

XAT 2010 Analysis

Overview:

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Number of Questions | 101 |
| Number of Sections | 3 |
| Number of Options | 5 |
| Time | 120 minutes + Essay (20 Min) |
| Marks Per Question | 1 mark (Assumed) |
| Negative Marking | Progressive Negative Marking: (1) 0.20 Marks for first five incorrect answers <i>in each section</i> (2) 0.25 for each incorrect answer thereafter |
| | |

XAT 2010 made minor changes in the pattern – while the number and the coverage of the sections, as well as progressive negative marking were preserved – the number of questions in each section changed. True to its form, all three sections were equally difficult – careful selection of questions, and high level of confidence in the questions attempted were key. A large number of questions could have been left while still performing well in the paper.

The type and the flavor of questions were unique – not easily falling into any clearly defined question types, and concepts learnt. There were 4 Question Paper variants - A, B, C, and D. The section order was different across variants, and the order of questions inside a section was also different. The number of attempts and the cutoffs are expected to reduce compared to XAT 2009.

The essay topic (20 min) was “Earth provides enough to satisfy every man’s need, but not every man’s greed”.

| Section | Category | Total Questions | Ideal Attempts | Expected Cut-offs | Level of Difficulty |
|---------|--|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Analytical Reasoning and Decision Making | 30 | 15+ | 7-8 | High |
| 2 | Verbal Ability and Logical Reasoning | 31 | 15+ | 8-9 | High |
| 3 | Data Interpretation and Quantitative Ability | 40 | 15+ | 8-9 | High |
| | Total | 101 | 45+ | 30 | High |

Verbal Ability and Logical Reasoning – 31 Questions

| Learning Objectives | No. of Questions | Topic | No. of Questions |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Fill in the blanks | 5 | Verbal Reasoning | 8 |
| Jumbled sentences | 2 | | |
| Analogy | 1 | | |
| FIJ | 1 | Critical Reasoning | 17 |
| Critical Reasoning | 16 | | |
| Elimination Techniques | 6 | Reading Comprehension | 6 |
| Grand Total | 31 | | 31 |

This section had a strong emphasis on Critical Reasoning. Even the RC passages were dense, rather than long, with a clear focus on inferential and critical reasoning questions. Figures of speech questions that made an entry in XAT 2009 were absent. Almost all the questions required careful thought and a lot of deliberation, and there was plenty of scope of making silly mistakes even with the easier ones.

As the level of difficulty of the questions was high, only questions where the confidence level was high should have been attempted. It was possible to identify those worth attempting – 5 Fill in the Blanks (would have taken less time) and a couple of critical reasoning questions were pretty straightforward and should have been attempted.

Data Interpretation & Quantitative Ability – 40 Questions

| Learning Objectives | No. of Questions | Topic | No. of Questions |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Number Theory | 3 | Algebra | 4 |
| Quadratic and Higher Order Equations | 1 | | |
| Mixtures and Alligation | 1 | Arithmetic | 6 |
| Percentages | 1 | | |
| Profit, Loss and Discount | 2 | | |
| Time and Distance | 2 | | |
| Tables and Caselets | 12 | Data Interpretation | 12 |
| Data Sufficiency | 2 | Data Sufficiency | 2 |
| Circles | 1 | Geometry | 9 |
| Coordinate Geometry | 3 | | |
| Mensuration | 1 | | |
| Quadrilaterals and Other Polygons | 1 | | |
| Triangles | 3 | | |
| Functions | 1 | Modern Maths | 6 |
| Permutations and Combinations | 1 | | |
| Probability | 2 | | |
| Sequences, Progressions and Series | 2 | | |
| Others | 1 | Other MBA Topics | 1 |
| Grand Total | 40 | | |

The level of difficulty of this section too was quite high. Selection of the ones to be left unattempted was important and there were a number of easy questions that should have been definitely attempted.

Most questions required sound fundamentals and high speed and many of them were verbose. A couple of them foxed even the most prepared test-taker with the dilemma of not knowing where to start. Although all the DI caselets were difficult, the Data Sufficiency questions were simpler and should have been attempted.

The questions on “Relation among three paths on circular field”, “four digit prime number with a prime units digit”, “Sun Metals”, “Equilateral Triangle”, “Poles”, “Acid concentration”, “Length of sides of squares”, “clock”, “Arrangements of CHCJL” and “chocolate boxes” were simple and should have been attempted.

Analytical Reasoning and Decision Making - 30 Questions

| Learning Objectives | No. of Questions | Topic | No. of Questions |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Complex Arrangement | 13 | Logical Reasoning | 18 |
| Logical Conditions and Grouping | 3 | | |
| Miscellaneous | 2 | | |
| Decision Making | 12 | Other MBA topics | 12 |
| Grand Total | 30 | | |

The Decision Making questions in this section should have been attempted – there were some questions that could be answered with high level of confidence.

Conversely, there were a number of Logical Reasoning questions that were quite complicated, and were best avoided. (*Eg. NWC Corp, Bands in XLRI*). The conditional nature of the questions asked (If A, then.....), adding more information in the question, while not providing a complete set in the common data made this different as well as difficult.