

XAT General Knowledge

Sample Paper – 8

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 is regarded as the founder of the Gupta dynasty?

- (A) Chandragupta I
- (B) Sri Gupta
- (C) Samudragupta
- (D) Chandragupta II

Q2. The Election Commission of India is best described as which type of body?



- (A) A constitutional body
- (B) A statutory body
- (C) An executive body
- (D) A non-governmental body

Q3. In the context of trade and industry, “SEZ” stands for:

- (A) State Economic Zone
- (B) Special Enterprise Zone
- (C) Secure Export Zone
- (D) Special Economic Zone

Q4. Which is the highest mountain range in the world?

- (A) The Andes
- (B) The Rockies
- (C) The Himalayas
- (D) The Alps

Q5. What is the pH value of pure water at room temperature?

- (A) 5
- (B) 7
- (C) 9
- (D) 0

Q6. The Uber Cup is a major international team championship associated with which sport?

- (A) Tennis
- (B) Table Tennis
- (C) Squash
- (D) Badminton



- Q7.** The Sahitya Akademi Award is given for excellence in which field?
- (A) Literature
 - (B) Music
 - (C) Painting
 - (D) Dance
- Q8.** The novel *Pride and Prejudice* was written by:
- (A) Charlotte Bronte
 - (B) Jane Austen
 - (C) Emily Bronte
 - (D) George Eliot
- Q9.** The headquarters of Interpol is located in:
- (A) Geneva, Switzerland
 - (B) The Hague, Netherlands
 - (C) Vienna, Austria
 - (D) Lyon, France
- Q10.** Gandhi's first Satyagraha in India, the Champaran Satyagraha of 1917, took place in which present-day state?
- (A) Bihar
 - (B) Gujarat
 - (C) Uttar Pradesh
 - (D) Maharashtra
- Q11.** The advertising line "Have a break, have a ..." completes with which brand?
- (A) Dairy Milk
 - (B) Snickers



- (C) Kit Kat
- (D) Bournville

Q12. A joint session of the two Houses of the Indian Parliament is presided over by:

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

Q13. The Jog Falls, one of India's highest waterfalls, are located on which river?

- (A) The Kaveri
- (B) The Krishna
- (C) The Sharavati
- (D) The Tungabhadra

Q14. In economics, a “monopoly” is a market characterised by:

- (A) a single seller
- (B) many small sellers
- (C) two dominant sellers
- (D) a single buyer

Q15. Which is the most abundant metal in the Earth's crust?

- (A) Iron
- (B) Copper
- (C) Aluminium
- (D) Sodium



- Q16.** How many players from each side are on the field at a time in a game of football (soccer)?
- (A) Nine
 - (B) Ten
 - (C) Eleven
 - (D) Twelve
- Q17.** The Kalinga Prize is awarded by UNESCO for outstanding work in:
- (A) Peace and diplomacy
 - (B) Literature
 - (C) Environmental protection
 - (D) The popularization of science
- Q18.** The epic *Ramcharitmanas* was written by:
- (A) Tulsidas
 - (B) Valmiki
 - (C) Surdas
 - (D) Kabir
- Q19.** The currency of the United States of America is the:
- (A) US Dollar
 - (B) Pound Sterling
 - (C) Euro
 - (D) Peso
- Q20.** Who among the following freedom fighters is popularly known as “Punjab Kesari”?
- (A) Bhagat Singh
 - (B) Lala Lajpat Rai



- (C) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- (D) Bipin Chandra Pal

Q21. Shah Jahan shifted the Mughal capital to Delhi (Shahjahanabad) from which earlier capital?

- (A) Lahore
- (B) Fatehpur Sikri
- (C) Ajmer
- (D) Agra

Q22. Who was the first Prime Minister of independent India?

- (A) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- (B) Dr. Rajendra Prasad
- (C) C. Rajagopalachari
- (D) Jawaharlal Nehru

Q23. In economics, a “recession” is best described as:

- (A) a sudden rise in stock prices
- (B) a general and sustained rise in prices
- (C) a decline in economic activity over a sustained period
- (D) an increase in government spending

Q24. The Wagah border is a crossing between India and:

- (A) Pakistan
- (B) Bangladesh
- (C) Nepal
- (D) China

Q25. What is the chemical symbol for iron?



