

# Picture Perception and Discussion Test (PP & DT)

Picture Perception and Discussion Test (PP&DT) is a projection test at SSB which is a part of the screening test. Let us keenly know and understand ins and outs of the procedure involved in PP&DT.

## Objective of PP & DT

Picture Perception and Discussion Test (PP&DT) is conducted to see a picture, understand it and describe it. These tests are geared to know more about the personality of the candidate in various shades. This is conducted to know the candidate's imagination power and description ability in a limited time.

## Meaning of PP & DT

As the name itself suggests, PP&DT is about writing a story on the basis of the picture shown to the candidate. He has to narrate it within the given time and discuss with his group members to form a common story.

## Way of Conducting PP & DT

The following points are given to understand about the procedure of Picture Perception :

1. In PP & DT, for the purpose of perception, the candidates will be shown a hazy (blurred) picture. The picture is deliberately blurred.
2. **The picture is displayed for only 30 seconds through a video projector and a screen.**
3. The picture may consist of more than one character, so in the given time of 30 seconds, the candidates should find how many characters are there and what is their age, sex and mood.
4. In the next step the screen goes off and the assessor gives the candidates 1 minute to jot down the details of the picture in a sheet provided for the purpose.

5. All the details related to sex, gender, age, mood etc of the characters in the picture have to be marked inside the box printed on the sheet provided for the purpose.

*The type is given below*

Central Character	A boy
Age	22
Mood	positive (+)
What led to the situation	(Past)
What is going on in the situation	(Present)
What will be the end of situation	(Future)

6. In the next step, **the candidate gets 4 minutes to write a story using the details** jotted down and keeping the picture in the mind. The story should be written on the sheet provided for the same purpose.

### Tips for Writing Story

Following points should be kept in mind while writing a story :

- ♦ It is important to make a practical and rational story instead of being too imaginative.
- ♦ Make a rough outline of the story before writing.
- ♦ Imagine positively and make story on a positive message. The story must have a positive direction with a positive message.
- ♦ There should be a central character. This central character must do something to help somebody else, which will make this character the hero of the story.
- ♦ Never write a pre-conceived story. Some candidates memorise a few stories and then try to somehow make them fit into the shown pictures.
- ♦ Practice writing stories by keeping blurred pictures in front of you and at the same time manage the time properly.

## Example Picture 1



1. Central Character	A boy
2. Number of characters	Three
3. Age and Sex	25 years to 30 years / all are male
4. Mood	Positive
5. What has happened	Enemies have started firing at the soldiers of neighbouring country
6. What is happening	Soldiers of neighbouring country are firing back at the enemies
7. Future action	The positive mood of the soldiers shows they are at the winning point
8. Final outcome	Productive, courageous and challenging

## The Story

Amit as a boy, always dreamt of becoming a soldier in the Indian Army. Accordingly, he made all the efforts to become a soldier and was successful in his efforts. Now, he is serving as a soldier in Indian Army and is recruited in border security.

While on the duty, one day he saw few soldiers from enemy country entering inside the border and approaching towards his troop. Suddenly, he alerted his comrades who got onto their feet. Thus, there was a firing between both the sides. Finally, Amit was successful in capturing the enemy soldiers with the help of other soldiers. Amit made a sign of victory.

## Example Picture 2



- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. Central Character    | 2 boys   |
| 2. Number of characters | More than 2 (Mainly 2)   |
| 3. Age and Sex          | 22 years to 25 years, male and female  |
| 4. Mood                 | Positive   |
| 5. What has happened    | Julie, Peter and their friends went on trekking and while returning home they lost their way |
| 6. What is happening    | Both are searching the way out of the woods  |
| 7. Future action        | They found a way out of darkness leading to the main road                                    |
| 8. Final outcome        | They are successful in trekking and coming home back safely                                  |

### The Story

Julie and Peter are good friends from their school days and had habits of going on trekking to the nearby forest and mountains. On one day when they were returning home after trekking they lost their way to home. They tried numerous ways but could not find the way.

