

SET General Awareness

Sample Paper – 5

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. India signed a Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) in March 2024 with which trade bloc, marking India's first free trade agreement with a European grouping?

- (A) European Union (EU)
- (B) European Free Trade Association (EFTA)
- (C) Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- (D) Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

Q2. Operation Sindoor, launched by India in May 2025, was:

- (A) A joint military exercise between India and the United States in the Indian Ocean



- (B) India's disaster-relief mission during the 2025 Assam floods
- (C) India's precision military strikes against terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir
- (D) The Indian Coast Guard's counter-piracy operation in the Arabian Sea

Q3. Which is India's tallest dam, with a height of approximately 260.5 metres, located on the Bhagirathi River in Uttarakhand?

- (A) Bhakra Dam
- (B) Hirakud Dam
- (C) Nagarjunasagar Dam
- (D) Tehri Dam

Q4. Which Indian musician won three Grammy Awards at the 66th Grammy Awards ceremony held in February 2024, making it a historic achievement for Indian classical music?

- (A) Zakir Hussain
- (B) Shankar Mahadevan
- (C) Ricky Kej
- (D) Shivamani

Q5. India successfully tested the Agni-V ballistic missile equipped with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology in March 2024. This test was codenamed:

- (A) Mission Shakti



- (B) Mission Divyastra
- (C) Mission Astra
- (D) Mission Brahmastra

Q6. The Quit India Movement was launched by Mahatma Gandhi on August 8, 1942. At which location in Bombay (now Mumbai) did Gandhi deliver his famous “Do or Die” speech?

- (A) Calcutta Maidan
- (B) Lucknow’s Hussainabad Imambara
- (C) Gowalia Tank Maidan (August Kranti Maidan)
- (D) Delhi’s Ramlila Maidan

Q7. The Siachen Glacier, often described as the world’s highest battlefield, is a territorial dispute between India and:

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

Q8. The Tropic of Cancer passes through how many Indian states?

- (A) 8
- (B) 6
- (C) 7
- (D) 9



- Q9.** The Right to Information (RTI) Act, which empowers citizens to seek information from public authorities within a stipulated time frame, was enacted by the Indian Parliament in:
- (A) 2003
 - (B) 2005
 - (C) 2007
 - (D) 2009
- Q10.** Under India's G20 Presidency in 2023, the theme adopted for the New Delhi Leaders' Summit was:
- (A) "Innovate for All"
 - (B) "Grow Together, Prosper Together"
 - (C) "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — One Earth, One Family, One Future"
 - (D) "Shaping an Interconnected World"
- Q11.** Who became the first Indian woman to be elected as a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) at its 142nd Session held in Paris in July 2024?
- (A) Sania Mirza
 - (B) Mary Kom
 - (C) P.T. Usha
 - (D) Nita Ambani



- Q12.** India's first high-speed rail corridor, often referred to as the Bullet Train project, will connect which two cities?
- (A) Mumbai and Ahmedabad
 - (B) Delhi and Mumbai
 - (C) Chennai and Bengaluru
 - (D) Delhi and Kolkata
- Q13.** The PM SVAMitva (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) Scheme provides property rights to rural household owners by using:
- (A) Physical surveys conducted by state revenue officials
 - (B) Drone-based mapping of inhabited land and issuance of Property Rights of Record (PoR) cards
 - (C) Satellite imagery alone, without ground-level verification
 - (D) Mobile-based self-reporting by village households
- Q14.** World Ozone Day is observed on September 16 every year to commemorate the signing of which international agreement in 1987?
- (A) Kyoto Protocol
 - (B) Paris Agreement
 - (C) Montreal Protocol
 - (D) Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer
- Q15.** The Polavaram Irrigation Project, declared a national project by the Government of India, is being built across which river



in Andhra Pradesh?

- (A) Krishna River
- (B) Pennar River
- (C) Tungabhadra River
- (D) Godavari River

Q16. Before the Bengal Tiger was designated India's National Animal in 1973 under Project Tiger, which animal held that distinction?

