



MODULE 01

PI Question Bank 2026

The most comprehensive IPMAT Personal Interview question bank — curated from real IIM Indore, Rohtak & Ranchi panels across 5 major sections.

300+
ACADEMIC QS

200+
GK & CA QS

120+
HR QUESTIONS

42
EXTEMPORE TOPICS



PRO TIP

For academic questions, always explain your thought process aloud — even if you don't know the exact answer. Interviewers value reasoning over recall. The panel wants to see how you think, not just what you know.

SECTION 1

Academics

Subject-specific questions from real IIM IPMAT Personal Interview panels

■ Mathematics

63 Questions

- 1 What are trigonometry formulas? Solve a height and distance problem.
- 2 What are integration and differentiation formulas? Explain the practical application of both.
- 3 Define even and odd functions with examples.
- 4 Draw the graph of e^x and e^{-x} .
- 5 Explain Mean, Mode, Median. Which measure is best and when?
- 6 What is the difference between matrices and determinants with real-life examples? What is the condition for the inverse of a matrix?
- 7 When is a function discontinuous? (with cross-questions)

- 8 What are quadratic equations? Draw the graph of $(x^2 - 4)$.
- 9 Why do we study derivatives? What is the geometric meaning of a derivative?
- 10 Find the differentiation of $\sin(-1)x$.
- 11 What is the value of $\cot 90$ degrees?
- 12 There are 4 letters and 5 envelopes. How will you manage placing them?
- 13 Write the equations of a Parabola and Hyperbola.
- 14 Write the equation of a straight line.
- 15 What is the definition and value of pi? Who invented it?
- 16 What is the difference between a Parallelogram and a Rhombus?
- 17 State three formulas for the area of a triangle.
- 18 Find the differentiation of $\tan x$.
- 19 Find the values of $\log 0$, $\log 1$, $\log 10$, and $\log 100$.
- 20 What is the derivative of $\log x^3$?
- 21 State the volume of a sphere and area of a cone.
- 22 Draw graphs of x^3 and $y = |x|$ on the same plane.
- 23 What is probability? What is the odds ratio in probability?
- 24 What is Permutation & Combination? State practical uses and formulas.
- 25 What is harmonic progression? Give an example.
- 26 State the formula for the sum of an infinite GP and derive it.
- 27 In a bag of 10 black and 5 white balls, you pick 3 and put 1 back. Find the probability that both remaining picks are different colours.
- 28 What is a determinant and why is it used?
- 29 Define Standard Deviation. (with cross-questions)
- 30 Your height is 6 ft. You need to cross a river of mean depth 3 ft. Would you cross it? What additional information would you seek?
- 31 Find the integration of $\sin^2(x) * \cos x$.
- 32 What is the probability of receiving a 6-digit OTP where 2 or more digits are the same?

- 33 How can you cut a cake into 8 equal parts with just 3 cuts?
- 34 What is Bayes' Theorem?
- 35 Can a function be continuous but not differentiable? Give an example.
- 36 What is L'Hopital's Rule? Provide an example.
- 37 State the addition rule in probability.
- 38 Explain AP, GP, and HP with formulas.
- 39 If SP of 16 items = CP of 20 items, find the profit percentage.
- 40 Two products have the same SP. One yields 30% profit, the other 30% loss. Find overall profit/loss.
- 41 Average of 5 numbers is 100 and the smallest is 5. Find the largest.
- 42 What is the maximum and minimum value of $(x + 1/x)$?
- 43 Is $\sqrt{2}$ a rational number? Prove your answer.
- 44 Find the sum of the first 100 natural numbers. Sum of squares. Sum of cubes.
- 45 Probability that 2 out of 5 cards drawn from a deck of 52 are aces.
- 46 Prove $\sin^2(x) + \cos^2(x) = 1$.
- 47 What are higher-order derivatives? Explain rate of change and maxima-minima.
- 48 Expand $(1 + x)^{33}$ using the binomial theorem.
- 49 Draw the graph of $y = 1/x$. What happens at $x = 0$? What is this point called?
- 50 Draw graphs of $y = x^2$, $y = 2x^2$, and $y = -x^2$ on the same plane. How do they differ?
- 51 Prove the derivative of x^2 from first principles using the definition of a limit.
- 52 If there were 66 handshakes at a party (everyone shook hands exactly once), how many people were there?
- 53 60 animals - lions (4 legs) and eagles (2 legs) - with 100 legs total. How many lions? Examine feasibility.
- 54 Find the series: 12, 132, 1332, 13332 - identify the pattern and find the sum of first n terms.
- 55 Is set $A - B$ a null set when both A and B are sets of natural numbers? Justify.
- 56 If $a/b = c/d$, prove that $a/b = (a+c)/(b+d)$.
- 57 Why is division by zero undefined? Prove it algebraically.
- 58 Is 0.999... equal to 1? Prove it using two different methods.