After moving around for several hours, they got tired and sat on a high land. Suddenly they saw a light coming from the valley road but through that way journey was very dangerous and slippery. After thinking about for a few minutes they decided to go ahead. On their way Julie slipped but Peter hold her at right moment. Finally, they reached the place from where the light was coming. It was a car which was there because of the punctured tyre. The car owner repaired the tyre with the help of Peter and he happily took them to their homes, Due to their courage and “never die attitude” they reached home safely.

## Example Picture 3



- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. Central Character    | 2 girls, 2 boys   |
| 2. Number of characters | Many (Mainly 4)   |
| 3. Age and Sex          | 25 to 30, 2 females and 2 males                                 |
| 4. Mood                 | Positive  |
| 5. What has happened    | Four friends on a weekend planned a picnic and they are dancing |
| 6. What is happening    | It is raining, friends are enjoying the day                     |
| 7. Future action        | They had to return soon so that they don't get drenched         |
| 8. Final outcome        | Come back home safely   |

## The Story

Rosy, Smitha, Raj and Jacob went on a picnic on a weekend. The picnic was planned but on that day the atmosphere got cloudy. Still it was enjoyable. Rosy carried an umbrella with her. They visited a nearby lake, sat there for 2 to 3 hours enjoying the lake view, clicking snaps and having snacks and juice in between.

It started drizzling and all four of them started to pack up things and moved towards the bus stop. On the way Raj started to dance by lifting his legs and hands, but unfortunately he slipped and fell down, getting his ankle fractured. Jacob with the help of Rosy and Smitha rushed Raj to hospital where the doctor said that he would get well within a week. Thus, after a week Jacob got well and thanked his friends for their cooperation.

## Example Picture 4



- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. Central Character    | A boy   |
| 2. Number of characters | Mainly 3  |
| 3. Age and Sex          | 25-30 years and 55 to 60 years male   |
| 4. Mood                 | Negative  |
| 5. What has happened    | Ravi Shankar along with his friend Mishra has filed a case against their sons |
| 6. What is happening    | Ravi Shankar is revealing his problem to the young magistrate Siddarth        |
| 7. Future action        | He should come out with a solution for insecurity                             |
| 8. Final outcome        | Successful in setting solution through district court                         |

## The Story

Siddarth had a dream of becoming district magistrate which he made reality. He was successful in his professional life and personal too. One day he received a grievance by an old aged person Ravi Shankar who filed a case that he was ignored by his son and daughter-in-law who were not taking care of him. He told the magistrate that he wanted his son to vacate the house if he could not take care of him, moreover the house was in the name of Ravi Shankar. The same was the case with his friend Jatin Mishra. Siddarth was so humane and humble that he wanted to give a permanent solution to their problems. First and foremost he wrote to the district administration to bring up an old age home in the city.

Secondly, he asked the sons to summon in the court and said it was unlawful for them to neglect their parents and ordered that if they do not take care of their parents they should vacate the house as it is legal. As a result Ravi Shankar and Jatin Mishra got the due care in their life. Siddarth was successful in his effort.

## Example Picture 5



- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. Central Character    | A boy  |
| 2. Number of characters | More than 2  |
| 3. Age and Sex          | All are male age 40-50 years and 25 years                        |
| 4. Mood                 | Negative   |
| 5. What has happened    | Mr Ganguly, retired Air Chief Marshal died and Sujit has visited |
| 6. What is happening    | All friends of ACM are mourning the death                        |
| 7. Future action        | To come out of the sorrow of the death                           |
| 8. Final outcome        | Sujit is successful in his attempt                               |

## The Story

Sujit Verma had lost his father in the Civil War of India and China. But he was always guided by his father's friend Mr Ganguly who was retired Air Chief Marshal and he always inspired Sujit to become an Air Chief Marshal. Thus Sujit was selected by his efforts to work as a Flight Lieutenant.

He was so honest and hard working that he got the promotion of highest rank that is Air Chief Marshal. He wanted to give this good news to Mr Ganguly who would be happy to listen this news, but he got a bad news that Mr Ganguly expired due to heart attack the same morning.

Sujit visited the mourning house and did the last rites to Mr Ganguly and decided to work for the nation throughout his life; it made him to forget slowly the death of Mr Ganguly and Sujit successfully served the nation in the memories of Mr Ganguly.