- (A) Lion
- (B) Indian Elephant
- (C) Cheetah
- (D) Indian Bison (Gaur)



Detailed Solutions

Solution

Concept: India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)

Step 1 — Background: The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) comprises four countries: Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein — not to be confused with the EU.

Step 2 — Agreement: India signed the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) with EFTA on **March 10, 2024**, in New Delhi. It is India's first FTA with a European grouping and commits EFTA to at least USD 100 billion in investment in India over 15 years with a target of one million jobs.

Step 3 — Key sectors: The deal covers goods, services, investment, and intellectual property, with focus on pharmaceuticals, watches, chemicals, and financial services.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q1.**
- **(A) European Union** — India has been in FTA negotiations with the EU since 2007 but no deal has been concluded.
 - **(C) ASEAN** — India signed the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement in 2009.
 - **(D) GCC** — India has not yet finalised an FTA with the Gulf Cooperation Council.

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

Solution

Concept: Operation Sindoor (May 2025) — Counter-Terror Military Operation

Step 1 — Background: On April 22, 2025, a terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir, killed 26 tourists. The attack was attributed to The Resistance Front, a shadow group linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba operating from Pakistan.

Step 2 — Operation: On May 7, 2025, India launched **Operation Sindoor**, conducting precision air strikes against nine terrorist infrastructure sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). The Indian Air Force used Rafale jets and standoff weapons to strike targets deep inside Pakistan.

Step 3 — Name significance: “Sindoor” (vermilion) symbolised India's resolve to avenge the widowed spouses of the victims of the Pahalgam attack.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q2.**
- **(A) Joint exercise with USA** — No joint exercise by this name took place in



2025.

- **(B) Assam floods relief** — Disaster relief operations carry different code-names (e.g., Operation Sadbhavana).
- **(D) Coast Guard anti-piracy** — Maritime security operations are separate; no Operation Sindoor in that context.

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

Solution

Concept: India's Tallest Dam — Tehri Dam

Step 1 — Location: Tehri Dam is situated on the confluence of the Bhagirathi and Bhilangana rivers in Tehri Garhwal district, Uttarakhand. It is a rock-fill and earth-fill embankment dam.

Step 2 — Dimensions: At **260.5 metres**, Tehri is India's tallest dam and among the tallest in the world. Reservoir capacity: approximately 3.54 billion cubic metres. Power generation: 1,000 MW.

Step 3 — History: Construction began in 1978 and was completed in 2006. The original Tehri town was submerged and residents were relocated to New Tehri.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q3.**
- **(A) Bhakra Dam** — 226 metres high; on the Sutlej River, Punjab/Himachal Pradesh.
 - **(B) Hirakud Dam** — 61 metres high; the world's longest earthen dam on the Mahanadi River, Odisha.
 - **(C) Nagarjunasagar Dam** — 125 metres high; on the Krishna River, Telangana/Andhra Pradesh.

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

Solution

Concept: 66th Grammy Awards (February 2024) — Indian Winners

Step 1 — Ceremony: The 66th Grammy Awards were held on February 4, 2024, at the Crypto.com Arena, Los Angeles.

Step 2 — Zakir Hussain's historic triple win: Tabla maestro **Zakir Hussain** won three Grammy Awards in a single night — the first Indian musician to achieve this:

- Q4.**
- **Best Global Music Album:** *This Moment* (with Shakti)
 - **Best Global Music Performance:** "Pashto" (with Shakti)



- **Best Contemporary Classical Composition:** “Peas n Rice” (with Bela Fleck and Edgar Meyer)

Step 3 — Legacy: Hussain had previously won a Grammy in 1993 for the *Planet Drum* album. These three wins brought his total Grammy count to four.

