Science-Based 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 levelling favours up your game plan in the admission process!

All the best!

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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 been 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!

Science-based WAT

These are general science topics like how is IT influencing India. You should try to keep updated with the basic scientific discoveries around the world and that would be sufficient to nail this part.
If you are from an engineering background you will find this section very easy.

How to approach science-based 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 state more facts and figures here.

Sample Science-based WAT topics:

1. The future of Artificial intelligence
2. How did covid affect the first-year medical student?
3. Is technology doing more harm than good
4. Impact of technology on education
5. Impact of technology on jobs
6. Parker Solar Probe
7. Omicron
8. Zero Budget Natural Farming
9. Mission Shakti – India's Anti-satellite missile test
10. Money spent on space exploration can be better used on reducing poverty on earth
11. Human Gene editing – Good or Bad?
12. Plastic Pollution
13. Dependency on computer
14. Computers dehumanizing society
15. Should tablets replace textbooks?
16. Blockchain technology and its future applications
17. Reason behind increasing cyber crime cases in India
18. Will virtual reality become more important than physical reality?
19. Can AI take over humans?
20. AI and job loss: Your perspective
21. Gen Z and their preferences
22. Impact of teaching coding to students from an early age
23. Should video games be included in Olympics

24. India's contribution to the world in the field of IT
25. Covid-19 and the rise of virtual labs

Sample Science-based WAT

1. Is technology doing more harm than good?

Key Points

- Technology in the future will be both good and bad. As a nuclear weapon, it can be used to cause terrible destruction. Recently, technological progress has led to a deterioration of our resources. Some breakthroughs may allow us to survive without relying exclusively on our earth.
- Mobile phone networks have rapidly spread worldwide in less than 20 years. Mobile phones allow you to take pictures, play games, listen to music, access the internet, organize a day planner, and much more.
- Technology has made life easy. It changed our way of thinking. If we wish to quantify the cons of technology, we will end up with just our flaws because humanity itself has developed these things of benefit and later started misusing the same. The only constant changes are from one person to another.
- we cannot live without mobile phones, but there is research that it harms us in many ways. Nowadays people are misusing it and also that technology itself harming to us like we invented petrol for energy now this petrol has the most common reason for pollution.

WAT:

Technology offers many advantages rather than disadvantages. It has made our life easy, comfortable, luxurious, and straightforward. Technology supports humans so much that now a person can work from home. It has helped a lot in uniting people. In fact, with the help of the internet, the world has just turned into a global village. Technology doesn't make the man. Man makes technology. Hence it depends on the use we employ it. Nuclear energy is indeed destructive. However, if we use it constructively, it is a great boon. Rocket Science has many peaceful benefits for space exploration & kind. But if harnessed for war purposes, it's bound to be destructive. Similarly, Television & Internet has their plus & minus side. If the human mind tilts towards destructive uses, we can't take technology itself at fault.

But I feel that this technology is more boon than bane.

Response 1:

It will be both—the most. Both dangerous forever things in life are not all good or all bad. Like most other things, technology in the future will be both, depending on the application, a person suing/programming, benefits, etc., consider atomic power, for instance. as nuclear power for electricity, it is good. As a nuclear weapon, it can be used to cause terrible destruction. For every weapon of death and destruction we've invented, we've come up with a thousand ways to boost food production, increase access to personal fulfillment, save lives, and simply amuse ourselves. On the whole, technology has been a boon for almost as long as we've existed. Let me ask you this: can you imagine going back to a mode of existence before technology? Before we even had clothes or spears? Before fire and language? All of these things were inventions, and if you can't imagine even living without what we have now (much less comfortably), then you'll have to agree that technology is too valuable ever to give up. That said, it has its downsides. Recently, technological progress has led to a deterioration of our resources. The ability of technology to adapt to hostile conditions is being strained in the face of the effect we're having on the environment. Some technological breakthroughs may allow us to survive without relying exclusively on our earth, but it's a race of the boon versus the bane, and the finish line is getting close.

Response 2:

Life without a mobile phone is unimaginable these days. You will not see a single person without a mobile phone when you walk down the street. Even at your workplace or any public area, you hear thousands of ringtones throughout the day. The latest mobile phones allow you to take pictures, but you can also play games, listen to music, access the internet, organize a day planner, and much more. You no longer have to think about the high prices before buying the latest mobile phone. The online mobile shops help you find the latest phones in cheap mobile phone deals. By stripping the growth of fixed telephony, mobile phone networks have rapidly spread worldwide in less than 20 years! It is exciting and frightening to observe the trend as to how technology has intruded into our lives and system. Our mobile phones pose a serious threat to our security. Firstly because of the kind of dependence that we have developed on these devices over some time and the because this dependence could be a susceptible target of an anti-social mind. During London Bombing 7/07/05, mobile networks were disabled by the authorities who tried to pre-empt this type of threat. A mobile phone device triggered the Madrid bombing in 2004! That does give us an insight that technology can be equally dangerous! Quite recently, with the availability of the new camera-enabled mobile phones, serious debates have been triggered over the intrusion of privacy. People have often been caught indulging in cheap acts of intruding into other people’s personal lives.

