

Errors in CAT 2006

The excerpts from the minutes of the meeting held on 10th December at IIM Calcutta detailing the decision of the CAT Group (Group of Admissions Chairpersons of six IIMs) on the errors in CAT 2006 is reproduced below-

“Unfortunately, errors crept in CAT 2006 test booklet in the last stages of preparation of the test paper for the test and went undetected. Moreover, the errors were not uniform across four forms (or versions) used in the CAT 2006. Of the three errors, one was in one form, one in two forms and one in all four forms.

The CAT group deliberated on the feasible options to handle these errors. One of the seemingly fair solutions was to consider the possibility of a retest. This option was deliberated and ruled out as it would be unfair to a large number of students, who may have to incur the cost and effort of appearing in any such retest besides being unfair to the students, who may have done well in the CAT 2006. Any such retest would obviously be administratively costly and effort intensive and the timeline required for conducting such a retest itself could derail the admission process.

The CAT group discussed other possible solutions to handle these errors while processing the results of the candidates, who appeared in the CAT 2006 on November 19, 2006. The input on these solutions such as e-mails received from the candidates, independent opinion of faculty members and legal opinion were discussed and deliberated. Based on analysis of merits and demerits of the options proposed and keeping in mind that any proposed solution has to be non-discriminatory and fair to the candidates who appeared in CAT 2006, the CAT group resolved that the errors in the CAT 2006 test forms would be dealt with in the following manner-

- Those questions in which errors crept in a particular test form and not in all test forms would be ignored for that test form but would not be removed from other test forms in which the question has been printed correctly. This would be fair to the students who attempted correct question in the test forms where the questions were correctly printed. It would also be fair to the candidates whose test forms had incorrect questions.
- As a consequence, one test form (222) would have 74 valid questions (25 questions in section 1, 25 in section 2 and 24 in section 3), whereas the other three test forms (111, 333, 444) would have 73 questions. Test forms 111 and 333 would have 25 questions in section 1 and section 2 and 23 questions in section 3, whereas test form 444 would have 25 questions in section 1, 24 questions in section 2 and 24 questions in section 3
- The percentage score for each section for each candidate would be computed based on actual marks obtained as a percentage of maximum marks possible from the valid questions in that section. The total percentage score obtained by each candidate would be average of the percentage obtained in each of the three sections. The percentile score section-wise and overall percentile would be

computed based section-wise percentage scores and overall percentage obtained by each student.”