

MAT (December) 2009 Analysis

The MAT exam conducted on 6th December 2009 had 200 questions to be attempted in 150 minutes. These 200 questions were from five test areas with exactly 40 questions in each. However, the paper did not have any sections. Each of the test areas was divided into two or three parts and these parts were positioned at different places in the paper. Negative marks for each question were to the extent of 1/4 of the maximum marks for each question. A brief snapshot of the various sections is presented below:

Section	No. of questions
Section - 1 (Reading Comprehension and English Usage)	40
Section - 2 (Quantitative Aptitude)	40
Section - 3 (Data Analysis)	40
Section - 4 (Reasoning)	40
Section - 5 (Indian and Global Environment)	40
TOTAL	200

READING COMPREHENSION AND ENGLISH USAGE

The section had a good mix of Reading Comprehension and Verbal Ability. In the RC portion, there were five passages with four questions each. Many "best-title" and "best caption" questions appeared this time. In the Verbal Ability part, there were five different types of questions with four questions each. Some of the questions in Verbal tested vocabulary while others tested knowledge of the finer differences between formal and informal language. The section comprised of:

Topics	No of Questions
Reading Comprehension (5 passages)	20
Para Jumbles	4
One word Substitution	4
Sentence Correction	4
Fill in the Blanks	4
Best Captures the Essence of Paragraph	4
Total	40

The Difficulty level of this section was on the easy to moderate side. Most questions in this section were easy and attemptable. In all, a good attempt would have been 24-28 questions in 25 minutes with possible correct attempts of 23+.

QUANTITATIVE APTITUDE

Similar to last year, Arithmetic was the most favoured area this time too. Almost all the questions in this section were solvable in comparatively less time and were direct questions based on concepts and requiring no application. The success in this particular test area depended on your basic conceptual skills, and calculation skills along with good practice of the regular topics. The section comprised of:

Topics	No of Questions
Percentage, Profit and Loss, Partnership	8
Averages and Mixture and Alligations	3
Time ,Speed and Distance	11
Time and Work	9
Permutation and Combination	4
Probability	4
Miscellaneous	1
Total	40

A good time allocation for this section should have been 40 minutes and one could attempt around 29-32 questions with a possible correct attempts of 27+.

DATA ANALYSIS

The section comprised of Data Interpretation, Data Sufficiency and Data Comparison. The pure DI sets were either lengthy or difficult to interpret. This time all the 7 DI sets were combination graph types & hence difficult to solve. Another surprise was a case-let, asked for the first time in last 3 years. The easy part was 6 questions from DS and 6 question on Quantitative comparison. The section comprised of:

Topics	No of Questions
Data Interpretation	28
Data Sufficiency	6
Data Comparison	6
Total	40

A good time allocation for this section should have been 35 minutes and one could attempt around 26-30 questions with a possible correct attempts of 25+.

REASONING

This test area was a mix of Analytical reasoning (27 questions) and Critical reasoning (13 questions). The questions in Analytical Reasoning were from Blood relations, Venn diagram, Series both number and letter, Verbal analogies, Seating Arrangement and coding decoding most of them were of moderate difficulty level. The questions on Critical Reasoning were from Statements and Assumptions, Assertion and Reasons, Decision making, Input and Output and most of them were of moderate difficulty level. Questions based on 'Decision making' appeared after a long time. There was a trap laid in the questions based on 'Input-Output'. Overall this test area can be classified as moderate. A good time allocation for this section should have been 35 minutes and one could attempt around 25-28 questions with a possible correct attempts of 24+.

INDIAN AND GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

There were 40 questions based on Current affairs & some fact based questions. The main areas were automobiles, international events & organizations in the news, heads of the international organizations, Punch lines & Brands of the companies etc. In general, a good time allocation for this section should have been 10 minutes and one could attempt around 23-25 questions with a possible correct attempts of 21+.

SECTIONAL SCORES AND OVERALL CUT-OFFS

The overall level of the paper was difficult this time and with no clear demarcation among sections the expected scores and cut-offs are expected to go lower this time. Below is present the summary of the above analysis.

Section	No. of questions	Time allocation (min.)	Attempts (questions)	Possible Correct Attempts
Section - 1 (Reading Comprehension and English Usage)	40	25	24-28	23+
Section - 2 (Quantitative Aptitude)	40	40	29-32	27+
Section - 3 (Data Analysis)	40	35	26-30	25+
Section - 4 (Reasoning)	40	40	25-28	24+
Section - 5 (Indian and Global Environment)	40	10	23-25	21+
TOTAL	200	150		120+



Since MAT is silent on the marking scheme but looking at the past trends of scores a rough prediction of scores of good colleges participating is given below:

College	Expected Score to get a call
Christ college, Bangalore	710+
Alliance Business Academy, Bangalore	680-720+
IILM Academy for Higher Education, Greater Noida	710+
Indian Institute of Rural Management, Jaipur	680-700+
School of Communication & Management Studies, Cochin	680+
EMPI, Delhi	620+
IMS Ghaziabad	600+
(MATS), Bangalore	600+
Asia Pacific Institute of Management	560+
New Delhi Institute of Management	560+

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.