



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GUWAHATI  
Dept. of Humanities and Social Sciences

**Master of Arts in Liberal Arts (MA-LA) Admission Test 2023**

**Date: 26.05.2023**

**Total Marks: 100**

**Time: 120 mins.**

**PLEASE READ AND FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY**

**A. GENERAL**

1. **DO NOT** break the seal until your invigilator announces that you do so (11:00 a.m.). After breaking the seal, please check that you have 40 questions in Part I and SIX questions with sheets for writing in Part II.
2. Blank sheets are provided for rough work in the Question Paper Booklet. **No additional sheets will be provided.**
3. Please fill in your **Application Number** on EACH page of the Question Paper Booklet in the space provided on the top right.
4. Blank sheets, clipboards, log tables, slide rules, calculators, cameras, cellular phones, pagers and gadgets are **NOT** allowed inside the examination hall.
5. Please remain seated in the exam hall until the invigilators have collected **ALL** booklets and OMR sheets.

**B. FILLING UP THE OMR SHEET**

1. Use a **BLACK BALL POINT PEN** to darken the bubbles on the OMR sheet.
2. Answers marked on the OMR sheet will be corrected. Any markings on the Question Paper Booklet will be treated as rough work and will be ignored.
3. **DO NOT** fold, tamper, or mutilate the OMR sheet in any way. **DO NOT** mark/ alter/ tamper with the four

corner circles on the OMR sheet or the bar code at the top in any way.

4. **BOTH** the OMR sheet and the Question Paper Booklet must be returned to the invigilator.
5. **NO** extra time shall be given for marking on the OMR sheet.

**C. TEST PAPER FORMAT**

1. The question paper is divided into **TWO** parts. Part I contains objective-type questions with the OMR sheet, Part II contains essay-type questions.
2. There are **TWO** sections in the Question Paper Booklet: Part I and Part II.
3. Part I contains objective-type questions in THREE divisions: **15 General Awareness questions, 15 Logical Reasoning and Quantitative Aptitude questions and ONE Reading Comprehension Passage.** Each question carries 1 mark. Total marks for Part I = 40.
4. For Part I, answers are to be filled in **ONLY** on the **OMR sheet. DO NOT** mark answers on the question paper.
5. There is no negative marking.
6. Part II comprises six essay-type questions. **ONLY THREE** essays must be attempted. Each essay carries 20 marks.
7. For Part II, essays must be written in the blank sheets provided. **NO** additional sheet will be provided.

**Invigilator's signature**

**Examiner's signature**

## PART I

(ALL ANSWERS ARE TO BE FILLED IN ON THE OMR SHEET)

### General and Social Awareness (15\*1=15)

1. The “Peace of Westphalia” was signed to end which war?
  - a. Wars of the Carnatic
  - b. Thirty Years’ War
  - c. Anglo-Mysore War
  - d. Crimean War
2. Which one of the following did not serve as the United Nations Secretary General?
  - a. Antonio Guterres
  - b. Kofi Annan
  - c. Kurt Waldheim
  - d. Gerald Ford
3. Which one of the following did NOT win the Nobel Prize in Literature?
  - a. Rabindranath Tagore
  - b. Winston Churchill
  - c. Toni Morrison
  - d. Hilary Mantel
4. The “Permanent Settlement of Bengal” introduced in India in the 18th century pertained to which of the following?
  - a. Agricultural revenue collection
  - b. Conservation of the Bengal Tiger
  - c. Establishment of Presidency College.
  - d. Transfer of the capital of British India.
5. Lee Kuan Yew was one of the longest serving Prime Ministers of which country?
  - a. Malaysia
  - b. East Timor
  - c. Singapore
  - d. Indonesia
6. Who was the first Vice President of India?
  - a. Zakir Husain
  - b. S. Radhakrishnan
  - c. V. V. Giri
  - d. Rajendra Prasad
7. B. V. R. Subrahmanyam is the Chief Executive of which body?
  - a. NITI Ayog
  - b. UIDAI
  - c. Indian Railways
  - d. G-20 Advisory Council
8. Which of the following does NOT have a GI tag?
  - a. Katarni rice
  - b. Gamosa
  - c. Assamese Xorai
  - d. Phulkari

9. The Jnanpith award is given in recognition of the excellence of
  - a. Literary works by Indian authors writing in English
  - b. Literary works by Indian authors writing in Indian languages
  - c. Novels written by Indian authors translated into English
  - d. Novels written by Indian authors writing in Indian languages
10. When was the printing of the 2000 INR currency note stopped?
  - a. 1999-2000
  - b. 2021-2022
  - c. 2005-2006
  - d. 2018-2019
11. Who among the following received the Bharat Ratna award?
  - a. Gopinath Bordoloi
  - b. Ustad Amir Khan
  - c. Mamoni Raisom Goswami
  - d. Sundarlal Bahuguna
12. Who were the architects of Delhi?
  - a. Herbert Baker and Le Corbusier
  - b. Edward Lutyens and Herbet Baker
  - c. Norman Foster and Zaha Hadid
  - d. Zaha Hadid and Edward Lutyens
13. Which of the following are critically endangered?
  - a. Indian vulture
  - b. Brown bear
  - c. Sarus crane
  - d. Indian elephant
14. Which is Salman Rushdie's latest book?
  - a. *The Glass Palace*
  - b. *The Palace of Illusions*
  - c. *Victory City*
  - d. *City of Gold*
15. The novel *A Man's Place* is written by
  - a. Annie Ernaux
  - b. Olga Tokarczuk
  - c. Wisława Szymborska
  - d. Orhan Pamuk

