

MAT Exam Guide on How To Crack GD-PI-WAT

MAT (Management Aptitude Test 2021)

Authorizing Body - AIMA Centre for Management Education

As per the recent updates, the MAT Exam 2021 has been cancelled for the May-June session for both PBT and CBT mode. AIMA has granted only IBT mode to be conducted for the upcoming MAT exam session. The IBT mode for MAT exam will be held on seven distinct dates. The IBT MAT exam for 2021 has been dated from May 30 to June 13 by AIMA. The conducting body has rescheduled PBT MAT 2021 from May 30 to June 12. And the CBT MAT has been postponed to June 13. There is also a provision by AIMA to upgrade to IBT mode for the candidates who have enrolled for MAT CBT or PBT. Currently, the process of application for IBT MAT is ongoing. Interested students can register now for MAT 2021 Exams.

Registration Fees: INR 1,650

Recent Updates MAT 2021 Exam:

- The MAT 2021 Exam for both the CBT and PBT modes have been cancelled as it was dated to May 27, 2021 by AIMA.
- MAT 2021 Exam for IBT mode has been rescheduled from April 28, 2021 by AIMA.
- The last date of application for MAT 2021 PBT has been revised from May 20, 2021.
- The official website of AIMA has announced the MAT 2021 results for the session conducted in the months of February and March.
- Candidates can now register for the MAT 2021 going to be conducted in the May-June phase.

MAT Exam:

Management Aptitude Test, abbreviated as MAT, is a national level test conducted and managed by AIMA (All India Management Association) for admissions to MBA/PGDM Courses. Generally, the exams are conducted 4 times in the month of Feb, May, Sept & Dec. Qualifying the MAT exam makes you eligible for enrollment across more than 800 B-Schools. Recently, the B-Schools in Maharashtra will also accept candidates based on MAT scores as per the new order passed by high court.

The MAT Exam is conducted in three modes - Offline (PBT or Paper Based Test), Online (CBT or Computer Based Test) and remote proctored (IBT or Internet Based Test). Candidates can take up the different exam modes based on their choices. The syllabus and pattern of exam is same for all three modes but the exams are held on different dates.

Exam Name	Management Aptitude Test
Conducting Body	All India Management Association (AIMA)
Exam Level	National
Exam Frequency	Multiple times a year
Exam Mode	CBT , PBT and IBT
Exam Duration	2 hours and 30 minutes

MAT Admissions : GD/ PI/ WAT

Shortlisted candidates will receive call letters on their registered email ID. They will have to appear for the selection rounds at the institutes. The details mentioned on the call letter are -

- Last date to complete the registration
- Date, time and venue of WAT /GD/ PI
- Documents to carry
- Fee amount to carry

Candidates need to carry the following documents for WAT /GD-PI

- Copy of [MAT admit card](#)
- Rank/score card of MAT
- Original and photocopy of Class 10 and 12 certificates
- Original and photocopy of graduation marksheets
- Passport size coloured photographs
- Requisite admission fees

Below provided are some useful guidance for preparation for GD, PI and WAT. Read below to know more about the details of each section.

[Group Discussions in MAT 2021 Selection Process](#)

AIMA does not conduct a centralized counseling or selection process for MAT 2021. The MAT 2021 selection process is conducted by MAT 2021 Participating Colleges individually. Many Colleges in India conduct selections for their MBA and PGDM courses based on MAT 2021 scores.

Candidates must clear the MAT cut-off of the college to get a call for admission. Shortlisted candidates are invited for the MBA selection rounds which can include the following:

- Group Discussion (GD)
- Written Ability Test (WAT)
- Personal Interview (PI)

Group Discussions (GD) in MAT 2021

Group Discussion (GD) plays an important role in the selection process of MAT 2021. Group Discussion continues to be a part of the evaluation process. It should be observed that it tests many abilities and qualities that used to be tested in the WAT, and therefore a thorough preparation for the Group Discussion will help the candidate to respond to the WAT topics.

In this round, candidates are divided into groups, and each group is given a topic to discuss among themselves for 15-20 mins. Candidates are expected to bring out the salient features of their topic in the discussion.

Group Discussions can be divided into 3 types:

- **Topical Group Discussions:**

The topic for these types of discussion is based on current affairs or static events. Candidates are advised to be thorough with these and read newspapers regularly to be up to date. These discussions are not time-bound.

- **Case-Studies:**

In this group discussion, candidates are given situations especially out of a business, and will be tested on how they solve the problem. They will be needed to analyze the situation and give their views.

- **Abstract Group Discussions**

In this kind of discussion, they would not give an outline of the topic, which means no one knows which direction to take. The candidates must use innovative ideas and strategies to lead the discussion. The topic could be one word or sentence, but no one usually knows what the panel might look for.