- (A) Ir
- (B) Fe
- (C) In
- (D) Fr



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

What is asked: the founder of the Gupta dynasty.

Reasoning: Sri Gupta is regarded as the founder of the Gupta dynasty, around the late third century. He and his son Ghatotkacha were the earliest rulers of the line. The dynasty rose to real prominence a little later under Chandragupta I.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Chandragupta I expanded the kingdom but was not its founder.
- Option C: Samudragupta was a great later conqueror of the dynasty.
- Option D: Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya) ruled during the dynasty's golden age.

Final Answer: Sri Gupta $\Rightarrow$ **B**

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

Q2.**Solution**

What is asked: the nature of the Election Commission of India.

Reasoning: The Election Commission of India is a constitutional body, established directly by Article 324 of the Constitution. It conducts elections to Parliament, the state legislatures and the offices of President and Vice-President. Because it is created by the Constitution itself, it is called a constitutional body.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: A statutory body is created by an ordinary law, not by the Constitution.
- Option C: It is independent of the executive, not an executive body.
- Option D: It is a government constitutional authority, not a non-governmental one.

Final Answer: A constitutional body $\Rightarrow$ **A**

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



Q3.

Solution

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

Reasoning: SEZ stands for Special Economic Zone. It is a demarcated area with business and trade laws that differ from the rest of the country. Such zones are set up to boost exports, investment and employment.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: “State Economic Zone” is not the recognised term.
- Option B: “Special Enterprise Zone” is incorrect.
- Option C: “Secure Export Zone” is not the term used.

Final Answer: Special Economic Zone ⇒

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

Q4.

Solution

What is asked: the highest mountain range in the world.

Reasoning: The Himalayas form the highest mountain range in the world. They contain Mount Everest and most of the world’s tallest peaks. The range stretches across the northern edge of the Indian subcontinent.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The Andes are the longest range but not the highest.
- Option B: The Rockies of North America are far lower.
- Option D: The Alps of Europe are much lower than the Himalayas.

Final Answer: The Himalayas ⇒

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



Q5.

Solution

What is asked: the pH value of pure water.

Reasoning: Pure water is neutral, being neither acidic nor basic. On the pH scale, which runs from 0 to 14, neutral is exactly 7. So the pH of pure water at room temperature is 7.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: A pH of 5 would be acidic.
- Option C: A pH of 9 would be basic.
- Option D: A pH of 0 would be strongly acidic.

Final Answer: 7 $\Rightarrow$

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

Q6.

Solution

What is asked: the sport of the Uber Cup.

Reasoning: The Uber Cup is the premier international women's team championship in badminton. It is the women's counterpart to the men's Thomas Cup. Both are organised by the world badminton federation.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Tennis team events include the Billie Jean King Cup.
- Option B: Table tennis has the Swaythling and Corbillon Cups.
- Option C: Squash has no championship by this name.

Final Answer: Badminton $\Rightarrow$

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



Q7.

Solution

What is asked: the field of the Sahitya Akademi Award.

Reasoning: The Sahitya Akademi Award is given for excellence in literature. It honours outstanding books written in the languages recognised by the Akademi. It is one of India's most respected literary honours.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: Music is recognised by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, not the Sahitya Akademi.
- Option C: Painting falls under the Lalit Kala Akademi.
- Option D: Dance is again under the Sangeet Natak Akademi.

Final Answer: Literature $\Rightarrow$ A

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

Q8.

Solution

What is asked: the author of *Pride and Prejudice*.

Reasoning: *Pride and Prejudice* was written by Jane Austen and first published in 1813. It follows the character of Elizabeth Bennet and her family. It remains one of the best-loved English novels.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Charlotte Bronte wrote *Jane Eyre*.
- Option C: Emily Bronte wrote *Wuthering Heights*.
- Option D: George Eliot wrote *Middlemarch*.

Final Answer: Jane Austen $\Rightarrow$ B

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



Q9.

