



MODULE 2

EXTEMPORE MASTERY

Active Thinking · Articulation · Awareness & Opinion

Extempore is a 1–2 minute impromptu speech on a given topic. It tests your ability to think on your feet, structure ideas under pressure, and express opinions clearly. This module gives you frameworks, model speeches, and all 100+ extempore topics asked in actual IPMAT interviews — with ready talking points for each.

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS MODULE

■ Active Thinking

Structure ideas in 30 seconds under pressure

■ PEEL Framework

The proven speech structure used by toppers

■ Opinion Formation

How to form structured views on any topic

■ Topics Bank

100+ topics with 4 talking points each

■ Cross-Q Prep

Defending your extempore position calmly

■ Model Speeches

Full sample speeches to learn from



1. UNDERSTANDING EXTEMPORE

You are given a topic and 1–2 minutes to think, then 1–2 minutes to speak. You are evaluated on five criteria:

| CRITERION | WEIGHT | WHAT PANELISTS LOOK FOR |
|------------------|--------|--|
| Content Quality | 30% | Relevant points, depth, awareness of multiple sides |
| Structure | 25% | Clear opening, body, conclusion — not random points |
| Confidence | 20% | No fumbling, appropriate pace, eye contact |
| Language | 15% | Clear vocabulary, no grammatical errors, no filler words |
| Cross-Q Handling | 10% | Defending position without rigidity or collapse |

2. THE PEEL FRAMEWORK

Use PEEL for **any** extempore topic. It ensures your speech sounds organised and thoughtful.

| LETTER | MEANING | WHAT TO SAY | TIME |
|--------|--------------|--|--------|
| P | Point | State your position / stance clearly | 15 sec |
| E | Evidence | Give a fact, statistic, or real-world example | 30 sec |
| E | Explain | Explain WHY it matters — implications, pros / cons | 30 sec |
| L | Link / Close | Link back to your main point + a forward-looking thought | 15 sec |

■ **Pro Tip:** For debate-style topics, use **FOR** → **AGAINST** → **MY VIEW: 2 points in favour, 2 against, then clearly state your own position with reasoning.**

3. THE 30-SECOND THINKING PROTOCOL

When the topic is announced, use this sequence:

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Step 1 (5 sec) | Decode the topic. Is it a debate? A description? An opinion? |
| Step 2 (5 sec) | What do I actually know or believe about this? |
| Step 3 (10 sec) | Find 3–4 angles: economic, social, individual, global |
| Step 4 (10 sec) | Lock in your opening line and closing line |

4. POWERFUL OPENING LINES

Never start with 'So... umm... I think...'

- "[Topic] is not merely a surface issue — it is fundamentally about [deeper principle]."
- "In a country of 1.4 billion people, [topic] affects every single one of us."



- ▶ "History has shown us time and again that [trend related to topic]."
- ▶ "The question before us today is not whether [X], but how quickly we act on it."
- ▶ "[Topic] sits at the intersection of [domain A] and [domain B], making it uniquely complex."
- ▶ "What appears to be a problem of [surface issue] is, at its core, a challenge of [deeper issue]."

5. TOPIC BANK WITH TALKING POINTS

Every topic below has been asked in an actual IPMAT interview. For each, we give 4 key talking points to build your speech around.

■ Social Media: Boon or Bane?

- Boon: connectivity, awareness, business opportunities, COVID information spread
- Bane: mental health impact, misinformation, addiction, political polarisation
- Data: India has 500M+ social media users; Instagram linked to rising teen depression
- My view: Net positive if used consciously; regulation needed, especially for minors

■ Women Make Better Managers Than Men

- Data: McKinsey — companies in the top quartile for gender diversity are 25% more profitable
- Strengths often cited: empathy, multitasking, collaborative leadership style
- Counter: Leadership quality is individual, not gender-based
- My view: Diversity in leadership improves outcomes — opportunity must be equal

■ Artificial Intelligence — Future of Humanity

- Applications: healthcare diagnostics, autonomous vehicles, financial trading
- Risk: job displacement — WEF estimates 85 million roles disrupted by 2025
- India: AI market expected to reach \$7.8 billion by 2025
- My view: AI is a tool — outcomes depend entirely on governance and human intention

■ Climate Change and Its Impact

- IPCC: 1.5°C threshold could be breached by 2030 without immediate action
- India: 3rd-largest emitter, yet also among the most climate-vulnerable nations
- Solutions: renewable energy, carbon tax, behavioural change at scale
- My view: Individual action matters, but systemic policy change is non-negotiable

■ Digital India — Success or Hype?

- Successes: UPI (10 billion+ transactions/month), COWIN, DBT, DigiLocker
- Gaps: 700 million Indians without internet access; digital-literacy deficit remains
- India ranks 2nd globally in real-time digital payments
- My view: Vision is correct; execution must bridge the rural-urban digital divide



■ Demonetisation — Was It Worth It?

