

XAT General Knowledge

Sample Paper – 7

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 capital of the Vijayanagara Empire was located at:

- (A) Golconda
- (B) Warangal
- (C) Hampi
- (D) Devagiri

Q2. The Right to Constitutional Remedies is guaranteed under which Article of the Indian Constitution?



- (A) Article 14
- (B) Article 32
- (C) Article 19
- (D) Article 21

Q3. In economics and business, “FDI” stands for:

- (A) Foreign Debt Investment
- (B) Fixed Deposit Interest
- (C) Financial Development Index
- (D) Foreign Direct Investment

Q4. The Konkan coast of India lies along which sea?

- (A) The Bay of Bengal
- (B) The Arabian Sea
- (C) The Indian Ocean
- (D) The Andaman Sea

Q5. The speed of light in vacuum is approximately:

- (A) 3×10^6 metres per second
- (B) 3×10^5 metres per second
- (C) 3×10^{10} metres per second
- (D) 3×10^8 metres per second

Q6. The 44th Chess Olympiad, held in 2022, was hosted by which country?

- (A) Russia
- (B) Hungary
- (C) India
- (D) Norway

Q7. The Fields Medal is regarded as the highest honour in which field?



- (A) Physics
- (B) Mathematics
- (C) Economics
- (D) Chemistry

Q8. The autobiography *The Story of My Experiments with Truth* was written by:

- (A) Jawaharlal Nehru
- (B) B. R. Ambedkar
- (C) Mahatma Gandhi
- (D) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

Q9. The Red Cross, the international humanitarian movement, was founded by:

- (A) Florence Nightingale
- (B) Henry Dunant
- (C) Jean Pictet
- (D) Louis Pasteur

Q10. The Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama first reached the Indian coast at Calicut in the year:

- (A) 1492
- (B) 1453
- (C) 1498
- (D) 1526

Q11. The advertising slogan “*Vorsprung durch Technik*” is associated with which car brand?

- (A) BMW
- (B) Mercedes-Benz



- (C) Volkswagen
- (D) Audi

Q12. Who was the first woman President of India?

- (A) Pratibha Patil
- (B) Droupadi Murmu
- (C) Sonia Gandhi
- (D) Indira Gandhi

Q13. The largest ocean in the world is the:

- (A) Pacific Ocean
- (B) Atlantic Ocean
- (C) Indian Ocean
- (D) Arctic Ocean

Q14. The “Balance of Trade” is the difference between a country’s:

- (A) government revenue and government expenditure
- (B) total assets and total liabilities of its banks
- (C) exports and imports of goods
- (D) national income and national expenditure

Q15. In biology, “DNA” stands for:

- (A) Deoxyribose Nucleic Amine
- (B) Dinucleic Acid
- (C) Diribonucleic Acid
- (D) Deoxyribonucleic Acid

Q16. The Ryder Cup is a famous team championship associated with which sport?



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

Q17. The Right Livelihood Award is popularly known as the:

- (A) “Nobel Prize of Asia”
- (B) “Green Nobel”
- (C) “People’s Nobel”
- (D) “Alternative Nobel Prize”

Q18. *The Alchemist* was written by:

- (A) Paulo Coelho
- (B) Gabriel Garcia Marquez
- (C) Khaled Hosseini
- (D) Chetan Bhagat

Q19. The Statue of Liberty in New York was gifted to the United States by which country?

- (A) Britain
- (B) Spain
- (C) France
- (D) Italy

Q20. Who is regarded as the “Father of the Indian Space Programme”?

- (A) Vikram Sarabhai
- (B) Homi J. Bhabha
- (C) A. P. J. Abdul Kalam
- (D) Satish Dhawan



- Q21.** The Rowlatt Act, which gave the government sweeping powers of detention, was passed in the year:
- (A) 1919
 - (B) 1909
 - (C) 1925
 - (D) 1935
- Q22.** Who was the first Speaker of the Lok Sabha?
- (A) Sardar Hukam Singh
 - (B) G. V. Mavalankar
 - (C) Jawaharlal Nehru
 - (D) Dr. Rajendra Prasad
- Q23.** In economics, a “subsidy” is best described as:
- (A) financial assistance given by the government to reduce the cost of a good or service
 - (B) a tax levied on imported goods
 - (C) the interest charged by banks on loans
 - (D) a fine imposed for tax evasion
- Q24.** The Rann of Kutch, a large salt marsh region, is located in which Indian state?
- (A) Rajasthan
 - (B) Maharashtra
 - (C) Madhya Pradesh
 - (D) Gujarat
- Q25.** The instrument used to measure temperature is the:
- (A) Barometer



- (B) Thermometer
- (C) Hygrometer
- (D) Ammeter



Detailed Solutions

Q1.

