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**SECTION 1: QUANTITATIVE APTITUDE:**

The quants section of the paper followed a predictable pattern.

The break-up of portion was as follows:

Block	Chapters	Number of questions	% of weightage	LOD 1 Easy	LOD 2 Moderate	LOD 3 Difficult
1	Number Systems and Progressions	11 out of 25	44	6	1	4
2 & 3	Averages, Percentages, Time & work, Time Speed and Distance	1 out of 25	4			1
4	Geometry & Mensuration	5	20	1	3	1
5	Functions, Inequalities, Logs, Quadratics	5	20	1	2	2
6	Permutations & Combinations, Probability	3	12	1	0	2

As is clear from the above table, the Quants section was easier from the last year...although for the average student it was quite tricky too. Some of the questions marked under LOD 1 have been classified under LOD 1 only because they have methods which an expert solver could see easily- However for the ordinary student some of these LOD 1 questions were not so easy to solve. For instance the question the sum of the series (which had under root  $1+1/1^2 + 1/2^2$  etc.) would be very easily cracked if you were to look at solving it on the basis of calculating the result for the first two terms and looking at the kind of pattern it leads to. Similarly the question about two circles having radii 1 each and intersecting each other where we had to find the area of the intersection would be very lengthy if you were to try solving it through conventional geometry and mensuration formulae. A little bit of an educated guess on the other hand would give you the answer of the question immediately.

Our take on this paper is that 100 percentile for this section would occur somewhere around 60-65 marks out of 100.

Sectional cut-offs being in the range of 85 percentile normally would lie somewhere around the range of 25-28 marks. (Net score of course)

A score of 40-45 would land you in the 98 percentile plus bracket.

**SECTION 2: DATA INTERPRETATION & LOGICAL REASONING**

The section had seven sets of questions- with two sets having 4 questions each and one set having 5 questions while the remaining had 3 questions each.

The following table would give you a brief synopsis of the entire paper (Ordering of the 222 paper set has been followed for this table)

Set	Area & Question description	Key Skill Tested	Set Quality/ Difficulty	No of questions	weightage	No of questions of LOD 1, 2 and 3 respectively
1	Logical Reasoning- 6 people living on two sides of the road	Correlating information	LOD 1	3	12%	3+0+0
2	Traditional DI – Telecom operators & ARDT rates	Knowledge of ratios and percentages and also the ability to work out equations between the variables mentioned	LOD 2	3	12%	0+2+1
3	Reasoning based DI – Cut offs of colleges	Working out minimum and maximum possibilities	LOD 2	3	12%	0+0+3
4	Reasoning based DI – Tournament matches and results	Visualisation and creation of a table structure from the data by fitting in all information	LOD 3	4	16%	0+1+3
5	Traditional DI- Bar charts	Calculations of percentages and ratios..tough on calculations	LOD 2	4	16%	0+2+2
6	Advanced Reasoning Based DI- share trading	Visualising possibilities, eventualities, weighted averages percentages etc	LOD 3	5	20%	0+0+5
7	Traditional DI- Employee transfer	Averages, visualisation and management of data	LOD 2	3	12%	0+1+2

As can be seen from the above table, it is quite clear that there were no cakewalks in DI. Everything was tough and tricky and they really made you earn your marks- unlike last year. Students were made to actually think through the solution of a question. There were questions which would pull you into a false sense of security and then pull the sucker punch on you. My experience of past CATs



and having taken it and cracked it 11 times tells me that most people would not be able to maintain their thought processes and decision making accuracy when faced with questions that required 3-4 or even more steps to solve. For instance, if you were to look at the solution to the set on the Telecom operators rates (ARDT) for instance, it might be easy but whether a student would be able to solve it so clearly inside the CAT is a different story altogether.

Similarly a lot of aspirants made errors in the college cut off question because they could not think through it clearly.

Thus obviously the cut offs would go lower than last year. My estimate of a 85 percentile score would be in the range of 23-26 marks.

98 percentile would be in the range of 40-44 marks and a 100 percentile would be perhaps 68+

To score well in this section you needed to solve 4 sets at least.



**VERBAL ABILITY AND READING COMPREHENSION:**

Question set	Area & Question description	Key Skill Tested	No of questions /Weightage	LOD 1	LOD 2	LOD 3
1	Grammar and usage	Grammar, spelling , punctuation...Always tough to get these all right no matter how good you are at english	4/40=10%	0	2	2
2	Choosing the correct word for a sentence from a pair of words	Proper usage of words in the context of sentences. Ability to distinguish between close and similar sounding words	4/40=10%	3	1	0
3	Appropriate usage of word	Knowledge of usage of simple words in isolation and also as part of	4/40=10%	4	0	0
4	Fill in the blanks	Understanding the usage of particular words in the context of the sentence. Key skill comprehension and understanding of what the author is trying to say	4/40=10%	0	4	0
5	Critical reasoning- ending sentence	Understanding the idea in the author's mind and connecting to it.	4/40=10%	0	0	4
6	Passage 1- children and ice creams... Passage difficulty level- easy	Connecting to the author's mind and idea being expressed	5/40=12.5%	0	4	1
7	Passage 2- Language is instinctive Passage difficulty level- difficult	Same as above	5/40=12.5%	0	2	3
8	Passage 3- The factors behind the Maya Collapse Passage difficulty level- Moderate	Same as above	5/40=12.5%	0	2	3
9	Passage 4- art of the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Passage difficulty level- Difficult	Same as above	5/40=12.5%	0	1	4

The increase in the number of questions as well as the proportion of weightage for this section was clearly something which could have been seen if one had a look at the high dominance of engineers over the past few batches at the IIMs.

The CAT redressed the imbalance where in 66.66 percent of the paper was based on quantitative skills through this shift in pattern. In fact, this increase of relative importance of language skills was a



throwback to the late 1990's when the CAT used to be 2 sections- quants and Di rolled into 1 and VA and RC rolled into one.

This section was definitely easier than the last couple of years – and can be described as a good balanced section. It gave aspirants a chance of pulling up their overall scores through some intelligent selection of which question types to attempt and which to not do.

As you can see from the table above, the word usage part of the exam was extremely simple and should have been solved. At the same time, one should have attempted 2 passages well- as in Reading comprehension it is always easier to reason out an answer than in Verbal ability questions.

A 85 percentile score according to me can be predicted in the range of 35-38 marks, while 50-55 marks would lead you to 98 percentile in this section. 100 percentile would perhaps be in the range of 80+ marks .



OVERALL PAPER COMMENTS:

1. As already mentioned above, the biggest shift in this year's pattern was the increase in weightage of English giving a better chance for the non-mathematically oriented individual to crack CAT- other wise over the last couple of years the CAT had become too much of an engineers only game. In that sense it did redress the balance to a great degree towards the non –engineer.

2. The sectional cut offs as mentioned above would be around:

1) QA: 25-28 marks

2) DI: 23-26 marks

3) VA and RC: 35-38

3. The predicted percentile scores would be somewhere around the following ranges at different score levels according to my estimates:

Score – 200 percentile 99.95+

Score- 150 percentile 99.7 +

Score- 140 percentile 99.5+

Score- 130 percentile 99+

Score- 115 percentile 98 +

Score- 100 percentile 95+

Score- 90 Percentile 90+

Score- 70 Percentile 75+

Score- 60 Percentile 60+

Score- 50 percentile 45-55

Score- 30 percentile 25+

