

XAT 2027 Exam Pattern

Xavier Aptitude Test — Updated Official Exam Structure

Conducted by XLRI Jamshedpur on behalf of XAMI members | Source: official website xatonline.in | Compiled: August 2026

About XAT

The Xavier Aptitude Test (XAT), conducted by XLRI Jamshedpur on behalf of XAMI members for over 75 years, is one of India's most trusted national-level entrance exams for admission to MBA/PGDM programs. With its unique approach to testing decision-making and critical thinking, XAT helps identify future business leaders beyond just academic excellence. It is accepted by 250+ premier B-Schools and conducted in 100+ test cities across India.

Key Highlights of XAT

- Legacy of 75+ years in management entrance testing.
- Accepted by 250+ reputed B-Schools, including NIRF-ranked, AACSB, AMBA-BGA and EQUIS accredited institutions.
- Held in January — gives candidates an additional month to prepare after CAT.
- No sectional time limits — candidates may attempt sections in their preferred order.
- Ability to switch between sections during the exam.
- Single-slot exam — ensures fairness and no score normalization bias.
- Includes a unique Decision Making section not found in most other MBA entrance exams.

Exam Pattern & Section-wise Overview

Section	Important Topics	No. of Questions (Approx.)	Time (minutes)
Verbal Ability & Logical Reasoning (VALR)	Critical & analytical reasoning, reading comprehension (including poems, cartoons & passages), vocabulary, English grammar, and related exercises such as para-jumbles, cloze tests, etc.	26	170 (combined for VALR + DM + QA&DI)
Decision Making (DM)	Scenarios drawn from both personal and professional life. Candidates must apply critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and prioritisation to make informed decisions.	21	
Quantitative Aptitude & Data Interpretation (QA&DI)	Assesses foundational understanding of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, mensuration, modern maths, etc. DI questions test clear interpretation, summarisation, and insightful analysis of data.	28	
General Knowledge (GK)	8 questions focus on static GK; the remaining 12 cover current affairs.	20	10
Total		95	180

Note: The overall test duration is 180 minutes (3 hours) in a single slot. The first three sections (VALR, DM, QA&DI — 75 questions) share a combined time of 170 minutes with no sectional time limit, allowing candidates to attempt them in any order and switch between them freely. The GK section (20 questions) is a separate, timed 10-minute section attempted at the end.

Marking Scheme & Penalties

Rule	Details
Marks per Question	Each question carries 1 mark. A total of 95 questions are expected.
Negative Marking	0.25 marks are deducted for every incorrect answer.
Penalty for Skipping Questions	Candidates may skip up to 8 questions without penalty. For every question skipped beyond the 8th, a penalty of 0.1 marks per question is applied.
General Knowledge (GK) Section	The GK section carries no negative marking. It does not contribute to the overall percentile or cutoff score, but is considered in the final selection process (only for XLRI programs).

Important Timelines — XAT 2027

Event	Date
Registration opens	15 July 2026
Registration closes	6 December 2026
Admit card download	20 December 2026 (Tentative)
XAT Exam Date	3 January 2027, 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Note: The exam is conducted in a single slot across all test cities, ensuring fairness and eliminating the need for score normalization across multiple slots.

Test Cities

XAT 2027 will be conducted in 100+ test cities across India, spanning all major states and union territories — including metros such as Delhi-NCR, Mumbai MMR, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad, as well as numerous tier-2 and tier-3 cities. Candidates can check current city availability and select their preferred test city during registration on the official website.

Why XAT Stands Out

- **Strategic Timing:** Held in January, giving an additional month of preparation time after CAT. No extra preparation is required beyond standard MBA entrance prep, except for the Decision Making section.
- **Flexibility During the Exam:** No sectional time limits for the first three sections, freedom to attempt sections in any order, and the ability to switch between them during the exam.
- **Fair Evaluation:** A single-slot exam format ensures a level playing field for all candidates with no normalization bias.
- **Distinct Applicant Pool:** XAT draws a different candidate pool compared to other major MBA entrance exams, offering a genuine opportunity to stand out.

Source: Official XAT website — xatonline.in (accessed August 2026). This document is a compiled summary for candidate reference; candidates should verify all details, especially dates and timelines, on the official website before proceeding.

XLRI – Xavier School of Management, C. H. Area (East), Jamshedpur – 831001, Jharkhand, India | admis@xlri.ac.in