Solution

What is asked: the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire.

Reasoning: The Vijayanagara Empire had its capital at Hampi, on the banks of the Tungabhadra river in present-day Karnataka. At its height it was one of the largest and richest cities in the world. Its ruins at Hampi are now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Golconda was the capital of the Qutb Shahi dynasty near Hyderabad.
- Option B: Warangal was the capital of the Kakatiya dynasty.
- Option D: Devagiri (Daulatabad) was linked with the Yadavas and the Delhi Sultanate.

Final Answer: Hampi $\Rightarrow$

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

Q2.

Solution

What is asked: the Article guaranteeing the Right to Constitutional Remedies.

Reasoning: The Right to Constitutional Remedies is guaranteed under Article 32 of the Constitution. It allows a citizen to move the Supreme Court directly to enforce Fundamental Rights. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar called it the “heart and soul” of the Constitution.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Article 14 guarantees equality before the law.
- Option C: Article 19 protects the freedoms of speech, movement and so on.
- Option D: Article 21 protects the right to life and personal liberty.

Final Answer: Article 32 $\Rightarrow$

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



Q3.

Solution

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

Reasoning: FDI stands for Foreign Direct Investment. It refers to investment made by a company or individual in one country into business interests in another country. It usually involves lasting control or a significant stake in the foreign enterprise.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: “Foreign Debt Investment” is not the standard term.
- Option B: “Fixed Deposit Interest” is unrelated to FDI.
- Option C: “Financial Development Index” is a different concept.

Final Answer: Foreign Direct Investment ⇒ **D**

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

Q4.

Solution

What is asked: the sea along the Konkan coast.

Reasoning: The Konkan coast is the western coastal stretch running along the Arabian Sea. It covers parts of Maharashtra, Goa and coastal Karnataka. The Western Ghats run parallel to it just inland.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The Bay of Bengal lies on India’s eastern coast.
- Option C: The Indian Ocean lies to the far south, not along the Konkan.
- Option D: The Andaman Sea lies far to the east near the Andaman Islands.

Final Answer: The Arabian Sea ⇒ **B**

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



Q5.

Solution

What is asked: the approximate speed of light in vacuum.

Reasoning: The speed of light in vacuum is about 3×10^8 metres per second. This is roughly 300,000 kilometres per second. It is a fundamental constant of physics, denoted by the letter c .

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: 3×10^6 metres per second is a thousand times too small.
- Option B: 3×10^5 metres per second is far too slow.
- Option C: 3×10^{10} metres per second is a hundred times too large.

Final Answer: 3×10^8 metres per second $\Rightarrow$

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

Q6.

Solution

What is asked: the host country of the 44th Chess Olympiad (2022).

Reasoning: The 44th Chess Olympiad was held in 2022 at Mahabalipuram near Chennai in India. It was the first time India hosted the event. The mascot was “Thambi”, a knight in a traditional dhoti.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The event was moved out of Russia to India that year.
- Option B: Hungary hosted earlier Olympiads but not the 2022 edition.
- Option D: Norway is a strong chess nation but was not the host.

Final Answer: India $\Rightarrow$

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



Q7.

Solution

What is asked: the field of the Fields Medal.

Reasoning: The Fields Medal is the highest honour in mathematics. It is awarded every four years to outstanding mathematicians under the age of 40. It is often described as the “Nobel Prize of Mathematics”.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Physics has the Nobel Prize, not the Fields Medal.
- Option C: Economics has its own Nobel Memorial Prize.
- Option D: Chemistry too is recognised by a Nobel Prize.

Final Answer: Mathematics $\Rightarrow$

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

Q8.

Solution

What is asked: the author of *The Story of My Experiments with Truth*.

