

MHCET, traditionally the last exam of the season was conducted over four slots in two days on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

Though the exam went online last year, the test this year had a lot of issues, both in terms of the quality and correctness of questions as well as the exam interface.

**The biggest change in MHCET compared to earlier editions was the change to four options instead of the standard five options.**

While the overall breakup in terms of QA-LR-VA was as earlier, there were a lot of new question types while some common question types were missing.

Summary	
<b>Total Questions</b>	200
<b>Number of Sections</b>	1
<b>Total Time</b>	150 minutes
<b>Options per Question</b>	4
<b>Marks per Question</b>	1
<b>Negative Marking</b>	No

## I. Content

The number of questions from six major areas in various slots is as given below:

Area	Day 1 Slot 1	Day 1 Slot 2	Day 2 Slot 1	Day 2 Slot 2
QA	44	45	36	42
DI	9	5	12	12
LR	50	60	65	63
VR (Visual)	25	22	25	24
VA	67	50	44	54
RC	5	18	18	5

Some of the issues reported by students in the content were as under:

- a) Two options being identical (sometimes that being the correct option)
- b) Correct option not present at all
- c) Instructions missing for the question
- d) Question data not being visible properly

### 1. Quantitative Aptitude and Data Interpretation:

While one slot had only 5 questions from DI (2 sets of 2 questions each along with a single question, two slots had as many as 12 questions (3 sets with 3, 4 and 5 questions). A major feature across slots was that the DI sets were extremely simple in terms of understanding as well as calculations. Some of the questions could have been solved by just looking at the data.

On the other hand, the QA questions were better in terms of quality as well as difficulty level. The biggest proportion was from Arithmetic and Modern Maths, though there were some questions from Numbers, Linear Equations, Geometry etc. A major difference compared to last year was none of the slots had grouped questions on geometry, or any other QA topic.

There were no Data Sufficiency and Quantitative Comparison questions in any of the slots.

**2. Logical and Visual Reasoning:**

Visual Reasoning turned out to be the biggest surprise of this year's MHCET. Typically, an MHCET exam has 25-30 Visual Reasoning questions with approximately 15-20 being based on completing the series, and the remaining odd Man Out and Analogy based questions.

This year, one slot had 25 consecutive questions on completing the series and nothing else while another slot had 25 scattered questions with no question on completing the series. In fact, there were a large number of questions that would have typically appeared in an SSC-CGL test: paper cutting, paper folding, mirror image of a word, counting number of geometrical figures, dot placement, forming groups of 3 from a set of 9 or 12 figures, identifying the figure in which a given shape could be fit, identifying the figure in which 6-7 given elements were all present etc. In short, the Visual Reasoning questions were completely unpredictable.

The LR questions saw a mix of some standard and new question types. However, some common question types were missing.

Over the four slots, the following question types were covered as group questions: Venn diagrams, cubes, linear arrangements, circular arrangements, directions, number series, alphanumeric series, coded inequalities and selection criteria.

Barring 1 or 2 sets, the remaining sets were quite easy and could have been attempted very quickly. A major difference compared to last year was the absence of the Bank-exam style arrangement sets having 7-8 questions per set. This year, all the sets had 3-5 questions. There were no questions on input-output tracing as well as complex arrangements.

Apart from these, there were individual questions on directions, relationships, number and letter series, letter coding, sentence coding, venn diagrams, syllogisms, filling the missing number in a figure, rule-based odd man out etc. Most of these were very easy unlike typical MHCET questions.

**3. Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension:**

Like DI, RC saw a substantial swing in terms of number of questions per slot. A couple of slots had only one passage with 5 questions while the remaining slots had 2 passages with 9 questions each i.e. 18 questions in all. However, across all slots, the questions were more or less factual and easy to answer. Also, nearly 50% of the questions in the RCs were based on finding the synonym/antonym of words underlined in the passage. These were also easy as the options got eliminated directly. There was also the occasional inferential question as well as Title/Summary based question.

Two slots had 2 close passages of 8 questions each, while the others didn't have a single question of this type. Apart from this, all slots had 7-8 questions on finding the erroneous part in a given sentence.

Some stand-alone questions were typical to an MHCET exam:

Fill in the blanks (single, double, preposition based), jumbled sentences, implicit assumptions, conclusions, strong and weak arguments, analogies etc.

Some of the new question types were:

Find the odd man out (GK-based), word-association (GK-based), arrange four or five given words in a particular sequence (GK based), arrange the words to form a grammatically correct and meaningful sentence, identify the word that cannot be created from a given word, identify the word that can be attached to a given word to form a new meaningful word, etc

However, a problem in this section was that some questions were ambiguous in nature or did not have instructions. Hence, the student had to second-guess the examiner and try to solve them.

On the whole, the test was simpler than earlier but more ambiguous and error-prone compared to earlier. There have been reports of students completing the test with approximately 15-20 minutes to spare – something that is unthinkable in a typical MHCET exam.

The actual cut-offs will be very difficult to predict right now due to the number of errors in the test. Once DTE clarifies on this aspect, it may be possible to judge the cut-offs.

## II. Exam Interface:

In just the second year of MHCET going online, students were greeted with a new interface.

Some of the salient features of this interface were:

- 1) The right hand side of the screen had a question palette with all 200 question numbers shown. So, you could jump from one question to another easily.
- 2) There was a set of boxes that kept updating the number of questions that you have attempted, not attempted, marked for review and unmarked. This helped you track your attempts.
- 3) The left hand side of the screen was split into two parts. The upper part had the common data or the individual question data whereas the lower part had the options.
- 4) However, the data for the questions was shown in a such a way that you had to first keep scrolling right and left to see all the figures (especially in Visual Reasoning and DI questions) and then keep scrolling up and down to read the options. Also, irrespective of how much text the options had, you had to scroll down to go the “Next Question” button
- 5) There was an option to increase or decrease font but it worked only on the options and question text – but not on the question images. This reduced its effectiveness drastically.
- 6) The quality of the figures was not good – lines were blurred, text got cut out, extra smudge marks appeared in visual reasoning questions giving the impression that they were part of the question, tilted images (images not aligned correctly), etc
- 7) Like last year, there was an option to see the whole question paper at one go.
- 8) For group questions, there was no way to directly find out the number of questions in that set. You had to keep going forward to find this out and plan your attempt