How to prepare for GD and PI?

1. Group Discussion

Group Discussion (GD) is an important part of MBA/PGPM selection process. GD Topics for MBA includes topics on Current Affairs, Business & Economy and even Abstract topics to check the creativity, communication skills, leadership skills and knowledge of college students.

Type of GD Topics
There are four types of GD Topics for MBA:

GD Topics on Business & Economy: It includes current trends in business and economy, major policy initiatives, latest business trends, and their impact globally and nationally.

GD Topics on Current Affairs: The GD topics on Current affairs may be based on national or international political development, Policies and issues which are highly debated in media.

GD topics on Social Issues: Top MBA Colleges are focussing on developing socially responsible MBAs. Hence, there is a greater emphasis on issues like gender and environment sensitivity, ethics etc.

GD Topics on Abstract Topics: You may be thinking what are abstract GD topics? These are the topics which have multiple interpretations and candidates can show their creativity and smart thinking. Prepare well for these tricky ones!

Hot GD Topics

Business & Economy
1. Slowdown in Indian Economy: Temporary or Structural?
2. 5 Trillion Economy: The Vision, Challenges and Roadmap for India
3. Disinvestment on CPSE central public sector enterprises: Good step to augment public expenditure or selling family silver?
4. RCEP Agreement: Right step for national interest or running away from competition?

5. India improves Ease of Doing Business Ranking: Real or chimera?

Nation & Society
1. Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2019: What, Why, When and Whom; Relationship with NRC explained
2. Article 370 Abrogation: Correcting old folly or thrusting nationalistic agenda?
3. Single Use Plastic Ban?
4. Delhi Air Pollution: Man made Crisis or fall out of industrialization?
5. Chandrayaan 2: A failed mission or a stepping stone for future glory?

International
1. Hong Kong Protests: Rebel against China or pro-democracy fight?
2. US China Trade Talks: A political drama or renegotiation of rules of game?

Group Discussion (GD) Topics on Current Affairs	
Citizenship Amendment Act – What and Why	How will Abrogation of Article 370 improve situation in Kashmir
Should there be a limit to Media Freedom?	Why Individual Data Privacy is important?
Is Trump creating World Trade War?	Will companies benefit from the Companies Amendment Bill?
Discuss about Union Budget India (Latest)	Discounts on E-commerce website are harmful in the end
How beneficial is the IIM 2017 bill for students?	Is preponing the presentation date of General Budget a good decision?
Is India ready for electric vehicles?	Will De-Nuclearisation Instill World Peace?
Will fake news kill Social Fiber of India if unchecked?	Can India afford spending a fortune on projects like Mission to MARS?
Is it still too early for India to have bullet trains?	Making Aadhaar mandatory is not a good idea- for or against
Implication of Gujarat & Himachal Assembly elections at the national level?	Is banning of Pakistani artists from India justified?
Modicare: Will it be an affordable healthcare project?	Global warming

Group Discussion (GD) on Abstract Topics	
Hard Work Vs Smart Work	How important is it to be patient in Business and Management?
Work-Life Balance is a Myth	Building strategies Vs Execution

Change is the only constant	Leader Vs Follower
Friends, Enemy or Frenemies?	Innovation Vs Invention
Ethics or Profit?	Freedom: A Myth?
Thoughts on Me Too Campaign	Do we need more entrepreneurs than managers?
Can failures teach you important lessons in life?	Women are better multi-taskers- agree or disagree?

Group Discussion (GD) Topics on Business & Economy

Will reduced Goods & Services Tax (GST) help the Indian economy in growing faster?	How is the falling rupee impacting the Indian economy?
How capable in India of leading Solar Energy, Wind Energy revolution?	Cashless Economy – Is India ready for it?
Is MBA necessary to be Successful in Business?	Should the Indian economy be privatized?
Can India become a $5 trillion economy by 2024?	Block chain Technology – Pros & Cons
Views on Bitcoin/CryptoCurrency	Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in retail sector good for India- agree or disagree?
Ways in which Technology is impacting the Banking sector	Agriculture Vs Manufacturing Industry in India
How can we control banking frauds to reduce NPAs?	Minimum Support Price: Is it a Political gimmick?
Is Globalization an Opportunity or a Threat?	How will the deal between Walmart and Flipkart impact the Indian Economy?
Will India be able to double Farmers' Income in the next 5 years?	Is 'Startup India' Boosting Entrepreneurship
India V/s China: Will India remain way behind China?	How beneficial is the merger of Public Sector Banks?
Make in India campaign	High Deficit Financing V/s high interest rates: Can both go together?
Will RERA restore the trust of homebuyers?	Should Business Lobbying be made legal in India?
Demonetization: Discuss its Success & failures	Views on YONO
Is Corruption in Economy the root cause for Indian Economic slowdown?	Views on Merging the General & Railway Budget

