

IBSAT 2026 Exam Pattern: Sections, Marking Scheme, Duration & Test Format Explained

The IBSAT 2026 Exam Pattern is one of the most candidate-friendly structures among Indian MBA entrance exams. Conducted by the ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education (IFHE), Hyderabad, IBSAT 2026 is expected to be held in the last week of December 2026. A defining feature of IBSAT is that it is an online, remote-proctored aptitude test, meaning candidates can take the exam from the comfort of their home. IBSAT marking scheme 2026 awards 1+ marks for every correct answer, and there is no negative marking. Combined with no negative marking, no sectional time limits, and a stable four-section structure, IBSAT 2026 offers aspirants a low-pressure, strategy-rewarding test environment. This article presents a complete, official-document-backed breakdown of the IBSAT 2026 Exam Pattern.

IBSAT 2026 Exam: Key Highlights

IBSAT Entrance Exam 2026 is conducted by ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education (a deemed to be University). IBSAT is an Internet Based Aptitude Test which can be taken from home. Top colleges accepting IBSAT exam scores are IBS Hyderabad, IBS Mumbai and IBS Gurgaon. Check key highlights of IBSAT exam 2026.

IBSAT Exam Schedule 2026 (Expected)

Event	Date
IBSAT 2026 Notification Date	July 1, 2026
IBSAT 2026 Registration Start Date	July 1, 2026
IBSAT 2026 Registration Last Date	December 24, 2026 (Expected)
IBSAT 2026 Admit Card Download Start Date	To be confirmed
IBSAT 2026 Exam Dates	December 26 & 27, 2026 (Expected)
IBSAT 2026 Result Date	First week of January 2027 (Expected)
IBSAT 2026 Score Card Download	January 4, 2027 onwards

IBSAT 2026 Pattern: Sections, Number & Type of Questions

Based on previous year's exam trends and IBSAT Exam Pattern 2026 official website, IBSAT Exam Pattern 2026 has 140 multiple-choice questions (MCQs) divided in four sections on Verbal Ability, Reading Comprehension, Quantitative Aptitude, and Data Adequacy & Data Interpretation. Verbal Ability has the maximum weightage. Check break up of questions and maximum marks by section.

IBSAT Exam Pattern 2026

Exam Section	Number of Questions	Maximum Marks
Verbal Ability	50	50
Reading Comprehension	30	30
Quantitative Aptitude	30	30
Data Adequacy & Data Interpretation	30	30
Total	140	140

IBSAT 2026 Exam Pattern for Verbal Ability

The Verbal Ability section in IBSAT carries overall 36% Weightage in the exam. Out of total 140 questions, 50 questions are based on Verbal Ability. This VA section in IBSAT does not include Reading Comprehension which is a separate section. Below is shared the topic wise Verbal Ability sectional pattern with number of questions in the exam and actual IBSAT questions in previous years.

IBSAT Exam Pattern: Type of Questions in Verbal Ability Section

Sub-section/ Topic	Type of Questions	Description	No of Questions
Verbal Ability	Vocabulary	Synonyms (5 Qs); Antonyms (5 Qs); Meaning of Idiom/Phrase (5)	15
--	Jumbled Paragraph	Placing the Jumbled sentences in coherent paragraphs (5 Qs)	5
--	Fill in the Blanks	Selecting appropriate words in the blank spaces of passage (5 Qs)	5
--	Error Correction in Sentences based on Grammar and Tenses	Spotting the error in sentences (5 Qs); Correction and replacement of part of sentences (10 Qs)	15

--	One Word Substitution	Substituting a phrase/part of sentence with one word (5 Qs)	5
--	Reasoning	Analogy – Word Relation	5
Total VA Questions	--	--	50

IBSAT 2026 Exam Pattern for Reading Comprehension

Reading Comprehension in IBSAT is a separate section and is not clubbed with Verbal Ability. The Reading Comprehension section in IBSAT carries overall 21% Weightage. Out of total 140 questions, 30 questions are based on Reading Comprehension only. The questions are based on long and short RC passages on different topics. Below is shared the topic wise Reading Comprehension sectional pattern with number of questions in the exam and actual questions to help you familiarise with the type of questions:

IBSAT Exam Pattern: Type of Questions in Reading Comprehension

Sub-section/ Topic	Type of Questions	Description	No of Questions
Reading Comprehension	Includes Long and Short RC Passages on Literature, History, Business & Economics, Social Issues, Current Affairs	Long RC Passages: 3 Passages of 600-700 words with 8Qs each; Short RC Passage: 1 Passage of 500 Words followed by 6 questions	30
Total Questions	--	--	30

IBSAT 2026 Exam Pattern for Quantitative Aptitude

The Quantitative Aptitude Section in IBSAT also carries overall 21% Weight in the exam. The section comprises 30 questions out of total 140 questions. Major topics on which questions are based include Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Number system among others. Below is shared the topic wise Quantitative Aptitude sectional pattern with number of questions in previous year question paper.

IBSAT Exam Pattern: Type of Questions in Quantitative Aptitude

Sub-section/ Topic	Type of Questions	Description	No of Questions

Arithmetic	TSD, T&W	Time & Work (1 Q); Time Speed & Distance (2 Qs)	3
Arithmetic	Percentage, Profit & Loss	Profit and Loss (2 Qs), Percentages (4 Qs)	6
Algebra	Equation, Formulae	Equation and Other Topics (4 Qs)	4
Modern Math	Probability, Log, Underroot	Probability (2 Qs), Underroots (3 Qs)	5
Number System	Dvisions, Multiples	Divisibility, Factors, Multiplicity	3
Geometry	Angles, Circles, Rectangles, Others	Angles (2 Qs); Circles (2 Qs); Rectangles (1 Qs); Area/Circumference (1 Qs)	6
--	Trigonometry, Mensuration Etc	Trigonometry (1 Q), Mensuration (2 Qs)	3
Total Questions	--	--	30

IBSAT Exam Pattern for Data Interpretation & Data Sufficiency

The Data Interpretation & Data Sufficiency (DIDS) Section in IBSAT also carries overall 21% Weight in the exam. The section comprises 30 questions out of total 140 questions. Major topics on which questions are based include Graphs, Pie Charts, Data Tables, Problems with data followed by statement questions confirming data sufficiency among others. Below is shared the topic wise DIDS sectional pattern with number of questions in the exam and previous year question paper.

IBSAT Exam Pattern: Type of Questions in Data Interpretation & Data Sufficiency

Data Interpretation & Data Sufficiency Sub-section/ Topic	Type of Questions	Description	No of Questions
Data Interpretation	Bar Graphs, Data Table, Pie Chart	Bar Graph (5 Qs); Data Table (5 Qs); Pie Chart (5 Qs)	15
Data Sufficiency	Statements, Clocks & Calendars, Data	Statements based on Data (2 Qs); Relationship (1 Q); Volume (1Q); Arithmetic based (2 Qs); Clocks, Calendar	15

	Based Relations, Data Surveys	& Dates (2 Qs); Teams & Surveys (2 Qs); Geometry based (2 Qs); Data Divisibility (1 Q); Integer based statement (1 Q); Others (1 Q)	
Total Questions	--	--	30

IBSAT 2026 Marking Scheme

The IBSAT marking scheme 2026 is straightforward and friendly to test-takers:

- **+1 mark for every correct answer**
- **0 marks for incorrect answers (no negative marking)**
- **0 marks for unattempted questions**
- Maximum possible raw score: **140**

The absence of negative marking has a direct strategic implication: **every question should be attempted**. Even a blind guess has a 20% probability of being correct in IBSAT's five-option format, with zero downside. Skipping questions in IBSAT — unlike in XAT or CMAT — is statistically irrational.

IBSAT Exam Pattern 2026 PDF Download

Download the **IBSAT Exam Pattern 2026 PDF** to get a complete understanding of the latest exam structure before you begin your preparation. The PDF contains detailed information on the exam pattern, section-wise question distribution, marking scheme, exam duration, test format, and important preparation insights based on the official IBS Hyderabad admission process. Whether you are starting your preparation or revising your strategy, this PDF serves as a quick and reliable reference that you can save for offline access and use throughout your IBSAT 2026 preparation. Click on the link below for IBSAT Exam Pattern 2026 PDF Download.