Response 3:
The only constant changes. So, when the time for technology came, it came for a change, and like every other shift, it has brought its pie of pros and cons with it. Technology has made life easy. It changed our way of thinking. Now we can imagine having our morning tea in New York, lunch in New Delhi, and dinner with some aliens on the Moon. If we wish to quantify the cons of technology, we will end up with just our flaws because humanity himself has developed these things of benefit and later started misusing the same.

Response 4:
Yes, Dr. Sachin's technology has started to move our life quickly and smoothly. Still, nowadays people are misusing it and also that technology itself harming to us like we invented petrol for energy now this petrol has the most common reason for pollution. We cannot now live without mobile phones, but there is research that it harms us in many ways.

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2. How do you feel about cloning?

Key Points:

- Human cloning can refer to human reproductive cloning, Clone Rights and its usage
- Ethical issues have to do with the freedom of the clone. The legal status of human
- reproductive cloning. When it comes to human cloning, or the creation of a genetic clone of a person, there are many unknowns.
- Physical Implications of cloning: There are huge margins of error in human cloning that
- bring us to our first ethical issue.
- Another ethical question concerns whether a clone could ever become self-sufficient.
- Social Implications of cloning: The idea behind wanting a clone is to reproduce a replica of
- someone.

Some people believe it is harmful, while others say it is just like any other kind of reproduction. With films like Jurassic Park, Oblivion, and Us, Hollywood has certainly provided us with some unique insights.
When it comes to human cloning or the creation of a genetic clone of a person, there are many unknowns. Keep in mind that human cloning can refer to human reproductive cloning, which involves transferring an embryo to a human womb and bringing it to term, as opposed to human non-reproductive cloning, which involves creating an embryo that isn't allowed to develop beyond a cluster of cells and isn't implanted into a womb.

Ethical issues:

1. Physical Implications

It's very likely that you'll end up with a lot of nonviable or malformed embryos. This could result in a significant increase in abortions and miscarriages, the first of which is fraught with controversy and the second of which is emotionally draining. Let's say the embryo implants correctly and a baby is born. There's a good probability the clone will be malformed or odd in some way. At this moment, what happens to the clone?

Remember, the goal of cloning is to create a human that is genetically similar to another. Is it permissible to murder the clone if it isn't identical, or does it have the right to live?

Is it the individual who wanted the clone who is to blame? What if it isn't an identical replica and they don't want it? What if it takes a few years to figure out that the clone isn't a carbon copy?

What happened, and who is to blame, and what are the consequences?

2. Social Implications

Because clones aren't created through sexual reproduction, do they have parents? Who is responsible for the clone's upkeep? Another ethical question concerns whether a clone could ever become self-sufficient. Is it OK to create a person who will constantly be reliant on others? This brings us back to the topic of who is accountable for assisting people throughout their lives. The desire for a clone stems from a desire to create a duplicate of someone. When it comes to replicating a person, most people consider all aspects of that person, including personality. Personality, on the other hand, is not solely determined by genetics. Although genetics play a role, it's more about how genetic predispositions interact with environmental factors.

3. Clone Rights

The freedom of the clone is one of the last ethical questions to be addressed. What are the rights of the clone if (and this is a big if) it succeeds and becomes self-sufficient?

What if the clone has a different life aspiration than the person who made him or her?

It may be argued that the clone was created for a specific purpose and would not exist if it didn't. On the other hand, independent adults can make their own decisions.

Conclusion:

We can say that cloning can be a big step in science and technology. However, it also brings with it a lot of responsibility and ethical issues. Issues that we are not yet ready to accept. Responsibilities that can be daunting for the cloner himself.

3. Future of AI

"Artificial Intelligence is the new electricity," which was quoted by Prof. Andrew Ng, has become the buzz of the town. There has been a mad rush by students to finish the MOOCs, companies to improve their business with the help of AI algorithms. In the following section, we will explore the reason behind the madness and what is in the store for the future.

Artificial Intelligence encapsulates fields such as machine learning which further encapsulates deep learning. For AI, the core requirement is to have valid data. With the help of AI algorithms, various patterns present in a dataset can be detected, which can help us give insights within a short period. Additionally, these algorithms can help predict outcomes and can help us avoid adverse events. More increase in the data captured has helped AI gain more prominence.