Solution

What is asked: the location of the Interpol headquarters.

Reasoning: Interpol, the International Criminal Police Organization, is headquartered in Lyon, France. It helps police forces of member countries cooperate against crime. Lyon has hosted its General Secretariat for decades.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Geneva hosts the WTO and many UN bodies, not Interpol.
- Option B: The Hague hosts the International Court of Justice.
- Option C: Vienna hosts the IAEA and OPEC.

Final Answer: Lyon, France ⇒

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

Q10.

Solution

What is asked: the state of the 1917 Champaran Satyagraha.

Reasoning: The Champaran Satyagraha of 1917 took place in Champaran, in present-day Bihar. It was Gandhi's first Satyagraha on Indian soil. It was launched to support indigo farmers against exploitative planters.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: The Kheda Satyagraha, not Champaran, was in Gujarat.
- Option C: Uttar Pradesh was not the site of the Champaran movement.
- Option D: Maharashtra was not connected with the Champaran struggle.

Final Answer: Bihar ⇒

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



Q11.

Solution

What is asked: the brand behind “Have a break, have a ...”.

Reasoning: The line “Have a break, have a Kit Kat” is the long-running slogan of Kit Kat. It links the chocolate wafer bar with the idea of a rest or break. The campaign has been used for many years worldwide.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Dairy Milk uses other campaign lines.
- Option B: Snickers is known for “You’re not you when you’re hungry”.
- Option D: Bournville did not use this tagline.

Final Answer: Kit Kat ⇒

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

Q12.

Solution

What is asked: who presides over a joint session of Parliament.

Reasoning: A joint session of the two Houses of Parliament is presided over by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. Such a sitting is called to resolve a deadlock over an ordinary bill. In the Speaker’s absence, the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha presides.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The Rajya Sabha Chairman does not preside over a joint session.
- Option C: The President does not preside over sittings of the Houses.
- Option D: The Prime Minister is a member, not the presiding officer.

Final Answer: The Speaker of the Lok Sabha ⇒

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



Q13.

Solution

What is asked: the river on which the Jog Falls lie.

Reasoning: The Jog Falls are formed by the Sharavati river in Karnataka. They are among the highest plunge waterfalls in India. The water drops in several segments from a great height.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: The Kaveri feeds other falls such as Shivanasamudra.
- Option B: The Krishna does not form the Jog Falls.
- Option D: The Tungabhadra is a tributary system, not the source of these falls.

Final Answer: The Sharavati $\Rightarrow$

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

Q14.

Solution

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

Reasoning: A monopoly is a market situation in which there is a single seller of a product with no close substitutes. The single seller has significant control over price. Buyers have no alternative supplier to turn to.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: Many small sellers describe perfect competition.
- Option C: Two dominant sellers describe a duopoly.
- Option D: A single buyer describes a monopsony, not a monopoly.

Final Answer: A single seller $\Rightarrow$

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



Q15.

Solution

What is asked: the most abundant metal in the Earth's crust.

Reasoning: Aluminium is the most abundant metal in the Earth's crust. It makes up about 8 percent of the crust by weight. Iron is the second most abundant metal.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Iron is the second most abundant metal, not the first.
- Option B: Copper is present in far smaller amounts.
- Option D: Sodium is less abundant than aluminium.

Final Answer: Aluminium $\Rightarrow$

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

Q16.

Solution

What is asked: the number of football players per side on the field.

Reasoning: A football (soccer) team has eleven players on the field at a time. This includes ten outfield players and one goalkeeper. A side reduced below seven players cannot continue the match.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Nine is fewer than the standard eleven.
- Option B: Ten is fewer than the standard eleven.
- Option D: Twelve is more than the standard eleven.

Final Answer: Eleven $\Rightarrow$

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

Q17.

Solution

What is asked: the field honoured by the Kalinga Prize.

Reasoning: The Kalinga Prize is awarded by UNESCO for the popularization of science. It honours people who help make science accessible to the general public. It is one of the oldest UNESCO awards.



Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Peace and diplomacy are not the focus of the Kalinga Prize.
- Option B: Literature is not the field of this prize.
- Option C: Environmental protection is not what the prize recognises.

