

SET General Awareness

Sample Paper – 7

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. The AUKUS security pact, announced on September 15, 2021, is a trilateral defence partnership comprising the United States, United Kingdom and:

- (A) France
- (B) India
- (C) New Zealand
- (D) Australia

Q2. ISRO's Aditya-L1 solar observatory, which reached its destination in January 2024, is stationed at the Sun–Earth La-



grange point L1. What key advantage does this position offer?

- (A) The spacecraft can observe the Sun continuously without being eclipsed by the Earth or Moon
- (B) L1 is the closest orbital point to the Sun in Earth's orbit
- (C) The spacecraft remains permanently on the night side of Earth
- (D) L1 is equidistant between the Earth and the Moon

Q3. India lies within how many of the globally recognised biodiversity hotspots, representing areas of exceptional species richness under severe habitat threat?

- (A) 2
- (B) 4
- (C) 6
- (D) 3

Q4. Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), India's nationwide cleanliness campaign aiming to achieve Open Defecation Free (ODF) status across the country, was launched on:

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



- Q5.** In April 2024, India signed a government-to-government deal with France to procure 26 Rafale Marine fighter jets for the Indian Navy. These carrier-based jets are intended primarily to operate from:
- (A) Indian Air Force land-based stations
 - (B) INS Vikramaditya (R33), the refurbished Russian aircraft carrier
 - (C) Andaman and Nicobar Command's island airstrips
 - (D) INS Vikrant (R11), India's first indigenously built aircraft carrier
- Q6.** Mahatma Gandhi called off the Non-Cooperation Movement in February 1922, before its objectives were achieved, due to which incident?
- (A) The Chauri Chaura violence, where protesters set fire to a police chowki killing 22 constables
 - (B) The Jallianwala Bagh massacre of unarmed civilians
 - (C) The Kakori train robbery by armed revolutionaries
 - (D) The Moplah (Mappila) Rebellion in Kerala
- Q7.** The Luni River, which flows through the arid Thar desert of Rajasthan and drains into the Rann of Kutch, is notable because:
- (A) It is the only east-flowing river in Rajasthan
 - (B) Its lower reaches (below Balotra) carry saline water, rendering them unfit for irrigation



- (C) It flows underground for much of its course through the desert
- (D) It eventually merges with the Indus River in Pakistan

Q8. The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, is significant for urban governance because it:

- (A) Established Zila Parishads (District Councils) for rural areas
- (B) Created Gram Sabhas (village assemblies) in every village panchayat
- (C) Constitutionally recognised Urban Local Bodies (municipalities and city corporations) and devolved specific powers to them
- (D) Set up Ward Committees mandatorily in every state capital

Q9. India's Goods and Services Tax (GST), a comprehensive indirect tax replacing multiple central and state levies, was implemented on:

- (A) April 1, 2017
- (B) January 1, 2017
- (C) August 15, 2017
- (D) July 1, 2017

Q10. INS Arighaat, India's second nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), was commissioned into the Indian Navy in:



- (A) August 2024
- (B) December 2023
- (C) March 2025
- (D) January 2024

Q11. The Durand Cup, one of the oldest football tournaments in Asia and the third-oldest football tournament in the world, was first played in India in:

- (A) 1895
- (B) 1888
- (C) 1920
- (D) 1900

Q12. Aadhaar, the world's largest biometric digital identity system managed by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), has enrolled approximately how many residents as of 2024?

- (A) 90 crore (900 million)
- (B) 110 crore (1.1 billion)
- (C) 140 crore (1.4 billion)
- (D) 80 crore (800 million)

Q13. The Nobel Peace Prize 2024 was awarded to:

- (A) Malala Yousafzai's Malala Fund
- (B) Aung San Suu Kyi



- (C) Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders)
- (D) Nihon Hidankyo, the Japanese organisation of atomic-bomb survivors (Hibakusha)

Q14. India has committed to achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based electricity capacity by which year, as part of its updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement?

- (A) 2030
- (B) 2035
- (C) 2040
- (D) 2050

Q15. Tennis star Sania Mirza, who announced her retirement from professional tennis in 2023, won a total of how many Grand Slam titles (women's doubles and mixed doubles combined) during her career?