- 59 Find the domain and range of $\log(x-3) / (x^2+2x+1)$.
- 60 Differentiate $y = x^{\log x}$. Hint: take log on both sides.
- 61 Evaluate the integral of $\log x \, dx$ using integration by parts.
- 62 Two friends meet at a party. What is the probability that they share the same birthday?
- 63 What is the slope of a horizontal line? Can slope ever be zero? What does it mean geometrically?

■ Physics

40 Questions

- 1 What are a capacitor and resistor? Give practical applications.
- 2 Explain the right-hand and left-hand thumb rules.
- 3 State Lenz's Law.
- 4 What is the difference between Pressure and Thrust?
- 5 Explain $E = mc^2$.
- 6 How does the Earth behave as a magnet?
- 7 What is the relation between kinetic and potential energy?
- 8 What principle does an aeroplane work on?
- 9 State Coulomb's Law.
- 10 What are the Laws of Thermodynamics?
- 11 Explain total internal reflection with examples.
- 12 What is the difference between reflection and refraction?
- 13 Why does the sky appear red during sunrise and sunset?
- 14 How and why does a rainbow form? Name all colours in order.
- 15 Why are water droplets spherical in shape?
- 16 State Newton's Second Law of Motion.
- 17 Explain the Carnot Engine.
- 18 What is the difference between 2-stroke and 4-stroke engines?
- 19 What is the difference between Centrifugal and Centripetal force?



- 20 State Newton's 3rd Law with daily-life applications.
- 21 What is Projectile Motion? Define its range.
- 22 What is a capacitor? Why is it used in fans?
- 23 What is an inductor and what are its uses?
- 24 What is the difference between AC and DC? Why is AC used for power transmission?
- 25 Explain the Moment of Inertia.
- 26 What are convex and concave lenses? (with cross-questions)
- 27 State Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle.
- 28 Are electromagnetic waves transverse or longitudinal?
- 29 State Ohm's Law with a numerical and practical application.
- 30 State Bernoulli's Theorem and its applications.
- 31 What is the difference between Turbulent Flow and Laminar Flow?
- 32 State Kirchhoff's Laws.
- 33 What are eddy currents and their practical uses?
- 34 State Kepler's Laws.
- 35 What is escape velocity?
- 36 Why can't humans travel at the speed of light?
- 37 What is the difference between nuclear Fusion and Fission reactions?
- 38 You are on the 9th floor with only a pencil and stopwatch — how will you measure the building's height?
- 39 If 6 bulbs are connected in parallel vs. series, which configuration glows brighter?
- 40 What is the Theory of Relativity? Give an example to prove it.

■ Chemistry & Biology

30 Questions

- 1 What are lanthanides and actinides?
- 2 What is the chemical symbol for Mercury?
- 3 What are the different forms of iron? Which is purest and which is lowest quality?

- 4 Differentiate between a catalyst and a promoter.
- 5 What is the industrial process of creating ammonia? Name the reaction.
- 6 Explain Redox reactions with an example.
- 7 What are noble gases? (with cross-questions)
- 8 What is the difference between Molarity and Molality?
- 9 What is the difference between Organic and Inorganic Chemistry?
- 10 What is Reverse Osmosis?
- 11 What is the formula for common salt?
- 12 What is an ion? How is it categorised?
- 13 What is the largest organ in the human body?
- 14 Name the isotopes of carbon. Define isotopes and isobars.
- 15 Is graphite a good or bad conductor of electricity?
- 16 Write the formula of butane, ethanol, and laughing gas.
- 17 What is LPG? Write the formula of propane and acetone.
- 18 Name the allotropes of carbon.
- 19 Name some greenhouse gases. What is the ozone layer?
- 20 Is water a compound? Explain.
- 21 What happens if current CO₂ levels are reduced to 1/10th?
- 22 What is Avogadro's number? Why was it chosen? What is 1 mole?
- 23 What is photosynthesis and what is chlorophyll?
- 24 Describe the structure of benzene. How many bonds does it have?
- 25 What are sigma and pi bonds?
- 26 What is the difference between graphite and diamond?
- 27 State Charles' Law and Boyle's Law with real-life examples.
- 28 What is the composition of air? What is the concentration of oxygen in an oxygen cylinder?
- 29 Why is gold used in electronics?

