



Politics-Related WAT Bible

Most Common WAT Topics with Sample WATs

Hi,

Welcome to the Written Ability test or 'WAT' section for your MBA Admission process!

The WATs in this section have been curated by alumni of top business schools like IIM A, C, SP Jain, and SCMHRD. Few authors have been panellists for top business schools and have formal experience in taking interviews of the candidates.

The document and content below have been created concerning the past 5 years of WAT experiences for the top B-schools and will be useful for a quick walkthrough. Each category covers a wide range of topics followed by sample WATs. We recommend you read through the topics and the sample WATs for greater insights. Hope these add to your preparation and help you in levellingfavours up your game plan in the admission process!

All the best!

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Contents

Written Ability Test (WAT) Preparation	3
What is meant by WAT?	3
How to approach a WAT	4
Types of WATs	4
Politics-related WATs	5
How to approach politics related WATs	5
Sample Politics-related WATs	6



Written Ability Test (WAT) Preparation

WAT or Written Ability Test is one of the two shortlisting rounds conducted by b-schools to assess the candidate's reasoning abilities and written communication skills. The WAT concept started anew last year by top IIMs of the country (Indian Institute of Management) to replace the group discussion round (GD). Many other B-Schools followed the lead of this protocol and have incorporated WAT as one of their selection parameters for MBA Admissions. Major IIMs and other top b-schools of the country award a significant weightage to the WAT round (more than 20%), the second stage of their shortlisting process. This article summarizes all the tips and strategies devised by CL experts to help you with your WAT preparation. Without further ado, see how one should take necessary steps anent WAT Preparation to crack it successfully.

What is meant by WAT?

WAT (Written Ability Test) is a written examination that includes one unique essay question a student needs to answer within the time bracket of 10-20 minutes. This round is conducted somewhere between early afternoon to late afternoon. The style and type of the essay differ across several institutes. The WAT round's primary purpose is to evaluate the candidate on four major proficiency strands, i.e., understanding, fluency, problem-solving, and reasoning. This round is similar to an essay competition. Several IIMs (including new IIMs and Baby IIMs) have replaced the original group discussion round with the WAT round. The reason for this modification was threefold; the inability of candidates to creatively construct their opinions during the earlier group discussion round, the GD room's chaotic environment, and the lack of confidence amongst candidates to speak up their part without any hesitance.

What are the pivotal factors in any plan?

- The objective.
- The resources.
- The time available.

The objective is to compose an essay that displays clarity of thinking, simplicity of phrasing, breadth of viewpoint, and robustness of logic.

The following are the resources: We don't have any reference materials, so this is a little tough. As a result, we must rely on our memories. The assignment is somewhat easier if the topic is open to interpretation and allows the writer to pick a framework for debate. When it comes to a certain issue (such as 'The Demonetisation in India,' for example), we must rely on our existing understanding of the subject. As a result, all WAT candidates must be current on current events.

The amount of time you have: We must divide our time correctly among the essential processes, regardless of how much time we have, rather than committing it completely to the act of writing. Let's pretend we have 20 minutes on our hands to better comprehend the procedure.

How to approach a WAT:

1. Understand your topic: Read the topic carefully and try to understand what is being conveyed
2. Take a stand: Based on your understanding, form your opinion and build your pointers.
3. Connect the dots: Organize your points and build your WAT.
4. Conclude: Make sure you conclude the essay well and proofread it before submitting it.

Types of WATs

The following types of WATs have been observed in the past 5 years:

1. Abstract based WAT
2. Business-related WAT
3. Current affairs-based WAT
4. Lifestyle based WAT
5. Philosophy based WAT
6. Politics based WAT
7. Science-based WAT

Let's dive into each type!



Politics-related WAT

As the name suggests, this type of WAT is there to test your knowledge about the politics in the country as well as in the world. In this type of WATs, never try to take one point of view. Never show yourself as a right-winger or a left-winger. You should evaluate the topic from both points of view and then conclude it logically.

