

XAT and XGMT: A Direct Comparison Guide

A simple, factual breakdown of exam structure, syllabus differences, and test rules for MBA applicants.

Target Audience: MBA Aspirants
Style: Plain text / Non-ornamental
Date: July 2026

1. Overview and College Acceptance

This guide highlights the basic differences between the Xavier Aptitude Test (XAT) and the Xavier General Management Aptitude Test (XGMT). Both exams are used for admission to MBA programs, but they have different rules, formats, and purposes.

1.1 Xavier Aptitude Test (XAT)

XAT is a national-level exam managed by XLRI Jamshedpur. It is one of the most widely used MBA entrance tests in India. A large number of business schools accept XAT scores, including XLRI Jamshedpur, SPJIMR Mumbai, IMT Ghaziabad, and XIMB Bhubaneswar. Students can apply to hundreds of colleges across the country using a single XAT score.

1.2 Xavier General Management Aptitude Test (XGMT)

XGMT is a university-level exam managed by XIM University, Bhubaneswar. This exam is only valid for colleges under XIM University. You can use it to get into specific MBA programs at the Xavier Institute of Management (XIMB) or other schools within XIM University. Since XIMB also accepts national scores like XAT, XGMT acts as a second chance or dedicated route for students who want to study specifically at XIM University.

2. Exam Structure Comparison Table

The table below shows a quick, point-by-point comparison of how both exams are set up.

Feature	XAT Exam	XGMT Exam
Who Organizes It	XLRI Jamshedpur	XIM University, Bhubaneswar
Exam Type	National Level (Many colleges)	University Level (Only XIM University)
Total Time	180 Minutes (3 Hours)	120 Minutes (2 Hours)
Total Questions	Around 95 questions	100 to 130 questions (varies by year)
Number of Sections	4 Sections	4 Sections
Marks for Right Answer	+1 mark	+3 marks
Negative Marks	-0.25 marks for wrong answers	-1 mark for wrong answers
Skip Penalty	Loses 0.10 marks per question after skipping more than 8 questions	No penalty for skipping questions
Section Timers	No strict section timers for the core parts. You can move between sections freely.	Strict timers for each section. You cannot choose which section to do first.

3. Syllabus and Section Breakdown

Both exams test basic skills like math and English, but they structure their sections differently and include unique topics.

3.1 Quantitative Aptitude (Math) and Data Interpretation

- **XAT Approach:** Combines Math and Data Interpretation (DI) into one single section. The math questions focus deeply on concepts like Algebra, Geometry, Arithmetic, and Modern Math. The questions are usually wordy and require deep thinking to solve.
- **XGMT Approach:** Keeps Quantitative Aptitude (Math) and Data Interpretation (DI) in separate sections. The math section focuses more on direct calculation, using topics like Percentages, Profit and Loss, Interest, and Simple Equations. The DI section uses standard charts and tables where you need to check data quickly.

3.2 Verbal Ability and Logical Reasoning

- **XAT Approach:** Focuses heavily on reading comprehension passages that are complex and academic. It also tests critical reasoning, which means you have to analyze arguments and draw logical conclusions from text.
- **XGMT Approach:** Blends short reading passages with basic English grammar and vocabulary questions. This includes error spotting, filling in the blanks, synonyms, and antonyms. The logical reasoning part includes standard puzzles like blood relations, arrangements, and series.

3.3 Unique Exam Sections

Each exam has a special section that the other does not have:

- **XAT Decision Making:** This is a special section in XAT. It gives you business or ethical scenarios where you have to read a situation and choose the best practical solution as a manager.
- **XGMT Emotional Quotient (EQ):** Instead of corporate case studies, XGMT uses situational judgment questions to test your emotional quotient. It evaluates how you deal with people, workplace relationships, and leadership situations.
- **General Knowledge (GK):** Both exams test GK, but XAT separates it into a short, fixed-time part at the end, while XGMT includes it in a combined section with EQ.

4. Key Strategies for Test Takers

Main Difference: XAT gives you more time per question but asks harder, deeper questions. XGMT gives you less time per question, so you have to solve easier questions much faster.

4.1 Handling Time per Question

In XAT, you have 95 questions for 180 minutes, giving you nearly 1.8 minutes per question. Since you do not need to answer every question to get a good score, you can spend more time focusing on getting your answers right. You also have to remember the penalty for skipping too many questions.

In XGMT, you have to answer 100 to 130 questions in 120 minutes. This gives you less than 1 minute per question. You must work very fast. If a question looks hard or takes too long, you should skip it immediately since there is no penalty for leaving it blank.

4.2 Managing the Test Interface

When taking XAT, you can change sections whenever you want during the main part of the exam, allowing you to spend more time on your favorite subjects. In XGMT, you are forced to follow the onscreen section timers. Once a section's time is up, you cannot go back to it, so you must maximize your attempts within that fixed window.