30 Write the atomic structure and electronic configuration of Carbon.

■ Economics, Accounts & Management

55 Questions

- 1 What is GDP? How is it different from GNP?
- 2 What is working capital?
- 3 What is oligopoly? Name some examples.
- 4 What are the golden rules of accounting?
- 5 What is the importance of a trial balance? Can it judge accuracy of accounts?
- 6 Differentiate between cost sheet and balance sheet.
- 7 What are Giffen goods? Name some examples.
- 8 Draw and explain the price elasticity graph.
- 9 What are the 4 Ps of Marketing? Apply them to Cadbury.
- 10 What is the Repo Rate?
- 11 Differentiate between an Act and a Bill.
- 12 Explain the Law of Diminishing Marginal Utility with examples and a graph.
- 13 What are the exceptions to the Law of Demand?
- 14 How to calculate Net Profit?
- 15 Name the top 5 GDPs of the world.
- 16 Explain Inflation with pros and cons.
- 17 What is Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs? Name all levels. Name one exception.
- 18 What effect does CRR have on credit creation?
- 19 What is financial leverage?
- 20 Name the principles of Henry Fayol. How many are there?
- 21 What is Supply Chain Management?
- 22 What is Inventory Management?
- 23 Explain Mutual Funds.

- 24 How to calculate GDP at market price?
- 25 What is Monetary Policy and Fiscal Policy?
- 26 Repo Rate vs. Reverse Repo Rate — which is higher?
- 27 What is Monopoly vs. Monopolistic Competition?
- 28 Who is the Father of Economics?
- 29 Why was GST introduced?
- 30 What is an IPO? Difference between Primary and Secondary Market.
- 31 What are NPAs?
- 32 What is WTO and how is India affected?
- 33 What is the difference between Recession and Depression?
- 34 Who is the Father of Macroeconomics? How did his theory help countries exit the Great Depression?
- 35 Explain an Indifference Curve. Can two IC curves intersect?
- 36 Difference between Cardinal and Ordinal utility approaches?
- 37 Explain Fiscal Deficit and Surplus. Name a country with consistent surplus.
- 38 What is depreciation and what are the methods to calculate it?
- 39 What is the difference between BOP and BOT?
- 40 What is SWIFT in banking? What are treasury bills?
- 41 Law of Diminishing Returns vs. Diminishing Marginal Utility — differences.
- 42 Explain Isoquant Curves — properties and practical application for a firm.
- 43 Marginal Cost vs. Average Cost — when does MC intersect AC?
- 44 What is Stagflation? Which decade saw its worst effects globally?
- 45 What is PPP? Why does India's GDP look higher measured by PPP?
- 46 What is Current Account Deficit? What are India's largest imports and exports?
- 47 What are Open Market Operations? How does the RBI use them?
- 48 SLM vs. WDV depreciation methods — when would you prefer each?
- 49 What is a Cash Flow Statement? Name its three heads.

- 50 Going Concern principle & Historical Cost concept — limitations?
- 51 Inventory Turnover Ratio — when should it be high vs. low?
- 52 Why do countries run Fiscal Deficits even knowing the risks?
- 53 Taylor's Scientific Management vs. Fayol's 14 Principles — how do they differ?
- 54 What is Window Dressing in accounts? How can an auditor detect it?
- 55 Explain DSCR. How is it different from the Interest Coverage Ratio?

SECTION 2

GK & Current Affairs

Polity, Economy, International, Sports — from real IPMAT panels



30-DAY HABIT

Read one national newspaper every morning for 30 days before your interview. Focus on Cabinet reshuffles, policy launches, sports results, and international developments.

■ ■ Polity & Governance

32 Questions

- 1 Who is the current President of India? Which state is she from? Name the last 3 Presidents before her.
- 2 Who is the current Vice President of India? Name 3 previous Vice Presidents.
- 3 Who is the current Lok Sabha Speaker? What is the Speaker's role?
- 4 Name the current Chief Election Commissioner of India.
- 5 What is the National Security Advisor's role? Who holds that position currently?
- 6 Name 5 female Cabinet Ministers in the current central government.
- 7 What is the significance of 26 January 1950? What happened on 26 November 1949?
- 8 List all 6 Fundamental Rights under the Indian Constitution.
- 9 What was Article 370? What happened to it in 2019? What is the current status of J&K?
- 10 What is Panchayati Raj? What percentage of Panchayat seats are reserved for women?
- 11 What is the difference between a Gram Panchayat and a Gram Sabha?