Evaluation Criteria: Group Discussion in MAT 2021

The Evaluation of the participants is based on two kinds:

Individual Qualities	Group Skills
Content	Leadership Quality
Analytical Skills	Listening Skill
Reasoning Skills	Good Behavior
Creativity	Body Language
Communication Skills	Organization Skills

How to Prepare for Group Discussion (GD):

If you have been preparing for the MAT 2021 exam and provided you have been reading the newspaper for the past eight-ten months, you can prepare for GD in less time. However, there is no fixed time required to prepare for GD.

Following are the tips that you can follow to prepare for GD:

→ **Continuous Reading:**

Reading the newspaper daily and being updated with current affairs is necessary as most of the GD topics are selected from news and updates from the business sector.

→ **Communication Skills:**

Make it a point to communicate in English and enhance your vocal skills so that you get confidence while speaking on the final day without any hesitation.

→ **Practice Groups:**

Practice GD with your seniors, fellow applicants who have appeared for GD. Also, many coaching centers take GD sessions where you can improve your skills with group discussion.

How to start a Group Discussion (GD):

By starting a Group Discussion, you can grab everybody's attention. GD gives you an edge over other candidates as you get maximum uninterrupted time to share your point of view and skills to the examiner as other candidates are still busy understanding the topic. Make sure while initiating a Group discussion you must not state incorrect facts or stammers.

4 Keys points for GD:

1. Keep Content Relevant
2. Communicate Fluently
3. Use Quotes & Questions
4. Be Time-efficient

Top 10 Group Discussion(GD) Topics for 2021:

- Is Social Distancing The New World Order?
- Lockdown in India: After 4 Phases of lockdown, "Unlock Begins": Impact on Economy
- High Fuel Prices in India: What are the causes & Impact on the Indian Economy
- Digital Payments in India
- Lockdown: How it's helpful in Prevention of COVID-19
- Should the Indian Economy be Privatized? Pros & Cons
- What is "Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan"?
- Online Education- Benefits & Challenges
- Ban on Chinese Apps in India
- Farm Bill 2020: Pros, Cons & Challenges

Personal interview

(PI) is conducted before offering you admission or any job, and a personal meeting is organized by the recruiter to evaluate the potential of the candidate or employee. This meeting contains a two-way process between the candidate & the interviewer.

PI round is a test of your verbal communication skills, presence of mind & how do you represent your view with the presence of knowledge skillfully to convince the expert who is interviewing you.

A personal interview should be considered as the time to shine and to sell your candidature efficiently and warmly.

Online personal interview for MBA Admission

PI round is conducted in all MBA Colleges for admission. It is the 1st stage of shortlisting after the written exam. PI round is kept positively less & less stressful to make you feel free, you're encouraged to remain what you are in this round.

Apart from one interaction session of 10-20 minutes, PI rounds consist of other different components. Also, they may include GD/WAT/Extreme pure speech/Group interview/Group exercise test among others to check your abilities.

Guidelines for the personal interview

Every B-School conducts PI to get the best talent in their classroom, few key tricks to clear these rounds are:-

- Be careful while responding to questions carefully.
- Avoid any sort of bluffing if you are not sure about the answer.
- Be well prepaid for the ongoing Volley of questions.
- There are no questions that are tough or out of this world.
- Approach to answer them positively.
- If the answer is lengthy, try to put those in subtitles and make them presentable.

Interview session

Top B-School Aspirants should remember before proceeding with the interview session.

- Gather all required documents & their copies which are needed for verification.
- Copy of applied application form which is applied in-B-schools.
- Get dressed formally neatly but not Elegantly.

- Arrive in PI venue 15 minutes before the scheduled time,

Facing panelist

- Enter the room by taking permission.
- Greet the panelist when you reach the table where they are seated.
- Go through a versatile reading & mock test.
- Do not forget to go through the morning newspaper.
- Avoid irritation in front of panel members.
- The interviewer can judge you by gesture, posture & response.
- Response to the very first question carefully, as there is a saying "the first impression is the last impression"
- After a few minutes of the interview, the board member will conform based on your impression.
- Be yourself throughout.
- Never copy someone, because the panel can judge you easily.

Commonly asked question At Personal Interview

1. Introduce yourself?
2. Any challenges have you ever come across?
3. What are your plans after this course?
4. Reason to choose this course?
5. Have you pursued your interest during summertime /or in your free time?
6. Why do you want to join this B-school/college?
7. Past academic details?
8. Covid related questions?
9. Why is this B-School any reason to choose this specific Specialisation?

10. Current affairs & your opinion on them?
11. Question extracurricular activities?
12. How do you think you will contribute to the batch if you are selected?
13. What expectations do you have with the MBA program?
14. Which other Mba colleges have you shortlisted? Which college do you want to purposely choose?
15. Who is your role model?

