

NLUO- ADMISSION TEST -2009

Analysis of the Question Paper

How to judge a law school entrance examination paper?

The primary skills required by a lawyer are reasoning and analysis. *Mere* knowledge of the law does not help at all, because the winning brief is the one where the knowledge is applied to the facts in such a way that the Opposing Counsel is totally trumped.

Therefore, it is trite that a good law school entrance examination paper would test a candidate as much as possible on his/ her analytical and reasoning abilities, as well as knowledge and awareness of the law and things going on around him/ her.

The entrance test paper of the National Law University, Orissa, fulfils the above criteria with elan.

An analysis of the different sections of the examination paper is set out below:

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE AND CURRENT AFFAIRS

The section on General Knowledge and Current Affairs had 50 questions in all worth 50 marks and hence formed an important part of the paper. This section had majority of the questions from the Current affairs with some amount of Static GK questions that too mainly from History, Science, Geography and Miscellaneous GK. The detailed categorization of the types of General Knowledge questions is as under:

S.No.	Type of General Knowledge	Number of questions
1	Current Affairs	20
2	Miscellaneous (important people, places, committees, Awards, etc.)	12
3	Science	5
4	History	5
5	Constitution	1
6	Geography	3
7	Current +Miscellaneous	3
8	Business	1

The questions from the current affairs were quite demanding in nature because they were testing the concepts and depth of knowledge of the candidate, and not merely how much information that had been crammed up. Similarly the questions from science and history were also of moderate to high level of difficulty. Overall this section was not at all an easy one to handle and scoring 20+ marks should have been termed as an achievement.

MATHEMATICAL AND NUMERICAL ABILITY

The section was on the similar lines as that of CLAT. The questions asked were focused more on concepts. A total of 20 questions were asked in this section. Out of which 14 were on pure maths while the rest of the questions were based on the Data Interpretation format. The inclusion of Data Interpretation type of questions must have surprised the students. One of the Data Interpretation set, which had two questions, was based on the concept of Ratio/Proportion and Profit, Loss & Discount. But the other set was based purely on the calculations. The most probable attempts from this section can be 7 (Maths) + 5 (Data Interpretation) i.e. at least 12 questions. The following is the overall analysis of the section:

S #	Topic	Number of Questions
1	Profit, Loss & Discount	1
2	Time & Work	2
3	Time, Speed & Distance	3
4	Averages	1
5	Ratio & Proportion	2
6	Number System	1
7	Probability	1
8	Algebra	1
9	Permutation & Combination	1
10	Case-let	2
11	Data Interpretation	5

Overall the section was a bit tricky but of a moderate level of difficulty.

ENGLISH

One glimpse of the English section would confirm that it was not that easy and facile. The difficulty of English section was overall – Moderate to Difficult.

Good speed and thorough preparation were the most important tools for solving this section.

Topic	Number of Questions	Level of difficulty
Reading Comprehension	6	Reading comprehension questions were factual as well as inference based. However, a good reading of the passage was required in order to answer the inference-based questions correctly. Overall, this section was moderately difficult.
Grammar (Sentence Correction, Articles, Tenses and Modifiers)	5	This section tests on the basic rules of common errors such as Subject-Verb Agreement, Modifiers, Usage of Adverbs, Adjectives, Articles etc. Any student who has thoroughly gone through all the concepts must be able to handle the sentence correction questions effectively.
Vocabulary (Synonyms, Antonyms, Fill In The Blanks, Para-jumbles, Analogies and Odd man out)	27	Moderate to Difficult. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There is a set of 5 moderately difficult word-meaning questions. ● This is followed by 8 Fill in the blanks questions. ● This is followed by 5 Analogies, which presented a moderate level of difficulty. ● The traditional four sentence type paragraph jumbles follows the order of questions. These were of moderate difficulty level. However

		<p>this is followed by another set of six sentence type Para-jumbles, which were tough enough to test student's smartness and intelligence. Thus there are 5 Para-jumble Questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another set of 4 questions based on Odd man-out follows. The difficulty level was moderate.
Critical Reasoning	2	Q: 82 and Q: 83 examine the Reasoning Quotient of student. These two questions were easy enough to solve.

The possible attempts of the section was 25+ and achievable score the section was 22+.

LOGICAL REASONING

Logical Reasoning: A total of 45 questions were asked in this section. There was no stone of reasoning basics left to be unturned in this section. The questions asked were of moderate difficulty level. But to increase the number of attempts within the time constraint, a student has to be selective. Overall the section was justifying its name. An overview of the questions asked is given below.

S #	Topic	Number of Questions
1	Case-let	8
2	Mathematical Reasoning	3
3	Analytical Reasoning	11
4	Puzzles	11
5	Coding - Decoding	7
6	Clocks	1
7	Series Completion	2
8	Calendar	1
9	Blood Relation	1

LEGAL APTITUDE

Broad structure of the section

Serial No	Type / pattern of questions	No. of questions
1	Legal reasoning- principle, facts, options	14
2	Legal Knowledge	22
3	Assertion & reasoning- based	9

Legal Reasoning – Q 156 to 169

Most of the questions were based on criminal law, and there was a healthy mix of constitutional and tort law. It demanded a thorough study of major legal concepts and theories to be able to answer correctly. Terms like *ex post facto*, prosecution, impugned, etc. would not be readily understood only by having a vocabulary in English. One would need to be familiar with these legal terms to answer correctly. A majority were criminal topics followed closely by Torts and then Constitution. Only one question was from the law of Contracts. Further, questions based completely on a concept were also asked. For eg. *Volenti non fit injuria*, “neighbour”, etc. Questions were also based on landmark cases like Q. 169 which was based on the facts of the case of *Bijoe Emmaneul v/s State of Kerela (1986)*. Here ones legal knowledge is also tested.

Legal Knowledge – Q 170 to Q 191

This was the most interesting part. Half of the questions were based on Constitutional Law. Tort and Contract law was also tested equally. It seemed that the examiner wanted to see how well a student has understood a concept under the relevant law and so he asked many legal knowledge questions based on concepts. However, there were also pure legal knowledge question like Former Chief Election Commissioner of India, UPSC, Chairman, Former CJI, etc.

Another interesting part of this section was the manner in which questions were asked. There were match the following questions, choosing the correct answer amongst the given options based on above given facts, making pairs, etc. Thus, a variety of techniques were adopted by the examiner to test legal knowledge.

Assertion and Reason – Q 192 to Q 200

This was a difficult section. It required a student to be well versed with all the relevant concepts under tort, criminal and also constitutional law. Without have a clear understanding of the subject one would come to a wrong conclusion. Topics like negligence (Tort), *ex post facto* laws (Criminal), freedom of speech and expression (Constitution), Council of Ministers (Constitution), etc. were asked.

Conclusion

Overall, it was a very balanced paper. The examiners had their priorities right- about what, and how to test the candidates. The mind-boggling, and sometimes unconventional pattern of questions proved that only those who can think, and apply their knowledge, stand a chance.

The authorities deserve rich encomiums for such a performance in the very first year (because most institutions settle for a very easy paper).

The LST Team