How to approach politics related WATs:

The best way to approach current affairs-related WATs is to read/watch the news and even if you don't remember stats, try describing the topic and have some opinion. Try to be opinionated on such topics and state the good and bad of each side.

Sample Politics related WAT topics:

1. Woman as a company leader: The difficulties faced by them
2. Capitalism or socialism?
3. Is automation cutting off employment?
4. How the money spent on elections, if spent otherwise would help in the country's growth?
5. Should there be reservations in education?
6. Is population control the only way for India's growth?
7. Are there really more women than men in India?
8. How to solve the issue of pending cases in courts
9. Is technology headed in the right direction?
10. Should business and politics be mixed
11. Trial by media
12. Judiciary reforms in India
13. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao- a success?
14. Is corruption a never-ending process
15. Is corruption a vicious cycle
16. Is India safe for women
17. Freedom of expression in India
18. Are actors turned politicians are better than full-time politicians?
19. Freedom of the press in India
20. Should political parties be brought under RTI Act?
21. Is the United Nations still relevant?
22. AUKUS vs Quad

23. Is RBI autonomous?
24. Has India lost its democracy?
25. Should 'Right to Privacy' has its limits?

Sample Politics-related WATs

1. Capitalism vs Socialism

Key points

1. Capitalism Arguments for capitalism tend to hold that it's beneficial to society for there to be incentives to produce, own, and use capital goods like the magic wand or that it's wrong to prevent people from doing so forcibly.
 - Competition: 'When individuals compete with each other for profits
 - Freedom: 'Preventing people from owning capital restricts their freedom.
 - Public Goods: 'When objects, including the property rights capital, must be shared with others, no one is strongly motivated to produce them.
 - Tragedy of the Commons: 'When capital, natural resources, or the environment are publicly controlled, no one is strongly motivated to protect them.
2. Socialism: Arguments for socialism tend to hold that it's unfair or harmful to have a system like in the story of the magic wand, a system with widespread wage labor and property income.
 - Fairness: 'It's unfair to make money just by owning capital, as is possible only in a capitalist system.
 - Inequality: 'When people can privately own capital, they can use it to get even richer relative to the poor,
 - Labor: 'Wage labourers are alienated from their labour
 - Selfishness: 'When people can privately own capital,

WAT:

1. Capitalism

Arguments for capitalism tend to hold that it's beneficial to society for there to be incentives to produce, own, and use capital goods like the magic wand or that it's wrong to prevent people from doing so forcibly. Here are four arguments for capitalism, stated briefly:

(1) Competition: 'When individuals compete with each other for profits, this benefits the consumer.'

Critique: Competition also may encourage selfish and predatory behavior to prevent people from doing so forcibly. Competition can also occur in some socialist systems.

(2) Freedom: 'Preventing people from owning capital restricts their freedom. Seizing their income in the form of taxes may constitute theft.'

Critiques: Maybe owning property restricts freedom by excluding others from using it. If I announce that I own something, I may be thereby announcing that I will force you not to use it. And maybe "freedom" requires the ability to pursue one's own goals, which in turn requires some amount of wealth. Further, if people choose between work and starvation, their choice to work may not be really "free" anyway. And the general distribution of wealth is arguably the result of a morally arbitrary "natural lottery," which may not confer strict property rights over one's holdings. I didn't choose where I was born, my parents' wealth, or my natural talents, which allowed me to acquire wealth. So perhaps it's not a violation of my rights to take some of that property from me.

(3) Public Goods: 'When objects, including the property rights capital, must be shared with others, no one is strongly motivated to produce them. In turn, society is poorer, and labor is more difficult because production is inefficient.'

Critique: People might be motivated to produce capital for altruistic reasons or coerced in some socialist systems. Some putatively socialist systems allow for the profitable production of capital goods.

(4) Tragedy of the Commons: 'When capital, natural resources, or the environment are publicly controlled, no one is strongly motivated to protect them.'