- (A) 4
- (B) 6
- (C) 3
- (D) 8

Q16. The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, once completed, will connect Kolkata (Haldia) to Mizoram through:

- (A) Bangladesh and Nepal's land route
- (B) China and the Karakoram Highway



- (C) Myanmar's Sittwe port and the Kaladan river waterway to Paletwa
- (D) Bhutan's overland route through Assam



Detailed Solutions**Solution**

Concept: AUKUS — Trilateral Security Partnership

Step 1 — Formation: AUKUS was announced on September 15, 2021, by the leaders of **Australia**, the **United Kingdom**, and the **United States**. It is a security partnership focused on the Indo-Pacific region.

Step 2 — Key feature: The centrepiece is sharing nuclear-powered submarine technology with Australia. The USA and UK will help Australia build and operate nuclear-powered (conventionally armed) submarines under the SSN-AUKUS programme. Australia cancelled its French submarine contract (Attack-class) for this deal, causing a significant diplomatic fallout with France.

Step 3 — Second pillar: AUKUS also covers advanced capabilities in AI, quantum technologies, cyber, electronic warfare, undersea capabilities, and hypersonic weapons.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q1.
- **(A) France** — France was notably excluded (and angered by the cancellation of its submarine deal).
 - **(B) India** — India has the Quad (India, USA, Japan, Australia) as its multi-lateral security forum; India is not part of AUKUS.
 - **(C) New Zealand** — New Zealand was not included; it has a nuclear-free policy that would conflict with AUKUS's submarine programme.

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

Solution

Concept: Aditya-L1 — Sun–Earth Lagrange Point L1

Step 1 — What is L1? The first Sun–Earth Lagrange point (L1) is a gravitational balance point located approximately 1.5 million km from Earth towards the Sun. Objects placed at L1 orbit the Sun at the same rate as Earth, maintaining their position relative to both.

Step 2 — Key advantage: A spacecraft at L1 can **observe the Sun continuously without being eclipsed by the Earth or Moon**. This uninterrupted view is ideal for solar monitoring — including coronal mass ejections, solar flares, and space weather events.

Step 3 — Precedent: The international SOHO (Solar and Heliospheric Observatory, NASA/ESA) mission also operates at L1 for the same reason. Aditya-L1



reached L1 on January 6, 2024.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q2.**
- **(B) Closest point to the Sun** — L1 is farther from the Sun than Earth; it is not the closest approach.
 - **(C) Permanently on Earth's night side** — The L2 point (behind Earth) is used for that purpose (e.g., James Webb Space Telescope); L1 is on the Sun-facing side.
 - **(D) Equidistant between Earth and Moon** — The Moon–Earth L1 is different; the Sun–Earth L1 is 1.5 million km from Earth.

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

Solution

Concept: India's Biodiversity Hotspots

Step 1 — Definition: A biodiversity hotspot must have $\geq 1,500$ endemic vascular plant species and have lost $\geq 70\%$ of its original habitat. There are 36 such hotspots globally.

Step 2 — India's four hotspots:

- Q3.**
- (a) **Western Ghats & Sri Lanka** — home to lion-tailed macaque, Nilgiri tahr, purple frog.
 - (b) **Himalayas (Eastern Himalayas)** — includes Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, North Bengal.
 - (c) **Indo-Burma** — covers Northeast India (Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura).
 - (d) **Sundaland** — includes India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Step 3 — Significance: Despite covering only 2.4% of Earth's land area, India harbours about 7–8% of all recorded species globally.

Why other options are wrong:

- **(A) 2** — Undercounts; there are four hotspots overlapping India.
- **(C) 6** — Overcounts; four is the correct number.
- **(D) 3** — Undercounts by one; all four listed above include Indian territory.

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



Solution

Concept: Swachh Bharat Mission — Launch Date

Step 1 — Launch: Swachh Bharat Mission was launched by PM Narendra Modi on **October 2, 2014** — Mahatma Gandhi's 145th birth anniversary and the 150th anniversary of his birth year (2014 being 145 years from 1869). It was launched at Rajghat, New Delhi.

Step 2 — Two components: SBM-Urban (Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs) and SBM-Grameen/Rural (Ministry of Jal Shakti, previously Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation). By 2019, India declared itself ODF (Open Defecation Free).

Step 3 — Phase 2: SBM 2.0 was launched in 2021 for Garbage-Free Cities (Urban) and ODF+ status (Rural).

