XAT Exam Pattern 2026

Overall, XAT exam pattern is quite different from CAT exam. XAT exam pattern is designed to assess a candidate's decision-making/ analytical-thinking, language skills, quantitative aptitude, and general knowledge. The XAT 2026 exam pattern comprises a total of 95 questions spread across four key sections. These include Decision Making (21 questions), Verbal and Logical Ability (26 questions), Quantitative Ability and Data Interpretation (28 questions), and General Knowledge (20 questions). Each question carries one mark, making the total to 95 marks. Note that XAT Essay Writing section was remove from XAT 2025 exam pattern. Check table below for a clear understanding.

XAT Exam Pattern 2026

XAT Sections	Number of Questions	Total Marks
Decision Making	21	21
Verbal and Logical Ability	26	26
Quantitative Ability & Data Interpretation	28	28
General Knowledge	20	20
Total	**95**	**95**

XAT Marking Scheme 2025

XAT Exam marking Scheme is quite different from CAT Exam. XAT exam follows a 'structured marking scheme' that is designed to reward correct answers, and penalises incorrect responses and excessive skipping of questions. By understanding XAT 2025 marking scheme you can prepare your own strategy to maximise your score. Here are the details:

- Marks per Question: Each question carries 1 Mark.
- Marks for Correct Answers: 1.0 Mark is awarded for every correct answer
- Marks for Wrong Answer: XAT has negative marking for incorrect answers. 0.25 marks is deducted for every incorrect answer.
- Penalty for Skipping Questions: You can skip up to 8 questions without any penalty. For each question skipped after the 8th one, a penalty of 0.1 marks per question will be applied.

- No Negative Marking in GK Section: Marks in GK Section are NOT included in calculating overall XAT percentile or XAT cutoff score. However, GK marks are considered in the final XLRI selection process.

XAT marking scheme rewards accuracy and smart decision-making. By carefully planning your attempts and skips, you can reduce penalties and increase chances of high score.

XAT Exam Pattern for Verbal Ability and Logical Reasoning (VALR) Section

Let us now understand XAT Exam Pattern for each of the section starting with the verbal section. XAT Verbal Ability & Logical Reasoning section can be further divided into three parts: Verbal Ability, Reading Comprehension and Logical Reasoning section. Check type of questions that appeared in XAT 2025 and XAT 2025 for understanding this section better.

XAT 2025 Verbal Ability & Logical Reasoning Question Types

In XAT 2025 exam, there were 17 Reading Comprehension questions and 9 Verbal Ability/Reasoning questions. The RC questions were distributed in five passages (300 – 450 words each) and one poem. The Verbal ability and Verbal Reasoning questions were from grammar, vocabulary, and reasoning-based questions. Many of the questions were inference and application. Check break up in the table below.

XAT 2025 Verbal Ability & Logical Reasoning Section: Type of Questions & Difficulty Level

Area/Questions	No. of Qs.	Level of Difficulty
Grammatically correct sentence	2	Medium
Fill in the blanks (4 blanks)	1	Medium
Jumbled Paragraphs (5 statements)	2	Medium
Critical Reasoning	3	Medium
Main idea/message of the given image	1	Medium
RC Passages – 5 (300-450 words)	15	Difficult
Poem-based passage	2	Difficult

To score 95% marks in this section, candidate should attempt 13-14 questions in about 55-60 minutes, with about 75-80% accuracy.

XAT Exam Pattern for Decision Making (DM) Section

Decision Making (DM) is a unique section in XAT exam. It tests your ability to holistically understand a complex problem in a given context, and propose a solution. XAT DM section also tests your ethical stance and asks you to take a decision in a conflicting situation. Questions are asked on Data Based Problems, Situation Based Problems and a Mixture of both. Check type of questions that have appeared in XAT Decision Making section.

XAT 2025 Decision Making Section: Type of Questions & Difficulty Level

This section consisted of 21 questions. The section consisted of 7 sets of 3 questions each. Some questions were ambiguity with no clear "correct answer". Overall, the questions were of medium difficulty. For 95% marks in this section, candidates should attempt 11-12 questions in 50-55 minutes with 75-80% accuracy. XAT 2024 DM Section break up is also given below.