Critique: As before, people might be motivated by altruism. Some systems with partially-private control of capital may nevertheless qualify as socialist.

2. Socialism

Arguments for socialism tend to hold that it's unfair or harmful to have a system like in the story of the magic wand, a system with widespread wage labor and property income. Here are four arguments for socialism, stated briefly:

(1) Fairness: 'It's unfair to make money just by owning capital, as is possible only in a capitalist system.'

Critique: Perhaps fairness isn't as morally crucial as consent, freedom, property rights, or beneficial consequences. And perhaps wage laborers consent to work, and capital owners have property rights over their capital.

(2) Inequality: 'When people can privately own capital, they can use it to get even richer relative to the poor, and the wage laborers are left poorer and poorer relative to the rich, thereby worsening the inequality that already exists. Between capital-owners and wage-laborers.'

Critiques: This is a disputable empirical claim. And perhaps the ability to privately own capital encourages people to invest in building capital goods, thereby making goods and services

cheaper. Further, perhaps monopolies commonly granted by social control over money are “captured” by wealthy special interests, which harm the poor by enacting regressive laws.

(3) Labor: ‘Wage laborers are alienated from their labor, exploited, and unfree because they must obey their bosses’ orders.’

Critiques: If this alienation and exploitation are net-harmful to workers, why do workers consent to work? If the answer is ‘because they’ll suffer severe hardship otherwise,’ then, strictly speaking, this is a critique of allowing poverty, not a review of allowing wage labor.

(4) Selfishness: ‘When people can privately own capital, they selfishly pursue profit above all else, which leads to further inequality, environmental degradation, non-productive industries, economic instability, colonialism, mass murder, and slavery.’

Critique: These are also disputable empirical claims. Maybe when people control socially-owned capital, they selfishly extract personal wealth from it. Perhaps when the environment is socially controlled, everyone is individually motivated to over-harvest and pollute. State intervention in the economy may significantly cause the wafer get-laborers, crucial productive industries, pollution, and economic instability. Last, some of the worst perpetrators of historical evils are governments, not private corporations.

3. Conclusion

It is difficult to justifiably draw general conclusions about what pure capitalism or socialism would be like in practice. But an examination of the merits and demerits of each system gives us some guidance about whether we should move society in either direction.

2. Is automation cutting off employment?

Key points

- Any good economist will be well-acquainted with the argument that new technology destroys jobs, which in the long run is not valid.
- 100 years later, we take it for granted that the devices and the new technology of the Industrial Revolution have enabled higher wages and better job prospects.
- There are two main reasons why new technology replaces lost jobs.

(a) Increased productivity enables higher wages and relatively lower prices.

(b) increased productivity enables higher wages and relatively lower prices

- Some argue that with the current levels of automation, there is a greater chance of a more prolonged rise in technological and structural unemployment.
- It is argued, automation enables a small proportion of people in the economy to benefit from an increased share of national income.
- However, there are concerns that the benefits of this increased productivity are not "trickling down" to those workers who the new technology has displaced.
- It is easy to blame everything on automation and improved technology, but many factors are at work behind recent trends.

WAT:

Any good economist will be well-acquainted with the argument that new technology destroys jobs, which in the long run is not valid. Back in the nineteenth century, skilled artisans went around smashing spinning machines – machines that were ‘taking’ their jobs. But, 100 years later, we take it for granted that the devices Manythey’s and the new technology of the Industrial Revolution have enabled higher wages and better job prospects. How many would want to go back to hand-weaving at £0.25 a day for a 14-hour day?

The logic of the Luddite Fallacy is that as jobs are lost in one area of the economy due to improved technology, new jobs are created in others. There are two main reasons why new technology replaces lost jobs.

- Jobs are created to make and design the new machines and invest in future devices.
- Increased productivity enables higher wages and relatively lower prices. This gives consumers more disposable income, which can be spent on a broader range of goods.

