highlands but not Kilimanjaro.
- Option D: Uganda is not home to this peak.

Final Answer: Tanzania ⇒ **B**

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

Q14.

Solution

What is asked: the main users served by microfinance.

Reasoning: Microfinance mainly provides financial services to low-income individuals and small borrowers. It offers small loans, savings and insurance to people outside the formal banking system. The aim is financial inclusion and support for small enterprise.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Large multinational corporations use mainstream corporate finance.
- Option B: Foreign institutional investors operate in capital markets.
- Option C: State governments raise funds through borrowing and grants, not microfinance.

Final Answer: Low-income individuals and small borrowers ⇒ **D**

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



Q15.

Solution

What is asked: the gas released during photosynthesis.

Reasoning: Green plants release oxygen during photosynthesis. They take in carbon dioxide and water and, using sunlight, make food and give off oxygen. This oxygen supports most life on Earth.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Carbon dioxide is taken in, not released, during photosynthesis.
- Option C: Nitrogen is not a product of photosynthesis.
- Option D: Hydrogen is not released as a gas in this process.

Final Answer: Oxygen $\Rightarrow$

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

Q16.

Solution

What is asked: the sport of the Santosh Trophy.

Reasoning: The Santosh Trophy is a national football championship in India. It is contested by teams representing states and select institutions. It is one of the oldest football tournaments in the country.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Cricket's domestic championship is the Ranji Trophy.
- Option B: Hockey has separate national tournaments.
- Option D: Kabaddi has its own leagues and championships.

Final Answer: Football $\Rightarrow$

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



Q17.

Solution

What is asked: the field of the Grammy Awards.

Reasoning: The Grammy Awards are associated with music. They are presented by the Recording Academy for achievements in the recording industry. They are among the most prestigious honours in music.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Films are honoured by the Oscars.
- Option B: Journalism is honoured by the Pulitzer Prize.
- Option D: Television is honoured by the Emmy Awards.

Final Answer: Music ⇒

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

Q18.

Solution

What is asked: the author of *The Old Man and the Sea*.

Reasoning: *The Old Man and the Sea* was written by Ernest Hemingway. The short novel tells of an aging fisherman's struggle with a giant marlin. It won the Pulitzer Prize and helped earn Hemingway the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Mark Twain wrote *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.
- Option C: F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote *The Great Gatsby*.
- Option D: John Steinbeck wrote *The Grapes of Wrath*.

Final Answer: Ernest Hemingway ⇒

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



Q19.

Solution

What is asked: the country off whose coast the Great Barrier Reef lies.

Reasoning: The Great Barrier Reef lies off the northeastern coast of Australia, in the Coral Sea. It is the world's largest coral reef system and can be seen from space. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Brazil is not associated with the Great Barrier Reef.
- Option B: South Africa lies far from this reef.
- Option C: Indonesia has coral reefs but not the Great Barrier Reef.

Final Answer: Australia ⇒

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

Q20.

Solution

What is asked: the “Grand Old Man of India”.

Reasoning: Dadabhai Naoroji is popularly known as the Grand Old Man of India. He was an early leader of the Indian National Congress and put forward the “drain of wealth” theory. He was also the first Indian elected to the British House of Commons.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Bal Gangadhar Tilak was called “Lokmanya”.
- Option B: Gopal Krishna Gokhale was a mentor to Gandhi but not the Grand Old Man.
- Option D: Motilal Nehru held a different place in the movement.

Final Answer: Dadabhai Naoroji ⇒

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



Q21.

Solution

What is asked: the period called the “Golden Age of India”.

Reasoning: The Gupta period is often described as the Golden Age of India. It saw major advances in art, science, mathematics, astronomy and literature. Scholars such as Aryabhata and Kalidasa belonged to or drew on this era.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The Maurya period is noted for administration and Ashoka, but the Golden Age tag is used for the Guptas.
- Option C: The Mughal period is a later era.
- Option D: The Chola period is celebrated for the south, not usually called the Golden Age of India.

Final Answer: The Gupta period ⇒

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

Q22.

Solution

What is asked: where the “welfare state” idea is embodied in the Constitution.

Reasoning: The concept of a welfare state in India is chiefly embodied in the Directive Principles of State Policy. These principles direct the state to secure social and economic justice for the people. Though not enforceable in court, they are fundamental to governance.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: Fundamental Rights protect individual liberties and are justiciable.
- Option C: Fundamental Duties list obligations of citizens.
- Option D: The Preamble states ideals but does not by itself embody the welfare-state scheme.

Final Answer: Directive Principles of State Policy ⇒

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



Q23.

Solution

What is asked: the full form of GST.

Reasoning: In India, GST stands for Goods and Services Tax. It is a single indirect tax on the supply of goods and services, introduced in 2017. It replaced many earlier central and state indirect taxes.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: “General Sales Tax” is not the correct expansion.
- Option C: “Gross State Tax” is not a real term.
- Option D: “Government Service Tax” is incorrect.

Final Answer: Goods and Services Tax ⇒

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

Q24.

Solution

What is asked: the longest river in the world.

Reasoning: The Nile is generally regarded as the longest river in the world, at about 6,650 km. It flows northward through northeastern Africa into the Mediterranean Sea. It has long been the lifeline of Egypt and neighbouring lands.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The Amazon carries the most water but is usually ranked second in length.
- Option C: The Yangtze is the longest river in Asia but shorter than the Nile.
- Option D: The Mississippi is a major river but shorter than the Nile.

Final Answer: Nile ⇒

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



Q25.

Solution

What is asked: the SI unit of electric current.

Reasoning: The SI unit of electric current is the ampere, often shortened to amp. It measures the flow of electric charge past a point per unit time. It is one of the seven base units of the SI system.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The volt is the unit of electric potential difference.
- Option B: The ohm is the unit of electrical resistance.
- Option C: The watt is the unit of power.

Final Answer: Ampere $\Rightarrow$

[Go Back to Q25](#)



Answer Key

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

