

Candidates appearing in XE or XL papers are required to answer three sections. Sections (A) and (J) are compulsory in XE and XL papers respectively. Candidates can choose any two out of the remaining sections mentioned against the respective papers.

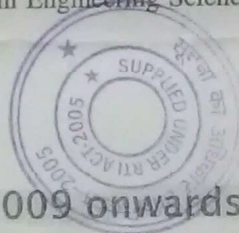
- 2.1.3. The choice of the appropriate paper is the responsibility of the candidate. However, some guidelines are suggested below:
- Candidates are expected to appear in a paper (one of the listed papers) appropriate to the discipline of their qualifying degree.
 - However, the candidates are free to choose any paper according to their admission plan, keeping in mind the eligibility criteria of the institutions in which they wish to seek admission.
- 2.1.4. The question paper of GATE 2008 will be fully of objective type.
- Candidates have to mark the correct choice by **darkening** the appropriate **bubble** against each question on an **Objective Response Sheet (ORS)**.
 - There will be **negative marking** for wrong answers. The deduction for each wrong answer will be **25%** of the allotted marks.

2.2. Paper Inclusions

With effect from GATE 2008, the following two new sections in Engineering Sciences (XE paper) are being introduced:

- Section H: Polymer Science and Engineering
- Section I: Food Technology

The syllabi of these two sections are included in chapter 4.



2.3. Papers to be merged from GATE 2009 onwards

Separate main paper in Information Technology (IT) will be offered for the last time in GATE 2008. With effect from GATE 2009, IT paper will be merged into Computer Science (CS) paper.

2.4. Papers to be discontinued from GATE 2009 onwards

Since three main papers (EC, EE and IN) are available for candidates with background in Electrical Sciences, and a main paper (CS from GATE 2009 onwards) for candidates in Computer Science, it has been decided to discontinue the offering of Computational Science (currently section B) and Electrical Sciences (currently Section C) in the XE paper with effect from GATE 2009. *Candidates are being given a final opportunity to opt for these Sections of XE in GATE 2008.*

2.5. Question papers

The question paper will consist of only objective type questions. Candidates have to mark the correct choice by **darkening** the appropriate **bubble** against each question on an **Objective Response Sheet (ORS)**. There will be **negative marking** for wrong answers. The deduction for each wrong answer will be **25%** of the allotted marks.

2.5.1. MAIN PAPERS

- The question paper will be for a total of 150 marks divided into three groups:
 - Group I:** Question Numbers 1 to 20 (20 questions) will carry one mark each (sub total 20 marks).
 - Group II:** Question Numbers 21 to 75 (55 questions) will carry two marks each (sub total 110 marks). Out of these, Q.71 to Q.75 may be *common data based questions*.
 - Group III:** Question Numbers 76 to 85 (10 questions) will carry two marks each (sub total 20 marks). These questions are called *linked answer questions*. These 10 questions comprise five pairs of questions (76 & 77, 78 & 79, etc.). The solution to the second question of each pair (e.g. Q.77) will be linked to the correct answer to the first one (e.g. Q.76) in the pair.
- Each question will have four choices for the answer. **Only one** choice is correct.