Therefore, new jobs are created in new industries – due to the increased purchasing power.

Similarly, increased profit can lead to increased investment.

Some argue that with the current levels of automation, there is a greater chance of a more prolonged rise in technological and structural unemployment. It is argued, automation enables a small proportion of people in the economy to benefit from an increased share of national income. The winners from automation are company owners, shareholders, and the highly skilled mobile labor who design software. However, there are concerns that the benefits of this increased productivity are not “trickling down” to those workers who the new technology has displaced. Former towns which relied on full-time permanent jobs in manufacturing have struggled in this brave new world of automation and globalization.

Economists will also be wary of any “This time is the different argument” – See booms and bust.

It is easy to blame everything on automation and improved technology, but many factors are at work behind recent trends.

- Demographic factors. As baby boomers retire, this will reduce the labor force – limiting employment growth.
- It increased monopoly power. Increased monopoly power is a reason for the growing profitability of firms. Though is automation a factor behind increasing monopoly power?
- The decline of trade unions. Unions have declined in the western world. They have lower membership and less influence on wage bargaining.
- They increased labor market flexibility. The growth of the gig economy and the rise of self-employment and part-time work had kept real wage growth more stagnant.
- Equalizing effects of globalization. With globalization, firms are more willing to shift production to lower labor cost producers. This leads to relatively lower wages in countries like the US.

Conclusion

The main effects of automation are yet to come. One study by PwC states that 30% of UK jobs could be at risk of being replaced due to robots and Artificial Intelligence. Up to 38% of jobs could be at risk of automation in the US.

Economic history suggests that new technology can benefit everyone in society – enabling growth in productivity, real wages, shorter working weeks, and greater job satisfaction – and any technological unemployment will prove to be short-lived.

However, there are no guarantees that will always occur. If the recent trend of falling labor market share and growing company profitability continues – there is a danger that automation will lead to a society of winners and losers. To combat this, there may need to be targeted policies from a universal basic income to improved education and training, and perhaps a better way to tax large multinationals.

3. Freedom of expression

What enables you to live a free, carefree life without any restrictions? What allows you to express opinions the way you want to and not suppress them due to fear of higher authorities? It is Freedom. Freedom is a condition in which people express their thoughts in various ways, like acting and speaking, to convey their opinions and feelings without external restrictions. It plays an essential role in one's life and often helps a person convey his opinion leading to development.

Just like a coin has two sides, freedom also has two sides. Expression of Freedom is essential as it leads to enhanced terms of creativity, sharing various ideas, and increasing productivity and

high quality of life. Imagine you run a reputed company, and you have a lot of staff working for you. But your employees don't express their opinions to you and don't come ahead with new ideas as they fear you get disappointed. This kind of situation will further lead to suppression of views, declining company staff, and an unhealthy environment in the company. Hence, the expression of freedom is significant for the development of a better society and association. Freedom is expressed in various ways such as behavior, speech, argument or even writing development. Often known as part of government rights, freedom of expression plays an important role in our day-to-day life also. If you don't express what you want, the person in front will never understand and vice-versa. Hence, communication along with freedom of expression protects social relations. After taking a look at the advantages of Freedom of expression, let's look at its disadvantages.

Sometimes excess freedom of expression can lead to fights and hurt them emotionally. It can also lead to a wrong approach of behavior like over-confidence, taking things for granted, lack of seriousness, and many more.

Politically, over-expression of freedom can harm the discipline and peace of any region. Hence, Expression of freedom has two faces-Good and Bad.

It entirely depends on the person using this right of Freedom of expression to use it in an excellent way to protect the peace of surroundings. Freedom of Expression plays a vital role in an individual's day-to-day life, and it is something we can explain as a basis of any healthy relationship.

A healthy bond is one in which you can pour your heart out, and you know the other person will not leave you but will hold you despite your flaws. A relationship where you have the freedom to your original thoughts takes you to your betterment.

