



CATKing IME- IIT Kanpur

WAT PI Workbook

Congrats for Getting an IIT Kanpur Call!

How to use this workbook?

This is a consolidation of **5 IIT Kanpur, WAT PI Experiences**. These are consolidated from various online sources.

IIT Kanpur WAT and PI is conducted across India at Bangalore / Delhi / Kolkata / Hyderabad / Mumbai and other various IIT campuses.

This Booklet gives you the Candidate Profile also in most cases, for you to understand the Personal Interview and relate to it better.

After reading the entire Document you are required to check on your CATKing IIMWATPI Super 30 Dashboard:

1. Build Your Interview Skills (Videos from IIM and SP Jain Alumni)
2. Functional Dossiers: If you want to pursue an MBA in Marketing, choose that dossier first.
3. SOP / Application Forms (Check out Jagesh Golwala (IIMA), Raj Doshi (IIMA), Jay Gosalia (IIM B))
4. Sample AWT from the dashboard to understand the Structured Approach. WAT / AWT / AWA – All of these are same terms of Writing test assignment conducted across various IIMs.

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Summary- What IIT Kanpur looks for?

- Ability to handle stress
- Work Experience and a good academic record is an asset; gender diversity gives you an edge
- Logical Chain of thought and confidence, equal weightage to logical and quantitative ability
- Personal Interview Evaluates Candidates on Qualities of – Focus, Chain of Thought, Learnability, Ability to handle pressure, Decision making skills, Discipline

Prerequisite

- Form to be Submitted (Interview)
- Resume (not mentioned, good to carry)
- Original Documents along with photocopies

Insights - Writing Ability Test

- When given an abstract topic time allotted is less
- When given a specific topic for in-depth analysis time is given separately for ideation and writing

Sample WAT Topics -

1. Global warming and depletion of ozone layer is a big threat. Should moving to another planet mitigate it, or do you suggest some other measures.
2. Easy availability of loans has increased the consumerism of materialistic society. This is affecting the morale of the youth, in longer terms. What are your views on this?

Insights - Interview

CONNECT | ASPIRE | TRANSFORM

Interview time - 20-30 Minutes. (Sometimes as low as 10 mints)

Interview Panel Details -2 to 3people (Two Professor and One Alumni, earlier it used to be 3-4 Panellists)

Interview Type - Stress Interview (like Bangalore) (Detailed Interviews check your through knowledge of subjects and also on Current Affairs.

Interview discussion Pointers – (as per IITD experiences of last five years)

- Be completely prepared with anything and everything on the form and in your SOP
- They will go into details of everything you speak about in the interview. (level1- what do you know about Indian Economy level2- what do you think about GST, level3- how has GST affected the sector you work in).

- They ask about current affairs and also about your domain of knowledge.
- It is absolutely fine to ask for time before you answer (they often expect you to think about a solution when they ask you about a problem at hand).
- It is fine if you are anxious and you need not portray a brave face being real with your emotions is better.
- Be prepared to answer everything about you work experience or about your favourite subjects if you are a fresher



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1) Interview Experience - 1

There were two interviewers, one was nearly 45 (let's call him A) and the other one around 35 (let's call him B).

A: So Uday tell me the most interesting thing about you.

Me: Sir I am an author to be, and am working on my book

B (sounding curious): What is it all about?

Me: Sir it's about (explains plot).

(I am not kidding, this happened)

B: So, you said that your book covers certain portions on lust. Let's discuss those portions

Me (confused and amused) Yes sir what do you want to know

B: Tell me some story from your life where these stories about lust are inspired from

Me (now relaxed, as if talking to a senior/friend): Sir I have too many, I don't think the remaining interviews would be possible then.

B (laughing out loud): You seem to be an interesting man. How many girls have you dated so far.

Me: Gives him the count

B (Looks towards A and laughs) Slightly lesser than me, but you will catchup in due time. So do you like traveling?

(We discuss traveling. I told him about how my dream destination is Iceland and that I have travelled most of India).

B (as if addressing a friend): I really enjoyed the interview. You may go now.

I stand up to leave.

A (all of a sudden): I don't think a lot of candidates are left. Sit down. We should talk some more

(Asks about my family, why I am not aiming for IIM L when I live so close to it (I told him it's my first choice) and what I absolutely dislike about Kanpur (I said my relatives who live here).