**Logical Reasoning and Quantitative Aptitude (15\*1=15)**

16. A tank supplies water to irrigate the gardens in IIT Guwahati. A completely filled tank lasts two days, while a  $\frac{2}{3}$ rd full tank is left with 400 L of water after a day's use. If each garden requires exactly 25 L of water every day, find the number of gardens in IIT Guwahati.
  - a. 48
  - b. 64
  - c. 80
  - d. 96
17. (Same scenario as Q16) Suppose the tank is a right, circular cylinder, and you have to coat the curved surface of the tank with an insulating material that costs ₹ 100/m<sup>2</sup>. Assume that the

- radius of the tank is 1m, and the walls of the cylinder have negligible thickness. What will be the total cost of insulating the tank?
- ₹ 240
  - ₹ 480
  - ₹ 554
  - ₹ 1108
18. 10 poles are fixed adjacent to each other. The height of the smallest pole is 11m, and the height of the poles is in AP with a difference of 1m. If the rate of the pole is ₹ 4/m, how much will it cost to purchase all the poles?
- ₹ 540
  - ₹ 580
  - ₹ 600
  - ₹ 620
19. (Same scenario as Q18) Suppose each pole is fixed with 1m under the ground. At some time of the day, the length of the shadow cast by the third pole is 8m. What is the length of the shadow cast by the ninth pole?
- 10m
  - 11.7m
  - 12m
  - 13.1m
20. In a biased die, getting an even number is twice as likely as getting an odd number, and all the even numbers are equally likely to obtain. What is the probability of getting '2' when the die is rolled?
- 1/6
  - 1/9
  - 2/9
  - 1/3
21. If  $(x-2)$  is a factor of  $x^3 + x^2 - 4x - 4$ , what are the other roots of the polynomial?
- 2, 2
  - 1, -2
  - 1, 2
  - 2, 1
22. Find the missing term: 240, \_\_\_, 12, 4, 2
- 120
  - 96
  - 60
  - 48
23. "All diplomats are public servants. Some diplomats are eloquent. All eloquent public servants are orators." Which of the following can be logically deduced from the preceding?
- Some diplomats are orators.
  - All diplomats are orators.
  - All public servants are eloquent.
  - Only diplomats are orators.
24. "Only intelligent students get into IITG. All intelligent students get good jobs. Some good jobs are in the social sector." Which of the following can be logically deduced from the preceding?
- Some IITG students get jobs in the social sector.
  - Only IITG students get good jobs.

- c. Some intelligent students get jobs in the social sector.
  - d. Some IITG students get good jobs.
25. Find the missing term: \_\_, mdn, hch, fbg, lal
- a. uev
  - b. nun
  - c. ded
  - d. sis
26. A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H are sitting around a circle, facing the centre. B is third to the left of A, who is third to the left of D. F is between B and D. G is third to F's right, and H is second to G's right. C is closer to A than to B. Who is to the right of E?
- a. G
  - b. H
  - c. B
  - d. D
27. (Same scenario as Q26) In which of the following combinations is the first person sitting between the second and the third?
- a. GAE
  - b. BFD
  - c. DCA
  - d. CHA
28. Mohan has four vehicles. Two vehicles are black in colour, and two are yellow. Half of the vehicles are four-wheelers. From these statements, it necessarily follows that:
- a. At least one four-wheeler is black in colour.
  - b. Mohan has two two-wheelers.
  - c. At least one two-wheeler is yellow.
  - d. None of the above.
29. In some language, bixanix translates to 'spider web', and bixabro translates to 'spider bite'. Which of the following is the likeliest translation of 'snake bite'?
- a. ngarlbix
  - b. ngarlanix
  - c. ngarlabro
  - d. abrongarl
30. 'tassar' is to 'silk' as 'cobra' is to
- a. venom
  - b. snake
  - c. marshes
  - d. limbs

**Reading Comprehension (10\*1=10)**

Read the following passage and answer the questions below **on the OMR sheet**:

Most students arrive at college using “discrete, concrete, and absolute categories to understand people, knowledge, and values.” These students live with a dualistic view, seeing “the world in polar terms of we-right-good vs. other-wrong-bad.” These students cannot acknowledge the existence of more than one point of view toward any issue. There is one “right” way. And because these absolutes are assumed by or imposed on the individual from external authority, they cannot be personally substantiated or authenticated by experience. These students are slaves to the generalizations of their authorities. Most students break through the dualistic stage to another equally frustrating stage—multiplicity. Within this stage, students see a variety of ways to deal with any given topic or problem. However, while these students accept multiple points of view, they are unable to evaluate or justify them. To have an opinion is everyone’s right. Every assertion, every point, is valid. In their democracy they are directionless.