Why other options are wrong:

- **(B) Shankar Mahadevan** — Was part of Shakti alongside Hussain but is not the triple-award winner.
- **(C) Ricky Kej** — He won his third Grammy at the 65th Grammys (2023), not the 66th.
- **(D) Shivamani** — A noted percussionist but has not won a Grammy Award.

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

Solution

Concept: Mission Divyastra — Agni-V MIRV Test (March 2024)

Step 1 — MIRV technology: Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology allows a single ballistic missile to carry several nuclear warheads, each guided to a different target.

Step 2 — Test: On **March 11, 2024**, India successfully flight-tested the Agni-V with MIRV capability. Prime Minister Modi named the test **Mission Divyastra** (divine weapon). India joined a select group — USA, Russia, China, UK, and France — with proven MIRV capability.

Step 3 — Significance: DRDO confirmed indigenous avionics guided multiple warheads to designated targets with high precision, advancing India’s credible minimum deterrence.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q5.**
- **(A) Mission Shakti** — India’s ASAT (Anti-Satellite) weapon test codename in March 2019, when a live satellite in LEO was destroyed.
 - **(C) Mission Astra** — Astra is the name of India’s beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile; not an MIRV test.
 - **(D) Mission Brahmastra** — No such officially named missile mission exists.

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



Solution

Concept: Quit India Movement (August 1942) — Location of Gandhi's Speech

Step 1 — Context: The All-India Congress Committee session met in Bombay in August 1942 during World War II. Gandhi resolved to launch a mass civil disobedience movement demanding immediate British withdrawal from India.

Step 2 — Venue: On August 8, 1942, Gandhi delivered the famous "Do or Die" speech at **Gowalia Tank Maidan** (now renamed **August Kranti Maidan / August Revolution Ground**) in Bombay, calling on every Indian to consider themselves free and act accordingly.

Step 3 — Aftermath: British authorities immediately arrested Gandhi and all Congress leaders. Despite the absence of leadership, the movement sparked widespread strikes, boycotts, and acts of sabotage across India.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q6.**
- **(A) Calcutta Maidan** — Not the site; the AICC session was in Bombay.
 - **(B) Lucknow's Hussainabad** — No connection to the Quit India Movement launch.
 - **(D) Delhi's Ramlila Maidan** — This venue has hosted other historic events (e.g., Anna Hazare's fast in 2011); not the 1942 speech.

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

Solution

Concept: Siachen Glacier — World's Highest Battlefield

Step 1 — Location: Siachen Glacier lies in the eastern Karakoram mountain range. At approximately 76 km long, it is among the world's longest mountain glaciers outside the polar regions.

Step 2 — Conflict: Siachen is disputed between **India and Pakistan**. India secured control of the glacier in 1984 under Operation Meghdoot and has maintained military posts above 5,000 metres elevation, making it the world's highest battlefield.

Step 3 — Strategic importance: Control of Siachen provides India a commanding position overlooking the Karakoram Highway (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor). The glacier's meltwaters feed the Nubra and Shyok rivers.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q7.**
- **(A) China** — China occupies Aksai Chin (east of Ladakh); Siachen is contested with Pakistan.



- **(B) Nepal** — Nepal's border lies in the central Himalayas; it has no claim to Siachen.
- **(C) Afghanistan** — Afghanistan does not border the Siachen region.

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

Solution

Concept: Tropic of Cancer — Indian States

Step 1 — Definition: The Tropic of Cancer (23.5°N) is the northernmost latitude where the Sun appears directly overhead, at the June solstice.

Step 2 — Eight states: The Tropic of Cancer passes through exactly **8 Indian states**:

Q8. (a) Gujarat 2. Rajasthan 3. Madhya Pradesh 4. Chhattisgarh

(b) Jharkhand 6. West Bengal 7. Tripura 8. Mizoram

Step 3 — Memory aid: “Grumpy Raja Makes Certain Justice Will Turn Milder” (first letters: G, R, M, C, J, W, T, M).