I walk out of the interview room after 20 25 minutes, longest interview that happened that day, as I was told by the students facilitating there. I was smiling when I walked out of the

room, while other candidates were on verge of a nervous breakdown,

Result: Converted

2) Interview Experience - 2

Date: 10th March, 2018.

Slot: 8 am

Venue: IME Building, IIT Kanpur.

I wore a saree, and I was the only candidate wearing one.

The process started with a 2-step document verification. The volunteers were very friendly and helpful.

GD

There were 14 candidates in each group. We were ushered into the GD room, and made to sit on 3 sides of a large conference table. On the 4th side, a lady professor sat.

2 volunteers gave the instructions. It was a case-based GD. We were to be given 1 minute each to present our thoughts, in the random order as called out by the volunteers.

Thereafter, the GD continued for 5 minutes. The professor just observed us all.

The case study was of Henry Ford, of how he ventured into the mass car production market, and his market strategies. We were supposed to discuss the things that we could learn from him, and the problems of his approach.

I had a good GD. No fish market scene ensued, primarily because of the individual time allotted. After everyone had spoken for a minute, we were prompted to start the GD. I initiated it, and pitched in actively throughout. However, we weren't given any warning about the time left, as is given in typical GDs, thereby snatching away the opportunity to conclude. The GD ended abruptly. I found it slightly disappointing as I had come up with a clever concluding statement with a Philip Kotler quote. Even so, I was satisfied with my performance.

PI

When I entered the room, a female professor was seated. Let's call her P1. She must have been in her 50s. I greeted her. She invited me to take a seat, and I accepted. I made a conscious effort to smile throughout the PI.

P1: So, you're xx.

Me: Yes Ma'am.

P1: So xx, what have you basically done in your graduation? Do you have any work ex?

Me: No Ma'am, I'm in the final year of my B.Tech.

knowing pretty well that only B.Tech. and B.Sc. students are eligible, therefore focusing on business specialization

My stream is computer science, but I'm also doing an additional specialisation on Business Analytics and Optimization.

P1: *asks about it*

Me: Ma'am it is offered in collaboration with IBM, and the curriculum focuses on learning computer science and its applications specifically in business, to derive actionable insights.

P1: So what have you learnt from this specialization course?

Me: *explained with impressive words like big data, Hadoop, MR, OR etc*

P1: Why MBA then? Why don't you pursue MTech.? What are your long-term goals?

Me: Ma'am, MBA was always the plan. For my graduation, I could have gone for BBA, but I did some research, and discovered that the choice of graduation doesn't matter. On the contrary, it awards extra points for diversity during admissions to B Schools. I was good at Computer Science, and decided to capitalise on my strengths with a B.Tech. in this field. Moreover, I was being offered a specialization in Business Analytics, which I expected would be helpful during my MBA.

In the long term, I plan to establish a publishing agency, and I see MBA as a stepping stone towards my goal.

P1: What exactly did this "optimization" part of your specialization entail?

Me: Ma'am we had a subject Operations Research, in which we were given a basic overview of problems like Transportation problems, Assignment problems, and Inventory Control.

P1: Have you done linear programming problems?

Me: *having forgotten it, and trying to avoid problems from the area*

Ma'am I have studied the theoretical concepts.

P1: *gives a maximisation LPP*

Meanwhile, an elderly man(P2) in his 60s enters the room. I greet him, and he silently takes his seat. P1 continues to drive the interview.

Me: Ma'am, though I've studied only the theoretical concepts, I can attempt to solve it.

*I take the paper and start solving. I remember the initial process, and do it correctly, but get stuck when complex parts arrive. *

Ma'am I cannot remember how it went from here onwards, as I have not solved such problems before.

P1: okay, never mind. I'll give you another question. Can you draw the graph for $y=e^x$.

Me: *had revised all graphs except this one* Ma'am, I do not remember it right now.

P1: what about the graph of X cube?

Me: okay Ma'am. *drew it correctly*

P1: okay solve this question for me.

Gives a probability question like those with red and green balls in two different boxes, and probability of drawing X red and Y green...

Me: *writes it down in arithmetic form.* Ma'am I have written the basic method, would you like me to solve it?

P1: No, just show it to me.