4. Should political parties be brought under RTI Act?

Political parties are essential to democracy's operation. After that, political parties form the government. The ideology of the party then governs government policies. As a result, it becomes necessary for political parties to be subject to RTI. Political donations are seen to be the source of corruption. Citizens have a right to know where political parties get their money, how they spend it, and what criteria they use to make choices. If political parties are placed under the RTI Act, crony capitalism will be severely curtailed.

Political parties are not required to report donations of less than INR 20,000 under the IT Act. According to informal research conducted in 2010, six major political parties raised Rs 700 crore. The amount raised by amounts less than Rs 20,000 accounted for 95% of the total. There's a good chance that political parties will make use of this loophole.

In their manifestos, political parties make specific pledges. Citizens have a right to know why political parties' promises have not been kept after they have been elected.

The statute makes it clear that RTI does not apply only to government entities. It also applies to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that are heavily supported and governed by the government. Political parties receive several subsidies (including tax exemptions), and as a result, they are heavily subsidised by the government.

According to the RTI Act, whenever there is a public interest, those organisations must be transparent and fall under the law's jurisdiction. Today, the RTI Act applies to a wide range of private entities, including schools, hospitals, and other institutions, whether partially funded or fully funded.

5. Should 'Right to Privacy' has its limits?

Yes

The statute makes it clear that RTI does not apply only to government entities. It also applies to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that are heavily supported and governed by the government. Political parties receive several subsidies (including tax exemptions), and as a result, they are heavily subsidised by the government. According to the RTI Act, whenever there is a public interest, those organizations must be transparent and fall under the law's jurisdiction. Today, the RTI Act applies to a wide range of private entities, including schools, hospitals, and other institutions, whether partially funded or fully funded.

No

One can develop a sense of individuality through privacy, creating his views, values, and beliefs. It will grant citizens all basic rights, including the right to be left alone, the right to freedom of thinking, and the right to freedom of expression. Prevents any company or individual from misusing personal information. People have the right to question authority, and they can inquire as to what the government is doing with their personal information. This will encourage businesses to establish better rules to protect the privacy of their customers. Prevents security breaches like the one that occurred recently with Aadhaar.

Gig Economy: Pros and Cons

Pros

- Flexibility is the most obvious benefit of gig labor. You get to select when and where you work as a gig worker, which customers you take on (and which ones you don't), and in some cases, even your prices. If you choose, you can work only on weekends, nights, or one hour every week.
- Take a test drive Something Different: Gig employment is a way for some people to supplement their income. Others, on the other hand, use it as a means to try out a new

job. For example, if you enjoy animals and have considered becoming a pet sitter, working as a pet dog walker or pet sitter on the side is a terrific opportunity to test the waters and see how much you enjoy—or dislike—doing it.

- As a gig worker, you can pursue a passion and determine if it's more than a passing interest without jeopardizing your main source of income.
- Save time and money while increasing business agility: Companies may be able to reduce their costs associated with resources such as money and time in a gig economy. Hiring professionals for shorter project-based timescales rather than longer permanent durations saves money. This also saves money on the amenities of high-paying employment that any permanent specialist receives, like as paid vacations and insurance. This is especially useful for positions that require higher technical expertise and where the employee is only recruited for a limited time.

Cons

- **Affordability:** When you go into business for yourself, you go into business for yourself. As a result, it's up to you to give the advantages. Yes, you have the freedom to choose when you work and when you don't, but the truth is that if you don't work, you don't get paid. You won't have health insurance or other benefits as a freelance worker, either.
 - **Unpredictable Income:** Most gig jobs pay you by the project or task. The problem is that you might not be able to regulate how many chores you can finish in a day or a week. You won't make any money if no one wants a ride, needs anything assembled or wants you to deliver something.
 - **Burnout** is a risk that not everyone is willing to take. Working several jobs or at strange hours is not for everyone. Gig work, as flexible as it is, may become tedious and stressful for certain people after a while.
-