Artificial Intelligence has applications across many sectors such as healthcare, automobile, etc. It has led to the growth of systems such as cancer detection and self-driving cars, paving the way for improving the human lifestyle. The growth and application of AI have been aided by the proliferation of data and the improvement of AI algorithms with research. In the future, we can find more industries, such as the banking industry, trying to integrate AI to aid automation, get insights, and improve the organization's efficacy.

Finally, in the future, we can expect more widespread use of AI in our daily life activities due to the Internet of Things (IoT). It is estimated that more than a billion devices will be connected to the cloud soon. The data that was manually captured before will now be directly uploaded to the cloud platform leading to a decrease in latency and faster action. Hence, we can expect AI to play a more significant role in the coming days, aided by data and research.

4. Blockchain technology and its application in automobile industry

The automotive industry is exponentially evolving in all parts of the world and is the leading cause of globalization. It is one of the most technologically advanced, complex, and sophisticated industries. In this digitally advanced age, the industry has seen the involvement of several Industry 4.0 technologies. It can help the automotive companies cut down on redundant processes and thus lower the cost of the products. Blockchain Technology is one such technology that can benefit the industry in unimaginable ways.

With the introduction of blockchain technology in almost all industries, the automotive industry is slowly participating in using Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) more and more. With the help of DLT, the involved parties, like stakeholders, suppliers, dealers, and OEMs, can track all

the details of asset transactions. Though blockchain might appear pretty young in the market, the Distributed-Ledger-Technologies (DLT) have caught the world by a storm. Not only that, but DLT also opens several new opportunities for automotive manufacturers, service providers. Blockchain can significantly improve areas and categories like complex data management, tracking goods, and tracing the service exchange between two or more parties. Moreover, the decentralized database of blockchain helps in making the transfer securer and more transparent.

With the help of a blockchain-based SCM, the data will be available on a transparent and permissioned network in which all the stakeholders can track the details about their orders. With transparency and security, the manufacturers can make plans for inventory management and production schedule without hindering the supply chain. It will help to reduce potential damages to vehicles and ensure on-time delivery. Since blockchain is decentralized, no party or member of the contract can damage the security and data. If any party tampers with the data, other parties can track the changes.

An automotive manufacturer needs to ensure the supply chain is effective enough to provide their customers with genuine components if they need a replacement. Blockchain technology is the best platform for this issue as the OEMs can easily track the spare parts with the help of RFID tags. With unique identification of the components, the company can share the identification with the other stakeholders on the platform for the authenticity of the parts. The adoption of the technology will allow companies to ensure timely delivery of products and save valuable money for the stakeholders.

However, there are a lot of challenges that you might encounter while executing a blockchain network in your supply chain:

All the stakeholders (Dealers, suppliers, OEMs, etc.) must come on board to establish an effective blockchain network. Industrial support is also a significant factor in the implementation of a blockchain network.

The vendors and logistics partners might be using a variety of software and platform vendors. It is a difficult but possible task to manage these unoriented applications managed by various vendors. In such cases, a blockchain network requires considerable computing sources.

The numerous advantages of blockchain technology indicate that it could provide a solution to the numerous existing problems in the automotive supply chain management systems. It is visible that blockchain has the potential to revolutionize the automotive supply chain for a

manufacturing company. It is a tool that can transform the supply chain of any automotive company. Though it might require a significant investment, the money will be worth it. The real-time tracking of products can help a company lower its operations significantly. With time, the applications of BCT in SCM are bound to rise. Without a hint of doubt, BCT is here to stay.

5. Impact of technology on jobs

Technology has grown a lot over the centuries. It has constantly been evolving, and it can be both a job creator and a job destructor. In the forthcoming paragraphs, we will understand how technology can impact jobs positively and negatively.

Centuries back, the invention of steam engines and industrialization has led to the massive creations of jobs, and the economy boomed as a result of it. But since technology has a short shelf life, jobs soon become obsolete, and as a result, people are laid off in large numbers. After that, workers have to reskill themselves and then apply for the jobs created by the recently developed technology. This cycle has been going on and on for years, and with the current rapid innovation, we can expect the shelf life of the technology to reduce going forward.

Recently, companies have been trying to increase the efficiency of their business with the help of automation. Automation has been impacted by technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence, etc. Even though it has positively impacted driving a company's bottom line up, it has adversely affected the livelihoods of many workers. With automation, many jobs were made redundant, and the organizations had to downsize their organization to increase their savings.

However, looking on the bright side, technology has aided many professionals in improving their efficiency and performance. For instance, recently developed AI algorithms and screening machines in healthcare have helped physicians diagnose diseases such as cancers. Technology can help address potential pitfalls, and adverse situations can be avoided. It also enables faster completion of work. Hence, the technology can be both a boon and a bane in some cases, and the worker must anticipate the current trends and shifts happening in the industry and adapt accordingly.