Checks

P2: Could you have used the combination formulae here?

Me: Yes Sir, combination can be used to reach the answer. I have written in this form only because I find it easier, but I can write it in C form too.

*They ask me to write in terms of combination. *

Me: *writes it. *

*They try to confuse me with questions like are you sure, and why, and the like, but I'm sure of my answer, and explain why it would be the correct approach to follow. *

*P1 gestures to P2, and says that she's done. P2 has already prepared a question for me. It is about probability, with an airplane having 5 engines and needing at least 3 to function. Given the probability of an engine to be functional, the probability of the plane to be functional needed to be derived. *

Me: *writes it*

*P2 asks some vague questions. After some confused conversation, P1 interjects and

explains what he means, and I answer the question satisfactorily. *

P1: Have you done any extracurricular activities?

Me: Yes Ma'am, a lot.

*Talks about leadership roles in college, college representative roles, and roles where I stood out from the rest. Was going to talk about my reading and writing, but sensed that they were done, so stopped. *

Them: Okay Soumya, we are done. Thank you.

Me: Thank you Ma'am, thank you Sir.

*Subtly looking for toffees, wondering why I wasn't offered one, and then relaxing when I realized that there were none kept. *

Them: All the best.

Me: Thank you. :)

Exits

They didn't even ask for my portfolio.

3) Interview Experience - 3

Profile:

10 th- 91.83

12 th- 90.38

B tech- 7.34 percentile

Work ex (till 31.03.2018)- 43 months

NC OBC Male

Interview:

P1: HOD of IME

P2: professor, interested in OR, young.

I: myself

After exchanging pleasantries

P1: so Rahul you are...

I: Project Engineer (having strategy to divert my PI towards work ex)

P1: Hmm..(then he start reading my academics from application form)

P1: So Rahul tell me something about very interesting extracurricular fact about your life

I: which one sir, from college or corporate?

P1: overall your life

(as I started with College Techfest, only single line, he interrupted me).

P1: not that one, something very special, national, state level, anything.

I: (quickly) I am college chess championship winner in sports festival in college

P1: ohh..which game do you know

I: Ruy Lopez, Queens Gambit, ...(stopped)

P1: where is Lopez from

I: I don't know sir

P1: what is the position in Ruy Lopez?

(I started murmuring, not good with denotions of chess moves like e4, BF4)..

I: Can I draw a figure?

P1 : sure

(Drawn figure, explained him in short)

P1: how to counter Ruy Lopez?

I: Queens Gambit

P1: explain me how

(Given two moves explanation not sure about it)

P1 leaves

P2: how many squares are in chess board?

I: Calculated and given answer 204

P2: what is CPM, how to identify it? I

I: answered

P2: what is PERT, when it is used

I: answered.

P2: what are type of activity sequencing?

I: answered

P2: Normal distribution curve?

I: draw one bell curve

P2: what is its equation, limits

I: I don't know sir

P1 back

P2: PMM1?

I: answered incomplete.

Some discussion and move on

P1: what is first law of thermodynamics

I: happily answered

P2: zeroth law?

I: answered

P2: concept behind zeroth law

(what was that, I tried to explain him with examples but it all goes in vain. He tried to give me hints..but I was not able to crack.

P2: draw Carnot cycle

I: (not sure but drawn one TS axis)

P2: explain it little..(I was not sure it's authenticity)

P2: what is entropy

I: answered

P2: unit of entropy

I: (tried, P2 help me to arrive at change in entropy equation)

P2: work done in Carnot cycle?
I: 100 percentage, that's why not practical

P2: laminar and turbulent flow
I: (told in very layman's language, no technical jargon, I was afraid that questions will arise due to jargon)

P2: Bernoulli equation
I: I don't know

P2: why do you think we are asking technical questions, any relation with your MBA?
I: may be

P2: What's your opinion?
I: may be IIT k wants to check engineer within us.

P1, P2: we are done, you may leave
I: thank you sir

VERDICT: Converted

4) Interview Experience - 4

I.I.T Kanpur MBA Interview 2019:

They had GD and PI round:

GD: It was pretty organized, they gave a use case to a batch of 12–14 students (Mine was related to gap in understanding the requirements between a start-up company and advertising/graphic designing company who were told to have a decent logo and marketing strategy for the newly established company) and gave us some time to think about it (Keep a note of some key points you found in the given use case).