Why other options are wrong:

- **(B) 6** — Undercounts; all eight states above are confirmed.
- **(C) 7** — Still undercounts; the correct total is eight.
- **(D) 9** — Overcounts; no ninth state lies on the Tropic of Cancer.

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

Solution

Concept: Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005

Step 1 — Enactment: The RTI Act was passed by Parliament and received Presidential assent on June 15, **2005**. It came into full force on October 12, 2005, after a transition period.

Step 2 — Provisions: Public authorities must appoint Public Information Officers (PIOs) and provide information within **30 days** (48 hours for life-and-liberty matters). The Central Information Commission (CIC) serves as the apex appellate authority.

Step 3 — Impact: Called a “sunshine law,” RTI has empowered citizens to expose corruption, demand accountability, and access entitlements by requiring transparency in government functioning.



Why other options are wrong:

- Q9.
- (A) 2003 — In 2002, the Freedom of Information Act was enacted but never operationalised; it was replaced by RTI in 2005.
 - (C) 2007 — RTI was already operative from 2005; no new RTI Act in 2007.
 - (D) 2009 — No RTI-related legislation was enacted in 2009.

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

Solution

Concept: G20 India Presidency 2023 — New Delhi Summit Theme

Step 1 — India's Presidency: India held the G20 Presidency from December 1, 2022, to November 30, 2023. The G20 Leaders' Summit was held in New Delhi on September 9–10, 2023.

Step 2 — Theme: The theme was “**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — One Earth, One Family, One Future,**” drawn from the Sanskrit Maha Upanishad meaning “The World is One Family.”

Step 3 — Key outcomes: The New Delhi Declaration was adopted unanimously. The African Union was admitted as a G20 permanent member. The declaration addressed global debt restructuring, sustainable development, and climate finance.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q10.
- (A) “**Innovate for All**” — Not India's G20 theme.
 - (B) “**Grow Together, Prosper Together**” — Not India's G20 theme.
 - (D) “**Shaping an Interconnected World**” — This was Germany's G20 presidency theme for 2017.

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

Solution

Concept: Nita Ambani — First Indian Woman IOC Member

Step 1 — Election: At the 142nd IOC Session held in Paris on July 23, 2024, during the Paris Olympics, **Nita Ambani** was elected as an IOC member, becoming the **first Indian woman** on the International Olympic Committee.

Step 2 — Background: Nita Ambani is Chairperson of the Reliance Foundation and has been actively involved in promoting sports, arts, and education in India.

Step 3 — Significance: Her election gives India greater representation in global sports governance at the highest level.



Why other options are wrong:

- Q11. • (A) **Sania Mirza** — Tennis champion; not an IOC member.
- (B) **Mary Kom** — Boxing champion; not an IOC member.
- (C) **P.T. Usha** — She was elected President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) in December 2022 but is not an IOC member.

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

Solution

Concept: Mumbai–Ahmedabad High Speed Rail — India's First Bullet Train Project

Step 1 — Overview: India's first high-speed rail project is the **Mumbai–Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor (MAHSR)**, spanning 508 km from Bandra Kurla Complex (Mumbai) to Sabarmati (Ahmedabad).

Step 2 — Technology: The project uses Japan's Shinkansen E5 series technology under a JICA-backed loan agreement signed in 2017. Design speed: 350 km/h; operating speed: 320 km/h; target travel time $\approx$ 2 hours (vs. 6–7 hours currently).

Step 3 — Status: Construction is underway; the Gujarat section is progressing faster than the Maharashtra section due to land acquisition challenges.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q12. • (B) **Delhi–Mumbai** — Served by existing Rajdhani and Vande Bharat; no HSR corridor sanctioned yet.
- (C) **Chennai–Bengaluru** — A high-speed corridor has been proposed but not sanctioned.
- (D) **Delhi–Kolkata** — No HSR corridor sanctioned between these cities.