XAT 2024 Decision Making Section: Type of Questions & Difficulty Level

Sub-section/ Topic	Type of Questions	Description	No of Questions
Caselet-1	Problem Based on Human Resources	Experience Credentials of Employees	3
Caselet-2	Problem Based on ABC Business School	Disciplined School with High Placements but less learning	3
Caselet-3	Problem Based on Taxis	Competition among Taxi Drivers	3
Caselet-3	Problem Based on Sales & Marketing	SUV Sales Target Met but recovery of loss a concern due to extended warranty	3
Caselet-4	Problem Based on Household help	Wrongful Termination of Domestic Help	3
Caselet-5	Problem Based on Human Resources at IT Firm Symbolis	Distribution of Performance Bonus to the Best Employees	3
Caselet-6	Problem Based on Gas Extraction Company Deep Sea c	Releasing the Natural Gas Pressure and Safety Arrangements	3

XAT Exam Pattern for Quantitative Ability & Data Interpretation (QADI) Section

Quantitative Ability & Data Interpretation (QADI) section has high (28%) weight in XAT exam. QADI questions in XAT are designed to assess the quantitative aptitude of candidates. To do well in this section, you should have a foundational understanding of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, mensuration, modern maths. The questions on DI are about clear interpretation, summarization, and insightful analysis of the data. Check break up of type of questions in this section in previous year papers.

XAT 2025 Quantitative Ability & Data Interpretation Section: Type of Questions & Difficulty Level

In XAT 2025 exam, out of the 28 questions in the section, 16 questions were on Quantitative Ability and 12 questions were on Data Interpretation. In Quantitative Ability section there were questions from Arithmetic, Geometry, Modern maths, Algebra and Numbers. Check break up below. There were four sets of Data Interpretation with 3 questions in each set.

XAT 2025 Quantitative Aptitude Section Type of Questions

Type of Questions	Total
Arithmetic	3
Geometry	5
Modern Math	3
Algebra	3
Numbers	2
Total	**16**

XAT 2025 Data Interpretation Section Type of Questions

Type of Questions	Total
Scatter Plot / Line Graph (observation) based set	3
Arithmetic based set	3
Average based set	3

Number-matrix based set	3
Total	12

To score 95% in this section, you should attempt of about 18-19 questions with about 80 percent accuracy in about 55-60 minutes.

Check type of questions in XAT 2024 paper on Quantitative Ability & Data Interpretation Section in table below.

XAT 2024 Quantitative Ability & Data Interpretation Section Type of Questions

Sub-section/ Topic	Type of Questions	Description	No of Questions
Arithmetic	Time Speed Distance	Pilot increasing speed of Aircraft to reach Destination	1
Arithmetic	Profit & Loss	Cost of Running Movie Theatre and required capacity to ear profit; Selling Price at Food Stall	2
Arithmetic	Arithmetic Progression	Number of students in a class	1
Number System	Increasing, Decreasing	Real Numbers, Value	3
Permutation & Combination; Set Theory	Combination of Items in Restaurant; Vegetable Market	Making a combination of Vegetarian and Non-Vegetarian items from Menu; Aman buying vegetables	3
Geometry	Triangles and Rectangles	Farmer's Tringalular land; Rectangle Football ground; Right Angle	3
Algebra- Polynomials	Roots of Polynomial	Ratio of area from largest to smallest	1

Linear Equation, Log, Quadratic Equation	Real Numbers, Logs	Coinciding Lines represented by the two equations; Equation Log	3
Data Interpretation	DI Set-1	T-20 Match	3
Data Interpretation	DI Set-2	Statistics – Hinge number	3
Data Interpretation	DI Set-3	Discount Coupon	3
Data Interpretation	DI Set-4	Shortlisting for Interview	2
Total Questions	--	--	28

XAT Exam Pattern for General Knowledge (GK) Section

The General Knowledge section in XAT exam has 20 questions. Out of this, 12 questions are on current affairs and 8 questions are from static GK. This mix allows for a balanced evaluation of candidates' awareness of both ongoing events and foundational knowledge. Type of questions in GK Section in previous exams in given below.

XAT 2024 General Knowledge Section Type of Questions

Sub-section/ Topic	Type of Questions	Description	No of Questions
Static GK	History	Historical capital cities of India; Famous battles; Doctrine of lapse	3
Static GK & Changes	Geography	National capitals of countries; Flow of River Ganges	2
Static & Current	Economics & Business	Brics	1
Current Affairs	Personality & Awards	Dr Akshata Krishnamurthy, Matthew Perry,	2
Current Affairs	Science & Technology	Aditya L-1; X 37B	2
Current Affairs	Sports	Women's Premier League, Asian Games	2

Static & Current	Books & Authors	Match the authors of the books	1
Current Affairs	Latest National & International	Country pulling out of "Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe"; Air India's AI; "Ghol" as the state fish; City illuminating 22.23 lakh earthen lamps; Earthquake in Japan;	5
Miscellaneous	Companies, people, work, action	Leap Year calculation; Dedicated air cargo service in India; ChatGPT, Google Bard, Chatsonic	3
Current Affairs	Nobel Prize	Nobel Peace Prize, Nobel Prize in Economics	2
Static & Current	Culture & Entertainment	Movie Oppenheimer, Nabanno harvest festival of Bengal and Bangladesh	2
Total	--	--	25