

XAT 2017 continued to maintain its reputation of being the toughest paper of the season with questions pitched at a very high level. Yet, a saving grace was that compared to XAT 2016 this year's paper was easier. Verbal ability in particular was easier than the typical GOD level VA that features in XAT. DM was roughly of the same difficulty level and the level of difficulty of the Quant and DI section was slightly lower as compared to previous year. The following is the detailed analysis of both Part 1 and Part 2 of the Paper.

Part 1: As intimated prior on the XAT website the pattern held no surprises with 24 questions of VA/RC, 21 of DM and 27 of QA & DI. This part of the paper needed to be attempted in 170 minutes. The candidate had the freedom to choose his time allocation across sections, thus one could compensate for one's weak areas by doing stronger sections slightly faster.

Section A was VA/RC: This section was easier than last year however it still was very tricky with many options being close. The break up was as follows

- 1) Parajumbles 2 Q
- 2) Poetry based RC 2 sets of 1 Question each
- 3) Fill in the Blanks 2 Q
- 4) Grammar 2 Q
- 5) CR/ Inference based 3 Q
- 6) Vocabulary (Analogy)-1 Q
- 7) 4 Prose RC's were there of 2 ,3,3 and 4 Questions

RC Sources:

- 1) The RC of 2 questions was sourced from Google Books, the book being "IS it 'cause it's Cool?: Affective Encounters with American culture"
- 2) One of the RC's of 3 questions was sourced from a book "The Inevitable: Understanding 12 technological forces that will shape our future" by Kevin Kelly.
- 3) The other of 3 Questions was from "The Psychopath Test" by Jon Ronson.
- 4) The most difficult RC based on Existentialism was based on Beasts and Man: Roots of Human Nature" BY Mary Midgley.

Food for Thought: All these books are available on google books clearly a sign of how reading online can be of much help in attempting every MBA entrance aptitude paper not just CAT.

Section B was Decision Making: This section was slightly difficult yet doable. Entirely based on caselets there were three sets of 2 questions each, three caselets of one question each and four sets of 3 questions each.

- 1) One set based on the relation between social media and customer privacy was quite doable as was the set based on theft in a home in which a maid servant was suspected but most probably not guilty of theft.
- 2) One tricky quantitative set was based on a subjee puri vendor who had differential times for cooking subjee and puri with the candidate needing to calculate the vendor's daily sales and profit.
- 3) Most of the remaining sets were based on real life situations and demanded application of logic and common sense more than any domain knowledge.

Section C was QA DI section: Questions on Quantitative Ability were from Geometry, Arithmetic, Quantitative Reasoning, Algebra and Modern Mathematics. There were two Data Interpretation sets, with 4 questions each. There was also some sort of Data Sufficiency set.

Topic	Sub Topic	Q	Level of Difficulty	Same Question Discussed in AnkGanit Class
Arithmetic	PLD	1	Easy	PLD
	TSD	1	Easy	TSD-2
	Ages	1	Average	
	Time & Work	1	Easy	T&W
	Alligation (with Set Theory)	1	Average	
Number System	Surds	1	Easy	NS-1
Geometry	Triangles	1	Difficult	GM-2 & 3
	Circles	1	Easy	GM-6
	Quadrilaterals	1	Average	
	Mensuration	1	Easy	GM-8
	Trigonometry	1	Difficult	
Algebra	Sequence	1	Easy	Sequence
	Maxima Minima	1	Average	Maxima
	Functions	1	Easy	Function
Modern Maths	Probability (with Permutation)	1	Average	PC-3
Quantitative Reasoning	Pigeonhole Principal	1	Average	LR-1
	Logic	1	Average	
Data Sufficiency	Some sort of DS	1	Average	
	Some sort of DS	1	Difficult	
Data Interpretation	Jingalala Set (Confusing Chart)	4	Difficult	
	Tabular Set (Profit & Sales)	4	Average	CAT 2008 Discussion

Part 2: General Knowledge & Essay

25 Questions were from GK and essay topic was " Globalization & Jingoism always coexist!" This section needed to be done in **35 Minutes**.

This set was average with questions based on Booker Prizes, Capitals, and Currencies. There was a slight emphasis on geography with 4 to 5 questions having geography as a base. Current affairs too was tested with about 5 current affairs based questions. Marks of this section are not considered while giving calls but are considered during final selection process.

Cut Offs:

	Total No. of Q	Cut off for BM	Cut off for HRM
Section A	24	9-10 Q (90%ile)	8-9 Q
Section B	21	8-9 Q (90%ile)	7-8 Q
Section C	27	9-10 Q (90%ile)	7-8 Q
Total	72 Q	35-36 Q	32-33 Q