- 12 Name the current Chief Minister of your home state. Who were the last 5 CMs?
- 13 Who is your state's current Governor? How is a Governor appointed?
- 14 How many Rajya Sabha seats does your state have? How are Rajya Sabha members elected?
- 15 How many states and Union Territories does India currently have?
- 16 Who is the CJI of India? Which state is he/she from?
- 17 What is the procedure for electing the President of India?
- 18 What is the procedure for impeachment of the President?
- 19 What is the difference between Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha?
- 20 What are the three pillars of democracy (and the fourth)?
- 21 Name the Law Minister, Finance Minister, and Education Minister of India.
- 22 Who is the Minister of IT and Commerce & Industry?
- 23 Name 5 women CMs in India (past or present).
- 24 Who is the current MLA and MP from your city?
- 25 Bicameral vs. unicameral legislature — name some bicameral states.
- 26 Who administers the oath to the President of India?
- 27 What is the difference between a Governor and a Lieutenant Governor?
- 28 Name the Chief of Army Staff, Navy, and Air Force.
- 29 Who is the Cabinet Secretary and Attorney General of India?
- 30 Who is the Chairman of UPSC and Chief Election Commissioner?
- 31 What are the Seven Sister states of Northeast India? Which one borders China, Bhutan, and Bangladesh?
- 32 Name all 8 classical dance forms recognised by the Sangeet Natak Akademi and their states.

■ Economy & Business

20 Questions

- 1 What is India's current GDP growth rate? What are the current contributions of the services sector?
- 2 Who is the RBI Governor?
- 3 What is India's current foreign exchange reserve?

- 4 Why is the Rupee falling? How does it impact India? How can the government fix it?
- 5 What is a 5 Trillion Dollar Economy? Why is India aiming for it?
- 6 What is the Harshad Mehta Scam?
- 7 Name 5 Indian startups you admire. Name their founders.
- 8 What are the policies that promote manufacturing in India (Make in India etc.)?
- 9 Name 5 Indian MNCs operating in foreign countries.
- 10 At what time does the stock market open and close in India?
- 11 How many companies are there in Nifty and Sensex?
- 12 Name 5 business news stories from the past week.
- 13 What is a GI Tag? Name some from India and from your state.
- 14 Name 5 women entrepreneurs (not from Shark Tank).
- 15 What is UAE's investment strategy in India? What are the reasons?
- 16 Name the CEOs of Google, Microsoft, Infosys, and Amazon.
- 17 Who is Rakesh Jhunjhunwala? Who is Indra Nooyi?
- 18 What is Cryptocurrency? What are the pros and cons of its volatility?
- 19 Digital Currency vs. Cryptocurrency — what is the Digital Rupee?
- 20 Name the Presidents/PMs of the US, UK, Japan, France, Germany, China.

■ Sports

15 Questions

- 1 What is India's ranking in the Commonwealth Games? How many medals did India win?
- 2 Name the Indian Hockey Team captains (Men & Women).
- 3 Name the Indian Cricket Team captains (Men & Women).
- 4 What is the highest sports award in India?
- 5 Name two North East India boxers who participated in the Olympics.
- 6 Name 5 women badminton players from India.
- 7 What is the Thomas Cup? Has India ever won it?

- 8 Name 5 Indian wrestlers. Which state produces the most wrestlers?
- 9 What is ICC and BCCI?
- 10 When was the first ICC T20 World Cup? Which team won it?
- 11 When did India win the ICC T20 World Cup in 2024? Who captained the team?
- 12 What is Reverse Swing in cricket? Who invented it? Why is it easier with an old ball?
- 13 How many ways can a batsman get out in cricket? Name them all.
- 14 Paris 2024 Olympics — how many medals did India win? In which sports?
- 15 Is the IPL the biggest sports league in the world by revenue? Compare to the NBA and Premier League.

SECTION 3

HR Questions

Personal · Behavioural · Situational · Motivational — the core of every IPMAT PI



STAR METHOD

Use Situation → Task → Action → Result for behavioural questions. Prepare 3-4 strong stories from your life that you can adapt to multiple question types. One good story beats five shallow ones.

■ Self-Introduction & Background

10 Questions

- 1 Introduce yourself. Tell us about your family background.
- 2 What is the meaning of your name? What about your parents' names?
- 3 What does your father/mother do professionally? (with cross-questions)
- 4 What is the quality your father/mother admires most about you?
- 5 What is the one thing your father/mother complains about you?
- 6 Tell us about your academic journey — 10th, 12th, and beyond.
- 7 Why is there a difference in your 10th and 12th percentages?
- 8 What have you done in your one-year drop? Why did you drop?
- 9 You are from a PCM background. Why do you want to pursue MBA instead of engineering?