Statue of Unity - Symbol of Pride or Wastage of Public Money?	Will Automation and Artificial Intelligence reduce or increase Jobs?
Surcharge on Income Tax (IT) for the Super-Rich	

Group Discussion (GD) Topics on Social Issues	
Success of Swachh Bharat Mission	Smart City Project – How useful will they be?
Social Media: A boon or a bane for the society?	Is Net Neutrality essential to make India Digital?
Will Beti Bachao Beti Padhao abolish the orthodox mindset?	Crime against women
Views on Retirement Homes	Views on Climate Change Summit
Does Browsing at Workplace affect productivity?	Should national anthem be played in cinema halls?
India needs a uniform civil code- For or against?	Give views on the present system of education in our country

How to prepare for GD Topic:

Lets briefly discuss how to prepare for GD Topics. First GD preparation tip is, Read, Read, and Read! The more aware you are, better will be your chances. Second, practice with your friends. Before getting ready how to start the Group Discussion, you need to understand the Group Discussion Rules and improve and focus on Group Discussion skills. Accordingly, it is very important to know and follow certain basic tips for Group discussion to become well versed about the entire GD process. So prior to getting down to learn top basic Group Discussion Tips, the advice by the experts in regard to GD tips is that you should be aware 'what and how do you speak in the group discussion'; Whether your Communication skills are good; whether your behaviour during Group Discussion is positive on the expected lines; whether you are ready to show your leadership skills in the group without being arrogant.

Do's of participating in a GD

• Think before you speak.

• Pick up clues from the discussion and intelligently add points that come to your mind with regards to the topic, in case you don't know much about the topic.

• Back up your points with facts and figures if needed.

• Be gentle and sure in your presentation of views.

• Speak to-the-point and make sure that you do not repeat the points.

• Be calm and composed while speaking.

• Listening to others is also an important aspect of participation in the group discussion, so listen to others.

• Have a respectful attitude towards the viewpoints of others.

• Your body language should convey your ease of behaviour.

• Sometimes the discussion may take a hostile turn. In such a case it is a good idea to intervene to make the situation relaxed. This act of yours will show your leadership and problem-solving skills.

Don'ts of participating in a GD

• Do not initiate the discussion if you do not know the topic well.

• Do not go overboard in exhibiting your knowledge even if you know the topic well.

• Do not interrupt other members when they are speaking.

• Do not change your opinion about the topic just because most of the other participants are having an opinion different from yours.

• Do not feel unconfident if a speaker prior to you has presented the points more effectively than you.

• Do not ask irrelevant questions.

• Do not let your personal biases about the topic enter the discussion Points to be kept in mind before the GD No one knows what the topic of GD is going to be.

2. Personal Interview

Personal Interview (PI) is conducted before offering you admission in MBA/PGPM. The Personal interview shape, duration and type of questions may be different in accordance with the nature of the PI round. The Personal Interview (PI) round is the test of your verbal communication skill, presence of mind and how do you present your views and knowledge skilfully to convince the experts who are interviewing you.

Personal Interview (PI) Format

Two to four experts are appointed as panellists who throw penetrating questions to you on your academics, work experience, current affairs, social issues, about your personality, your native place, on technical issues related to your academics and work place in the personal interview round.

On an average, the duration of a personal interview is around 10 to 20 minutes. In case some interesting and knowledge bearing discussion into a topic or issue starts deeply, it can go beyond 25-30 minutes.

Common PI Questions

1. Tell me something about yourself?
2. What is the meaning of your name?
3. Why do you wish to do an MBA?
4. What are your plans after an MBA?
5. How will your MBA support your goal?
6. How does your academic background relate to your goal?
7. What are your strengths, give examples?
8. What are your weaknesses, give examples?
9. What are your short-term long term goals?
10. Elaborate on your work experience.
11. Why do you want to join IBSBusiness School?
12. Which specialization do you want to opt for?
13. What are yourhobbies/interests?
14. Why should we select you?
15. Questions on Current affairs – Politics, Economics, Business, Social events, demographics, Sports, Literature, Entertainment, Awards and Recognition
16. There will be some questions on Educational background
17. There will be some questions on Social background
18. There will be some questions on your performance or points presented in Group Discussion.