

IRMA Entrance Test November 08, 2009

The season of entrance tests for admission into the top B-schools has commenced with the IRMA entrance test held on 8th, November 2009 at 27 centers all over India.

15,127 students appeared in the test to prove their candidature for a total 120 seats available in this elite Institute of Rural Management. This year there is an increase in the number of applicants by nearly 36% compared to last year and an increase of 25 seats (95 last year) compared to last year.

As previously declared in the IRMA brochure, the paper had four sections viz. **English Comprehension (EC)** – 40 Questions/Marks, **Quantitative Ability (QA)** – 50 Questions/Marks, **Analytical Reasoning (AR)** – 40 Questions/Marks and **Issue of social concern (ISC)** – 40 Questions/Marks.

This year also the pattern of questions in the sections were of traditional IRMA type. A lot of the questions from PT material and the pattern of the IRMA was ditto as the Prac IRMA conducted by PT Education.

English Comprehension **Total number of questions : 40**

In EC section there was one passage of around **600 words** based on the **uses of chemical fertilizers in India vs Organic farming**. It comprised of **15 questions** including five based on vocabulary (contextual meaning). The questions based on passage were easy and direct one can attempt 11 to 12 questions from it. The other questions in the EC section were on Para Jumbles (5), Sentence Corrections (5), Fill in the Blanks (5) and Cloze Tests (10). A new type of question was seen in Sentence Correction - which had one part of the sentence blank and from the options - a suitable phrase had to be selected. But it was manageable.

The Para Jumble, Fill in the Blank and Cloze test questions were sitters and one could attempt 10-11 questions out of it. Overall an attempt of 20 to 22 questions in a time span of 25 minutes would be smart enough.

Disclaimer: All this information has been memorised by PT students. We are merely reproducing it here in fragments to ensure that the huge community of students eagerly waiting to see an objective comparison of their performance gets the right picture.

Bird's Eye View

Total Number of Questions – 200

Total Time – 120 minutes

The Marking Scheme – The weightage for the correct answer was not given in the test paper. Although the sectionwise marks for the test was given in the brochure. Negative marking of 25% of the weightage of the question was mentioned.

Total Marks – 200

Number of Options – 5

Number of sets Available – 4

Sections/Sectional Time Limit – There were four sections and there was no sectional time constraint.

Medium of marking – Pencil

Sectional Break-up–

Section	Topic	No. of Ques.	No. of Marks
I	English Comprehension	40	40
II	Quantitative Ability	50	50
III	Analytical Reasoning	50	50
IV	Issues of Social Concern	60	60

Expected Cut-Offs – Call from IRMA - 85+, Call from XIMB (Rural Management) - 80+.

Quantitative Ability
Total number of questions : 50

In QA section the DI and DS question were merged. In all 20 questions were on DI. 5 on Line Diagram, two sets of five questions based on tables and one pie chart containing five questions. The IBPRB had ruralised the DI questions. For example all sets were based on rural background like ratio of the earnings of the farmers was given, and the data of a fair in village was given in another etc. DI questions were cool with moderate level of calculations. One could have to attempt all the four sets and try to maximize the score here because some of the questions in Maths were based on Probability and P and C, which seemed difficult for many students. Five questions based on Numerical Ability, Moderate level of difficulty, simply based on BODMAS etc. Five questions were based on five option DS. To check the presence of mind the fourth and the fifth options were interchanged from the standard directions. The rest of the questions were on other Maths areas like Ratio and Proportion (6), Time Speed and Distance (1), Work and Time (1), Partnership (1), Probability (3), Permutation and Combination (1), Mensuration (4) and Number System (3). An attempt of 28 to 30 questions would be decent in a time span of 30 to 35 minutes in this section.

Analytical Reasoning
Total number of questions : 50

There were questions on Decision Making (10), Statement-Conclusion (5), Statement Course of Action (5), Degree of Truthness (5), DS on LR (5), Data Arrangement (5), Cause and Effect analysis (5), Alphabet test (4), Logical Analogies (2), Odd One Out (2) and Coding and Decoding (2). The questions were of moderate level of difficulty one could attempt the questions from Decision Making, Data Arrangement, DS, Alphabet Test, Logical Analogies, Odd One Out and Coding Decoding. Since the questions from the verbal reasoning seems to foggy for most of the aspirants. An attempt of 25 to 27 questions in a time span of 30 to 35 minutes would be decent in this section.

Issues of Social Concern
Total number of questions : 60

The fourth and the last section was the biggest section of the paper. It contained 60 questions. The questions were based Government Policies, Planning and Strategy regarding the rural sector, Agriculture, Environment, Union Budget, Awards, Book-Writer, etc. An attempt of 25+ questions in a time span of 20 to 25 minutes with an accuracy level of 90% would be decent. We have recalled some of the questions which are as follows.

1. Largest producer of milk in the world.
2. World Trade Centre - Head Office
3. Which is the largest Jute producing state of India?
4. Which of the following award did Bill Gates received recently
5. Which of the following Indian got the Raman Magsaysay awards recently?

Apart from this these were questions from TRIPS, UNO issue of Neutrality, etc.

Section	Topic	Areas Tested	No. of Ques.	No. of Marks	Difficulty Level	Ideal Attempts	Time suggested	Ideal Marks (Assuming one mark for each question and 90% accuracy)
I	English Comprehension	English Vocabulary and Reading Comprehension	40	40	Easy to Moderate	20+	25 min.	18+
II	Quantitative Ability	Numerical Ability, Mathematical Ability, Data Interpretation, Data Sufficiency	50	50	Easy to Moderate	28+	35 min.	31+
III	Analytical Reasoning	Logical Reasoning, Decision Making	50	50	Easy to Moderate	25 +	35 min.	26+
IV	Issues of Social Concern	General Awareness to current rural and economic panorama	60	60	Moderate to Tough	25+	25 min	15+
Total			200	200		110+	120 min.	90+

Overall the paper was good and an **attempt of 110 to 115 questions with 85-90% accuracy will be ideal to get a call for GD/PI**. Final selection will be done on the basis of overall performance in Written Test, PI and GD. The marks obtained in PI and GD will be normalized across evaluating panels. The marks obtained in the Written Test and the normalised marks obtained in PI and GD will be reduced to equivalent marks out of **50, 40 and 10 marks**, respectively. An overall merit list will be prepared based on total marks obtained out of these 100 marks. Such listing will be done separately for different categories of the applicants and the required number of candidates will be selected from different categories in their order of merit.

The cut off marks used for final selection of candidates and some general facts are shown below.

Section	Actual Cut-Off for 2007 batch (in marks)	Actual Cut-Off for 2008 batch (in marks)	Actual Cut-Off for 2009 batch (in marks)	Estimated Cut-Off for 2010 batch (in marks)
English Comprehension (40)	16	16	16	18
Quantitative Ability (50)	18	20	19	19
Analytical Reasoning (50)	11	20	19	19
Issues of Social Concern (60)	13	15	15	17
Overall Cut-off (200)	76	80	85	85

Assuming one mark for each question.

Total number of students appeared	15127 (estimated)
Total No. of seats (PRM)	95
Reservation Status	Yes
Intake ratio for GD/PI	1:4
Cut-Off Marks (Last Year)	85 Marks (overall)
Fees	3 lacs
Average Salary	6.13 lacs

Source: IRMA Brochure 2009

Expected Cut-Offs

85+ call from IRMA
80+ call from XIMB (Rural Management)

"Beginning is easy - continuing hard", be well prepared for IIFT next Sunday.
Best Wishes!