



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GUWAHATI  
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

## Master of Arts in Liberal Arts (MA-LA) Admission Test 2025

Date: 04.06.2025

PLEASE READ AND FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY

Total Marks: 100

Time: 120 mins.

### A. GENERAL

1. **DO NOT** break the seal until your invigilator announces that you do so. After breaking the seal, please check that a total of 80 MCQs are printed in the sheets.
2. Blank sheets are provided for rough work in the Question Paper Booklet. **No additional sheets will be provided.**
3. Please fill in **the last four digits of your Application Number** on EACH page of the Question Paper Booklet in the space provided on the top right-hand corner of the page, and the OMR sheet.
4. Blank sheets, clipboards, log tables, slide rules, calculators, cameras, cellular phones, pagers and gadgets are **NOT** allowed inside the examination hall.
5. Please remain seated in the exam hall until the invigilators have collected **ALL** booklets and OMR sheets.

### B. FILLING UP THE OMR SHEET

1. Use a **BLACK BALL POINT PEN** to darken the bubbles on the OMR sheet.
2. Answers marked on the OMR sheet will be corrected. Any markings on the Question Paper Booklet will be treated as rough work and will be ignored.

3. **DO NOT** fold, tamper, or mutilate the OMR sheet in any way. **DO NOT** mark/ alter/ tamper with the four corner circles on the OMR sheet or the bar code at the top in any way.
4. **BOTH** the OMR sheet and the Question Paper Booklet must be returned to the invigilator.
5. **NO** extra time shall be given for marking on the OMR sheet.

### C. TEST PAPER FORMAT

1. The question booklet contains **80 MCQs**, all of which have only ONE correct answer.
2. There are **THREE** sections in this paper. **Section A** contains **15** questions of **2 marks** each, **Section B** contains **10** questions of **1.5 marks** each, and **Section C** has **55** questions of **1 mark** each.
3. Questions in Section A are designed to test your logical reasoning and quantitative aptitude. Section B comprises questions based on a passage to test reading comprehension. Questions in Section C test your general awareness in the Humanities and Social Sciences, including your language competence.
3. Answers are to be filled in **ONLY** on the **OMR sheet**. **DO NOT** mark answers on the question paper.
5. There is no negative marking.

Invigilator's signature

Examiner's signature

(ALL ANSWERS TO BE FILLED IN ON THE ATTACHED OMR SHEET)

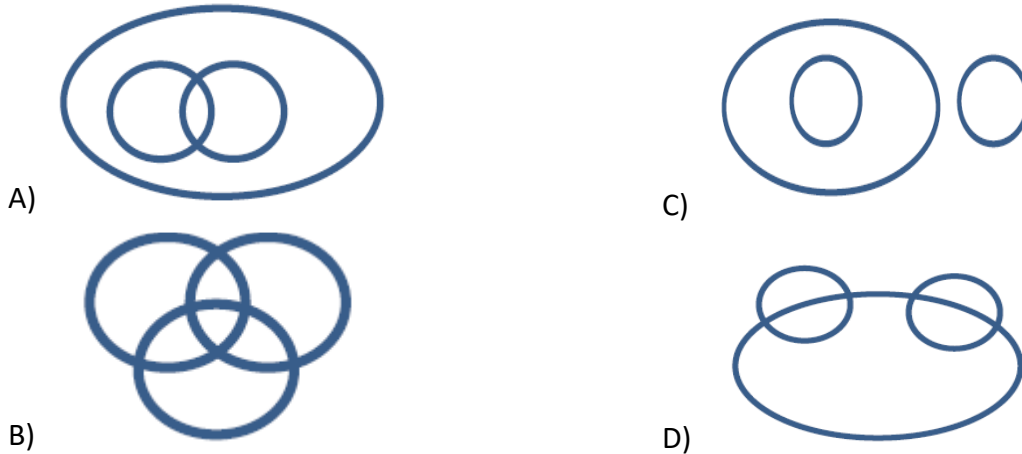
**Section A**

**(2x15 = 30)**

1. Five Football Players are standing in a row. Afzal is to the right of Badri. Edwin is to the left of Cristiano and to the right of Afzal. Badri is to the right of Dravid. Who is in the middle?

