

SET General Awareness

Sample Paper – 4

Duration: 16 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 16

Instructions

- This paper contains **16** Multiple Choice Questions (Single Correct Answer), modelled on the General Awareness portion of the **Symbiosis Entrance Test (SET)**.
- Each correct answer carries **+1 mark**. There is **no negative marking** for incorrect or unattempted answers.
- Only **one** option is correct. Choose carefully.
- Syllabus: Current Affairs (national & international), History, Geography, Economy, Science & Technology, Sports, Awards, Polity, and Environment.
- Use of mobile phones, calculators, or electronic gadgets is strictly prohibited during the actual exam.

Q1. Who was the **first recipient** of the Param Veer Chakra, India's highest military honour for gallantry in the face of the enemy?

- (A) Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa
- (B) General Thimayya
- (C) Captain Vikram Batra
- (D) Major Somnath Sharma

Q2. Which company partnered with Taiwan's PSMC to set up India's **first commercial semiconductor fabrication plant** at Dholera, Gujarat, with an investment of approximately Rs. 91,000 crore (approved 2024)?

- (A) Tata Electronics
- (B) Infosys



- (C) Wipro
- (D) HCL Technologies

Q3. In October 2024, India and China reached a significant agreement related to the Line of Actual Control (LAC). What did this agreement primarily concern?

- (A) Mutual withdrawal of troops beyond 100 km from the LAC
- (B) Resumption of patrolling at friction points along the LAC**
- (C) Establishment of a joint India–China military academy near the LAC
- (D) Opening of a new trade corridor through Sikkim

Q4. The **PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana**, launched in February 2024, aims to provide free electricity to households by promoting which of the following?

- (A) Installation of wind turbines on rooftops
- (B) Connection to micro-hydro power grids
- (C) Installation of rooftop solar panels to supply up to 300 units free per month**
- (D) Distribution of subsidised electric generators to rural households

Q5. Which country won the **ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023**, defeating India by 6 wickets in the final played at Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, on November 19, 2023?

- (A) South Africa
- (B) England
- (C) New Zealand
- (D) Australia**



- Q6.** The **Battle of Plassey** (1757) was a decisive turning point in Indian history because it:
- (A) Established British East India Company supremacy in Bengal by defeating Nawab Siraj-ud-Daulah, laying the foundation for British rule in India
 - (B) Ended Maratha dominance over the Deccan plateau permanently
 - (C) Resulted in the French acquiring trading rights in the Carnatic region
 - (D) Forced the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb to sign a peace treaty with the British
- Q7.** Which Indian state is the **largest by geographical area** (342,239 sq km), formerly known as Rajputana, with the Thar Desert covering approximately 60% of its territory?
- (A) Madhya Pradesh
 - (B) **Rajasthan**
 - (C) Maharashtra
 - (D) Uttar Pradesh
- Q8.** The **Western Ghats** of India were inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in recognition of their outstanding biodiversity and numerous endemic species. In which year did this inscription take place?
- (A) 2004
 - (B) 2008
 - (C) **2012**
 - (D) 2016
- Q9.** **Article 44** of the Indian Constitution, which directs the State to secure a **Uniform Civil Code** for citizens throughout the territory of India, falls under which part of the Constitution?



- (A) Fundamental Rights (Part III)
- (B) Fundamental Duties (Part IV-A)
- (C) Emergency Provisions (Part XVIII)
- (D) **Directive Principles of State Policy (Part IV)**

Q10. As of early 2025, India's **foreign exchange reserves** stood at approximately USD 620–640 billion, placing India at which position globally?

- (A) **4th (after China, Japan, and Switzerland)**
- (B) 2nd (after China only)
- (C) 6th (after China, Japan, Switzerland, Russia, and Saudi Arabia)
- (D) 8th (after the top seven including Germany and South Korea)

Q11. The **Digital India** initiative, aimed at transforming India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy, was officially launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on:

- (A) August 15, 2014
- (B) **July 1, 2015**
- (C) January 26, 2016
- (D) October 2, 2015

Q12. **P.V. Sindhu** became the first Indian woman to win two Olympic medals in individual events. Which pair of medals did she win?

- (A) Gold at Rio 2016 and Silver at Tokyo 2020
- (B) Bronze at Rio 2016 and Silver at Tokyo 2020
- (C) **Silver at Rio 2016 and Bronze at Tokyo 2020**
- (D) Gold at Rio 2016 and Bronze at Tokyo 2020

Q13. ISRO's **Gaganyaan** mission is significant because it represents:



- (A) India's first Mars orbiter mission, successfully inserted into Martian orbit in 2014
- (B) India's lunar sample-return mission planned for the late 2020s
- (C) India's first deep-space telescope placed in the Sun–Earth L2 orbit
- (D) **India's first crewed spaceflight mission, with the TV-D1 uncrewed crew-module test conducted in October 2023 and human flight planned for 2025**

Q14. The **Khelo India Youth Games 2024** were hosted by which Indian state, with Maharashtra topping the medal tally by winning 57 gold medals?