Now, each student got an opportunity to share their views on the issue for one minute and after that the discussion started (for almost 8 minutes).

PI: Well, One thing people have to keep note of is they want an engineer for their MBA program with good knowledge of Math.

PI 1 : So, you are working in E.Y and did B-TECH from S.R.M.

Me : Yes

PI 1 : Demonstrate me an example of Binary First Search (I am a CSE graduate)

Me : Made the graph which was partially correct.

PI 1 : Graph of $\sin x$ and $\cos x$

Me : Done, (keep a note that they wanted to see your approach, so have some sample values and plot the values in the graph instead of drawing graph directly)

PI 1 : Graph of Sine hyperbolic x

Me : I am sorry sir , I don't know that. (It is okay to say "I don't know" than giving a clueless answer)

PI 1: Graph of e^{-x}

Me: Done (Again show the plotting)

PI 2: Integration of $\sin x$, $\tan x$ and $\cos x$

Me: Easy right.

PI 2: Integration of $\log x$

Me: As I forgot the I.L.A.T.E approach, I tried evaluating an equation whose differentiation can be $\log x$. I showed the answer thinking maybe it is right (It was not :P)

PI 2: A long probability and permutation question

Me: Solved and explained correctly.

Both P.I s looked convinced and said you are good to go.

Result: Converted & Joined

5) Interview Experience - 5

IIT KANPUR Interview: 8th March 1pm

I reached kanpur central railway station around 1am and took tempo from ghnata ghar side till kalyanpur and then walk of 2km to hall 13 and got allotted C-105.

Woke up in morning had chitchat with people having interview at 1 and breakfast at hall12 hostel mess and we went to IME by bus around 1pm

We were gathered in C-1 audi and had document verification, got tag H07 and C-3 again detailed document verification.

Then we were given break of 2-2:30 when we had lunch at nearby cafeteria.

We came back to C-5 around 2.30 and we were shown presentation about iit Kanpur life where it was pretty clear if you wanna be techno manager and want to get into analytics ...this is the place else if only ROI matters, then too...else NO.

While presentation was going on, people from morning slot were still being called for their interview PI.

Then H1-14 were called for GD and we had a Case of lessons from bank fraud: nirav modi case as an example and question asked were will the loss of PNB will be recovered from taxpayers of the country?

1min/person for speaking in random order as they call out numbers.

5-7 mins to discuss the case where it became sometime fish market, aggressive etc but overall, it was good would have been better of people would have concentrated on lessons than Nirav Modi particularly as it was just an example. I pointed to use blockchain for data management etc.

Then we came back to C-5 Audi and waited for PI.

PI experience:

He looked into profile sheet and marks.

Persistent systems and asked my profile there and asked about whether i have heard of sandbox in java

And virtual machine. Then JVM.

Then he asked me there are three jars one with cashew, one with almonds and one mixed. i am blindfolded and allowed to pick one at a time and look at it and keep it back.

How many min attempts needed to identify all three jars.

Then another sir asked about current news... I talked about 5G trial launch and Nirav Modi case. Just in visit etc but he wanted latest business news. So, nothing in current.

Then he asked whether I know about PPP and GDP

then asked me about my hobbies and cycling so again asked why it becomes difficult to cycle when cycle gets slow i.e. what's the physics behind this.

That's it.

We are done. Thanks.



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CATKing IIM WAT PI Schedule 2021-22

DAY	TOPIC	TIME
Monday	Marketing Mondays	10 to 11 pm
Tuesday	Current Affair Industry Insights (GD/WAT)	10 to 11 pm
Wednesday	How to Crack Interviews	10 to 11 pm
Thursday	How to Crack Case Study/SOP	10 to 11 pm
Friday	Finance Fridays	10 to 11 pm
Saturday	Personal Interview Must Do Questions	10 to 11 pm
Sunday	Concept Builders: GD/WAT	10 to 11 pm

Note: This schedule will be followed every week till March. Some variations may be there as per the B-School interview schedule Students will be informed about it in due course.

For More Details about the CATKing IIM WAT PI Preparation course with IIM A, B, C, L, SPJIMR Mentors, Contact 8999118999 or Visit: <https://www.courses.catking.in/iim-wat-pi-courses/>