- A) Afzal
- B) Edwin
- C) Badri
- D) Dravid

2. Which of the following diagram indicates the best relation between 'Females', 'Scientists', and 'Males'?



3. What is the missing letter in this series: L, Y, N, W, Q, U, \_\_\_?

- A) S
- B) R
- C) T
- D) U

4. Which of the following can be logically deduced from the statement 'Some scientists are not theists'?

- I Some scientists are theists.
- II Some theists are scientists.
- III No scientist is theist.
- IV Some non-theists are scientists.

- A) Only IV
- B) I and II
- C) I and II
- D) II, III and IV

5. Which of the statements can be deduced from the following: 'Some monkeys are cheetahs'; 'All reptiles are alligators'; 'Some snakes are reptiles'; 'All alligators are monkeys'?

- I Some alligators are snakes.
- II Some cheetahs are snakes.
- III Some cheetahs are reptiles.
- IV Some monkeys are snakes.

- A) I and II
- B) III and IV
- C) I and IV
- D) II and IV



13. Rohit spends  $\frac{2}{5}$ <sup>th</sup> of his salary towards household expenses,  $\frac{2}{5}$ <sup>th</sup> towards medical and education expenses, and saves the remaining amount of Rupees 6000. What is his total salary?

- A) 35000  
 B) 40000  
 C) 30000  
 D) insufficient data

14. 10-day rainfall data (in mm) for a station is given in the table:

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10
12	6	10	17	89	76	43	24	35	2

What is the average daily rainfall received at the station?

- A) 27.4  
 B) 35.6  
 C) 31.4  
 D) 24.3

15. (Same data as Q. 14) What is the difference between the mean and the median values?

- A) 5.4  
 B) 10.9  
 C) 9.4  
 D) 7.5

## Section B

(1.5x10= 15)

Questions 16 to 25 are based on the following passage:

Political education has many connotations. It may be defined as the preparation of a citizen to take well informed, responsible and sustained action for participation in the national struggle in order to achieve the socio-economic objectives of the country. The predominant socio-economic objectives in India are the abolition of poverty and the creation of a modern democratic, secular and socialist society in place of the present traditional, feudal, hierarchical and in egalitarian one.

Under the colonial rule, the Congress leaders argued that political education was an important part of education and refused to accept the official view that education and politics should not be mixed with one another. But when they came to power in 1947, they almost adopted the British policy and began to talk of education being defiled by politics. 'Hands-off education' was the call to political parties. But in spite of it, political infiltration into the educational system has greatly increased in the sense that different political parties vie with each other to capture the mind of teachers and students. The wise academicians wanted political support, without political interference. What we have actually received is infinite political interference with little genuine political support. This interference with the educational system by political parties for their own ulterior motives is no political education at all and with the all-round growth of elitism, it is hardly a matter for surprise that real political education within the school system (which really means the creation of a commitment to social transformation) has been even weaker than in the pre-independence period.

During that time only, the struggle for freedom came to an end and the major non-formal agency of political education disappeared. The press played a major role by providing some political education. But it did not utilize the opportunity to the full and the stranglehold of vested interests

continued to dominate it. The same can be said of political parties as well as of other institutions and agencies outside the school system which can be expected to provide political education. After analysing all these things, it appears that we have made no progress in genuine political education in the post-Independence period and have even slid back in some respects. For instance, the education system has become even more elite-oriented. Patriotism has become the first casualty. The father of the nation gave us the courage to oppose government when it was wrong, in a disciplined fashion and on basic principles. Today, we have even lost the courage to fight on basic issues in a disciplined manner because agitational and anarchic politics for individual, group or party aggrandizement has become common. In the recent times the education system continues to support domination of the privileged groups and domestication of the under-privileged ones. The situation will not change unless we take vigorous steps to provide genuine political education on an adequate scale. This is one of the major educational reforms we need, and if it is not carried out, mere linear expansion of the existing system of formal education will only support the status quo and hamper radical social transformation.

16. Which word is nearly opposite in meaning as 'defile' as used in the passage?

- A) disparage
- B) forgery
- C) degenerate
- D) sanctify

17. According to the passage, what should be the main purpose of political education?

- A) To champion the cause of elitism.
- B) To bring qualitative change in the entire education system.
- C) To create an egalitarian society.
- D) To prepare the young generation with high intellectual acumen.

