

XAT Syllabus 2027 PDF

Section-wise topics, exam pattern, marking scheme and 90-day plan

Exam date: Sunday, 3 January 2027 | 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM

The XAT syllabus 2027 covers four sections: Verbal & Logical Ability, Decision Making, Quantitative Ability & Data Interpretation, and General Knowledge. XAT is conducted by XLRI Jamshedpur for its MBA programmes and for XAMI and partner B-schools. Use this guide to plan your topics for the XAT 2027 exam.

1. XAT 2027 at a Glance

Particulars	Details
Conducting body	XLRI Jamshedpur
Exam date and time	Sunday, 3 January 2027, 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Mode	Computer-based test, English
Registration window	15 July 2026 to 6 December 2026
Total questions	95 MCQs
Total duration	180 minutes
Essay writing	Not part of the exam

2. XAT Exam Pattern 2027

Part	Section	Questions	Time
Part 1	Verbal & Logical Ability (VALR)	26	170 minutes combined, no sectional time limit
	Decision Making (DM)	21	
	Quantitative Ability & Data Interpretation	28	
Part 2	General Knowledge (12 current affairs + 8 static GK)	20	10 minutes
Total		95	180 minutes

Marking Scheme

Rule	Marks
Correct answer	+1
Wrong answer (Part 1)	-0.25
Unattempted questions (Part 1)	No penalty up to 8; -0.10 for each beyond that
General Knowledge (Part 2)	No negative marking; not counted in percentile

Note: confirm the exact wording of the unattempted-question rule in the official XAT 2027 notification.

3. Section-Wise XAT Syllabus 2027

Verbal & Logical Ability (VALR): 26 Questions

Area	Key topics
Reading comprehension	Passages on business, society, philosophy, literature and science; inference, tone and main-idea questions
Para-based questions	Para jumbles, para summary, odd sentence out
Grammar and usage	Sentence correction, error spotting, fill in the blanks, word usage
Vocabulary	Synonyms, antonyms, idioms, contextual meaning
Critical reasoning	Strengthen and weaken arguments, assumptions, conclusions
Logical reasoning	Arrangements, puzzles, blood relations, syllogisms, Venn diagrams, conditional logic

Decision Making (DM): 21 Questions

Area	What to expect
Ethical dilemmas	Business or social situations with competing values
Stakeholder analysis	Weighing the impact of a decision on employees, customers, management and society
Caselets	Organisational problems in HR, operations, marketing or finance
Analytical decision-making	Conditions-based selection, ranking and elimination problems

Quantitative Ability & Data Interpretation (QA & DI): 28 Questions

Area	Key topics
Arithmetic	Percentages, profit and loss, ratio and proportion, interest, time-speed-distance, time and work, mixtures
Algebra	Linear and quadratic equations, inequalities, functions, logarithms, surds and indices, progressions
Geometry and mensuration	Triangles, circles, polygons, coordinate geometry, 2D and 3D mensuration
Number system	Divisibility, remainders, factors, HCF and LCM
Modern maths	Permutation and combination, probability, set theory, binomial theorem
Data interpretation	Tables, bar graphs, line graphs, pie charts, caselets, mixed-format sets

General Knowledge (GK): 20 Questions

Component	Questions	Topics
Current affairs	12	Business and economy news, government policies, awards, sports, international events, science and technology
Static GK	8	History, geography, polity, books and authors, important organisations

4. High-Priority Topics (Our Assessment)

XLRI does not publish topic-wise weightage. This table is based on section question counts and past-paper trends.

Section	Focus first	Then cover
VALR	Reading comprehension, critical reasoning, para jumbles	Grammar, vocabulary
Decision Making	Ethical dilemma cases, stakeholder-based decisions	Analytical sets
QA & DI	Arithmetic, algebra, DI sets	Geometry, modern maths
GK	Last 6 to 8 months of current affairs, business news	Static GK

5. XAT vs CAT Syllabus

Feature	XAT	CAT
Sections	VALR, DM, QA & DI, GK	VARC, DILR, QA
Unique section	Decision Making	None
GK	Yes (20 questions, not in percentile)	No
Duration	180 minutes	120 minutes
Sectional time limits	None in Part 1	Yes

6. 90-Day Preparation Plan

Phase	Time	What to do
Concepts	Weeks 1-4	Finish QA & DI and VALR topics. Start daily reading and a current affairs log.
Practice	Weeks 5-8	Take sectional tests. Practise 2 to 3 DM cases daily. Fix weak topics.
Mocks	Weeks 9-12	Take full-length tests under exam conditions and review every mistake.
Final week	Last 7 days	Revise formulas and GK notes. No new topics. Rest well.

7. Topic Tracker

Tick each topic when you finish the concept and have solved at least 20 practice questions.

Section	Topic	Done
VALR	Reading comprehension	☐
VALR	Para jumbles and summary	☐
VALR	Grammar and vocabulary	☐
VALR	Critical and logical reasoning	☐
DM	Ethical dilemmas	☐
DM	Caselets and stakeholder analysis	☐
QA & DI	Arithmetic	☐
QA & DI	Algebra and number system	☐
QA & DI	Geometry and mensuration	☐
QA & DI	Modern maths	☐
QA & DI	Data interpretation	☐
GK	Current affairs	☐
GK	Static GK	☐

Next step: download this guide, mark your weakest section, and start with it today. Regular full-length mock tests at catmock.com will help you practise the 180-minute format. Check xatonline.in for official updates.