

FMS 2010 Analysis

This year FMS increased its total number of questions to 200 from 175 last year, the number of questions being 50 in each of the 4 sections. Some of the questions were repeated while some questions were modified from previous FMS papers. Each correct answer carried 4 marks while each wrong answer carried a penalty of 1 mark.

For students doing not so well in a particular section, a minimum of 50 percentile in that section is required for cut-off consideration. The cut-off for a GD/PI call for both the programs is likely to be higher this year due to increase in number of questions with not so much increase in difficulty level.

A brief snapshot of the various sections and marking scheme is presented below:

Section	No. of questions	Marks per question	Total marks
Verbal Ability	50	4	200
Reasoning Ability	50	4	200
Quantitative Ability	50	4	200
Reading Comprehension	50	4	200
TOTAL	200		800

VERBAL ABILITY

The sectional breakup is as given below.

Topics	No of Questions	Difficulty Level
Analogies	4	Moderate-Difficult
Synonyms	10	Moderate-Difficult
Antonyms	10	Easy-Moderate
Origin of Words / Foreign words and phrases	2	Difficult
Classification of words	3	Moderate-Difficult
Sentence correction	10	Moderate-Difficult
Sentence Completion (3 blanks)	2	Difficult
Spelling Check	1	Easy
Idioms/proverbs	4	Difficult
Pure Vocab based + GK type	4	Moderate
Total	50	

The verbal ability section was very typical to FMS, with a focus on checking in-depth knowledge of Vocabulary. This section had 50 questions, which included grammar, verbal reasoning, vocabulary, and usage (idiomatic expression, figures of speech). The difficulty level of Vocabulary-based questions was moderate to difficult. A good way to maximize your score would have been to concentrate on the synonym/antonym questions, where one could have scored some 'quick runs' with a decent level of proficiency. A few questions on sentence structure checked grammatical rules and were the ones to be attempted for a decent score. 2 questions required knowledge of word roots; 3 of the grammar based questions required one to be able to correctly identify parts of speech; and 4 questions required knowledge of particular idiomatic expressions. With a time allocation of 20–25 minutes, a good attempt in this section would have been quite high, about 24 to 28 questions with accuracy of 80%. The time gained could have been spent in your strong section or RC. One icing on the cake was that the number of questions with error or with ambiguity were very less as compared to the previous year papers. Within the time available, the minimum attempts in this section would have to be 16–18. The cut-off is expected to be 30+ for 50 percentile.

LOGICAL REASONING

The sectional breakup is as shown below.

Topics	No of Questions	Difficulty Level
Arrangement based	17	Easy
Conditional grouping	4	Moderate
Tables	6	Moderate
Miscellaneous (includes single liners)	21	Varied
Vocabulary based	2	Difficult
Total	50	

The Logical & Analytical Reasoning section had 50 questions with majority of questions from arrangement based reasoning. They were straight forward questions and could have been attempted quickly. There was one calculative set which was based on a Table, but it contained easy calculations and hence could have been attempted. There were 4 questions (an entire set of 3 questions based on seating arrangement and 1 question being part of a set of 4 questions) which were ambiguous and should have been avoided. There were surprisingly 2 questions based on vocabulary, which were difficult. Within the time available, the minimum attempts in this section would have to be 16-17. The cut-off is expected to be 33+ for a 50 percentile score.

QUANTITATIVE ABILITY

The sectional breakup is as given below.

Topics	No of Questions	Difficulty Level
Arithmetic	13	Easy-moderate
Algebra	17	Easy-Moderate
Geometry	9	Moderate
Higher Math	9	Moderate-difficult
Miscellaneous	2	Easy-moderate
Total	50	

The difficulty level of questions in Quantitative Ability was easy to medium, as well as a mix of Commercial Math, algebra, geometry and Higher Math. The questions on Arithmetic and Algebra were easy to moderate in difficulty level, but a careful scan of questions was necessary to prioritize the attempts. The questions on Geometry were quite easy, but the coordinate geometry questions (on conics) required a little clarity on basic concepts of co-ordinate geometry. The Permutation and Probability questions were a little difficult. The questions on Higher Math were simple and would not have troubled a student possessing some basic knowledge of the concepts. Within the time available, the minimum attempts in this section would have to be 17-19. The cut-off is expected to be 28+ for 50 percentile.

READING COMPREHENSION

This section had four, rather long, passages. One of the passages in the reading comprehension section was of 4-5 pages containing 24 questions and was directly picked from FMS 2005. In total, one needed to read a total of 14 pages to attempt 50 questions, though the questions were mostly fact-based, and the right strategy would have been to skim, scan and attempt the passages that had the maximum weight age (in terms of questions) as all the passages were difficult to read and would have taken quite a bit of time to read. It would also have been a good idea to read the questions before looking at the passages. The questions in the passages were tricky and would

have required a keen eye and a quick re-reading of the relevant portions of the passage. The sectional breakup is as given below.

Topics	Area	No of Questions	Difficulty Level	Comments
Business Strategy	Management	24	Easy-Moderate	The passage was of 4 5 pages with fact-based questions and arranged sequentially as per the paragraph.
Discourse on Philosophy	Philosophy	6	Moderate-Difficult	Passage was of 2.5 pages and required one to read it thoroughly in order to answer the questions.
FDI	Economics	7	Easy-Moderate	Passage was of 3.5 pages with direct questions.
Change	Management	13	Moderate	Passage was of 3.5 pages and questions could be solved by elimination of choices.
Total		50		

Overall, this section was moderate to difficult in terms of its length. A good time allocation strategy for this section would be around 30-35 minutes and attempts in the range of 22-26 with an accuracy of around 80% should be considered to be very good. The cut-off is expected to be 25+ for 50 percentile.

SECTIONAL SCORES AND OVERALL CUT-OFF

Below is present the summary of the above analysis.

Section	No. of questions	Marks per question	Total marks	Time allocation (min.)	Ideal Attempts (questions)	Expected Cutoffs *	Ideal Scores
Verbal Ability	50	4	200	25	24-27	30+	80+
Reasoning Ability	50	4	200	32	22-24	33+	74+
Quantitative Ability	50	4	200	30	23-25	28+	78+
Reading Comprehension	50	4	200	33	22-24	25+	72+
TOTAL	200		800	120	93-98	*	304+

Overall the cut-off is expected to be around 304+ for MBA programme and 294+ for MBA-MS programme.

* The Expected Cut-off per section is based on the 50 percentile requirement criteria. Note that even if you score less than the section-wise "ideal score" in any or many sections, as long as you score above 50 percentile in each of the sections and above the overall ideal score of 304+, you can expect a call from FMS MBA programme (above 294+ for MBA-MS programme). Section-wise ideal score is given to help you identify the possible score in that section so as to achieve required overall score.

All the Best,
Team MBAGuru

Disclaimer: The above cutoffs are only suggestive in nature and may differ from the actual cutoffs. Roots Education cannot be held responsible for any decision taken by the candidate on the basis of the above information.