Why other options are wrong:

- Q4. • **(A) August 15, 2014** — Independence Day; Swachh Bharat was announced in PM Modi's Red Fort speech but not launched then.
- **(B) October 2, 2015** — SBM had been running for a year by this date; it was not the launch date.
- **(D) January 26, 2015** — Republic Day; not the SBM launch date.

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

Solution

Concept: India–France Rafale Marine Deal (April 2024)

Step 1 — Deal: India signed a government-to-government agreement with France worth approximately €7.4 billion in April 2024 for 26 **Rafale Marine** (carrier-based variant) fighter jets for the Indian Navy, manufactured by Dassault Aviation.

Step 2 — Platform: These jets are intended to operate from **INS Vikrant (R11)**, India's first indigenously designed and built aircraft carrier, commissioned into the Indian Navy in September 2022 at Cochin Shipyard.

Step 3 — Rafale Marine vs standard Rafale: The Marine variant has a reinforced undercarriage, folding wingtips, and a tail-hook for arrested landing on a carrier deck — distinct from the standard Rafale already operated by the Indian Air Force (36 jets acquired in 2016).

Why other options are wrong:

- Q5. • **(A) IAF land bases** — Land-based jets are standard Rafales, already acquired; the new 26 are carrier-based.
- **(B) INS Vikramaditya (R33)** — The older Soviet-origin carrier will be de-



commissioned; the new jets go to the indigenously built Vikrant.

- (C) **Andaman & Nicobar Command** — Land-based island airstrips don't use carrier-specific jets.

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

Solution

Concept: Non-Cooperation Movement — Suspension after Chauri Chaura

Step 1 — The incident: On February 5, 1922, at **Chauri Chaura**, Gorakhpur (now Uttar Pradesh), a large group of protesters clashed with police. The crowd set fire to the Chauri Chaura police station, killing **22 police constables**.

Step 2 — Gandhi's response: Deeply committed to non-violence, Gandhi was profoundly disturbed by this act. He unilaterally called off the Non-Cooperation Movement on February 12, 1922, saying he had made a "Himalayan miscalculation" about people's readiness for non-violent resistance.

Step 3 — Political fallout: Other Congress leaders including Motilal Nehru, C.R. Das, and the young Subhas Chandra Bose were deeply critical of Gandhi's decision to abandon the movement at its peak.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q6.
- (B) **Jallianwala Bagh massacre** — Occurred in April 1919, before the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920); it was a cause of the movement, not its end.
 - (C) **Kakori train robbery** — Occurred in 1925, three years after the movement ended.
 - (D) **Moplah Rebellion** — Occurred in 1921 in Malabar; while it influenced Gandhi's concerns, the direct trigger for calling off the movement was Chauri Chaura.

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

Solution

Concept: Luni River — Saline Lower Reaches

Step 1 — River: The Luni River (name from Sanskrit *Lavana* = salt) originates near Ajmer in Rajasthan and flows approximately 495 km south-west before emptying into the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat.

Step 2 — Salinity feature: The river's **upper reaches (above Balotra, Barmer district)** carry fresh water suitable for irrigation. **Below Balotra**, due to high evaporation in the arid Thar Desert and leaching of minerals from saline soils, the



water becomes increasingly brackish and **unfit for irrigation**. This is a well-known peculiarity tested in geography exams.

Step 3 — Drainage: The Luni drains the northern Aravalli Range and the inland drainage basin of south-west Rajasthan.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q7.
- **(A) Only east-flowing river in Rajasthan** — Rajasthan has several east-flowing rivers (Chambal, Banas, Gambhir); Luni flows west/south-west.
 - **(C) Flows underground** — The Luni is a surface river; it does not flow underground.
 - **(D) Merges with the Indus in Pakistan** — Luni drains into the Rann of Kutch, not into the Indus.

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

Solution

Concept: 74th Constitutional Amendment — Urban Local Bodies

Step 1 — Background: The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act (CAA), 1992, added **Part IX-A** to the Indian Constitution, giving constitutional recognition to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) — municipalities, municipal corporations, and nagar panchayats.

Step 2 — Key provisions: (a) Regular elections to ULBs every 5 years; (b) Reservations for SCs, STs, and women (at least one-third); (c) State Finance Commissions; (d) State Election Commissions; (e) Devolution of 18 functions listed in the 12th Schedule to ULBs.

