

XAT 2012 Analysis

XAT 2012 was a respite compared to last year - the paper was difficult and lengthy but not impossibly so. The entire paper was a big decision making question since:

1. Selection of questions was extremely important
2. Marking was variable
3. The length of questions (in terms of lines of text) was quite variable.

Summary		
Number of Sections	3	
Options per Question	5	
Negative Marking	1/4th of Marks for the Question	
Marks per Question	Variable	
Expected Cut-offs	Decision Making	7
	Verbal Ability	11
	Quantitative Ability	8
	Overall	36-38

1. Decision Making:

This section had a few questions testing Logical Reasoning, but most were on decision making skills.

The question on *morals and ethics* was very tricky and should not have been attempted.

One of the highlights of XAT 2012 was the absence of conventional reasoning questions. The set on traveling from Jamshedpur to Delhi and back was the closest to such questions. While not conceptually tricky, it was very time consuming and had a high likelihood of inducing basic calculation errors. So, even though each question had 1.5 marks, it should have been attempted at the end.

Another set on Dev Anand and his driver looked difficult but could have been solved by some amount of observation. The subjectivity was high; but this being a decision making question, this was to be expected in any case.

Decision Making	
Concepts	Number of Questions
Decision Making	16
Critical Path	4
Critical Reasoning	2
Miscellaneous	3

2. Verbal Ability:

There was an emphasis on verbal skills, and critical reasoning. There were two RC passages, of which in one the passage was very difficult but had a large number of questions after it. Some questions had very close answer options and should have been left alone. There were no surprises in terms of topics asked.

Verbal Ability	
Concepts	Number of Questions
Word Usage	2
Fill in the Blanks	3
Implicit Statements	4
Odd man out	2
Strong and Weak Arguments	4
Jumbled Sentences	3
Reading Comprehension	9
Correct/Incorrect Sentences	2
Paragraph Summary	1
Syllogisms	1
Antonyms	1

3. Quantitative Ability:

XAT 2012 came as a respite from the impossibly difficult XAT 2011. Questions were simpler, from familiar topics and could be classified as questions for an aptitude test rather than for a Math Olympiad.

About 50% of the 20 questions in Quant were easy. There were just 4 difficult questions. Modern Maths was absent. Questions were worded in such a way that they appeared to be difficult but were not so.

Three questions - Sisters carrying buckets, watermelons and Lionel-Ronaldo - could be solved just by observation. Other than these three the following questions were very simple and should have been attempted — VPs visiting plant, mean and median of salary figures, Interest on reducing balance, 1000 smaller spheres, orange and pineapple juice, potencies, and alcohol in water.

The DI sets were not even half the difficulty level as those in XAT 2011. The pie chart was the simplest of the 3 and should definitely have been attempted. *Car mileage* was also reasonably easy and could have been attempted. *Yahoo, Facebook and Google* was a time trap as 2 of the 3 questions were ambiguous.

Quantitative Ability	
Concepts	Number of Questions
Number Theory	2
Averages	1
Tables and Caselets	2
Charts and Diagrams	5
Percentages	1
Mensuration	4
Interest and Growth Rates	1
Mixtures and Alligation	2
Linear Equations	3
Triangles	2
Ratio and Proportion	2
Time and Distance	1
Venn Diagrams	1
Quadrilaterals and Other Polygons	1

4. Essay:

Deviating from the past, this had two statements:

Statement I – Poverty is the major problem that is plaguing India. Because of the magnitude and complexity of this problem, government policies are not successful.

Statement II – Poverty is a consequence of the government policies. Instead of trying to address the problem, the government should concentrate on the root causes of the problem.

The student had to support one of the two statements, provide the justification for the same and give further examples to support his/her point. While the language of the topic was simpler, the topic tested the ability of the student to condense and structure the information into 350 words.