Tata Institute of Social Sciences Entrance Test
December 14, 2008

TISS is one of the most prestigious institutes in India. It is well known as much for its "unique programs" and pedagogy as much for its rigorous entrance procedure, which is quite different from the usual selection procedures at B-Schools.

The first phase of its entrance procedure (the written test) had conducted at total **23 centres** of **17 cities** all over India. As per official numbers **10871** students appeared for the test.

As declared earlier the written test consisted of two parts - **Part I** and **Part II**. **Part I** was for all candidates. **Part II** was **course specific**. The **Part I** was of **50** questions divided in **three sections** to be solved in a time span of **45 minutes**.

There were candidates who applied for four different programmes – **MA in Human Resources Management and Labour Relations (HRMLR)**, **Globalisation and Labour (GL)**, **Social Entrepreneurship (SE)** and **Social Science (SS)**.

Time of **one hour** was allotted for the **Part II**. The **HRMLR** paper was of **75 questions** divided into **six sections**; the **GL and SE** paper consisted of **60 questions** and the **SS** paper was **subjective in nature** containing three questions.

A bird's-eye view of **BOTH THE PARTS FOR ALL THE THREE COURSES** is shown below. Please move on to the next page for the detailed analysis of the paper.

Bird's Eye View

Total Number of Questions – Part I - 50. Part II - 75 (HRMLR), 60 (GLSE), 3 subjective questions out of which two were to be attempted (SS)

Total Time – Part I - 45 min. Part II - 60 min.

The Marking Scheme – Marks per question were not declared. **No Negative marking. (For both parts)**

Number of Options – 4 (for both parts)   **Number of sets Available** – 4

Sections/Sectional Time Limit – Part I - three. Part II - five (HRMLR), no section (GL, SE and SS).

Medium of marking – Pencil

Sectional Break-up– Part I –

Section	Topic	No. of Ques.	Difficulty Level
I	Analytical and Numerical Ability	15	
II	Language Aptitude	20	Easy
III	Awareness about contemporary social issues	15	

Part II - HRMLR - Total 75 questions divided in six sections viz. DI, DS, Business Knowledge (BK), RC, Probability and Social, Economic and Management Fundamentals.

GLSE - Total 60 questions on Business Awareness and Statistics without any sections.

SS - Three subjective type questions out of which two have to be attempted. Total marks 25.

Expected Cut-Offs – Part I - 33 + marks. Part II - HRMLR - 38+ (Out of 75 marks), GL and SE - 30+ (Out of 60 marks), SS - 15 + (Out of 25 marks).

Detailed Analysis

Part I of the test was common for all study programmes. It was an objective, multiple choice test, with **50 questions** to be attempted in **45 minutes** and aims to test **Analytical Ability (AA)**, **Language Ability (LA)** and **Awareness of Contemporary Social Issues (ACSI)**.

There were no SECTIONAL TIME LIMITS or SECTIONAL CUT-OFFS. There was NO NEGATIVE MARKING IN THE PAPER.

PART I
Section I - Analytical Ability
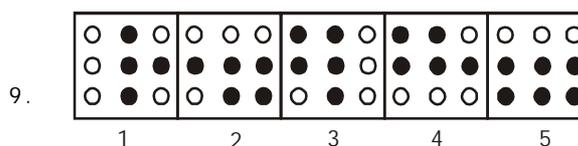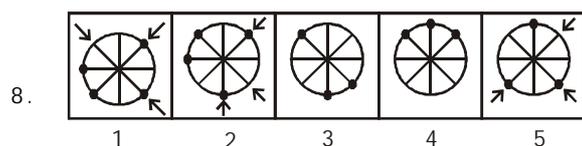### *Total number of questions : 15*

The very first section of the test comprises of questions on **Quantitative and Logical Aptitude**. There were total 15 questions. The questions were on **Visual Reasoning**, **Clocks**, **Averages**, **Percentages**, **Ratio and Proportion**, **Numbers**, **SI and CI**, **Mensuration** and **Data Arrangement**. **ONE OF THE DATA ARRANGEMENT SET WAS DIRECTLY FROM THE PT MATERIAL**.

The detailed break-up of the section is shown in the adjacent table –

Topic	No. of Questions	Difficulty level
Visual Reasoning	2	
Clocks	1	
Mensuration	2	
Averages	2	
Data Arrangement	5	Easy
Ratio and Proportion	1	
Numbers	1	
SI and CI	1	

We have recalled some of the questions which are as follows –

1. If after 3:00 clock the hour hand of the clock move 135°, then what is the time shown by the clock?

2. If both the length and the breadth of a rectangle is double, then what will be its effect on area?

3. The average income of a person for a fortnight is Rs. 90. He works from 14 consecutive days. If the average of first 7 days is Rs.87 and the average of last 7 days is Rs.92 then what was his income on the 8th day?

4. A, B and C has Rs. 100, 60 and 240 with them. They went to a restaurant, the restaurant bill was of Rs. 112 and they gave Rs. 8 as tip to waiter. Now they want to share the total expenditure in the ratio of the money they had with them. What is the difference between the amount paid by A and C?

5. An equilateral triangle of 3 inches can be divided into how many maximum number equilateral triangle of one inch each?

