

## An Overview of XLRI Admission Test, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2009(XAT-2009)

### Executive Summary

In a nutshell, the XAT 2009 paper was almost the same as the previous year in spirit and essence. The remarkable change was the reduction in number of questions from 120 to 104. The three sections were more or less balanced in terms of level of difficulty. A few problems in the QA/DI section were quite ambiguous. The problems in the AR section were not very challenging. The DM cases were intriguing, thought provoking and should have been avoided by the aspirants. The Verbal and Logical Ability section was challenging. The section was more inclined towards testing the literary skills of a candidate. The questions involving the knowledge of Metaphor, euphemism etc appeared for the first time in XAT and required proper understanding of these figures of speech. Among the 3 RC passages, one was an easy take. The other two had questions, which required deep inferential understanding. It would have been wise to take a shot at critical reasoning questions as they only tested the basic understanding.

Overall, the cut-offs can be expected to be close to last year's level. Following table summarises an ideal situation.

| Section | Topics                 | Number of questions | Suggested time | Possible Attempts | XLRI BM Cut-offs |
|---------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1       | EU and RC              | 35                  | 40 minutes     | 18+               | 10 - 11          |
| 2       | QA & DI                | 38                  | 40 minutes     | 14+               | 9-10             |
| 3       | AR and Decision Making | 31                  | 40 minutes     | 12+               | 8-9              |
|         | Total                  | 120                 | 120 minutes    | 49+               | 34-35            |

Likely Cut-Offs for other institutes:

| Institute                    | Cut-off |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Expected cut-off XLRI – PMIR | 32-33   |
| Expected cut-off SP Jain     | 30-31   |
| Expected cut-off XIMB        | 30-31   |
| Expected cut-off GIM/BIM     | 26-27   |
| Expected cut-off LIBA        | 24-25   |
| Expected cut-off XISS        | 22-23   |

**Disclaimer:** These cut-offs are decided by expert faculty of Career Launcher, who have attempted the XAT 2009 paper and might not be the actual XAT cut-offs. These calculations are based on our experience and expertise.

Comparison with Last 3 year's XAT:

| Parameter                  | XAT 2009  | XAT 2008  | XAT 2007  | XAT 2006  |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Number of sections         | 3         | 3         | 3         | 3         |
| Number of questions        | 104       | 120       | 130       | 127       |
| Difficulty level (Overall) | Difficult | Difficult | Difficult | Difficult |
| Expected cut-off (BMD)     | 34-35     | 32-33     | 35+       | 32+       |
| Expected cut-off (PMIR)    | 32-33     | 30-31     | 33+       | 28+       |

### Section-wise Analysis

#### Section I: English Usage & Reading Comprehension

There were 35 questions, to be attempted. The questions ranged between average and high in terms of difficulty level. It was a mix of all question types. Critical reasoning questions tested the basic fundamentals. There was an increase in the number of these questions, as compared to the past XAT papers. Surprisingly, Vocabulary made limited appearance in the form of a lone analogy question. The paper was on the literary side as it tested various figures of speech.

#### Reading Comprehension

A good mix of passages! There were three passages. The passages were short but equally challenging. The topics were management, linguistics and socio-politics. A good selection of questions would have helped you to score high in this section as most of the questions were inference-based.

Overall, an attempt of 18-20 questions & a score of 10+ was definitely possible.

Topic-wise breakup

| Type of question   | No. of questions | Difficulty level     | No. of possible attempts |
|--|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Four sentence Para jumbles   | 2                | High                 | 1                        |
| Critical Reasoning   | 13               | Average to Difficult | 6                        |
| Spotting the correct sentence                                      | 3                | Average to Difficult | 2                        |
| Reading Comprehension [3 passages]                                 | 10               | Average to Difficult | 5                        |
| Vocab Analogy  | 1                | Average              | 1                        |
| Metaphor-Hyperbole-Euphemism-Oxymoron-Non sequitur-Personification | 6                | Difficult            | 3                        |
|  | 35               |                      | 18 attempts              |

