

# XAT - 2003

## January 05, 2003

The test contained 200 questions distributed into three sections, each with a specified time limit. The negative marking was - 1/3 for each section.

Section I - VA + RC - 80 questions, 40 minutes.

Section II - MA - 60 questions - 50 minutes.

Section III - GK - 60 questions - 30 minutes.

True to its pattern last year, XAT 2003 also was a good test. The language areas were on the simpler side while the numerical ability was indeed tough. The GK section would not have posed any problem to the well read and aware student as it contained questions based on the events of the last year, the 2001 Census and a few questions on (almost) historic events.

The test was followed by an essay that was to be written in 20 minutes.

### VA + RC - 80 questions - 40 minutes.

A very simple section, most which directly tested the test-taker's verbal ability. The RC passage was sourced directly from Fortune magazine's November 3, 2001 issue. The questions on the RC passage were also direct, data based questions and did not involve much inference). The VA part of the section was rather easy and did not contain any difficult words.

- 20 Analogies.
- 10 Fill in the blanks.
- 10 close test based questions. (based on making of the film - Mr. & Mrs. Iyer)
- 10 antonyms from a given passage.
- 10 RC based questions. (1 Passage)
- 20 direct synonyms.

### RC Passage :

#### From Heroes to Goats ... and Back Again? How corporate leaders lost our trust.

The food was good. The weather was heavenly. But the Greenbrier resort in West Virginia was not an especially joyous place in early October as 68 chief executives converged for a meeting of the super-exclusive Business Council. Alone for once, shielded from the media, CEOs normally relish the opportunity to mingle with their peers and bask in one another's reflected glory. But this was the year of the disgraced CEO, and as a panel on corporate governance got underway, the participants spoke reservedly. There were the predictable comments about a few bad apples. There was frustration that everyone was being punished for the sins of a few. There was agreement that most chief executives were not criminals.

But then the discussion took an unexpected turn, according to two people present. All CEOs, declared the chief of a big European manufacturer, were in some sense responsible. It wasn't just a few bad seeds who were taking unjustifiable salaries or pushing accounting rules to their limits, he said. Everyone needed to take a look in the mirror. With that, the head of a financial services giant took the floor and issued an appeal: CEOs needed to break their public silence and forcefully condemn the business practices that had led to the scandals. Otherwise, their image as crooks would linger.

Source: Fortune, Sunday November 3, 2001

- Where was the meeting held?
- What spoiled the meeting? (weather, agenda, media, CEOs)
- The title of the passage provides information about?
- What should the CEOs do to improve their image?
- The CEO who spoke was the head of a \_\_\_\_\_ organization?
- What are the CEOs commonly perceived as?
- Why is the media so irked with the CEOs? (Fat salaries, enormous power, ..)

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**Disclaimer:** All these questions have been memorised by PT students. We are merely reproducing a few of them 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.

## MA - 60 questions - 50 minutes.

This section was indeed tough - it contained 6 sets of 10 questions each and the test taker had to understand the theme of the set in order that he could attempt even a single question from the set. The sets took a little while to comprehend and were inclined to test the student's number crunching and pattern recognition skills. The questions in the sets were also calculative and took time to solve. Though, some of the questions could have been done much faster by applying presence of mind.

Five of the six sets were based on function-like pattern and the sixth set was on permutation and combinations.

The section was indeed a low scoring one and the accuracy of attempts would be of critical importance.

### **The various types of Sets asked at the test were :**

- Permutation & Combination (balls being drawn from boxes and questions on different ways of doing the same)
- Numbers (Transposition) within a set of numbers based on a few other conditions
- Cell movements in a Matrix (square grid) and a few other conditions
- Questions based on Functions - defined on a set of numbers
- Multiple functions (eight in all) A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H defined and composite functions asked
- Formation of series of numbers from two other sequences based on conditions

## GK Section - 60 questions - 30 minutes.

The GK section was a moderate one and contained several question based on the events that have happened in the recent past and a few questions which were based on some historic events (the traditional GK, that is). There were however, no questions on Labour laws and sports.

- Which is the oldest capital city of the world? (Rome, Damascus, London, Jerusalem)
- What was the growth rate of exports in Computer hardware (in dollar terms) last year?
- Which economist gave the concept of 'Small is beautiful'? (Schumpeter, Schumaker, ..)
- What is the literacy rate of India according to the 2001 Census?
- Which Indian was the first to receive the Nobel Prize? (RNT, CV Raman, ..)
- HAMAS is: (Terrorist organization, ...)
- NAFTA stands for: (North American Free Trade Agreement, ...)
- Which of the following is the first woman to appear on the stamps? (Rani Lakshmi Bai, Razia Sultan, Indira Gandhi, .)
- Which personality got the Economic Times Business Personality Awards in 2001? (Dhirubhai Ambani, Azim Premji, N. R. Narayana Murthy, .)
- Which treaty deals with the rules governing the conduct with prisoners of war? (Geneva Convention, Treaty of Versailles, Zurich Convention, .)
- The International Monetary Fund was formed at which conference? (Bretton Woods Conference, Seattle Conference, ..)
- What does the Sharada Act deal with? (Child Marriages, Abolition of dowry, ..)
- What is Amnesty International? (Human Rights Organization, ...)
- What is the literacy rate amongst females according to the 2001 Census?
- Which was the first black American to win the Nobel Prize? (Martin Luther King Jr., ...)
- Dadabhai Naoroji expounded the concept of 'Drain of Wealth from India' in which of his book?
- What was the reason for the success of Industrial Revolution in Britain? (Drain of wealth from India, the famine in India, Death of the cottage industry, .)
- Which is the last country that joined the UN? (Iran, East Timor, Indonesia, Switzerland)
- Which of the following companies got the Outstanding Pool of Knowledge Award in Asia? (IIT Delhi, Infosys, Wipro, IIM Ahmedabad)
- What is the combination of a PDA and a cellular phone called? (Cell phone, Mobile phone, Smart phone, .)
- Which is the longest mountain range in the world? (Andes, Pir Panjal, Himalayas, Hindukush)

**Not even a single question was based on Labour Laws etc.**

## Essay Topic

"To give real service, one needs to add something which cannot be bought or measured, like sincerity and integrity."

## Final Analysis

Although we do feel that this paper was on the tougher side, but we can expect the possible cut-off at around 105+ (BMD) & around 95(PM&IR).

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