

The XAT 2013 exam maintained the overall standard and quality traditionally expected from it year-on-year. The difficulty level of the overall exam was somewhere between last year (which was easier) and 2011 (which was exceptionally difficult). The introduction of GK questions along with the essay made the exam more challenging. While the exam was on expected lines in terms of total number of questions and the break-up of sections, a huge change from previous XATs was that differential marking for questions and progressive (or differential negative marking) were absent. Each question had the same number of marks and negative marking was constant at one-fourth of the marks allotted to each question.

Selection of questions would have been critical in succeeding in this paper.

<b>Summary</b>	
<b>Total Questions</b>	91
<b>Number of Sections</b>	3
<b>Options per Question</b>	5
<b>Negative Marking</b>	1/4th of Marks for the Question
<b>Marks per Question</b>	Undisclosed
<b>Expected Overall Cut-offs</b>	

## **Paper I:**

### **1. Verbal and Logical Ability – 30 questions:**

The Verbal Ability and Logical Reasoning section in XAT 2013 was different and difficult compared to last year. The usual vocabulary questions were missing. The grammar questions about usage of articles and prepositions were easy to solve. Jumbled paragraphs and three other grammar questions were also manageable. There were three critical reasoning questions, in which one question was on 'inductive and deductive logic'. One required prior knowledge of these concepts to answer.

All the four Reading Comprehension passages were difficult to read due to their content (Karma and consumer behaviour, Fermi's approximation, Popper and scientific beliefs and Soros and free market capitalism). Prior knowledge of the subject matter would have helped in solving the questions. The first two passages were shorter and could have been attempted. The last two passages were longer, around 700 words each, and quite difficult to solve.

Overall, the section was moderate to difficult, but selecting the right questions to answer was the key to getting better score. An attempt of 18-20 questions in this section could be considered good.

<b>LO</b>	<b>Number of Questions</b>
<b>Reading Comprehension</b>	18
<b>Fill in the Blanks</b>	3
<b>Jumbled Sentences</b>	3
<b>Sentence Correction</b>	3
<b>Critical Reasoning</b>	3

### **2. Decision Making – 25 questions:**

This section had 25 questions, out of which 17 were decision making and the remaining 8 were based on analytical reasoning. As usual, the decision making questions had some ambiguity. The questions could be categorized into easy and tough questions with eight questions being very manageable. The sets based on Shambhu, gastric surgery and Marathe were relatively simpler, and should have been attempted. It was interesting to see real life situations like Anna Hazare and the Lokpal bill and 2G scam fabricated and presented

as decision making cases. Among the questions based on analytical reasoning, the set on sales and costs was wordy and difficult-looking but was easy to solve. The simpler looking set on probability was conceptually difficult. Also, the two individual questions on students were time consuming. Overall, a good attempt in this section would be 14-15 questions.

Question Type	Number of Questions
Decision Making	17
Tables and Caselets	4
Probability	2
Linear Arrangements	2

### 3. Quantitative Ability and Data Interpretation – 36 questions:

This section was of moderate difficulty, considering earlier XAT papers. 12 out of 36 questions were DI questions, while the remaining were QA. The set on football was time consuming but once the required table was made, all four questions could be answered. The set on the railway time table was also easy to solve, while the set on GDP was calculation intensive. The set on Arun and tasks was also simple. The QA questions were simple on the whole. Approximately 13-14 out of 24 questions were on the simpler side, but selection was important. A good attempt in this section was 16 – 18 questions.

LO	Number of Questions
Charts and Diagrams	3
Tables and Caselets	9
Averages	1
Percentages	1
Interest and Growth Rates	1
Time and Distance	2
Number Systems	1
Number Theory	3
Algebraic Formulae and Operations	3
Surds and Indices	1
Linear Equations	3
Circles	2
Quadrilaterals and other polygons	1
Mensuration	1
Sets	1
Functions	1
Probability	1
Critical Path	1

## Paper II:

XAT introduced General knowledge along with the essay this year. This section included 30 GK questions with 12 questions on current affairs and 18 questions on static GK. Most of the questions were based on business and economic news. 12-13 attempts would be a good attempt in this section. The essay topic was also a current affairs topics i.e. *'Corruption is the root cause of economic slowdown in India'*.

General Knowledge Categories	Number of Questions
Awards (Magsaysay, Nobel Prize for economics, Olympics medal winners)	3
Business (Fortune 500 list, Petroleum production, Nuclear energy, Companies and products, Car production, Indian exports)	9
Economy (Monetary Policy, CPI, WPI, Davos, Sovereign Debt Crisis, Slide of Rupee, Bretton Woods, Share Index)	8
Government and Politics (Millenium Development Goals, GAAR, Planning Commission, Excise Duty, political turmoils, GDP)	6
Science ( acid, one unit carbon permit)	2
Famous Personalities ( Imagining India, V Kurien)	2