Mode of Exam: Online Remote-Proctored Test

IBSAT 2026 is expected to be conducted in an online, remote-proctored format, just like IBSAT 2025. This means candidates can take the test from home or any quiet location with stable internet and a webcam-enabled computer, without travelling to a designated test centre.

Key features of the remote-proctored IBSAT format:

- The candidate's screen, webcam, and microphone are monitored throughout the test
- A secure browser is typically required to be installed
- Selection briefings — which follow the test — are conducted in 70+ cities across India

This home-based mode reduces logistical stress significantly and is a major advantage for candidates in tier-2 and tier-3 cities.

IBSAT 2026 Time Allocation Strategy

With 140 questions to be attempted in 120 minutes, the raw average is **51.4 seconds per question**. However, an experienced approach recommends section-wise time allocation as follows:

Section	Questions	Recommended Time	Avg per Question
Verbal Ability	50	30 minutes	36 seconds
Reading Comprehension	30	30 minutes	60 seconds
Quantitative Aptitude	30	30 minutes	60 seconds
Data Adequacy & DI	30	25 minutes	50 seconds
Buffer / Review	—	5 minutes	—
Total	140	120 minutes	

Since IBSAT has no sectional time limits, this allocation is flexible. Candidates can move freely across sections, revisit questions, and adjust based on personal strengths. Aspirants stronger in Quant may invest 35 minutes there; those stronger in Verbal may finish VA + RC in 50 minutes and use the saved time for DI.

IBSAT 2026 Exam Pattern vs Other MBA Entrance Exams

To put the IBSAT 2026 Exam Pattern in context, here is how it compares with major MBA entrance exams:

Feature	IBSAT 2026	CAT 2026	NMAT 2026	XAT 2027
Total Questions	140	68	108	95
Duration	120 min	120 min	120 min	180 min
Sections	4	3	3	4
Sectional Time Limits	No	Yes (40 min)	Yes	Yes
Negative Marking	No	Yes (−1)	No	Yes (−0.25)
Options per MCQ	5	4	4	5
Mode	Online (Remote)	CBT (Centre)	CBT/Online	CBT (Centre)

IBSAT 2026 Preparation Resources

Preparing for IBSAT 2026 requires more than just understanding the exam pattern. To complete your preparation, explore our comprehensive guides from links below covering the latest exam schedule, syllabus, registration process, preparation strategy, mock tests, and previous year question papers. These resources will help you stay updated, strengthen your concepts, and maximize your chances of scoring well in IBSAT 2026.

- [**IBSAT Exam Dates 2026**](#): Check the complete schedule, including registration, admit card, exam, result, and selection process.
- [**IBSAT Syllabus 2026**](#): Explore the latest section-wise syllabus and important topics for all four sections.
- [**IBSAT Registration 2026**](#): Learn about eligibility, application process, fees, documents required, and important deadlines.
- [**IBSAT Preparation 2026**](#): Access expert preparation strategies, study plans, recommended books, and section-wise tips.
- [**IBSAT Mock Tests 2026**](#): Practice full-length mock tests to improve speed, accuracy, and time management.
- [**IBSAT Previous Year Question Papers**](#): Solve previous papers to understand question patterns, topic-wise weightage, and exam difficulty.

Summary

IBSAT Exam Pattern has 140 multiple-choice questions (MCQs) divided in four sections on Verbal Ability, Reading Comprehension, Quantitative Aptitude, and Data Adequacy & Data Interpretation. IBSAT exam pattern has very high weightage on English language with two sections dedicated to it: Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension. IBSAT marking scheme 2026 awards 1+ marks for every correct answer, and there is no negative marking. [**IBSAT 2026 exam**](#) is expected to be held on December 26 and 27, 2026. Read exam pattern, type of questions, and other details in the above article. Also read complete [**IBSAT 2026 exam**](#) guide for complete details.