

CLAT 2015 Analysis

The 8th Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) was conducted today in 32 cities across India in online format for the first time. The exam was conducted by Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University (RMLNLU), Lucknow, which will be declaring the cut-offs and results on May 20th.

CLAT is the doorway to 16 National Law Universities (NLUs) in the country for their five-year integrated law programmes (LL.B.) as well as masters programs in law (LL.M.). This year as many as 2164 seats are being offered by the 16 NLUs. Dr. J.D. Gangwar, CLAT 2015 Convener has informed that as many as 39,686 applicants have registered for Online CLAT 2015 while last year the number was 31,231.

The 16 participating NLUs in the order of their establishment are:

1. National Law School of India University, Bangalore (NLSIU)
2. National Academy of Legal Study & Research (NALSAR) University of Law, Hyderabad
3. National Law Institute University, Bhopal (NLIU)
4. The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata (WBNUJS)
5. National Law University, Jodhpur (NLUJ)
6. Hidayatullah National Law University, Raipur (HNLU)
7. Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar (GNLU)
8. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University, Lucknow (RMLNLU)
9. Rajiv Gandhi National University of Law, Patiala (RGNUL)
10. Chanakya National Law University, Patna (CNLU)
11. National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi (NUALS)
12. National Law University Odisha, Cuttack (NLUO)
13. National University of Study & Research in Law, Ranchi (NUSRL)
14. National Law University & Judicial Academy, Assam, Guwahati (NLUJAA)
15. Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University, Visakhapatnam (DSNLU)
16. The TamilNadu National Law School, Tiruchirappalli (TNNLS)

CLAT 2015 was organized & conducted by Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University, Lucknow (RMLNLU).

The CLAT is a 200 mark, 200 questions, 2 hour paper which tests students on 5 areas, namely, English, Mathematics, Logical Reasoning and General Knowledge/ Current Affairs, and Legal Aptitude. Correct answers carry one mark while wrong answer attract 0.25 negative marks.

Pattern of CLAT 2015 (Under-Graduate Programme)

Exam Description	
Total Marks	200
Number of multiple-choice questions of one mark each	200
Duration of Examination	Two hours (02:00 hours)

Subject areas with Weightage	
English including Comprehension	40 Marks
General Knowledge and Current Affairs	50 Marks

Elementary Mathematics (Numerical Ability)	20 Marks
Legal Aptitude	50 Marks
Logical Reasoning	40 Marks
Note: <i>There shall be a system of Negative Marking wherein 0.25 marks will be deducted for each of the wrong answer.</i>	

The CLAT 2015 was definitely a shocker for many students. The paper was on the tougher side as compared to the papers of the earlier years. Different reactions came from different students, but the overall verdict was that the CLAT 2015 this year was difficult in almost all areas and was not on expected lines! However, VistaMind students came beaming out of the hall saying that the level of tests that they were prepared for (thanks to the VistaMind CLAT mocks) came to their rescue and they did not panic!

Section-wise analysis

English including Comprehension : 15 RC questions, 6 cloze test, 5 synonyms, 5 summary based, error spotting and grammar and para jumbles were the traditional questions that appeared in this year's English section of the CLAT paper. However, the Foreign Words and Idioms & Phrases that appeared in the previous years were absent in this year's paper!

It was possible to attempt around 30+ questions in this section.

Mathematics : Most of the questions in Math tested real mathematical skills of the students. Some really difficult questions (CAT type) such as Finding the last two digits from a large exponent stumped students. Questions in percentages were conspicuous by their absence. However, the simplification and calculation questions were as usual there and easy to solve. A good student should have attempted around 12 to 14 questions in this section.

General Knowledge : Though on the CLAT website the pattern proclaimed was to have an equal representation from Current Affairs and Static GK, it was a shocker for most as about 80% plus questions came from the Current Affairs area only. A student who is very much involved in reading newspapers on a regular basis would have benefitted immensely.

However, a good student could have attempted upwards of 35 questions in this section

Logical Reasoning: This was probably the toughest section for a lot of students. Apart from a few questions on blood relations and coding –decoding, most of the other questions were passage based critical reasoning questions. As said on Math, students were left wondering if they were writing CAT three years sooner!

Though there were 40 questions, a good student would not have been able to attempt more than 30 questions due to the time constraint.

Legal Aptitude: Here too, the paper was different from what the CLAT website had proclaimed as the possible pattern (that the section would be principle-facts based). About 20 questions were from the legal aptitude and current legal news facts. However, the principle-fact based questions (30 in number) were very easy to attempt. It was possible to attempt about 40+ questions in this section.

The overall paper was much tougher than anticipated and hence the cutoffs for the top Schools is going to take a dip. VistaMind students however would have done well in the Math and Logic sections as they have got the similar level of difficulty in the Mocks and hence were much better prepared to take on the CLAT paper!

On a concluding note, a snapshot of section-wise analysis of the 2013 CLAT paper:

SUBJECT	NO. OF QUESTIONS/ NO. OF MARKS	DIFFICULTY LEVEL	EXPECTED ATTEMPTS	EXPECTED Marks	TIME TO BE GIVEN (in Min)
ENGLISH	40	Moderate	40	30-34	20-22
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE	50	Moderate	35-45	28-34	12 - 15
MATHEMATICS	20	Mod to Diff	16-18	12-14	15 - 20
LOGICAL REASONING	40	Difficult	32-36	28-32	25 - 30
LEGAL APTITUDE	50	Mod to Diff	40-45	34-38	45 - 48

Expected cut-off (General Category- first list):

Tier I: NLSIU Bangalore, NALSAR Hyderabad, WBNUJS Kolkata – 131 to 135 marks

Tier II: NLU Jodhpur, NLIU Bhopal, GNLU Gandhinagar, HNLU Raipur – 125 to 130 marks

Tier III: Remaining NLUs – 118 to 124 marks