- (A) **Tamil Nadu**
- (B) Haryana
- (C) Gujarat
- (D) Madhya Pradesh

Q15. Which port, located in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra, is India's **largest container port**, handling approximately 55% of the country's container traffic?

- (A) Kandla Port (Deendayal Port Authority)
- (B) **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA / Nhava Sheva)**
- (C) Chennai Port Trust
- (D) Visakhapatnam Port Authority

Q16. The **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, approved by the Union Cabinet on July 29, 2020, replaced the previous national education policy that had been in place since:

- (A) 1968
- (B) 1976



(C) 1986

(D) 1992



Detailed Solutions**Solution**

Concept: The Param Veer Chakra (PVC) is India's highest wartime gallantry award, instituted on January 26, 1950, and can be awarded posthumously.

Step 1 — Identify the first recipient. Major Somnath Sharma of the 4th Battalion, Kumaon Regiment, was the first recipient of the Param Veer Chakra. He was awarded the honour posthumously for extraordinary bravery during the defence of Badgam airfield in Jammu & Kashmir on November 3, 1947, during the first Indo-Pakistani war.

Step 2 — Why the award was posthumous. Major Sharma was killed in action when an enemy mortar shell struck the ammunition he was handling, but not before his actions halted the advance of Pakistani tribal raiders and protected the Srinagar airfield.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q1.
- **(A) Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa** – Cariappa was India's first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army; he did not receive the PVC.
 - **(B) General Thimayya** – General Thimayya was a distinguished army chief known for his role in Korea and as UN commander; he is not associated with the PVC.
 - **(C) Captain Vikram Batra** – Batra received the PVC posthumously for the Kargil War (1999), more than five decades after the first award.

Answer: (D) **Go Back to Q1**

Solution

Concept: India's Semiconductor Mission (ISM), launched in 2021 under the Ministry of Electronics and IT, aims to build a domestic chip manufacturing ecosystem. Dholera Special Investment Region in Gujarat is a key hub.

Step 1 — Identify the company. In February 2024, the Union Cabinet approved Tata Electronics' proposal to establish India's first commercial semiconductor fabrication plant in Dholera, Gujarat. Tata Electronics partnered with Taiwan's PSMC (Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation) for this project, with a total investment of approximately Rs. 91,000 crore.

Step 2 — Significance. This marks India's entry into front-end semiconductor manufacturing, a strategic industry for national security and economic self-reliance ("Atmanirbhar Bharat").



Why other options are wrong:

- Q2.
- **(B) Infosys** – Infosys is an IT services company; it is not involved in semiconductor fabrication.
 - **(C) Wipro** – Wipro similarly operates in IT services and has no semiconductor fab partnership with PSMC.
 - **(D) HCL Technologies** – HCL Technologies is an IT and BPO company; it has no role in the Dholera fab project.

Answer: (A) **Go Back to Q2**

Solution

Concept: Following the Galwan Valley clash of June 2020, India–China relations along the LAC in eastern Ladakh were severely strained, with both sides deploying additional troops at multiple friction points. Diplomatic and military-level talks continued for over four years.

Step 1 — The October 2024 agreement. In October 2024, after multiple rounds of talks at the Corps Commander level, India and China reached an agreement to resume patrolling at friction points along the LAC in eastern Ladakh. This was described as a significant diplomatic breakthrough that partially restored the pre-2020 status quo in terms of patrolling rights.

Step 2 — Scope. The agreement primarily covered resumption of patrolling at key friction points such as Depsang and Demchok, and did not entail a full withdrawal of troops to 100 km behind the LAC.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q3.
- **(A) Mutual withdrawal of troops beyond 100 km** – No such withdrawal was agreed upon; troops remained deployed closer to the LAC.
 - **(C) Joint India–China military academy** – No such proposal exists in the context of LAC-related agreements.
 - **(D) New trade corridor through Sikkim** – Trade corridor discussions are separate from the patrolling/LAC friction-point agreement.

Answer: (B) **Go Back to Q3**

Solution

Concept: PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana is a flagship rooftop solar scheme that merges several earlier solar subsidy programmes. It was announced in the Interim



Budget 2024–25 and formally launched on February 13, 2024.

