

MCQ Questions Class 10 Maths

Section A strategy — one decision method, the four traps, and where the 20 objective marks sit in the CBSE paper.

Solve it if you can. If not: **eliminate** → **estimate** → **work backwards**. Then always **check**.

Where the objective marks sit

Section	Questions	Marks each	Total
A — objective	20 (18 MCQ + 2 assertion–reason)	1	20
B — very short answer	5	2	10
C — short answer	6	3	18
D — long answer	4	5	20
E — case based	3	4	12
Whole paper	38 questions	—	80

Section A is 20 of 80 — a quarter of the theory paper, answered in three hours with no overall choice. There is **no negative marking**, so a blank is the only answer guaranteed to score nothing.

The decision method — one path, every question

Step	What you do	When it wins
1 Solve it	Do the maths, match your answer to an option	You can see the method at once
2 Eliminate	Strike options that cannot be right — wrong sign, impossible value, wrong size	Two options usually fall away instantly
3 Estimate	Get the ballpark in your head before doing precise work	The options are far apart in size
4 Work backwards	Substitute the options into the question and see which one fits	The options are simple values
5 Check	Two seconds: <i>does this make sense?</i>	Always — it is the step most often skipped

Sanity limits worth memorising: an area or a length is never negative · a probability sits between 0 and 1 · $\sin \theta$ and $\cos \theta$ sit between -1 and 1 · an HCF divides both numbers, an LCM is a multiple of both.

The four traps that cost the mark

The distractor. Wrong options are built around a predictable slip — a dropped minus sign, a familiar miscalculation. If an option matches your answer suspiciously easily, check you did not make the exact error the setter anticipated.

Rushing the reading. Most MCQ losses are answers to a slightly different question. Read the stem and all four options before you commit.

Careless arithmetic on maths you know — the most frustrating way to lose an easy mark.

Camping on one hard MCQ. It is worth the same 1 mark as an easy one. Make your best choice and move on.

Key takeaways

- ▶ **One path, every question.** Solve, else eliminate, estimate, work backwards — then check.
- ▶ **The confidence check is the mark-saver** and the step students skip most.
- ▶ **Never leave a blank.** No negative marking means a reasoned guess beats an empty answer.
- ▶ **Speed comes from familiarity, not hurry.** Practised methods run fast on their own.
- ▶ **NCERT sets the scope** — 7 units, 14 chapters, Constructions removed. Nothing else can be asked.
- ▶ **CBSE sets priority by unit, not chapter.** Chapter percentage tables online are unofficial.

The method on real Section A questions

Five one-mark MCQs, one per step of the decision method – each with the trap the wrong options are built on.

STEP 1 · SOLVE IT

For the AP 3, 7, 11, 15, ... the 10th term is:

- (a) 35 (b) 39 (c) 43 (d) 47

$a = 3, d = 4$, so $a_{10} = a + 9d = 3 + 36 = 39$. **Answer (b)**. The trap: (a) 35 is $a + 8d$ – the off-by-one you get from writing $a + nd$ instead of $a + (n - 1)d$.

STEP 2 · ELIMINATE

A die is thrown once. The probability of *not* getting a 3 is:

- (a) $-1/6$ (b) $1/6$ (c) $5/6$ (d) $7/6$

A probability lies between 0 and 1, so (a) and (d) are gone before any working. Of the two left, 5 of the 6 faces are not a 3, so $P = 5/6$. **Answer (c)**. The trap: (b) $1/6$ is $P(\text{getting a 3})$ – the answer to the question you did not read.

STEP 3 · ESTIMATE

The area of a circle of radius 7 cm, taking $\pi = 22/7$, is:

- (a) 22 cm^2 (b) 44 cm^2 (c) 154 cm^2 (d) 616 cm^2

The circle sits inside a 14 cm square of area 196 cm^2 and fills most of it – so the answer is a little under 196. That kills 22, 44 and 616 on sight. Confirm: $\pi r^2 = (22/7)(49) = 154$. **Answer (c)**. The trap: (b) 44 is the circumference $2\pi r$; (d) 616 is the area for $r = 14$.

STEP 4 · WORK BACKWARDS

Which of the following is a zero of the polynomial $p(x) = x^2 - 5x + 6$?

- (a) -2 (b) 1 (c) 2 (d) 5

Faster to test than to factorise: $p(-2) = 20$, $p(1) = 2$, $p(2) = 4 - 10 + 6 = 0$, $p(5) = 6$. **Answer (c)**. The zeroes are 2 and 3, and only 2 is offered – which is exactly why you read all four options rather than stopping at the first that looks familiar.

STEP 5 · CONFIDENCE CHECK

The value of $\tan 30^\circ$ is:

- (a) $1/\sqrt{3}$ (b) $\sqrt{3}$ (c) 1 (d) $\sqrt{3}/2$

$\tan$ is increasing on 0° to 90° and $\tan 45^\circ = 1$, so $\tan 30^\circ$ must be *less* than 1 – (b) and (c) fail the check immediately. **Answer (a), $1/\sqrt{3}$** . The trap: (b) $\sqrt{3}$ is $\tan 60^\circ$ and (d) $\sqrt{3}/2$ is $\sin 60^\circ$ – the two neighbours students swap in.

WHERE THE MARK IS LOST

► Answering the question you expected rather than the one printed. ► Stopping at the first option that looks right instead of reading all four. ► Losing a minus sign in the working and landing exactly on a distractor. ► Leaving it blank – with no negative marking, that is the only guaranteed zero.

NOW TRY THESE TWO

1. The HCF of 6 and 20 is: (a) 2 (b) 4 (c) 6 (d) 60 – 2. The roots of $2x^2 - 4x + 3 = 0$ are: (a) real and distinct (b) real and equal (c) not real (d) cannot be determined

Answers: 1 → (a) 2 (60 is the LCM – the classic swap). 2 → (c), since $D = b^2 - 4ac = 16 - 24 = -8$, and a negative discriminant means no real roots.

Turn Section A into marks you can count on

- ✓ **Chapter 1 is free** – start practising today, no payment needed.
- ✓ **Mistake identification** – see whether a wrong MCQ was a concept gap or a careless slip.
- ✓ **Anytime tests** – unlimited chapter-wise MCQ practice, whenever you have ten minutes.
- ✓ **Weekly tests** – keep the earlier chapters sharp instead of letting them fade.
- ✓ **Mock tests before the exam** – full papers under real timing, so exam pace feels normal.

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