Step 3 — 73rd Amendment: The companion 73rd CAA (1992) did the same for rural Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), adding Part IX and the 11th Schedule (29 functions).

Why other options are wrong:

- Q8.
- **(A) Zila Parishads for rural areas** — These are covered under the 73rd Amendment (rural PRIs), not the 74th.
 - **(B) Gram Sabhas** — Gram Sabhas are part of the 73rd Amendment for rural areas.
 - **(D) Ward Committees in every state capital** — Ward Committees are mandated for ULBs with a population above 3 lakh, not just state capitals.

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



Solution

Concept: GST Implementation Date — July 1, 2017

Step 1 — Historic launch: India's Goods and Services Tax was launched at midnight on **July 1, 2017**, via a special joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament in the Central Hall. PM Modi and President Pranab Mukherjee presided over the ceremony.

Step 2 — GST structure: GST subsumed 17 central and state taxes (including excise duty, service tax, VAT, CST) and 23 cesses. It follows a four-tier rate structure: 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%. The GST Council (chaired by the Union Finance Minister) decides rates.

Step 3 — Significance: GST is a “One Nation, One Tax, One Market” reform. India became a single unified market for goods and services, eliminating cascading taxes. The GSTN (Goods and Services Tax Network) handles IT infrastructure.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q9.**
- **(A) April 1, 2017** — April 1 was the original target; it was pushed to July 1, 2017.
 - **(B) January 1, 2017** — GST Council was still finalising rates in early 2017.
 - **(C) August 15, 2017** — Independence Day; GST had been live for six weeks by this date.

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

Solution

Concept: INS Arighaat — India's Second Nuclear Submarine

Step 1 — Commissioning: INS Arighaat (meaning “Destroyer of Enemies” in Sanskrit) was formally commissioned into the Indian Navy on **August 29, 2024**, at Visakhapatnam, by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

Step 2 — Class: It is India's second nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), built at Ship Building Centre (SBC), Visakhapatnam, under the highly secretive Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) programme. India's first SSBN, INS Arihant, was commissioned in 2016.

Step 3 — Significance: SSBNs form the sea-based leg of India's nuclear triad (land–air–sea). Their second-strike capability — surviving a first nuclear strike and retaliating — is crucial for credible minimum deterrence.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q10.**
- **(B) December 2023** — The submarine was likely undergoing sea trials then; commissioning was in August 2024.



- (C) **March 2025** — This is after the commissioning date; by then the submarine was already operational.
- (D) **January 2024** — Incorrect; the commissioning ceremony was in August 2024.

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

Solution

Concept: Durand Cup — History

Step 1 — Establishment: The Durand Cup was established in **1888** by Sir Henry Mortimer Durand, the then Foreign Secretary of the British Indian Government, making it the **oldest football tournament in Asia**.

Step 2 — World ranking: Globally, it is the third-oldest football tournament in the world, after the FA Cup (England, 1871) and the Scottish Cup (Scotland, 1874).

Step 3 — History: Originally played in Shimla (summer capital), the tournament later moved to Kolkata and is now one of India's most prestigious domestic football events. Many ISL and I-League clubs compete for it.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q11.**
- (A) **1895** — The IFA Shield (Kolkata) was established in 1893; neither matches the Durand Cup's founding of 1888.
 - (C) **1920** — Several other Indian football tournaments were established around this time, but not the Durand Cup.
 - (D) **1900** — Twelve years after the Durand Cup's actual founding.

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

Solution

Concept: Aadhaar Enrollment Scale

Step 1 — Coverage: As of 2024, UIDAI has enrolled over **140 crore (1.4 billion)** residents of India — approximately 99% of the adult population — making Aadhaar the world's largest biometric identity programme.

Step 2 — Technology: Each Aadhaar number is a 12-digit unique identifier backed by biometrics: ten fingerprints, two iris scans, and a photograph. The system can verify identity in real-time through Aadhaar-enabled authentication.

Step 3 — Applications: Aadhaar enables Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of welfare subsidies directly to beneficiary bank accounts, eKYC for banking, e-sign, and digital identity across government services, eliminating intermediary leakages.