Step 1 — Core mechanism. Under the scheme, households that install rooftop solar panels of up to 3 kW capacity receive subsidies of up to Rs. 78,000. The solar generation offsets the household's electricity bill, effectively providing up to 300 units of free electricity per month.

Step 2 — Targets. The scheme targets one crore (10 million) households across India, with a total outlay of Rs. 75,021 crore.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q4.**
- **(A) Wind turbines on rooftops** – Rooftop wind turbines are not feasible at residential scale and are not part of this scheme.
 - **(B) Micro-hydro power grids** – Micro-hydro is relevant for hilly/water-rich terrains and not the focus of PM Surya Ghar.
 - **(D) Subsidised electric generators** – Fossil-fuel generators contradict the scheme's renewable-energy objectives.

Answer: (C) **Go Back to Q4**

Solution

Concept: The ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 was the 13th edition of the tournament, hosted entirely by India (October–November 2023).

Step 1 — The final. The final was played on November 19, 2023, at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad – the world's largest cricket stadium. Australia chased down India's total of 240 with 6 wickets in hand, winning in 43 overs. Travis Head was adjudged Player of the Match for his century.

Step 2 — Australia's record. This was Australia's sixth ODI World Cup title, the most by any nation, reinforcing their dominance in the 50-over format.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q5.**
- **(A) South Africa** – South Africa reached the semi-finals but lost to Australia; they have never won an ODI World Cup.
 - **(B) England** – England were the defending champions (2019) but were eliminated in the group stage in 2023.
 - **(C) New Zealand** – New Zealand lost to India in the semi-finals and did not play in the final.

Answer: (D) **Go Back to Q5**



Solution

Concept: The Battle of Plassey (June 23, 1757) is considered the event that effectively began British colonial rule in India. It was fought on the banks of the Bhagirathi River in Bengal.

Step 1 — The battle and its outcome. Robert Clive led the British East India Company forces against Nawab Siraj-ud-Daulah of Bengal. The Nawab's key commander, Mir Jafar, was bribed to defect, leading to a rout. The Nawab was captured and later executed.

Step 2 — Historical significance. Following Plassey, the East India Company gained the Diwani (revenue collection rights) of Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa in 1765, effectively making it the ruler of a large swathe of India and launching the era of British political dominance in the subcontinent.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q6.**
- **(B) Ended Maratha dominance permanently** – Maratha power was checked at the Third Battle of Panipat (1761), not Plassey; moreover, Maratha power was not in Bengal.
 - **(C) French acquiring Carnatic rights** – The French were already active in the Carnatic region before Plassey; Plassey was a British–Nawab conflict.
 - **(D) Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb treaty** – Aurangzeb died in 1707, fifty years before the Battle of Plassey.

Answer: (A) **Go Back to Q6**

Solution

Concept: After the reorganisation of states in 1956 and the merger of Ajmer in 1956, Rajasthan became the largest state of India by area.

Step 1 — Area comparison. Rajasthan covers 342,239 sq km, followed by Madhya Pradesh (308,252 sq km) and Maharashtra (307,713 sq km). The Thar Desert (Great Indian Desert) dominates the western and north-western parts of Rajasthan, covering approximately 60% of the state.

Step 2 — Historical name. Before independence and integration, the region was collectively called Rajputana, a reference to the numerous Rajput kingdoms that ruled there. The name “Rajasthan” (land of kings) was formally adopted in 1949.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q7.**
- **(A) Madhya Pradesh** – MP is the second largest state by area (308,252 sq km), often confused with Rajasthan for this distinction.
 - **(C) Maharashtra** – Maharashtra (307,713 sq km) is the third largest state;



it is the most populous of the three but not the largest by area.

- **(D) Uttar Pradesh** – UP has the highest population of any Indian state but covers only 240,928 sq km, ranking fifth by area.

Answer: (B) **Go Back to Q7**

Solution

Concept: UNESCO World Heritage Sites are inscribed for their Outstanding Universal Value. The Western Ghats are one of the world's eight "hottest hotspots" of biological diversity.

Step 1 — Year of inscription. The Western Ghats were inscribed as a UNESCO Natural World Heritage Site in 2012. The nominated area comprises 39 properties across four states: Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Maharashtra/Goa.

Step 2 — Significance. The Western Ghats are older than the Himalayas and influence Indian monsoon weather patterns. They harbour more than 5,000 species of flowering plants, 139 mammal species, 508 bird species, and 179 amphibian species, many of which are endemic.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q8.**
- **(A) 2004** – 2004 saw the inscription of Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park; the Western Ghats had not been nominated at that time.
 - **(B) 2008** – No significant Indian inscription of the Western Ghats occurred in 2008.
 - **(D) 2016** – The Nalanda Mahavihara was inscribed in 2016; the Western Ghats had already been inscribed four years earlier.

