XAT EXAM SYLLABUS 2026

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. Check details in table below.

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 Syllabus 2026: Key Highlights

After understanding XAT exam pattern, check important syllabus topics from XAT 2026 exam syllabus for each section. This will give you and overview of XAT syllabus. These topics are based on XAT previous year question papers.

- **Verbal Ability and Logical Reasoning**: Reading Comprehension, Vocabulary, Analogy, Parajumble, Grammar, Critical Reasoning, Fill in the Blanks, etc.
- **Decision Making**: Data Arrangement, Conditioning, Grouping, Complex Arrangement, Caselets, Assumptions, Premises, Conclusions etc.
- **Quantitative Ability & Data Interpretation**: Arithmetic, Geometry, Mensuration, Percentage, Surds and Indices, Algebra, Mensuration, Bar Diagrams, Pie Charts, Tables, Data Interpretation, etc.
- **General Knowledge**: Current Affairs and Static GK (Science, Economy, Business, Politics, Static GK, Sports, Prize and Award, World, Government, Constitution of India, etc.)

Continue reading for more details on each of these sections.

XAT Syllabus 2026 for Verbal Ability & Logical Reasoning (VALR)

XAT 2026 syllabus prepared by MBAUniverse.com is based on official information from XLRI Jamshedpur and type of questions that have appeared in past XAT exams. Check these details for Verbal Ability & Logical Reasoning section below.

XAT Official Syllabus for Verbal Ability & Logical Reasoning

"The VA&LR section will encompass critical & analytical reasoning, reading comprehensions (including poems & passages), vocabulary, basic English grammar, and other related exercises such as para jumbles and cloze tests."

XAT 2025 Verbal Ability & Logical Reasoning Question Types

In XAT 2025 exam, there were 17 Reading Comprehension questions and 9 Verbal Ability/Reasoning questions. 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

XAT Syllabus 2025 for Verbal Ability and Logical Reasoning

After understanding official information from XLRI Jamshedpur and type of questions that have appeared in past XAT exams, check XAT VALR section below.

Topics

Vocabulary Based Questions	Fill in the blanks	Synonyms/Antonyms
Contextual Meaning of Words	Jumbled Paragraphs	Correction of Errors in Sentences
Correct Usage of Words	Completion of Sentences/Paragraph	Critical Reasoning
Cloze Test	Poem	Grammar Section

XAT Syllabus 2025 for Reading Comprehensions

Topics		
RC Passages on various topics	Main Idea & Purpose based Questions	Inference Based Questions
Author's View type of Questions	Explanation of Words/Phrases	Strengthening and weakening arguments

X. XAT Syllabus 2026 for Decision Making **(DM) Section**

Decision Making (DM) is a unique section in XAT exam. It tests your ability to holistically view a situation and propose a solution to a problem. DM also tests you on your ethical standing. Check how XLRI defines syllabus for this section, and type of questions that have appeared in past XAT exams.

XAT Official Syllabus for Decision Making

"The DM section will present scenarios drawn from both personal and professional lives. Candidates will be required to apply critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and prioritization to make informed decisions"

XAT 2025 Decision Making Section: Type of Questions

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". XAT 2024 DM Section break up is also given below.

XAT 2024 Decision Making Section: Type of Questions

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

While XAT DM section does not have any specific syllabus, based on past papers, this can be considered as XAT DM syllabus.

- Analytical Reasoning Decision Making
- HR related Decision Making
- Ethical Issues Decision Making
- Mixed Issues related to above dimensions

a) Analytical Reasoning Decision Making: Focuses on evaluating and interpreting data, identifying patterns, and solving logical dilemmas.

Key Topics:

- Logical consistency and argument evaluation

- Cause and effect relationships

- Dilemma-based scenarios

- Prioritization and sequencing tasks

- Data sufficiency and interpretation

- Evaluating multiple options under constraints

Example: Choosing the best strategy for product pricing based on market data.

b) HR-Related Decision Making: Tests understanding of organizational behavior, employee management, and workplace dynamics.

Key Topics:

- Recruitment and selection dilemmas

- Performance evaluation and appraisal

- Promotions and internal conflicts

- Conflict resolution in teams

- Workplace policy decisions

- Handling diversity and inclusion

Example: Deciding whether to promote a high-performing but controversial employee.

c) Ethical Issues Decision Making: Assesses ability to make morally sound choices in ambiguous or high-stakes situations.

Key Topics:

- Ethics vs. profitability

- Confidentiality and transparency

- Conflict of interest

- Corporate social responsibility

- Fair treatment and justice

- Whistleblowing scenarios

Example: Choosing between reporting a colleague's misconduct vs. team loyalty.

d) Mixed Issues (Analytical + HR + Ethical): These scenarios combine multiple dimensions, requiring integrated thinking and balanced judgment.

Key Topics:

- Navigating conflicts that involve HR, ethics, and logic

- Trade-offs between ethical integrity and business goals

- Multifaceted problems with both qualitative and quantitative aspects

- Situational judgment with limited information

Example: A team lead must balance employee morale, project deadline, and compliance with a new corporate directive.

X. XAT 2026 for Quantitative Ability & Data Interpretation (QADI)

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. Check how XLRI officially defines syllabus for this section, and type of questions that have appeared in past exams.

XAT Official Syllabus for Quantitative Ability & Data Interpretation

"The questions in the QA section are primarily formulated around 10th standard Mathematics. Notably, the emphasis is on application-oriented problems. The questions on DI are about clear interpretation, summarization and insightful analysis of the data."

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	No of Questions
Arithmetic	3
Geometry	5

Modern Math	3
Algebra	3
Numbers	2
Total	**16**

XAT 2025 Data Interpretation Section Type of Questions

Type of Questions	No of Questions
Scatter Plot / Line Graph (observation) based set	3
Arithmetic based set	3
Average based set	3
Number-matrix based set	3
Total	12

XAT Syllabus for Quantitative Aptitude Section

To do well in this section, you should have a foundational understanding of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, mensuration, modern maths. Check syllabus below.

Percentages	Algebra	Number System
Geometry	Profit and Loss	Simple and Compound Interest
Speed, Time and Distance	Averages	Time and Work
Ratio and Proportion	Mensuration	Linear Equations
Logarithm	Venn Diagrams	Progressions
Binomial Theorem	Inequalities	Trigonometry
Probability Functions	Permutation and Combination	Surds and Indices

XAT Syllabus for Data Interpretation Section

The questions on DI are about clear interpretation, summarization, and insightful analysis of the data. Check syllabus for this section below.

Bar Diagrams	Pie Charts
Data Analysis and Comparison	Graphs
Data Charts	Data Tables

X. XAT Syllabus 2026 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. It is important to note that scores from the General Knowledge section are not considered while calculating the XAT percentile. However, XLRI Jamshedpur uses GK scores during its final selection process. Check type of questions that have appeared in past exams.

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

XAT Static GK Syllabus

Business, Finance and Economics	The Indian Constitution and Laws	History and Geography
Famous Personalities	Awards and Winners	Books and Authors
Science and Technology	Important Dates & Events	Art & Culture

XAT Current Affairs Syllabus

National Current Affairs	International Current Affairs	Political Developments
Business and Economic News	Environmental Issues	New Government Schemes
Awards and Achievements	Sports News	Science and Tech Updates