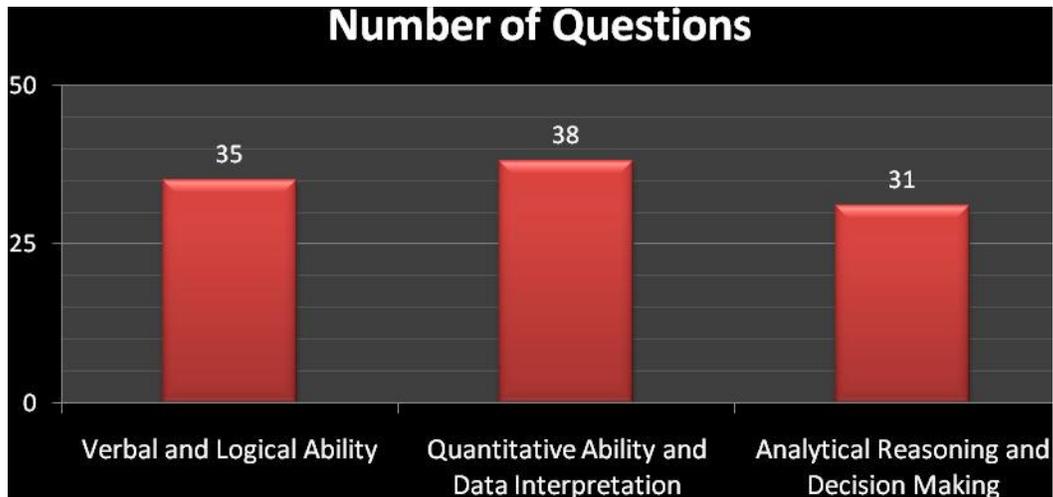


XAT 2009 Analysis

XAT 2009 provided no major surprises. The number of options increased to five from the previous four, and the number of questions came down to 104 from 120. However, the structure (3 sections) and the overall paper pattern in terms of question types were maintained this year.

The difficulty level of the paper was similar to last year.



Quantitative Ability and Data Interpretation Section

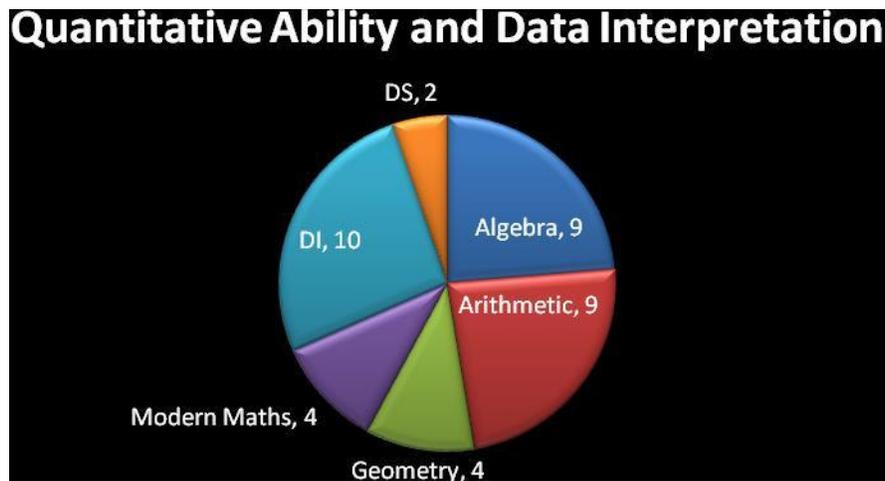
Quantitative Ability, DI and DS were a combined section keeping in line with XAT tradition. While the number of questions came down marginally from 44 to 38, the distribution of questions across topics was almost the same. Overall, the section was on the difficult side.

A few questions with 'none of the above' as the correct answer increased the required time and thus left less time for other questions in the section. Except few questions from functions, probability and geometry, the rest of the quantitative questions were from arithmetic and algebra. Clear focus on algebra and arithmetic would have helped in clearing the cut-off for this section.

The DI caselets on *Cake Chain Table* and *Tata Chemicals* were on the difficult side compared with Quantitative questions. The two DS questions were on the easier side.

Keeping in mind the length of the section, 45 minutes could have been spent on this section.

The expected cut-off in this section is 10.



Analytical Reasoning and Decision Making Section

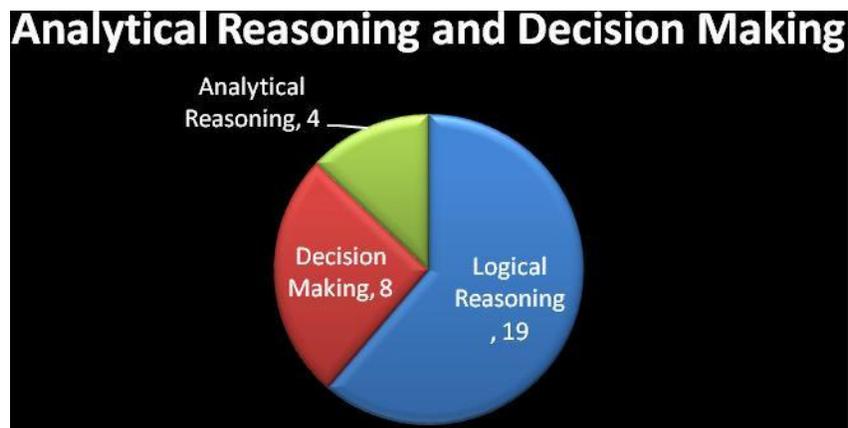
This section had similar pattern as that of the last year though it was marginally tougher. There were 31 questions this year as compared to 38 in XAT 08. The caselets were based mostly on the concept of *linear arrangement*.

The caselets on *Farmers and Fields*, *Couples in a singing competition*, *Mathematics Faculty and their lectures* were relatively easier and should have been attempted first.

The caselets on *Music World Franchisee*, *Decision Making Hypotheses* and *Om Chaudhary's sacking* were among the tougher ones. There were two non-grouped questions- *Children in pursuit of Dog* and *Capacity of Jars*, which were easy and could have been attempted.

Given that the number of questions in this section was lowest and it was simpler than the other sections, one could have devoted around 30-35 minutes to this section.

The estimated cut-off for this section is 8.



Verbal and Logical Ability

This section had similar pattern as that of the last year though it was marginally tougher. There were 35 questions this year as compared to 38 in XAT 08.

The vocabulary, and para jumble questions were relatively easy compared to the other questions. Apart from the 3 doable usage based questions, the figures of speech questions required good theoretical knowledge of school level grammar. Quite a few RC questions and most of the critical reasoning questions were on the difficult side. Overall, with a judicious selection of questions, 40 minutes could have been spent on this section.

The estimated cut-off for this section is 10.