Reasoning: *The Story of My Experiments with Truth* is the autobiography of Mahatma Gandhi. It was written in Gujarati and later translated into English. It covers his life up to the 1920s and his ideas on truth and non-violence.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Nehru wrote *An Autobiography* and *The Discovery of India*.
- Option B: Ambedkar wrote *Annihilation of Caste*, among other works.
- Option D: Patel did not author this book.

Final Answer: Mahatma Gandhi $\Rightarrow$

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



Q9.

Solution

What is asked: the founder of the Red Cross.

Reasoning: The Red Cross movement was founded by Henry Dunant, a Swiss businessman. He was moved by the suffering of wounded soldiers at the Battle of Solferino. He received the first Nobel Peace Prize in 1901 for this work.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Florence Nightingale pioneered modern nursing but did not found the Red Cross.
- Option C: Jean Pictet was a later scholar of humanitarian law.
- Option D: Louis Pasteur was a chemist and microbiologist.

Final Answer: Henry Dunant $\Rightarrow$

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

Q10.

Solution

What is asked: the year Vasco da Gama reached Calicut.

Reasoning: Vasco da Gama reached the Indian coast at Calicut in 1498. He was the first European to reach India by sea, sailing around Africa. This opened a direct sea route between Europe and India.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: 1492 is when Columbus reached the Americas.
- Option B: 1453 marks the fall of Constantinople.
- Option D: 1526 is the year of the First Battle of Panipat.

Final Answer: 1498 $\Rightarrow$

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



Q11.

Solution

What is asked: the brand behind “Vorsprung durch Technik”.

Reasoning: “Vorsprung durch Technik” is the long-running slogan of Audi. The German phrase means “progress through technology”. It has been central to Audi’s brand image for decades.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: BMW uses “The Ultimate Driving Machine”.
- Option B: Mercedes-Benz uses “The best or nothing”.
- Option C: Volkswagen has used slogans such as “Das Auto”.

Final Answer: Audi ⇒

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

Q12.

Solution

What is asked: the first woman President of India.

Reasoning: Pratibha Patil was the first woman President of India, serving from 2007 to 2012. She had earlier been the Governor of Rajasthan. She was the twelfth President of India.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: Droupadi Murmu became President in 2022, the second woman to do so.
- Option C: Sonia Gandhi has been a political leader but not President.
- Option D: Indira Gandhi was Prime Minister, not President.

Final Answer: Pratibha Patil ⇒

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



Q13.

Solution

What is asked: the largest ocean in the world.

Reasoning: The Pacific Ocean is the largest and deepest ocean on Earth. It covers about one third of the planet's surface. It stretches from Asia and Australia to the Americas.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: The Atlantic Ocean is the second largest.
- Option C: The Indian Ocean is the third largest.
- Option D: The Arctic Ocean is the smallest of the major oceans.

Final Answer: Pacific Ocean $\Rightarrow$

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

Q14.

Solution

What is asked: the meaning of the "Balance of Trade".

Reasoning: The balance of trade is the difference between the value of a country's exports and imports of goods. A surplus means exports exceed imports, and a deficit means the reverse. It covers visible goods, unlike the broader balance of payments.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The gap between government revenue and spending is the fiscal deficit.
- Option B: The gap between bank assets and liabilities is a balance-sheet concept.
- Option D: The gap between national income and expenditure is a separate idea.

Final Answer: Exports and imports of goods $\Rightarrow$

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



Q15.

Solution

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

Reasoning: DNA stands for Deoxyribonucleic Acid. It is the molecule that carries the genetic instructions of living organisms. Its structure is the famous double helix described by Watson and Crick.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: “Deoxyribose Nucleic Amine” is not the correct expansion.
- Option B: “Dinucleic Acid” is not a real term.
- Option C: “Diribonucleic Acid” is incorrect.

Final Answer: Deoxyribonucleic Acid ⇒

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

Q16.

Solution

What is asked: the sport of the Ryder Cup.

Reasoning: The Ryder Cup is a famous team golf competition. It is contested between teams from Europe and the United States. It is held every two years.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: Tennis team events include the Davis Cup.
- Option C: Cricket has no tournament by this name.
- Option D: Rugby’s top prize is the Rugby World Cup.

Final Answer: Golf ⇒

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

Q17.

Solution

What is asked: the popular name of the Right Livelihood Award.