The third stage of development finds students living in a world of relativism. Knowledge is relative: right and wrong depend on the context. No longer recognizing the validity of each individual idea or action, relativists examine everything to find its place in an overall framework. In this stage, however, students resist decision making. Suffering the ambivalence of finding several consistent and acceptable alternatives, they are almost overwhelmed by diversity and need means for managing it.

In the final stage students manage diversity through individual commitment. Students do not deny relativism. Rather they assert an identity by forming commitments and assuming responsibility for them. They gather personal experience into a coherent framework, abstract principles to guide their actions, and use these principles to discipline and govern their thoughts and actions.

31. It can be inferred from the passage that the author would consider which of the following to be good examples of “dualistic thinking”?
  - a. People who think “there is a right way and a wrong way to do things”
  - b. Teenagers who assume they know more about “the real world” than adults do
  - c. All of the above
  - d. None of the above
  
32. Students who are “dualistic” thinkers may not be able to support their beliefs convincingly because
  - a. most of their beliefs cannot be supported by arguments.
  - b. they have accepted their “truths” simply because authorities have said these things are “true.”
  - c. they half-believe and half-disbelieve just about everything.
  - d. their teachers almost always think that “dualistic” thinkers are wrong.
  
33. Which one of the following assertions is supported by the passage?
  - a. Committed thinkers are not very sure of their positions.
  - b. Relativistic thinkers have learned how to make sense out of the world and have chosen their own positions in it.
  - c. Multiplicity thinkers have difficulty understanding the relationships between different points of view.
  - d. Dualistic thinkers have thought out the reasons for taking their positions.
  
34. In paragraph one, the author states that in their “democracy” students in the multiplicity stage are directionless. The writer describes multiplicity students as being in a “democracy” because
  - a. there are so many different kinds of people in a democracy.

- b. Democrats generally do not have a good sense of direction.
  - c. in an “ideal” democracy, all people are considered equal; by extension, so are their opinions
  - d. although democracies may grant freedom, they are generally acknowledged to be less efficient than more authoritarian forms of government.
35. Which one of the following kinds of thinking is NOT described in the passage?
- a. People who assume that there is no right or wrong in any issue
  - b. People who make unreasoned commitments and stick by them
  - c. People who believe that right or wrong depends on the situation
  - d. People who think that all behavior can be accounted for by cause and effect relationships
36. If students were asked to write essays on the different concepts of tragedy as exemplified by Cordelia and Antigone, and they all responded by showing how each character exemplified a traditional definition of tragedy, we could, according to the passage, hypothesize which one of the following about these students?
- a. The students were locked into the relativist stage.
  - b. The students had not advanced beyond the dualist stage.
  - c. The students had at least achieved the multiplicity stage.
  - d. The students had reached the commitment stage.
37. Which one of the following best describes the organization of the passage?
- a. Four methods of thought are compared and contrasted.
  - b. It is shown how each of four types of thought evolved from each other.
  - c. Four methods of thought are presented, and each is shown to complement the other.
  - d. The evolution of thought through four stages is presented.
38. Which of the following is a synonym for ambivalence?
- a. Confusion
  - b. Equivocation
  - c. Hypocrisy
  - d. Hesitation
39. What part of speech is ‘dualistic’?
- a. Verb
  - b. Adverb
  - c. Adjective
  - d. Preposition
40. Identify the prepositions in the following sentence:  
“And because these absolutes are assumed by or imposed on the individual from external authority, they cannot be personally substantiated or authenticated by experience.”
- a. the, or
  - b. they, on, the
  - c. and, the
  - d. by, on

**ROUGH WORK**



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## PART II

### FILL IN THE APPLICATION NUMBER ON EVERY PAGE

Attempt any and **ONLY THREE** of the following questions. **Maximum word limit: 700.** Write in the space provided. If you write more than three essays **ONLY** the first three attempted essays will be evaluated. **Total Marks: 20\*3=60**

1. Critically discuss the security implications of India's multilateral diplomacy in the Asia-Pacific region.
2. Which language is known as the “window to the world”? How does India’s current language policy help to maintain linguistic diversity? What are the pros and cons of India’s language policy and how has it either helped multilingualism or has been detrimental to the full development of regional languages? Provide factual examples in defense of your argument.
3. Discuss the cultural and social significance of the Swadeshi Movement during India's freedom struggle.
4. Write a comparative analysis of the terms “Culture,” “Civilization,” and “Tradition.”
5. “The wind and the rain have written illustrated books for this generation from which it may learn how showers fell, tides ebbed and flowed, and great animals, long extinct, walked up the craggy sides of cliffs, in remote ages. The more we know of Nature, in any of her aspects, the more profound is the interest she offers us.” Charles Dickens wrote these lines in an essay in 1851. Write a critical response to the view expressed in the quoted passage.
6. Critically review two novels that you have recently read.



