10 If you join IPM, India will lose a scientist. How would you respond?

■ Why IPM & Career Goals

12 Questions

- 1 Why IPM? Why not LLB, B.Tech, or MBBS?
- 2 Why IPM Indore specifically? How is it different from other IPMs?
- 3 Why IPM Rohtak / Ranchi specifically?
- 4 What is your Plan B if you are not selected?
- 5 What benefits will our institute get from selecting you?
- 6 Why should we select you over other candidates?
- 7 Where do you see yourself in 5/10 years?
- 8 What is your dream startup idea?
- 9 What is your business plan for the future?
- 10 How will your Science/PCM/Economics background help you in management?
- 11 You are currently studying in [College]. Why do you prefer our college over it?
- 12 What is management? Why is management education necessary?

■ Strengths, Weaknesses & Leadership

10 Questions

- 1 Tell us two strengths and two weaknesses.
- 2 What qualities do you have as a leader?
- 3 What is the difference between a manager and a leader?
- 4 What qualities should a good business leader have?
- 5 What are the things you would like to improve in yourself?
- 6 How would you define success?
- 7 Is it important to work on deadlines? How do you manage pressure?
- 8 What is the difference between being Effective and being Efficient?
- 9 What are the social responsibilities of management?

10 What is the difference between an Entrepreneur and a Businessman?

■ Hobbies, Interests & Extracurriculars

15 Questions

- 1 What are your hobbies? Elaborate on one and explain what it has taught you.
- 2 Name 3 books you have read recently. Summarise one.
- 3 Which novel did you read recently? (with cross-questions)
- 4 Which series have you watched recently? What did you learn from it?
- 5 What type of podcasts do you listen to? How does the podcast industry earn?
- 6 Name your favourite cricketer / sports person. Why?
- 7 Explain the game/sport you play. Discuss your achievements.
- 8 What did you learn from your sport/activity and how will you apply it to business?
- 9 What is your favourite movie? Name three learnings from it.
- 10 Who is your role model? How will their qualities help you?
- 11 Name your co-curricular and extracurricular achievements.
- 12 Discuss the role of NCC in building a better India.
- 13 What do you do in your free time?
- 14 Your dream destination and why?
- 15 Which shark on Shark Tank is your favourite? Which do you dislike?

SECTION 4

Extempore Topics

42 topics from real IPMAT PIs — practise speaking for 90 seconds without stopping



STRUCTURE

Use: Define → Pros → Cons → Your stance → Call to action. Pick 3 random topics daily and speak for 90 seconds each. Record yourself and listen back.

1. Social Entrepreneurship

2. Time Management & Your Life

3. Work from Home — Boon or Bane?	4. Climate Change & Its Impact
5. Digital India — Vision & Reality	6. Problems in the Indian Economy
7. Social Media Makes Us Antisocial	8. Hard Work vs. Smart Work
9. Women Make Better Managers Than Men	10. Arts vs. Science Stream
11. Should Singing Be Taught in Schools?	12. Artificial Intelligence — Future & Risks
13. Importance of the Mars Mission	14. Is Cricket Overrated in India?
15. Does India Need a Bullet Train?	16. EQ vs. IQ — Which Matters More?
17. Youth and Politics	18. Is Reservation Important in India?
19. Demonetization — Success or Failure?	20. Freedom of Speech — Where's the Line?
21. Internet: Boon or Bane?	22. Privatisation of Railways
23. Is Data Theft by Social Media a Crisis?	24. Is Overpopulation a Problem?
25. Climate Justice — What Does It Mean?	26. Entrepreneurs or Managers — What India Needs?
27. Agneepath Scheme — Pros and Cons	28. E-Commerce Discounts Harm the Economy
29. Being Rich Is All About Being Lucky	30. Invention vs. Innovation
31. Mythology vs. Management	32. Web Series vs. TV Serials
33. Mental Health — Is India Taking It Seriously?	34. Freedom Is a Myth
35. Colour Red — What Does It Symbolise?	36. Bollywood Beyond the Three Khans
37. 'Reality is not real'	38. Gen-Z's Biggest 5 Problems
39. India Should Not Follow the West Blindly	40. Women's Cricket — Getting Due Attention?
41. Chess Is the Best Game for a Manager	42. Electric Vehicles in India — Are We Ready?