18. How has politics been related to educational institutions after independence?

- A) Although they got political support but there was no interference of politics.
- B) It is clear that they got almost no political support as well as political interference.
- C) They got political support at the cost of political interference.
- D) There was substantial interference without political support.

19. Based on the passage, which is the major drawback of the present education system?

- A) Although they got political support but there was no interference of politics.
- B) It is clear that they got almost no political support as well as political interference.
- C) They got political support at the cost of political interference.
- D) There was substantial interference without political support.

20. Which is the most opposite in meaning to the word 'hamper' as used in the passage?

- A) accelerate
- B) envision
- C) foster
- D) initiate

21. Which of the following is not one of the objectives of political education?

- A) To participate in the nationalist struggle to achieve the socioeconomic objectives of the country.
- B) To create a secular and egalitarian country.
- C) To forge a career in politics.
- D) To eradicate poverty.

22. Which of the following is synonymous to the word 'aggrandizement' as used in the above passage?

- A) enhancement
- B) backwardness
- C) egotism
- D) superiority

23. What would be the opposite of 'stranglehold' as used in the above passage?

- A) grip
- B) suffocation
- C) loosen
- D) choked

24. What power have we lost as a people post-Independence and why?

- A) The ability to eradicate poverty because people have become greedy.
- B) The ability to create an egalitarian and secular society because social inequality is irredeemable
- C) The ability to demand reservations in educational institutions because casteism is rampant.
- D) The ability to protest against the government's political injustice because politics has been appropriated for individual and majoritarian interests.

25. 'Hands-off education' primarily implies

- A) free education.
- B) education free of political interference.
- C) the freedom of schools to frame their own syllabus.
- D) vocational training.

**Section C**

**(1x55= 55)**

26. \_\_\_\_\_ your help, I would have failed.
- A) Without  
B) But  
C) If not  
D) Except
27. My father did not approve of some of my friends. He said that I was \_\_\_\_\_ in choosing them.
- A) choosy  
B) particular  
C) selective  
D) indiscriminate
28. The government exhorted citizens to report any crime witnessed by them as otherwise it could be construed as being \_\_\_\_\_ in that crime.
- A) disinterested  
B) complicit  
C) adept  
D) absorbed
29. Although the president's advisors often disagreed with him, they rarely \_\_\_\_\_ his decisions.
- A) corroborated  
B) criticized  
C) complied with  
D) agreed with
30. The inmates \_\_\_\_\_ well by their supervisors.
- A) have not being treated  
B) were not treating  
C) were not being treated  
D) was not being treated
31. Although it is a rainy day, \_\_\_\_\_ decided to go for a walk.
- A) my sister and I  
B) I and my sister  
C) me and my sister  
D) my sister and me
32. \_\_\_\_\_ the fact that they were hungry, they decided to finish the job first.
- A) Even though  
B) Despite  
C) Although  
D) Given
33. \_\_\_\_\_ is the correctly spelled word in the list below.
- A) Insouciance  
B) Priviledge  
C) Knowlege  
D) Treatment
34. Which of the following is a synonym of the word 'advice'?
- A) council  
B) commiseration  
C) counsel  
D) compact

35. \_\_\_\_\_ I would have been able to read for a while before bed time.
- A) If the room was brighter  
B) Had the room been brighter  
C) If the room are brighter  
D) If the room is brighter
36. That new student is very excited \_\_\_\_\_ buying a new computer.
- A) for  
B) with  
C) about  
D) in
37. How many sounds (vowel and consonant sounds) does the word 'knock' have?
- A) 4  
B) 3  
C) 5  
D) 2
38. Indicate the most appropriate meaning of the sentence 'The burglar robbed the woman with the knife'.
- A) Only 'A knife-wielding burglar robbed a woman'  
B) Only 'The woman that the burglar robbed was holding a knife'  
C) Both, 'A knife-wielding burglar robbed a woman', and 'The woman that the burglar robbed was holding a knife'  
D) Only 'The burglar didn't rob the woman with a knife'
39. Which is the official state language of Nagaland?
- A) Ao Naga  
B) Tangkhul Naga  
C) English  
D) Nagamese
40. In which states is Mising language natively spoken?
- A) West Bengal and Bihar  
B) Karnataka and Tamil Nadu  
C) Assam and Arunachal Pradesh  
D) Bhutan and Sikkim
41. Which of these books is not written by Noam Chomsky?
- A) *Syntactic Structures*  
B) *The Language Instinct*  
C) *Knowledge of Language*  
D) *The Minimalist Program*
42. How many languages does India have in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution?
- A) 25  
B) 30  
C) 35  
D) 22