Answer: (C) **Go Back to Q8**

Solution

Concept: The Indian Constitution is divided into Parts. Part IV (Articles 36–51) contains the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP), which are non-justiciable guidelines for the state in governance.

Step 1 — Article 44. Article 44 reads: "The State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India." This is a DPSP – it cannot be enforced in a court of law but is fundamental to governance.

Step 2 — Distinction from other Parts. Fundamental Rights (Part III, Articles 12–35) are justiciable. Fundamental Duties (Part IV-A, Article 51A) were added by the 42nd Amendment. Emergency Provisions are in Part XVIII. None of these



contain Article 44.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q9.**
- **(A) Fundamental Rights (Part III)** – Fundamental Rights are justiciable; Article 44 is non-justiciable and therefore a DPSP.
 - **(B) Fundamental Duties (Part IV-A)** – Fundamental Duties (Article 51A) are obligations on citizens, not directives to the State regarding civil law.
 - **(C) Emergency Provisions (Part XVIII)** – Emergency Provisions (Articles 352–360) deal with national, state, and financial emergencies.

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

Solution

Concept: A country's foreign exchange reserves include foreign currencies, gold, Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), and reserve positions with the IMF. Large reserves indicate economic stability and import/debt-servicing capacity.

Step 1 — India's reserves in early 2025. India's foreign exchange reserves reached a historic high of approximately USD 704 billion in October 2024 before moderating to USD 620–640 billion range in early 2025 due to RBI intervention to support the rupee. This placed India 4th globally.

Step 2 — Global ranking context. China leads with approximately USD 3.2 trillion, Japan holds about USD 1.2 trillion, Switzerland holds about USD 800 billion. India is firmly placed 4th ahead of Saudi Arabia, Russia, and others.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q10.**
- **(B) 2nd after China only** – Japan (USD 1.2 trillion) and Switzerland (USD 800 billion) are both significantly above India's reserves.
 - **(C) 6th position** – Russia's reserves were impacted by sanctions; India's reserves place it ahead of Russia and Saudi Arabia, not behind them.
 - **(D) 8th position** – India is not ranked that low; its reserves comfortably place it in the top five globally.

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

Solution

Concept: Digital India is a flagship programme of the Government of India to transform the country into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. It was launched with three core vision areas: digital infrastructure as a utility for



every citizen, governance and services on demand, and digital empowerment of citizens.

Step 1 — Launch date. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Digital India initiative on **July 1, 2015**, at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi, in the presence of leading industrialists and technology company heads.

Step 2 — Key initiatives under Digital India. These include BharatNet (rural broadband), DigiLocker, Unified Payment Interface (UPI), e-Hospital, and the Common Service Centres (CSCs) network.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q11.**
- (A) **August 15, 2014** – August 15, 2014 was Independence Day; Digital India had not yet been formally launched. The programme was conceptualised in 2014 but launched in 2015.
 - (C) **January 26, 2016** – January 26 is Republic Day; no Digital India launch occurred on this date.
 - (D) **October 2, 2015** – October 2 is Gandhi Jayanti and is associated with Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (launched October 2, 2014), not Digital India.

Answer: (B) **Go Back to Q11**

Solution

Concept: P.V. Sindhu (Pusarla Venkata Sindhu) is an Indian professional badminton player and one of the country's most decorated individual athletes at the Olympic Games.

Step 1 — Rio 2016 Olympics. Sindhu won the **Silver medal** at the Rio 2016 Olympics in women's singles badminton, losing the final to Spain's Carolina Marin. She was the first Indian woman to win an Olympic silver medal in badminton.

Step 2 — Tokyo 2020 Olympics. At the Tokyo 2020 Olympics (held in 2021), Sindhu won the **Bronze medal**, defeating He Bing Jiao of China in the bronze medal play-off. This made her the first Indian woman – and only the second Indian overall – to win two individual Olympic medals.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q12.**
- (A) **Gold at Rio 2016 and Silver at Tokyo 2020** – Sindhu did not win gold at Rio; she won silver. She also won bronze (not silver) at Tokyo.
 - (B) **Bronze at Rio 2016 and Silver at Tokyo 2020** – The metals are reversed; she won silver at Rio and bronze at Tokyo.
 - (D) **Gold at Rio 2016 and Bronze at Tokyo 2020** – She won silver (not



gold) at Rio 2016.