## Discussion on the Picture

After picture shown and writing of the story, the next step involved is discussion of picture. This part is most important as it involves two crucial levels of tests.

- I. Individual narration
- II. Group discussion

### *I. Individual Narration*

After the writing of the story is finished, the candidates will be divided into a group of 10-14 members. They are made to sit in a semi circular way. An assessor is also present. Here, the candidate gets a chance to revise the story before narration starts individually.



The narration takes place in the following way :

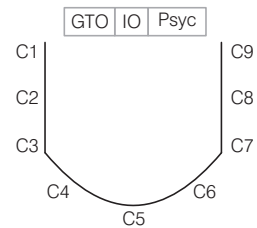
1. Inside the discussion room the PP & DT sheets are given back to look into the story. When the discussion begins, each candidate is required to narrate his story individually one by one.
2. Assessor gives sufficient information regarding whether the candidate is required to tell the details seen in the picture or he has to straight away narrate the story. So, it is very essential to listen carefully to the information.
3. Candidate with the least chest number starts narrating his/her story; once his narration is finished, the next candidate starts narration. This continues till last candidate.
4. Once the narration starts, the assessor will not interrupt the candidates. On the other hand, candidates are also not allowed to talk to assessors.



5. The language allowed to narrate the story is English and if the candidate gets stuck in between, he can use Hindi, but it is very crucial to switch back to English as soon as possible.
6. The candidate should finish the story within '40-60' seconds. So, it is advisable to keep the story very short as well as logical. As soon as the last candidate finishes his individual narration of the story, the 'Discussion' starts.

## II. Group Discussion

Group discussion starts immediately after the last candidate finishes his individual narration. At the discussion, candidates are made to sit as shown in the figure where there is a GTO, IO and also a psychologist present i.e.



- C1 - Chest Number 1  
 GTO - Group Testing Officer  
 Psyc - Psychologist  
 IO - Interviewing Officer

Group discussion takes place in the following way :

1. Group discussion begins among the group members.
2. The assessor do not interrupt while discussion is going on.
3. In the group of 6 to 7 candidates, all of them start speaking at the same time trying to convince each other.
4. It is the motto of the group discussion to make a common story out of the picture that was shown.
5. If the group becomes inconclusive, the assessor further divides the group into two and further discussion is allowed.
6. The group gets 5 to 10 minutes to discuss and one candidate is selected from the group members to narrate a common story. After which the discussion ends and candidates await for the results.

## Mistakes Normally Done

- Generally, candidates **do not observe the picture minutely** and omit many things from picture. This should be avoided and one should include even captions if any. One may add anything in the scene to support one's story.
- Due to pressure and nervousness some **candidates fail to even write a single word**. To avoid this, candidates must **practice the art of writing** descriptive essay. Take any topic and start writing. Then you will find, no difficulty in writing short but meaningful stories.

- Due to lack of confidence and poor power of expression, some candidates narrate their story but are **not able to take part in discussion**. To get recommended for stage II, you must take part in the discussion. To overcome that fear, you have to **practice** with a friend or in front of a mirror.
- To narrate their story some candidates **cross the stipulated time**. Normally, you should finish the narration within 60 to 90 seconds.
- Some candidates try to **monopolise the discussion** to gain some extra point but this is not going to help you. So, avoid dominating the discussion.

## Screening Result

The result of the screening test gets declared on the very same day after a few hours. Candidates who pass the test are allowed to stay back at the centre for further test while the rest of the candidates are dropped at the station on the very same day.



## Do's and Don'ts for Screening Test

### *Do's*

- ♦ Write a story with a positive outlook and also make sure that it has a positive ending.
- ♦ During narration, always be calm and composed. Always listen carefully to the person who talks, and look at the speaker only.
- ♦ When you are talking, talk in a very clear tone and express points in a straight forward manner.
- ♦ Maintain a good body language and a proper posture throughout your group discussion.
- ♦ The points which a candidate may have missed out while writing a story, must be added at the time of narration.

### *Don'ts*

- ♦ Don't look at the assessors while narrating the story, or during the discussion.
- ♦ Do not try to dominate the discussion by speaking more.
- ♦ Do not argue with the other group members.
- ♦ Do not be fussy about a single point Remember go with the group always because cooperation is an important thing.