43. Which school of Indian aesthetics is concerned most with the study of literary style?
- A) Dhvani  
B) Rasa  
C) Vakrokti  
D) Riti
44. Identify the author of the Dalit text *Gulamgiri*:
- A) B. R. Ambedkar  
B) Madara Chennaiyya  
C) Jyotiba Phule  
D) Sharankumar Limbale
45. The term for the intellectual and artistic outlook of modern times is
- A) Modernity  
B) Modernism  
C) Modernization  
D) Avantgardism
46. Who among the following is not a Marxist critic?
- A) Terry Eagleton  
B) Frederic Jameson  
C) Ferdinand de Saussure  
D) Raymond Williams
47. Identify the author of *Dhvanyaloka*:
- A) Abhinavagupta  
B) Bharatmuni  
C) Kuntaka  
D) Anandavardhana
48. Who was the Greek philosopher that proposed banishing poets from the republic?
- A) Aristotle  
B) Herodotus  
C) Democritus  
D) Plato
49. Renaissance criticism stemmed directly from
- A) a renewed interest in classical texts  
B) invention of the printing press  
C) Byzantine literature  
D) Miracle and Morality plays
50. The rise of the novel is NOT associated with
- A) the emergence of the middle class  
B) the decline of drama  
C) the spirit of realism  
D) the symbolist movement
51. Poststructuralist critical theory was inaugurated with the following text by Jacques Derrida
- A) *Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences*  
B) *Writing and Difference*  
C) *Of Grammatology*  
D) *Margins of Philosophy*

52. The literary application of the theological term 'epiphany' is most associated with
- A) Stendhal  
B) Leo Tolstoy  
C) James Joyce  
D) T S Eliot
53. Which of the following works proposes a political theory?
- A) *Principia Mathematica*  
B) *Anatomy of Melancholy*  
C) *Leviathan*  
D) *The Way of All Flesh*
54. John Milton's \_\_\_\_\_ is in defence of the right to freedom of speech and expression
- A) *Defensio Secunda*  
B) *Areopagitica*  
C) "Of Education"  
D) *A Treatise of Civil Power*
55. The term 'lampoon' refers to
- A) an abusive or insulting attack in speech or writing in which there is harsh denunciation of some person or thing.  
B) an attack upon a real person, in verse or prose, usually involving caricature and ridicule.  
C) a written or spoken text in which an apparently straightforward statement or event is undermined in its context in order to give it a very different significance.  
D) the chanting or reciting of words deemed to have magical power.
56. 'The fair breeze blew, the white foam flew,/ The furrow followed free;' is an example of:
- A) oxymoron  
B) alliteration  
C) litotes  
D) onomatopoeia
57. Who coined the phrase 'school of suspicion' (also known as 'the hermeneutics of suspicion') and about whom?
- A) Tristan Todorov, about Nietzsche, Freud, and Marx  
B) Paul Ricoeur, about Nietzsche, Freud, and Marx  
C) Roland Barthes, about Althusser, Derrida, and Lacan  
D) Louis Althusser, about Derrida, Marx, and Freud
58. *Omkara* (2006, dir. Vishal Bhardwaj) is an adaptation of:
- A) *Orlando Furioso*  
B) *Omeros*  
C) *Othello*  
D) *August: Osage County*

59. A rhetorical analysis is:

- A) a close reading of a text that looks at how it works to achieve a specific message and purpose.
- B) the drawing of conclusions after summarizing ideas from a variety of resources.
- C) addressing questions proposed by an audience.
- D) building an argument by breaking down the claims and evidence offered by an existing text.

60. Mimetic criticism views literary works as

- A) personalization.
- B) depersonalization.
- C) imitation.
- D) interpretation.

61. Anti-sentimental comedy is a criticism of:

- A) a loss of moral purpose.
- B) an excess of emotion.
- C) an excess of reason.
- D) a loss of human feelings.