Reasoning: The Right Livelihood Award is popularly called the “Alternative Nobel Prize”. It was set up in 1980 to honour work on urgent human and environmental challenges. It is presented in Stockholm, usually around the time of the Nobel



Prizes.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The “Nobel Prize of Asia” is the Ramon Magsaysay Award.
- Option B: The “Green Nobel” refers to the Goldman Environmental Prize.
- Option C: “People’s Nobel” is not the recognised name for this award.

Final Answer: “Alternative Nobel Prize” ⇒ D

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

Q18.

Solution

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

Reasoning: *The Alchemist* was written by the Brazilian author Paulo Coelho. It tells the story of a shepherd named Santiago in search of treasure. It is one of the best-selling books in history.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: Gabriel Garcia Marquez wrote *One Hundred Years of Solitude*.
- Option C: Khaled Hosseini wrote *The Kite Runner*.
- Option D: Chetan Bhagat wrote *Five Point Someone*, among others.

Final Answer: Paulo Coelho ⇒ A

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

Q19.

Solution

What is asked: the country that gifted the Statue of Liberty.

Reasoning: The Statue of Liberty was gifted to the United States by France in 1886. It marked the friendship between the two nations and the centenary of American independence. It was designed by Frederic Auguste Bartholdi.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Britain did not gift the statue.
- Option B: Spain had no role in the gift.
- Option D: Italy was not the donor.



Final Answer: France $\Rightarrow$

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

Q20.

Solution

What is asked: the “Father of the Indian Space Programme”.

Reasoning: Dr. Vikram Sarabhai is regarded as the Father of the Indian Space Programme. He was the driving force behind the founding of ISRO. The Vikram lander of Chandrayaan is named in his honour.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: Homi Bhabha is called the father of India’s nuclear programme.
- Option C: A. P. J. Abdul Kalam led missile development and later became President.
- Option D: Satish Dhawan was a later chairman of ISRO, not its founder.

Final Answer: Vikram Sarabhai $\Rightarrow$

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

Q21.

Solution

What is asked: the year the Rowlatt Act was passed.

Reasoning: The Rowlatt Act was passed in 1919. It allowed detention without trial and curbed civil liberties. The protests against it led to the tragic Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: 1909 was the year of the Morley-Minto Reforms.
- Option C: 1925 saw the Kakori conspiracy case, not the Rowlatt Act.
- Option D: 1935 was the year of the Government of India Act.

Final Answer: 1919 $\Rightarrow$

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



Q22.

Solution

What is asked: the first Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

Reasoning: G. V. Mavalankar was the first Speaker of the Lok Sabha. He served from 1952 and is often called the “Father of the Lok Sabha”. He had earlier presided over the Constituent Assembly (Legislative).

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Sardar Hukam Singh was a later Speaker of the Lok Sabha.
- Option C: Nehru was the Prime Minister, not the Speaker.
- Option D: Dr. Rajendra Prasad was the first President of India.

Final Answer: G. V. Mavalankar ⇒ B

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

Q23.

Solution

What is asked: the meaning of a “subsidy”.

Reasoning: A subsidy is financial assistance given by the government to reduce the cost of a good or service. It is used to make essentials affordable or to support certain industries. Common examples are subsidies on food, fuel and fertilisers.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: A tax on imported goods is a customs duty, not a subsidy.
- Option C: Interest charged by banks on loans is a lending rate.
- Option D: A fine for tax evasion is a penalty, not a subsidy.

Final Answer: Government assistance to lower cost ⇒ A

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



Q24.

Solution

What is asked: the state where the Rann of Kutch lies.

Reasoning: The Rann of Kutch is a large salt marsh region located in Gujarat. It includes the Great Rann and the Little Rann. It is famous for the Rann Utsav and the wild ass sanctuary.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Rajasthan has the Thar Desert but not the Rann of Kutch.
- Option B: Maharashtra does not contain the Rann.
- Option C: Madhya Pradesh is a landlocked central state without the Rann.

Final Answer: Gujarat ⇒

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

Q25.

Solution

What is asked: the instrument used to measure temperature.

Reasoning: A thermometer is the instrument used to measure temperature. It works on the expansion of a liquid or on electronic sensors. It is used in medicine, weather monitoring and laboratories.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: A barometer measures atmospheric pressure.
- Option C: A hygrometer measures humidity.
- Option D: An ammeter measures electric current.

Final Answer: Thermometer ⇒

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



Answer Key

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

