

## IIT JEE 2008 Analysis

Changing pattern of the IIT JEE is nothing new – recent years have experienced many such changes. However, the JEE 2008 was very similar to the JEE 2007. But that was only in form. This year's paper overall will be considered to be tougher than JEE 2007.

Broadly, the level of difficulty of the paper in Physics and Chemistry were comparable to last year's. Probably, marginally tougher. But Maths was found to be a lot tougher, both for its length and the conceptual testing.

Before we go into the details of the paper, take a look at the format of the exam. There were 2 papers – Paper 1 and Paper 2, which had the same formats for all the subjects. But between the two papers there was a slight difference.

The table below summarizes the structure for every subject in each of the papers.

Test	Single Choice MCQ	Multiple Answers MCQ	Reasoning Type	Linked Comprehension Type	Matching the matrix	Total
Paper 1	6 Qs ( +3, -1)	4 Qs ( +4, 0 )	4 Qs ( +3, -1)	3 x 3 Qs ( +4, -1)		82
Paper 2	9 Qs ( +3, -1)		4 Qs ( +3, -1)	2 x 3 Qs ( +4, -1)	3 Qs ( max of +6 )	81

\* ( + indicates marks for getting the question right, - negative marks for getting it wrong )

There were a couple of differences of this year's paper vis a vis the last year's.

- 1) The introduction of MCQs which had more than one of the choices as appropriate answers
- 2) The introduction of part marks in MATRIX MATCH in the paper 2, where each of the items in column I could be matched with one of more items in column II. Unlike the last year, in the Matrix Match there were marks awarded even if one got a few items correctly matched. If one got all the items in column I correctly matched, then only one was eligible for the maximum marks. This was a smart move to induce students to attempt and also to award them marks for partly getting it right. Otherwise, had it followed the same pattern as JEE 2007 when students were not given any credit for matching some but not all correctly, very few students would have actually attempted it. Moreover, in paper two the questions in this type were not really tough.

So, what is a good score in this exam. Here's our take

	Paper 1 + Paper 2
Physics	70 – 75
Chemistry	80 – 85
Maths	55 – 60

\* ( A good score is a above average performance in that paper )

If a student gets an aggregate score of 165 - 170 he / she should definitely expect a rank given out by the IITs and the affiliated institutes.

If someone expects a score of 280 + , he or she should land up with a rank in the top 1000. It would get clearer by the end of this week.

Now, the big question. Did the focus of the paper drift from JEE 2007 in any of the subjects ? And are there any learnings for the future aspirants ?

Yes, there have been small changes in the paper. The focus on some topics has been a shade more in a few topics this year compared to the last year. But overall the JEE was well balanced checking on a range of topics.

For instance, if there was one big shift in MATHS that was noteworthy it was the sudden drop in the number of marks from Trigonometry and a marked increase in the marks in Coordinate Geometry. The rest of the topics as an aggregate in the two papers has more or less been the same. The MATH paper would be the critical factor in this year's JEE. Some questions were conceptually difficult, which is nothing new in JEE. But what made it worse was the "time consuming" nature of the paper that made it difficult for even the best of the students to dominate this section.

The Chemistry Paper was more or less evenly distributed across topics, very similar to JEE 2007. But the questions could be termed a shade difficult compared to the last year. Obviously, that would be expected since there were no major differences in the format of the paper.

The physics paper was well balanced. One of the best papers to check both understanding and problem solving ability of the students in 1 hour. There were parts of the paper that were quite scoring and at the same time there were those questions that would have reminded one of the tougher" questions of the eighties and many deceptive ones. There were no questions in EMI. At the same time there were a couple of questions from Modern Physics which went a little beyond the scope of evaluation that the earlier JEEs had done in this topic.

But the coverage of topics in any JEE can be taken only in that specific context of the paper that year. JEE springs surprises each year. One would risk extrapolating that into the future JEEs. The learning from this is that the only thing that you can extrapolate into the future about the JEEs is that – Only strong fundamentals would help you do well in JEE .