

NMAT and XGMT: A Direct Comparison Guide

A simple, factual guide comparing exam rules, core test software, and question types for MBA applicants.

Target Audience: MBA Aspirants

Style: Plain text / Non-ornamental / Simple Vocabulary

Date: July 2026

1. Scope and College Acceptance

This guide explains the basic differences between the NMAT by GMAC exam and the Xavier General Management Aptitude Test (XGMT). Both exams last for two hours and focus heavily on speed, but they open paths to different business schools.

1.1 NMAT by GMAC

NMAT is a widely accepted test owned and managed by the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC). Many business schools across India accept NMAT scores. The primary college using this exam is NMIMS (Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies) for its various campuses like Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad. Other popular institutions like SPJIMR, TAPMI, and K J Somaiya also accept it, allowing you to apply to multiple institutions with one score.

1.2 Xavier General Management Aptitude Test (XGMT)

XGMT is a university-specific exam managed entirely by XIM University in Bhubaneswar. The scores from this test are only valid for the management programs run by XIM University. The main institute under this university is the Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar (XIMB). While XIMB also accepts national scores like CAT or XAT, XGMT serves as a dedicated, independent testing option for students who strictly want a seat at XIM University.

2. Technical and Software Differences

The table below provides a side-by-side view of the operational differences, including the rules of the testing software.

Feature	NMAT Exam	XGMT Exam
Test Type	Computer-Adaptive Test (Changes dynamically)	Standard Computer Test (Fixed question list)
Total Time	120 Minutes (2 Hours)	120 Minutes (2 Hours)
Total Questions	108 Questions (Fixed)	100 to 130 Questions (Varies by year)
Number of Attempts	Up to 3 attempts allowed in a testing window	Only 1 attempt allowed per year
Skipping Questions	Not allowed. You must answer to see the next question.	Allowed. You can leave questions blank and move on.
Going Back to Previous Qs	Strictly not allowed.	Allowed within the active section window.
Right Answer Score	Uses scaled scoring (36 to 360 total points)	+3 marks
Wrong Answer Penalty	No negative marking. No points lost.	-1 mark for every wrong answer.
Section Order Choice	Yes. You can choose the order before the test starts.	No. The computer forces a random section sequence.

3. Syllabus and Section Differences

Both exams check basic aptitude skills, but the way they break down subjects and package their sections varies heavily.

3.1 Computer-Adaptive System vs. Standard Delivery

NMAT uses adaptive software. This means the computer changes the difficulty of the next question based on your previous answer. If you answer correctly, the next question gets harder and awards more points. If you answer incorrectly, the next question gets easier. XGMT does not do this; all questions have the same weight, and the difficulty does not change based on your actions.

3.2 Section Breakdown and Topics

- **Math and Data Handling:** NMAT groups Math and Data Interpretation (DI) together into a single "Quantitative Skills" section with 36 questions. XGMT separates them completely into two independent sections: a Quantitative Aptitude section and a Data Interpretation section.
- **English and Logic:** NMAT keeps Language Skills (English grammar, vocabulary, reading) separate from Logical Reasoning (puzzles, analytical arguments). XGMT combines Verbal Ability and Logical Reasoning into one joint section.
- **Unique Topics:** XGMT includes a special fourth section containing General Knowledge (GK) and Emotional Quotient (EQ). The EQ part uses everyday workplace scenarios to see how you make moral or human decisions. NMAT does not test GK or EQ at all.

4. Key Test Strategies

Main Strategic Contrast: In NMAT, you must answer every question because the system won't let you skip, but you don't lose marks for guessing. In XGMT, you must skip hard questions to avoid losing marks from negative marking.

4.1 NMAT Strategy: Managing Guesswork

Since NMAT does not have negative marking, leaving a question blank is impossible due to the software design. If you get stuck on a hard question, you should not waste too much time. You must make your best educated guess, select an option, and move to the next question immediately to stay on track with the section timer.

4.2 XGMT Strategy: Speed and Selection

In XGMT, you have to work fast because you face up to 130 questions in 120 minutes. Since there is a -1 mark penalty for wrong answers, guessing blindly will ruin your final score. You must quickly read a question, decide if you can solve it under 45 seconds, and skip it immediately if it looks too complicated.