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q12

Solution

Concept: Gaganyaan is ISRO's human spaceflight programme that aims to send Indian astronauts (Vyomanauts) to low Earth orbit. It is India's most ambitious space mission to date.

Step 1 — TV-D1 test flight (October 2023). On October 21, 2023, ISRO conducted the Test Vehicle Demonstration-1 (TV-D1), an uncrewed abort mission. The crew module was successfully separated at high altitude and recovered from the Bay of Bengal, validating the Crew Escape System – a critical safety mechanism.

Step 2 — Human flight timeline. The first uncrewed orbital Gaganyaan mission (with a humanoid robot, Vyommitra) is planned before the crewed flight, which is targeted for 2025. Four Indian Air Force pilots have been trained as astronaut candidates.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q13.**
- **(A) Mars orbiter mission** – This describes the Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan), which entered Martian orbit on September 24, 2014 – a completely different mission.
 - **(B) Lunar sample-return mission** – India's lunar sample-return mission is the LupeX/Chandrayaan-4 concept, separate from Gaganyaan.
 - **(C) Deep-space telescope at L2** – This describes Aditya-L1 (solar mission placed at Sun–Earth L1, not L2, and not a telescope in the traditional sense).

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q13

Solution

Concept: The Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) is an annual multi-discipline sports event organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports under the Khelo India initiative, aimed at identifying and nurturing sporting talent at the grassroots level.

Step 1 — KIYG 2024 host. The 6th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games was held in **Tamil Nadu** in January 2024, with events spread across Chennai, Madurai, Trichy, and Coimbatore.

Step 2 — Medal tally. Maharashtra topped the overall medal tally with 57 gold medals. Tamil Nadu, as the host state, performed commendably in the standings



as well.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q14.**
- **(B) Haryana** – Haryana hosted the 4th edition (KIYG 2021) in Panchkula. The 2024 edition was held in Tamil Nadu.
 - **(C) Gujarat** – Gujarat has hosted Khelo India events but not the 2024 Youth Games.
 - **(D) Madhya Pradesh** – MP hosted the 5th edition of KIYG in 2022 (Bhopal). The 2024 edition moved to Tamil Nadu.

Answer: (A) **Go Back to Q14**

Solution

Concept: India has twelve major ports under the Major Port Trusts Act. Container traffic is a key measure of a port's commercial importance.

Step 1 — JNPA / Nhava Sheva. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA), also known as Nhava Sheva, is located in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra. It is India's largest container port, handling approximately 5.5–6 million TEUs (Twenty-foot Equivalent Units) annually – roughly 55% of India's total container throughput.

Step 2 — Recent developments. JNPA is expanding capacity through new container terminals, including the 4th Container Terminal (operated by APM Terminals). The Navi Mumbai port development will further augment capacity in the region.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q15.**
- **(A) Kandla Port (Deendayal Port Authority)** – Kandla is India's largest port by *cargo volume* (bulk cargo), but not by container traffic.
 - **(C) Chennai Port Trust** – Chennai Port is a major container port on the east coast but handles significantly fewer containers than JNPA.
 - **(D) Visakhapatnam Port Authority** – Visakhapatnam is primarily a bulk cargo port and not a top-ranked container port.

Answer: (B) **Go Back to Q15**

Solution

Concept: Education policy in India has evolved through three major national policy documents: the National Policy on Education 1968, the National Policy on Education 1986 (revised in 1992), and now NEP 2020.



Step 1 — NEP 2020 replacing 1986 policy. The National Education Policy 2020 was approved by the Union Cabinet on July 29, 2020. It replaced the National Policy on Education 1986, which had been in force for 34 years. The 1986 policy had been partly modified through the Programme of Action 1992, but the core framework remained the same.

Step 2 — Key features of NEP 2020. NEP 2020 introduced a new 5+3+3+4 school structure (replacing 10+2), emphasis on mother tongue as medium of instruction up to Grade 5, multidisciplinary higher education, and a target of 50% Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education by 2035.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q16.**
- (A) 1968 – The 1968 NEP was India's *first* national education policy; it was replaced by the 1986 policy, not directly by NEP 2020.
 - (B) 1976 – 1976 saw the 42nd Constitutional Amendment that shifted education from the State List to the Concurrent List; there was no national education policy issued in 1976.
 - (D) 1992 – 1992 was the year of the Programme of Action that reviewed the 1986 policy; it was not a replacement policy in itself.

Answer: (C) **Go Back to Q16**



Answer Key

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	D	2	A	3	B	4	C	5	D
6	A	7	B	8	C	9	D	10	A
11	B	12	C	13	D	14	A	15	B
16	C								