6. In how much time, a sum of Rs. 1250 will be Rs. 10,000 with an simple interest rate of 5%?

7. Son's age is the half of the mother's age. Daughters age is 3 time father's age. Brother is 3 years older than sister and Husband is 8 years older than wife. What is the age of Mother?

8.

9.

Section II - Language Aptitude
Total number of questions : 20

Seven questions of this section were based on a **Reading Comprehension (RC)** of nearly **100 words**. The **theme** of the RC passage was on **a poor tribal artist girl – Pema, whose paintings were purchased by the Collector of Jhabua for the collectorate**. The passage as well as the questions based on it were easy.

The rest of the questions in this section were to check on the **understanding of the English Language**. The questions were **innovative and easy**. For example, one question was **"A democratic school should understand the school drop out from the student's point of view. The following sentence should be the answer to which of the following question"** and the options were, why should a school understand student's point of view, When should a school understood dropout?, How should a democratic school understood school dropout?, who should understand the school drop out?

Some of the questions were on inference from the statements. For example, a statement was given **"Don't start part II of the test until you have complete the part I"** and asked which of the following inferences can be made from the statement given.

Some of the questions were on **how you can write the given statement/words in a different way?** etc. For example, **"The turn out of the politicians at party was stunning"** and asked that the word stunning used in the sentence can be replaced by.

There were **four** questions on **Fill in the blanks** and **one** question was based on **Direct and Indirect speech**. The difficulty level of the all the questions was easy.

Section III - Awareness of Contemporary Social Issues
Total number of questions : 15

The questions basically were on **latest awards**, **business news and economy**. The level of the questions was **easy**. Some of the questions were on **traditional GK like** – **"which of the following state has never had a woman chief minister?"** etc.

We have recalled some of the questions from this area which are as follows.

1. Who is the winner of the 2008 Ramon Magsaysay Award? –
2. Which of the following do not match –
   Telangana Rashtra Samiti – Andhra Pradesh
   Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party – Maharashtra
   RSP – West Bengal
   PMK – Tamil Nadu
3. Which of the following is the newest member of SAARC?
4. Who is the owner of Booker Prize 2008? - Arvind Adiga
5. From which of the following sectors, most of the Indian companies are represented in the Fortune 500 list?
6. Mark Zuckerberg is CEO of which company? - Facebook
7. Which of the following do not match – a tally of SEZ vs Corporate groups were given.
8. The Kwashioskar disease is caused because of lack of –
9. Which of the following state has the lowest population density? –
10. Jhulan Goswami is a famous –
11. Which of the following state has never had a woman Chief Minister?
12. India's first artificial satellite is known as –
13. Which of the following is not related with climate change. _
14. India is a signatory of –

Since there were no sectional cut-offs and attempt of 40 + questions with an 80% accuracy will be sufficient to cross the overall cut-off.

PART II
Course specific

After the Part I got over the second booklet was distributed. This booklets was course specific. For the HRMLR, GL and SE the test comprised multiple choice questions to be marked on an OMR sheet, but for the SS candidates the test was of subjective nature.

In the **HRMLR** test there were total **75 questions** divided into six sections viz. **Data Interpretation (DI)**, **Data Sufficiency (DS)**, **Business Knowledge (BK)**, **Reading Comprehension (RC)**, **Probability** and **Social, Economic and Management Fundamentals**.

The **GLSE** test were total **60 questions** comprises of **Business Awareness** and **Mathematical Aptitude (mainly** Statistics).

In **SS** test paper there total **3 subjective questions** were asked out of which two had to attempted. **Total marks** for the section was **25**.

There were three different cases given in each question. The cases were based on the social issues like, **'The life of tribal woman affected by floods in Kosi river (Bihar)'**, **'The terrorist attacks – recent Ahmedabad & Delhi blasts and Caste System in India – one case of a 12 year old child was given**, whose friends earlier do not know about his caste and after their knowing it, the child faces their disrespect and humiliation**.**'

Total four questions asked on each case – **'Identify the issue that you consider important in the case'**, **'State your understanding on the issue you have identified'**, **'How would you relate the above situation to your life?'** and **'What would you do in a situation like this and why?'**

GROUP DISCUSSIONS were held for students who had applied for **SS,** on the same day, after the written test. The GD topics were on social issues like **– 'challenges in primary education for all**.'

Weightage of different components of TISS selection procedure and the important dates are given as follows –

S. No.	Programme	WT	GD	PI	AB	Total
1	HRM and LR	70	30	70	30	200
2	GL	100	-	70	30	200
3	SE	70	30	70	30	200
4	SS	75	25	70	30	200

Weightage of different components

Note : AB is Academic Background

Important Dates	
Announcement of Eligible Candidates on TISS website for Group Discussion/Personal Interview for all programmes	Jan. 25, 2009
GD/PI at TISS Mumbai campus for all other programmes	March 13 -19, 2009
Announcement of selection on TISS website	Apr. 7, 2009
Commencement of the Academic Session, 2009-11	22-Jun-09

Expected Cut-Offs/Ideal attempt to clear cut-offs

Part I
33 + marks
Part II
HRMLR - attempt of 50+ questions
GL and SE - attempt of 38+ questions
SS - 15 + (Out of 25 marks).

Wishing you all the BEST for the SNAP Test and IBSAT entrance tests ahead!