Final Answer: The popularization of science $\Rightarrow$

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

Q18.

Solution

What is asked: the author of *Ramcharitmanas*.

Reasoning: *Ramcharitmanas* was written by the poet-saint Tulsidas in the sixteenth century. It retells the story of Lord Rama in the Awadhi language. It remains one of the most revered works of devotional literature.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: Valmiki wrote the original Sanskrit *Ramayana*.
- Option C: Surdas is known for the *Sur Sagar*, devoted to Krishna.
- Option D: Kabir is known for his dohas, not the *Ramcharitmanas*.

Final Answer: Tulsidas $\Rightarrow$

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

Q19.

Solution

What is asked: the currency of the United States.

Reasoning: The currency of the United States of America is the US Dollar. It is one of the most widely held reserve currencies in the world. Its symbol is the dollar sign.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: The Pound Sterling is the currency of the United Kingdom.
- Option C: The Euro is used across much of the European Union.
- Option D: The Peso is used in Mexico and several other countries.

Final Answer: US Dollar $\Rightarrow$



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

Q20.

Solution

What is asked: the freedom fighter called “Punjab Kesari”.

Reasoning: Lala Lajpat Rai is popularly known as “Punjab Kesari”, meaning the Lion of Punjab. He was one of the Lal-Bal-Pal trio of nationalist leaders. He died from injuries suffered during a lathi charge in 1928.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Bhagat Singh is remembered as Shaheed-e-Azam.
- Option C: Bal Gangadhar Tilak is known as Lokmanya.
- Option D: Bipin Chandra Pal was a fellow leader but did not carry this title.

Final Answer: Lala Lajpat Rai ⇒ **B**

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

Q21.

Solution

What is asked: the capital from which Shah Jahan moved to Delhi.

Reasoning: Shah Jahan shifted the Mughal capital from Agra to Delhi, where he built Shahjahanabad. The new capital included the Red Fort and the Jama Masjid. The move was completed around 1648.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Lahore was an important city but not the capital he moved from.
- Option B: Fatehpur Sikri had been Akbar’s capital earlier.
- Option C: Ajmer was not the Mughal capital before this shift.

Final Answer: Agra ⇒ **D**

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



Q22.

Solution

What is asked: the first Prime Minister of independent India.

Reasoning: Jawaharlal Nehru became the first Prime Minister of independent India in 1947. He held the office until his death in 1964. He is remembered for shaping India's early economic and foreign policy.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Sardar Patel was the first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister.
- Option B: Dr. Rajendra Prasad was the first President of India.
- Option C: C. Rajagopalachari was the last Governor-General, not Prime Minister.

Final Answer: Jawaharlal Nehru ⇒ D

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

Q23.

Solution

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

Reasoning: A recession is a decline in economic activity that lasts over a sustained period. It is often marked by falling output, employment and incomes. A common rule of thumb is two consecutive quarters of falling GDP.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: A sudden rise in stock prices is not a recession.
- Option B: A general rise in prices describes inflation.
- Option D: An increase in government spending is fiscal policy, not a recession.

Final Answer: A sustained decline in economic activity ⇒ C

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



Q24.

Solution

What is asked: the two countries linked by the Wagah border.

Reasoning: The Wagah border is a crossing on the road between India and Pakistan. It lies between Amritsar in India and Lahore in Pakistan. It is famous for its daily flag-lowering ceremony.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option B: The India-Bangladesh border has crossings such as Petrapole.
- Option C: The India-Nepal border has crossings such as Sunauli.
- Option D: The India-China border is a separate frontier.

Final Answer: Pakistan $\Rightarrow$

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

Q25.

Solution

What is asked: the chemical symbol for iron.

Reasoning: The chemical symbol for iron is Fe. It comes from the Latin name for iron, ferrum. Iron is a widely used metal with atomic number 26.

Why the other options are wrong:

- Option A: Ir is the symbol for iridium.
- Option C: In is the symbol for indium.
- Option D: Fr is the symbol for francium.

Final Answer: Fe $\Rightarrow$

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



Answer Key

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

