

CAT ANALYSIS

Finally there is a CAT that retained its real essence. With practically no change in the overall pattern of the exam from the last year it unfolded all the possible surprises internally in the form of a breath taking Quant, an easier looking but trickier verbal and a life saving DI.

CAT 2007 was all CAT 2006 in terms of overall pattern except the three CATly factors – CAT 2007 came up as a difficult, trickier and thought provoking exam. It seems that IIMs have ultimately zeroed in on the overall pattern of the exam including the criterion for negative marking for the future. Most of the questions were answerable but required in-depth understanding of the subject fundamentals. TCY experts predict a cut-off of around 38% or above for expecting a call from IIMs.

Verbal Section

Though seemed similar from the outset, CAT 2007 verbal was much different from CAT 2006. The main differences observed by CAT experts at TCY were:

- Most of the students welcomed Grammar back into action after a long time in CAT 2007. There were 3 questions based on grammar which could be attempted by most of the students.
- Vocabulary is back again, though under the guise of sentence completion. To add to the confusion, Homonyms and heteronyms are provided as the answer options. There were 3 such questions in CAT 2007.

- Something that came back but not appreciated by most is Para jumbles because the sentences are actually stanzas. Sometimes there are short paragraphs in place of single sentences (4 Questions)
- Number of RC passages has gone up, but the number of RC questions has gone down. This was quite a strange move with total 12 questions out of 4 RCs (4 X 3 = 12 Questions) this year as compared to 15 questions out of 3 RCs. There were 180+ words per question this time in CAT RCs.
- Number of theme based short paragraphs (last sentence deleted) has gone down from 5 to 3 this year.

Yet the saving grace is that many of the RC based questions could be answered on a cursory reading of the passages. On the whole, Students will find CAT Verbal 2007 a bit easier than CAT verbal 2006, but quite a bit lengthier. We predict a cut-off of around 38 – 45% in the verbal section

RECOMMENDED ORDER OF ATTEMPT IN CAT VERBAL

Round 1 (Time savers for students having **good grounding in Grammar and Vocabulary**)

- Sentence correction questions.
- Sentence completion (Vocab questions)
- Short reading paragraphs (last sentence deleted)

Round 1 (Time savers for students having **good reasoning skills**)

- Short reading paragraphs (last sentence deleted)
- Any 2 RC passages

The only type that is recommended to be attempted in the end was Para jumbles.

Quant Section

Quant was the most difficult section this year as compared to CAT 2006. The main reason for surprisingly higher level of difficulty was the hike in the share of questions from Higher Mathematics especially from functions, Maxima & Minima and series. However, Experts at TCY estimate that some 6 – 7 questions were still answerable using answer options (mere by substituting the value of ' n '). We predict a cut-off of around 32 – 36% for all IIMs in this section.

RECOMMENDED ORDER OF ATTEMPT IN CAT QUANT

The highly recommended questions to be answered initially (in the round 1) are:

- The one based on ages
- one on tea-price
- a question on four digit number that was a perfect square
- Question on sets (*on friends and enemies*)
- Data sufficiency questions on mensuration and algebra
- Question on the average of odd / even numbers.

Overall, this section of CAT 2007 is tough. Students with science background could handle it with a little less effort as compared to others. TCY experts predict a cut-off of around 32 – 36% for all IIMs in this section.

DI Section

This was the only stress reliever for the test takers amongst the three CAT 2007 sections. Questions were trickier but answerable within the time frame. Once again the stress was on logic rather than mere calculations.

RECOMMENDED ORDER OF ATTEMPT IN CAT QUANT

Following was the order recommended for the DI section:

- Student should have started with a graph on male and vegetarian
- Next preferred question is the one on airport
- DS in DI appeared after a long time. These are also the good ones to go for in the third place
- A question on health drink is the next preferred
- The last ones to be done in the next round are the ones on comparative cost study in US and some Asian countries (surgery) and the graph based on the cost incurred by a company.

A comparison of this year's CAT with the last 7 CATs is as follows:

Exam	Area	Questions	Marks per question	Total Duration	Avg time per question	Difficulty level	Appx Cut-off Score	Overall cutoff for IIMs	Negative Marking
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CAT 2007	Q	25	4	150 min	120 sec	Difficult	32 to 36	110 to 129	1/4th
	V	25	4			Easy But Lengthy	38 to 45		
	D	25	4			Moderate but trickier	40 to 48		
CAT - 2006	Q	25	4	150 min	120 sec	Easy	36 to 40	116 to 124	1/4th
	V	25	4			Difficult	35 to 40		
	D	25	4			Difficult	36 to 42		
CAT - 2005	Q	30	20 questions - 2 marks, 10 questions - 1 mark	120 min	75 sec	Average	16 to 18	60 to 64	1/3rd
	V	30	20 questions - 2 marks, 10 questions - 1 mark			Average	18 to 20		
	D	30	20 questions - 2 marks, 10 questions - 1 mark			Difficult	11 to 13		
CAT - 2004	Q	35	20 questions - 1 Mark, 15 Questions - 2 marks	120 min	58.5 sec	Difficult	8 to 10	60 to 65	Not specified

	V	50	10 questions - 0.5 Mark, 35 questions - 1 marks, 5 questions - 2 marks			Easy	18 to 21		
	D	38	26 questions - 1 mark, 12 questions - 2 marks			Difficult	9 to 11		
CAT - 2003	Q	50	1	120 min	48 sec	Difficult	10 to 12	64 to 70	Not specified
	V	50	1			Easy	18 to 22		
	D	50	1			Average	15 to 17		
CAT - 2002	Q	50	1	120 min	48 sec	Difficult	11 to 13	68 to 76	Not specified
	V	50	1			Easy	18 to 22		
	D	50	1			Difficult	14 to 16		
CAT - 2001	Q	50	1	120 min	48 sec	Average	14 to 17	80 to 85	Not specified
	V	50	1			Easy	19 to 21		
	D	50	1			Easy	20 to 22		
CAT - 2000	Q	55	1	120 min	44 sec	Difficult	9 to 12	65 to 75	Not specified
	V	55	1			Difficult	16 to 19		
	D	55	1			Average	12 to 14		