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

Solution

Concept: PM SVAMitva Scheme — Rural Property Mapping

Step 1 — Launch: PM SVAMitva (Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) was launched on April 24, 2020 (National Panchayati Raj Day) by PM Narendra Modi.

Step 2 — Technology: The scheme uses **drone-based mapping** of inhabited (abadi) rural land. Based on survey data, villagers receive **Property Rights of Record (PoR) cards** (e-Svमितva Cards) conferring legal ownership.



Step 3 — Benefits: PoR cards enable villagers to use property as collateral for bank loans, reduce land disputes, and provide accurate data for village-level planning.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q13.**
- (A) **Revenue officials' physical surveys** — Traditional patwari surveys are slow and error-prone; SVAMitva replaced them with drones.
 - (C) **Satellite imagery alone** — Satellite resolution was insufficient; drones provide centimetre-level accuracy.
 - (D) **Mobile self-reporting** — Self-reported data leads to disputes; drone mapping provides objective ground truth.

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

Solution

Concept: World Ozone Day — Montreal Protocol (1987)

Step 1 — Observance: World Ozone Day (International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer) is observed on **September 16** every year, declared by the UN General Assembly in 1994.

Step 2 — The Protocol: On September 16, **1987**, nations signed the **Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer** in Montreal, Canada. It mandated phase-out of ozone-depleting substances such as CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) and HCFCs.

Step 3 — Outcome: The Montreal Protocol is considered the most successful multilateral environmental agreement. Scientists report the ozone layer is gradually recovering and is expected to return to pre-1980 levels by 2066 over Antarctica.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q14.**
- (A) **Kyoto Protocol** — Signed in 1997; deals with greenhouse gas emissions and climate change, not ozone depletion.
 - (B) **Paris Agreement** — Adopted in 2015; a climate change framework, not ozone-related.
 - (D) **Vienna Convention** — The Vienna Convention (1985) created the framework for ozone protection, but September 16 commemorates the Montreal Protocol (1987).

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



Solution

Concept: Polavaram Irrigation Project — River

Step 1 — River: The Polavaram Irrigation Project (also called Indira Sagar Project) is built across the **Godavari River** in West Godavari and East Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh.

Step 2 — National project: Declared a national project in 2014 by the Government of India, making the Centre responsible for its entire cost. It is one of India's largest multi-purpose irrigation projects.

Step 3 — Benefits: Will irrigate approximately 7.2 lakh hectares of agricultural land, supply drinking water to about 28 lakh people, and generate 960 MW of hydropower.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q15.**
- **(A) Krishna River** — Nagarjunasagar and Srisailem dams are on the Krishna; Polavaram is on the Godavari.
 - **(B) Pennar River** — The Pennar (Penna) flows through Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka; Polavaram is not on it.
 - **(C) Tungabhadra River** — The Tungabhadra Dam is on the Tungabhadra (a Krishna tributary), not linked to Polavaram.

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

Solution

Concept: India's National Animal Before 1973

Step 1 — Historical animal: Since independence, India's national emblem (based on the Ashoka Pillar at Sarnath) featured the **Lion**, and the **Asiatic Lion** was adopted as India's National Animal.

Step 2 — Change in 1973: Under Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, **Project Tiger** was launched in 1973. The Bengal Tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*) replaced the Lion as India's National Animal to draw conservation attention to the rapidly declining tiger population.

Step 3 — Today: India's tiger population grew from an estimated 1,827 (1972) to over 3,000 (2022 census), making India home to $\approx 70\%$ of the world's wild tigers.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q16.**
- **(B) Indian Elephant** — Designated India's National Heritage Animal in 2010, not the erstwhile national animal.
 - **(C) Cheetah** — Became extinct in India in the 1950s; reintroduced from



Namibia/South Africa in 2022; was never the national animal.

- **(D) Indian Bison (Gaur)** — The Gaur is the state animal of Goa, not India's former national animal.

Answer: (A)

[Go Back to Q16](#)



Answer Key

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