- Intent: curb black money, push digital transactions, eliminate counterfeit currency
- Impact: short-term GDP shock ~1.5%; long-term digital-payment growth
- Criticism: 99%+ of currency returned — primary goal largely unmet
- My view: Execution flawed, but the unintended digital push had lasting value

■ Is MBA a Necessary Degree for Management?

- For: structured thinking, peer network, frameworks, and institutional credibility
- Against: Elon Musk, Steve Jobs, Dhirubhai Ambani — none held an MBA
- Reality: MBA is a fast track, not the only track
- My view: MBA is valuable but not necessary — character and execution matter more

■ Agneepath Scheme

- What: 4-year military recruitment (Agniveers); 25% retained permanently
- For: younger, fitter military; cost savings; civilian-sector skills transfer
- Against: short tenure, post-service job uncertainty, morale risk
- My view: Address concerns on post-service career paths; concept is directionally right

■ Is Cricket Overrated in India?

- India's cricket economy: BCCI is the world's richest cricket board
- Other sports suffer: athletes in hockey, wrestling, athletics lack proportionate funding
- Cultural reason: cricket as a unifier across an extraordinarily diverse nation
- My view: India needs a multi-sport culture; cricket's monopoly must be consciously diluted

■ Cryptocurrency — The Future of Finance?

- Pros: decentralised, inflation hedge, financial inclusion for the unbanked
- Cons: extreme volatility, energy consumption, regulatory vacuum, fraud risk
- India context: RBI launched Digital Rupee (CBDC); 30% tax on crypto gains introduced
- My view: Blockchain technology is revolutionary; speculative crypto trading remains risky

■ Work From Home — The New Normal?

- Benefits: productivity up 13% (Stanford study); improved work–life balance
- Costs: reduced collaboration, mental-health strain, inequality between job types
- Post-COVID: hybrid model emerging as the global standard
- My view: WFH suits knowledge work well; hybrid is optimal for most industries

■ Is Overpopulation India's Biggest Problem?

- India surpassed China as the world's most populous nation in 2023
- Demographic dividend: 65% of population is under 35 — an opportunity if skilled
- Resource strain: pressure on food, water, healthcare, and education infrastructure
- My view: Population is a challenge, not a crisis — investment in human capital converts it to dividend



■ Freedom of Speech — Where Should the Line Be Drawn?

- Article 19(1)(a): freedom of speech in India, subject to reasonable restrictions
- For unlimited speech: democracy depends on open debate and the ability to dissent
- Limits: hate speech, national security, incitement to violence
- My view: Freedom with accountability — social platforms require content governance

■ EQ vs IQ — Which Matters More in Management?

- IQ: analytical reasoning, problem-solving, academic performance
- EQ: self-awareness, empathy, conflict resolution, team cohesion
- Research: Daniel Goleman — EQ accounts for 67% of leadership effectiveness
- My view: IQ gets you into the room; EQ determines how far you go once inside it

■ Privatisation of Railways

- Indian Railways: world's 4th-largest network, 1.2 crore employees
- For: efficiency gains, private investment, improved service quality and technology
- Against: social obligation to unprofitable rural routes; access and equity risk
- My view: PPP model is ideal; full privatisation risks excluding the country's poorest travellers

■ Youth in Politics

- India's median age: 28.7 years; Parliament's average age: 54
- For: energy, tech-savviness, fresh ideas, and generational representation
- Against: experience gap; risk of populism over substance
- My view: Youth can and should enter politics — India's democracy needs their voice

■ Mental Health — The Silent Crisis

- WHO: 1 in 5 Indians has a mental-health condition; only 3% of health budget allocated
- Pandemic impact: 50% rise in anxiety and depression (NIMHANS data)
- Solutions: destigmatise, add to school curriculum, employer wellness mandates
- My view: Mental health is public health — it needs the same urgency as physical health

■ Ignorance Is Bliss — For or Against?

- For: ignorance of some things reduces anxiety and can improve moment-to-moment happiness
- Against: ignorance leads to poor decisions, exploitation, and missed opportunities
- Management angle: a manager who ignores market trends is not blissful — they are vulnerable
- My view: Selective awareness is wisdom; choosing ignorance in a leadership role is negligence

■ Invention vs Innovation

- Invention: creating something entirely new — e.g., Edison's light bulb
- Innovation: improving or applying something existing differently — e.g., the iPhone
- India context: strong in innovation (jugaad); needs to build invention capacity
- My view: Innovation consistently creates more economic value than invention — execution beats eureka

■ Internet: Boon or Bane?

