

IIMA PRESS RELEASE 2009-10



IIMA, March 10, 2010: With the declaration of scores on 28 February 2010, Common Admission Test (CAT) 2009 has been successfully completed and IIMs have begun their post-CAT selection process in right earnest. CAT 2009 has been a first ever computerized entrance test conducted on such a massive scale involving more than 2.42 lakh candidates. There have been some concerns expressed by some stakeholders regarding CAT and I would like to take this opportunity to clarify a few of them below:

Concern: Are the scores correct?

Ans: As you may know, IIMs have partnered with Prometric to conduct the computerized CAT. Prometric has years of experience in the delivery of computerized tests, and, establishing psychometric equivalences of scores in a multi-form test is their core competence. Only a few days ago Prometric held a press conference and has categorically stated that the CAT scores are accurate, they are appropriately distributed across the pool of candidates, and have been calculated based on the best international testing practices. A text regarding the scoring methodology is already uploaded on the official CAT website, a copy of which is enclosed with this press note.

Concern: Some candidates have received high percentile in two sections but have very low percentiles in the third section.

Ans: Unfortunately, every year there always are some candidates who do well in two sections but may not do that well in a third section. As an example, below I provide a comparative table for CAT 2008 and CAT 2009. As you can see, there have been very many candidates last year who did well in quantitative (Q) and Data Interpretation and Logical Reasoning (DI) section as compared to the Verbal (V) Section. In fact, performance on this criteria is better in CAT 2009.

	CAT-2008		CAT-2009	
	Candidates	% of total	Candidates	% of total
Q & DI \geq 95, V \leq 70	1065	0.4320	775	0.3143
Q & DI \geq 95, V \leq 40	381	0.1545	232	0.0941
Q & DI \geq 95, V \leq 20	165	0.0669	72	0.0292
Q & DI \geq 95, V \leq 2	7	0.0028	3	0.0012
Q & DI \geq 95, V \leq 1	5	0.0020	1	0.0004

Q & DI \geq 99, V \leq 70	95	0.0385	62	0.0251

Concern: CAT is not computer adaptive test and there was no need for psychometric equivalences and IIMs should have formulated tests with equal difficulty levels. Therefore, scaled scores are not necessary.

Ans: The above perception is wrong. Yes, CAT is not computer adaptive test, but there is always a need for establishing equivalences across different tests. Of course, while IIM faculty have come up with tests of similar difficulty levels, the different tests certainly are not identical tests. Therefore, standardization is needed.

Concern: It is reported that there are many RTIs filed?

Ans: IIMs being categorised as public institutions, we do get RTI queries in all departments round the year. Private institutions never get an RTI. In the context of CAT as well, every year we receive some RTI queries. We have received them this year as well in the past, when CAT was a paper-pencil test. We have arranged to answer them in the past and will continue to do so as required.