Comparison with last 3 year's XAT :

| Topic  | XAT 2009                                       | XAT 2008           | XAT 2007                    | XAT 2006           |
|--|--|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Overall  | 35   | 38                 | 41                          | 40                 |
| English Usage                                      | 19   | 18                 | 18                          | 16                 |
| Vocabulary: Synonyms                               | 0  | 0                  | 3                           | 0                  |
| Vocabulary: Antonyms/ Inappropriate Usage          | 0  | 0                  | 2                           | 0                  |
| Vocabulary: Analogies                              | 1  | 0                  | 0                           | 0                  |
| Metaphor-Hyperbole-Euphemism-Oxymoron-Non sequitur | 6  | 0                  | 0                           | 0                  |
| Fill in the blanks                                 | 0  | 5                  | 0                           | 3                  |
| Para Jumbles                                       | 2  | 3                  | 4                           | 3                  |
| Critical Reasoning                                 | 7  | 10                 | 5                           | 4                  |
| Sentence Correction                                | 3  | 0                  | 4                           | 0                  |
| Reading Comprehension                              | 3 passages (10 Qs) + 3 Short Paragraphs (6 Qs) | 4 passages (20 Qs) | 4 passages + 1 poem (23 Qs) | 5 passages (24 Qs) |

|   |               |    |                           |   |
|---|---------------|----|---------------------------|---|
| Linguistics                             | 3 (1 Passage) | 0  | 0                         | 0 |
| Taxonomy                                | 0             | 0  | 0                         | 0 |
| Sociology                               | 3 (1 Passage) | 0  | 5 (1 Passage)             | 6 |
| Philosophy/ psychology (1 passage each) | 0             | 11 | 4+ 4 (1 Poem, 1, Passage) | 6 |
| Science & Research                      | 0             | 3  | 4 (1 Passage)             | 3 |
| Business/Economics/Management           | 4 (1 Passage) | 6  | 6 (1 Passage)             | 7 |

## Section II: Analytical Reasoning and Decision Making Ability

Total No of questions: 31

Decision Making: 12, Individual Reasoning Qs: 2 and AR: 17 (in 4 sets)

### Summary:

This time it was XAT's turn to test your logical skills. In this section of 31 questions, 19 were on Analytical Reasoning and 12 on Decision Making Ability. Most of the AR sets were of average difficulty level and at least 2 sets are definitely manageable during the given time frame. On the other hand, the Decision Making Ability questions were intriguing. Overall, the section had a high difficulty level. 13-14 attempts with an investment of 40 minutes would have been ideal. 8 to 9 seem to be a good net score.

### Analytical Reasoning:

Set 1: It involved data mapping regarding couples participating in a singing competition. The parameters were their names (male member and their female counterpart), the names of their respective teams, and the points earned by them. The array was of dimension 4 x 4. This set was easy and should have been attempted.

Set 2: It involved data mapping regarding visiting faculty members taking classes on different days of the week on different topics. The parameters were their names, the subjects they taught, the day of the week on which they have taken the class and the exact time in which the class started. The array was again of dimension 4 x 4. This set was moderately difficult and should have been attempted.

Set 3: It involved data mapping regarding different students studying in various Engineering Colleges having different ratings. The parameters were their names, surnames the names of their respective colleges and their ratings. The array was of dimension 5 x 4. This set was average to difficult and may have been avoided.

Set 4: It involved data mapping regarding different farmers ploughing different stages in various segments of a circle. These segments are starting from a definite point and ending at a definite point on the circle. The parameters were their Farmers (their identification numbers), stages of cultivation and the points from which those segments are starting. The array was of dimension 5 x 3. This set was average to difficult and may have been avoided.

| Topic                   | XAT 2009    | XAT 2008   | XAT 2007   |
|-------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| AR+Decision Making      | 31          | 38         | 40         |
| AR-sets                 | 17 (4 Sets) | 26 (7sets) | 22(4 sets) |
| Individual AR questions | 2           | 2          | 3          |
| Decision Making         | 12          | 10(2 sets) | 15(4 sets) |

### Section III: Quantitative Ability +Data Interpretation

#### Summary

Total number of questions: 38 (23 QA, 2 DS, 13 DI)

#### Quantitative Ability & Data Sufficiency:

This section was of standard difficulty level as expected of XAT paper. One remarkable aspect of this section is reduction of number of algebra questions from 13 to 5 this year as compared to the previous year. But at the same time total number of questions also reduced from 44 to 38. Also relatively there were more arithmetic questions compared to last year.

2 DS questions in this section were of mixed level of difficulty.

Keeping in mind the risk of committing more than 6 mistakes in the section, an intelligent investment of 40 minutes would have yielded 14-15 attempts. Cut-off will most probably hover around 10.