62. The American novelist Anna Quindlen observed in an introduction to an edition of Jane Austen's novel in 1995 that "*Pride and Prejudice* is also about that thing that all great novels consider, the search for self. And it is the first great novel that teaches us this search is as surely undertaken in the drawing room making small talk as in the pursuit of a great white whale or the public punishment of adultery." Choose the appropriate combination of **literary device/figure of speech** and **famous texts** as they appear in the last sentence of the quoted passage from the options below:

- A) Hyperbaton, *Hamlet*, "Hyperion"
- B) Anaphora, *All Quiet on the Western Front*, *The Rape of Lucrece*
- C) Allusion, *Moby Dick*, *The Scarlet Letter*
- D) Hyperbole, *Bridge on the River Kwai*, *Madame Bovary*

63. Which among the following sets of Indian states **DO NOT** share an international border?

- A) Himachal Pradesh and Tripura
- B) Manipur and Maharashtra
- C) Haryana and Jharkhand
- D) Sikkim and Meghalaya

64. Which among the following best captures the logic of the 'Indo-Pacific as a strategic construct' in contrast to the 'Asia-Pacific'?

- A) It excludes the European Union but includes the United States.
- B) It centres maritime geography and multipolarity over continental security alliances.
- C) It reflects only economic, not military, engagements.
- D) It is limited to Asian and Indian Ocean island states.

65. Which of the following is **NOT** true regarding the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)?
- A) It includes both South Asian and Southeast Asian countries, facilitating cross-regional cooperation.
  - B) It is focused primarily on defence cooperation among its member states.
  - C) It aims to promote regional economic integration and sustainable development in the Bay of Bengal region.
  - D) It focuses on sectors such as trade, energy, environment, and technology to strengthen regional cooperation.
66. According to the Copenhagen School of Security Studies, what process transforms an issue into a security threat?
- A) Power projection
  - B) Hegemonic consent
  - C) Securitization
  - D) Social constructivism
67. What is the term for the study of the past through the analysis of material remains?
- A) Ethnology
  - B) Cultural Anthropology
  - C) Archaeology
  - D) Linguistic Anthropology
68. Which of the following is **NOT** a characteristic of culture?
- A) Learned
  - B) Shared
  - C) Adaptive
  - D) Inherited
69. What is the term for the study of human languages, including their structure, history, and social use?
- A) Ethnology
  - B) Archaeology
  - C) Linguistic Anthropology
  - D) Cultural Anthropology
70. Which anthropological perspective emphasizes the importance of understanding other cultures from within their own context, rather than judging them based on the norms of one's own culture?
- A) Cultural relativism
  - B) Ethnocentrism
  - C) Universalism
  - D) Reductionism
71. What is the name for the process of anthropologists living within a culture for an extended period of time, participating in daily life, and observing social interactions?
- A) Ethnocentrism
  - B) Ethnography
  - C) Archaeology
  - D) Linguistic Anthropology

72. What is the term for the study of biological and cultural diversity among human populations?
- A) Human diversity  
B) Cultural relativism  
C) Adaptation  
D) Population genetics
73. What is the term for the belief that one's own culture is superior to others?
- A) Cultural relativism  
B) Ethnocentrism  
C) Universalism  
D) Reductionism
74. Which of the following artefacts are commonly associated with the Indus Valley Civilization?
- A) Terracotta seals, standardized weights, and copper tools  
B) Iron tools, pottery, and bronze statues  
C) Stone tools, pottery, and bone artefacts  
D) Gold ornaments, ivory, and glass beads
75. The Mauryan Empire is known for its architectural contributions, including:
- A) The Taj Mahal  
B) The Buddhist stupas at Sanchi  
C) The forts of the Mughal dynasty  
D) The temples of the Indus Valley Civilization
76. The Gandhara School of Art is associated with which dynasty?
- A) Kushanas  
B) Shakas  
C) Greeks  
D) Guptas
77. Sankara's Philosophical doctrine can be characterized as
- A) Dualism  
B) Polytheism  
C) Non-Dualism  
D) Atheism
78. Find the odd one out:
- A) Bertrand Russell  
B) Albert Camus  
C) Jean-Paul Sartre  
D) Gottlob Frege
79. The statement 'I think, therefore I am' is attributed to
- A) Aristotle  
B) Descartes  
C) Hegel  
D) Nietzsche
80. The book *The Life Divine* was written by
- A) Rabindranath Tagore  
B) Sri Aurobindo  
C) J. Krishnamurti  
D) Acharya Rajneesh

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**ROUGH WORK**

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**END OF BOOKLET**