- Boon: access to information, e-commerce, telemedicine, education (NPTEL, MOOCs)
- Bane: misinformation, addiction, cybercrime, digital divide
- India: 900 million+ internet users; fastest-growing market
- My view: The internet is infrastructure — its impact depends entirely on governance and digital literacy

6. FULL MODEL SPEECH

Topic: Women Make Better Managers Than Men

"The question of whether women make better managers than men is not just an academic debate — it has profound implications for every organisation in the country. [POINT] I believe that while leadership quality transcends gender, organisations with more women in leadership positions consistently outperform those that do not. [EVIDENCE] A McKinsey study found that companies in the top quartile for gender diversity are 25% more likely to report above-average profitability. In India, names like Indra Nooyi, Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, and Falguni Nayar demonstrate that women leaders drive extraordinary outcomes. [EXPLAIN] The reason is not that women are inherently superior managers, but that they often bring a collaborative style, higher empathy, and multi-stakeholder thinking to the table — qualities that modern organisations increasingly require. [LINK] The real answer, therefore, is not to compare men and women — it is to ensure that organisations give equal opportunity to both, because diversity in leadership is not merely a moral imperative; it is a strategic advantage."

■ Pro Tip: After your extempore the panelists WILL cross-question your views. Never say 'I was just giving a speech.' Own your position and defend it with one more example.

7. COMPLETE TOPIC LIST (100+ Topics from Real Interviews)

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Social Entrepreneurship | 2. Time Management | 3. Work from Home |
| 4. Climate Change | 5. Digital India | 6. Problems in Indian Economy |
| 7. Online Study | 8. FDI in India | 9. Impact of COVID on Economy |
| 10. Social Media Making Us Antisocial | 11. Hard Work vs Smart Work | 12. Women of Today |
| 13. India–China Border Issues | 14. Women as Better Managers | 15. World Got Trumped |
| 16. Arts vs Science Stream | 17. Binge Watching | 18. Should Zoos Be Done Away With |
| 19. Technology and Man | 20. India Loves to Criticise | 21. Privatisation of Railway |
| 22. Sustainability | 23. Singing as School Subject | 24. Mental Health |
| 25. AI Future | 26. Importance of Mars Mission | 27. Disaster Management |
| 28. Miracles | 29. Why Sports Not Pursued as Career | 30. Pros & Cons of Social Media |
| 31. Data Theft by Social Media | 32. Is Overpopulation a Problem | 33. Afghanistan Crisis |
| 34. Youth and Politics | 35. Climate Justice | 36. Need for Management Education |
| 37. Demonetisation | 38. Freedom is a Myth | 39. Is Cricket Overrated in India |
| 40. Web Series vs TV Serials | 41. Freedom of Speech | 42. Does India Need Bullet Train |
| 43. Farm Bills | 44. EQ vs IQ | 45. Ban on Plastic Bags |
| 46. Is Youth Confident or Confused | 47. Kumbh Mela | 48. Role of Technology in Banking |
| 49. Women Empowerment | 50. Women Athletes in Olympics | 51. Modernisation of CBSE |
| 52. Agneepath Scheme | 53. Work Culture in Bihar | 54. Internet: Boon or Bane |
| 55. Endless Possibilities | 56. Public vs Private Enterprises | 57. Nationalised vs Privatised Banks |
| 58. Ignorance is Bliss | 59. E-commerce Discounts Are Harmful | 60. Rich or Poor: Game of Luck |



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|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| 61. Entrepreneurs or Managers | 62. Mythology vs Management | 63. Online Education |
| 64. Independent India | 65. Effect of Demonetisation | 66. Women Cricket in India |
| 67. Role of Extracurriculars | 68. Leadership | 69. Cryptocurrency |
| 70. Mumbai Local Train | 71. India–China Relationship | 72. Make in India |
| 73. Is MBA Necessary | 74. Invention vs Innovation | 75. Role of Pro Leagues in Indian Sports |
| 76. Indian Grading System | 77. Is Social Media Pulling Us Apart | 78. Is Reservation Important |
| 79. Academics Not a Measure to Judge | 80. Future of Management Studies | 81. Bitcoin |
| 82. Digital Tech Making Us Opinionated | 83. Same-Sex Marriage | 84. Black Money |
| 85. Is Green Good | 86. Rising Population as Asset | 87. Metaverse |
| 88. Can Google Be Replaced | 89. Impact of Technology on Education | 90. Benefits of Procrastination |
| 91. Benefits of Exercise | 92. Why EVs Failing in India | 93. Is Technology Creating Inequalities |
| 94. Digital Fraud in Finance | 95. Grass is Always Greener | 96. Globalisation |
| 97. Most Important Reform in India | 98. Polarisation in Politics | 99. Russia–Ukraine War Impact on India |
| 100. Role of AI in Human Development | 101. Social Sciences vs Science | 102. Geopolitical Importance |
| 103. Stress Management in Professional Life | | |