#### Topic-wise breakup of Quantitative Ability:

| Topic                    | XAT 2009         | XAT 2008 | XAT 2007 | XAT 2006 |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Overall                  | 23 + 2 + 13 = 38 | 44       | 36       | 44       |
| Number System            | 0                | 2        | 5        | 2        |
| Arithmetic               | 5                | 3        | 5        | 3        |
| Average, %ge, SI-CI, PLD | 3                | 1        | 2        | 1+1      |

|  |   |    |    |    |
|--|---|----|----|----|
| Ratio proportion, Average                        | 1 | 1  | 1  | 0  |
| Speed Time Distance, Work, Clock                 | 1 | 1  | 2  | 1  |
| Algebra  | 5 | 13 | 14 | 20 |
| Equations & Inequalities                         | 2 | 2  | 3  | 6  |
| Functions  | 2 | 3  | 4  | 7  |
| Maxima minima                                    | 1 | 1  | 2  | 5  |
| Series, sequences & progressions                 | 0 | 2  | 4  | 2  |
| Graph  | 0 | 1  | 1  | 0  |
| Misc Type  | 0 | 4  | 0  | 0  |
| Geometry   | 5 | 6  | 4  | 3  |
| Plane geometry                                   | 4 | 5  | 3  | 3  |
| Mensuration                                      | 0 | 0  | 0  | 0  |
| Co-ordinate geometry                             | 1 | 1  | 1  | 0  |
| Permutation & Combination                        | 2 | 1  | 0  | 1  |
| Probability                                      | 2 | 0  | 1  | 3  |
| Mathematical reasoning                           | 2 | 3  | 2  | 2  |
| Set Theory                                       | 0 | 2  | 1  | 4  |
| Higher Math (Limit, differentiation Integration) | 0 | 0  | 0  | 2  |
| Data Sufficiency                                 | 2 | 2  | 4  | 4  |

### Data Interpretation

There were 4 DI sets — 2 sets on Tables, 1 case let and 1 on Bar diagram—with moderate difficulty level.

Set 1: The Set with Bar diagram involving the production Soda Ash was lengthy and one particular question was ambiguous. But this set should have been attempted at any cost, because this was one of the easiest in this section and it contained 5 questions.

Set 2: The Other set with the Cost and sales price of different food items produced by a sweetshop was also controversial in the sense that the line graphs given above the table had no apparent bearing with the given data. It had only 2 questions.

Set 3: It involved a table depicting the sales, cost and leftover data of a cake manufacturing chain for the year 1993 to 2004. It had 4 questions out of which one of them was seemingly erroneous in which number of correct statements was to be identified. It involved bit of lengthy calculation but should have been attempted.

Set 4: This set involved a production cost and sales data of a proposed 'pen drive' manufacturing unit. First two questions were on Break-even point and profit in



different scenario. These two questions were manageable and should have been attempted. The last question in this set involved interest cost was ambiguous and probably erroneous as well. It did not mention any time frame for calculating the interest cost.

| Topic                     | XAT 2009   | XAT 2008  | XAT 2007    | XAT 2006    |
|---------------------------|------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| Data Interpretation       | 13         | 12        | 13          | 18          |
| Table                     | 5 (2 sets) | 9(2 sets) | 11 (3 Sets) | 13 (3 sets) |
| Pie Chart                 | 0          | 0         | 0           | 5           |
| Line Chart                | 0          | 3         | 0           | 0           |
| Bar Diagram               | 5 (1 set)  | 0         | 2 (1 Set)   | 0           |
| Caselet with Textual data | 3 (1 set)  | 0         | 0           | 0           |

## Essay

XAT also tests you on essay writing and 20 min is stipulated at the end of the 2-hour test period to write a page-long essay. The topic for this year was:

“The Inherent vice of Capitalism is unequal sharing of blessings and the inherent virtue of Socialism is equal sharing of misery”.

An interesting topic, which required some awareness of the two political and economic systems. Some points worth exploring in this essay were:

- 1) The historical development of Capitalism as a major force shaping the modern world.
- 2) The rise of Socialism as a countering force as visualized by Karl Marx and other thinkers.
- 3) Major Socialist movements such as the Russian Revolution.

4) How Capitalism came to be viewed as a credo and how the world got bi-polarized into the Capitalist and Socialist blocks.

5) Lessons from the 20th century- how Socialism and Communism failed to stem the economic collapse of Russia. Ironically enough, the virtue 'of equal sharing of misery failed to sustain socialist governments'.

6) The enduring appeal of Capitalism even though the vice of unequal distribution of wealth persists- example of how erstwhile Socialist regimes like China are embracing market Capitalism today.

All the best!

Career Launcher Team

Disclaimer: All information on cut-offs, analysis, answer key, solutions and scores are based on independent analysis and evaluation made by Career Launcher. We do not take responsibility for any decision that might be taken, based on this information.