Why other options are wrong:

- Q12.
- (A) 90 crore — A figure from around 2013; enrollment has since grown far beyond this.
 - (B) 110 crore — An approximate figure from around 2016.
 - (D) 80 crore — An earlier partial-coverage figure; India's total population is itself over 140 crore.

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

Solution

Concept: Nobel Peace Prize 2024 — Nihon Hidankyo

Step 1 — Award: The Nobel Peace Prize 2024 was awarded to **Nihon Hidankyo** (meaning “Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations”), founded in 1956 by survivors (Hibakusha) of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945.

Step 2 — Reason: The Norwegian Nobel Committee cited Nihon Hidankyo's decades of *testimony-bearing* about the human consequences of nuclear weapons and their “efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.”

Step 3 — Significance: This award came at a time of renewed nuclear risks globally, underlining the importance of the Hibakusha's witness and the nuclear taboo they helped establish.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q13.
- (A) Malala Yousafzai — She received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014, not 2024.
 - (B) Aung San Suu Kyi — She received it in 1991; her award was later a subject of controversy given the Myanmar military coup.
 - (C) Médecins Sans Frontières — MSF received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1999, not 2024.

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

Solution

Concept: India's Renewable Energy Target — 500 GW by 2030

Step 1 — NDC commitment: India's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), submitted in 2022, commits India to: (1) achieve **500 GW non-fossil fuel electricity capacity by 2030**; (2) generate 50% of cumulative electric power



from non-fossil sources by 2030; (3) reduce emissions intensity of GDP by 45% from 2005 levels by 2030.

Step 2 — Progress: India's installed renewable capacity (solar, wind, hydro, bioenergy) crossed 200 GW in 2024 and is on a strong growth trajectory driven by rapidly falling solar costs and government policy support.

Step 3 — Global pledge: PM Modi announced at COP26 (Glasgow, 2021) the "Panchamrit" (five nectar elements) commitments, of which 500 GW clean energy by 2030 was a key element.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q14.**
- **(B) 2035** — Not the stated NDC target year; 2030 is the committed deadline.
 - **(C) 2040** — India has different long-term targets for 2040–2050 (net-zero by 2070).
 - **(D) 2050** — India's net-zero target year is 2070, not 2050; the 500 GW target is for 2030.

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

Solution

Concept: Sania Mirza — Grand Slam Titles

Step 1 — Career: Sania Mirza, India's greatest tennis player, won **6 Grand Slam titles** during her career:

- Q15.**
- **Women's doubles (3):** Australian Open 2009 (with Cara Black), Wimbledon 2015 (with Martina Hingis), US Open 2015 (with Martina Hingis).
 - **Mixed doubles (3):** Australian Open 2009 (with Mahesh Bhupathi), French Open 2012 (with Mahesh Bhupathi), US Open 2014 (with Bruno Soares).

Step 2 — Retirement: She played her last professional match in early 2023, retiring from international tennis after nearly two decades at the top.

Step 3 — Legacy: Sania was ranked World No. 1 in doubles (2015–2016) and is the most successful Indian tennis player in Grand Slam history.

Why other options are wrong:

- **(A) 4** — Undercounts; she won 6 Grand Slam titles in total.
- **(C) 3** — Undercounts; she won 3 in women's doubles and 3 in mixed doubles, totalling 6.
- **(D) 8** — Overcounts; her Grand Slam title count is 6.



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

Solution

Concept: Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project

Step 1 — Route: The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project connects **Kolkata (Haldia port)** by sea to **Sittwe port** (Rakhine State, Myanmar), then by the **Kaladan river waterway** to **Paletwa** (Chin State, Myanmar), and finally by a road link through Myanmar to **Zorinpui** in Mizoram.

Step 2 — Purpose: It provides India's landlocked northeastern states with an alternative access route to the sea (Kolkata) bypassing Bangladesh entirely, reducing logistic costs and strategic dependence on the narrow Siliguri Corridor (Chicken's Neck).

Step 3 — Status: The Sittwe port and riverine section have been developed; the road link inside Myanmar faced delays due to political instability after the 2021 military coup.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q16.**
- **(A) Bangladesh and Nepal's land route** — Bangladesh is bypassed by this project; Nepal is not involved.
 - **(B) China and Karakoram Highway** — The Karakoram Highway links Pakistan and China; it is unrelated to this project.
 - **(D) Bhutan's overland route** — Bhutan is not part of the Kaladan project route.

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								