Few quick tips on PI

- ★ Instead of answering questions without any knowledge, say I Don't know in a sweet and presentable way.
- ★ Tell me about yourself is a sure question so answer this by stating about career, education, hobbies.
- ★ Drive the interviewer towards strength.
- ★ Do not lose composure & stay calm throughout
- ★ Maintain good body posture while interviewing you.

Final thoughts of personal interview

The crux is whether the company or colleges for further education of application mostly (MBA)The basics purpose is to interact with the set of shortlisted candidates to know how well they fit into a job description or college vision.

Written Ability Test:

Written Ability Test (WAT) is being directed with a particular purpose to examine students' language skills in fields of illustration, way of writing, grammar, articulation of concepts as per topic given, and most appreciably a summing-up with an upshot for the audience. It is a significant section of the final selection of MBA programs in IIMs and other renowned MBA colleges. The common WAT topics are frequently linked to social concerns, current affairs, business, and the economy.

If students have passed the cutoff of their chosen college, they must start planning for MBA WAT Essays and enhance their writing skills. IIMs and all top MBA colleges conduct a writing ability test (WAT) or Academic Writing Test (AWT) to check students' usual awareness and language skills. Most MBA colleges (IIMs) have replaced the Group Discussion (GD) with the WAT recently.

Preparation Tips to Clear the WAT!

WAT is primarily a test to examine applicants' writing skills and the accuracy of their thought process. It is involved in the final selection procedure.

- Read a lot! They should keep updated on all current affairs and grow their awareness base. Should go through everything that caused news in the last year or maybe even before that.
- Practice writing essays every day.
- Students need to plan how to pen down their views and exhibit them in a logical, comprehensible, and brief way.
- The time limit for writing the essay can differ from 10-30 minutes depending upon the college. So, take a self-test and consider the time you finish.
- Once you get a subject to write about, try to understand the topic and give at least 2-3 minutes choosing what impressions and details you need to write about.
- Don't get started to write quickly, it might not be adequate to draft an essay well.
- Take Expert Suggestions and make a Quick Frame

Written Ability Test (WAT) Essay Topics:

The topics are essentially centered on commercial, administrative, and business affairs. Here are the few topics mentioned below

- Women's Reservation Bill
- Essential services like water, electricity should not be privatized
- Business and ethics don't go hand in hand these days.
- India versus Bharat: a divided nation
- The financial crisis in Europe
- IPL is a death knell to Indian cricket
- IIM should make one year of social service compulsory for all students
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- Vishwanathan Anand is as good a brand ambassador as Sachin Tendulkar
- Is disinvestment in profit-making PSUs advisable?
- In India, mass mobilization can only be achieved through religion
- Bollywood is capitalizing on people with disabilities
- In India, mass mobilization can only be achieved through religion
- The greatest tennis star of all time
- Should Petroleum Subsidy go away?
- Union Budget is a useless exercise and activities like recession put it off-track
- Should there be reservations for women in MBA colleges?
- The disappearance of Malaysian Airlines flight, MH370
- Social Media and Politics
- Peshawar school attack
- The creation of the Telangana state

The essay students are going to write in the Written Ability Test (WAT) might appear in the subsequent Personal Interview (PI) round. Need to retrieve the details written in WAT to

hold them in front of the interviewer.

Parameters Comprise in Written Ability Test (WAT)

While evaluating the paper, the panel focuses on these four mentioned parameters:

- Writing Ability
- Subject Knowledge
- Way of Presenting Ideas
- Clarity of Thoughts in WAT.

An aspirant who pens on constant data with a precision of idea and is well conscious of all that's occurring in the surroundings will definitely master the test.

Mistakes to Evade During WAT!

The goal of a Written Ability Test (WAT) in a MAT exam is to have a more useful intuition into the truth of life, thought process, and reliable structure. A student should be well familiar with popular news, leaders, and data, etc. Here are a few points to avoid in WAT.

- Avoid repeating the sentence.
- Be clear in sentence formation.
- Never mishandle the topic.
- Do not make long sentences.
- Avoid cuttings and cancellations
- Avoid Grammatical Errors
- Be driven by the concept.

IMs and other B-Schools Conducting Written Ability Test (WAT):

The business schools do not set a word goal but a well-drafted and suitably structured essay might be 300 to 400 words long. It should be achieved in the given time to the point. A good practice of time management is needed to meet this aim.

- International Management Institute (IMI)
- Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad
- Indian Institute of Management Kashipur
- Indian Institute of Management Rohtak
- Indian Institute of Management Lucknow
- Indian Institute of Management Ranchi
- Indian Institute of Management Udaipur
- Indian Institute of Management Indore
- Indian Institute of Management Raipur
- Indian Institute of Management Shillong
- Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode
- Indian Institute of Management Tiruchirappalli
- Indian Institute of Management Bangalore
- SP Jain Institute of Management & Research (SPJIMR)

