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“**Mock tests help in developing *speed* and *accuracy*”**

SHIKHAR AGARWAL, ALL INDIA RANK 6, CLAT 2018,
ON HOW TO WORK OUT A WINNING STRATEGY

WHEN DID YOU DECIDE TO CHOOSE LAW AS A CAREER?

The field of law had always been appealing to me and I felt that it is something that would suit me, and give me opportunities to be a better human being. So, after my Class 10 results, at the time of selecting the subjects—I had commerce with mathematics—I got in touch with my senior in school aspiring for law too, who advised me to enrol myself for coaching and introduced me to the several law entrance tests.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR CLAT (COMMON LAW ADMISSION TEST)?

A rational, realistic and systematic approach is must when preparing for law entrances. Strong and weak areas should be identified and one needs to work on mastering them. Divide your time studying for the school curriculum and law entrance preparation.

HOW DID YOU WORK ON YOUR WEAKER AREAS?

I was particularly strong in mathematics, analytical reasoning and English. I had to predominantly work on my general knowledge, legal and English vocabulary. For general knowledge, I decided not to study anything till my boards ended. I only made notes before the boards. I made notes on etymology and word roots

for English through YouTube videos and tried to do diverse questions as practice for legal studies.

HOW IMPORTANT ARE MOCK TESTS AND TEST SCORES?

Mock tests give you an idea about where you stand with your preparation. Experiment with mocks as much as possible in order to develop a proper test taking strategy and get used to the pattern. Mocks helped me in developing speed and accuracy. Mock tests can only improve if you work on analysing the results. Give as many mocks as possible and don't let a bad mock demoralise you. I got a rank as low as 800 in a mock and yet I am here before you.

WHAT WAS YOUR PREPARATION STRATEGY?

I focused on completing as much syllabus as I could till December excluding general knowledge. This involved exhausting all the modules provided by the coaching institute, giving mocks to get an idea of the paper and making notes of what has been taught at the institute and through self-study. Once 2018 began, my focus shifted entirely to Class 12 boards and I managed to score 98 per cent. After boards, I gave mocks on a daily basis, worked out my exam strategy and revised prior concepts.

FIVE THINGS TO DO BEFORE APPEARING FOR CLAT

1 DEVELOPING AN EXAM TAKING STRATEGY THREE WEEKS BEFORE THE EXAM.

By this, I refer to the order in which one will attempt the paper. I formulated my pattern as follows—attempting general knowledge and legal first followed by English and Mathematics in initial 90 minutes, leaving logic for the end.

2 ENSURE A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP FROM AT LEAST TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE EXAM.

There is no need to study all night if you have the concepts clear. A good night's sleep will keep you relaxed.

3 PREPARING PROPER NOTES FOR WEAK CONCEPTS.

I made some quick revision notes for English vocabulary, current affairs and mathematics which I went through on the day of the exam.

4 KEEPING A COOL HEAD WHILE ATTEMPTING THE PAPER.

Many people tend to get off to a bad start to the exam and mess up their strong areas. And several test takers tend to relax after a good start, getting overconfident and dropping sitters. Control your emotions for those two hours.

5 NOT WORRYING TOO MUCH AFTER THE EXAM.

Once the exam is over, move on. Don't fret over missed opportunities. Don't start celebrating a brilliant exam. Wait for the result.

Crack it with Ease

WORK ON YOUR ANALYTICAL ABILITIES, LEARN TIME MANAGEMENT AND BRUSH UP YOUR GENERAL KNOWLEDGE BEFORE YOU SIT FOR YOUR ENTRANCE

With increasing awareness about the importance of legal education, coupled with students looking beyond the conventional career choices of engineering and medicine, law entrances have become far more competitive. After all, a law degree opens up a range of options—from practicing in courts of law, working with corporate and law firms, legal process outsourcing, academics and research, judiciary and civil services to being part of international organisations such as the United Nations. Entry to good law schools is getting tougher by the day but an aspirant can crack CLAT (Common Law Admission Test)/AILET (All India Law Entrance Test) and other entrances including the National Law Universities—with ease if right steps are taken.

UNDERSTAND THE EXAM

Get hold of previous year entrance papers and evaluate their structure, analyse how the exam pattern has evolved over the years, and look for changes.

TIME MANAGEMENT

Law entrances are a test of your aptitude. Unlike engineering and medicine entrance tests, law entrance exams do not test your knowledge of the subjects you studied in school. It is the application of this knowledge along with your reasoning abilities and general awareness that gets tested. Starting early will ease your pressure. If you can devote one to two hours every day for 365 days, there's no scope for failure.

THE TOP FIVE

TEST	CONDUCTING BODY
Common Law Admission Test (CLAT)	National Law Universities
All India Law Entrance Test (AILET)	National Law University, Delhi
AILET PG	National Law University, Delhi
All India Bar Examination (AIBE)	Bar Council of India
Law School Admission Test (LSAT)	Pearson VUE on behalf of Law School Admission Council (LSAC)

Amitendra Kumar
Mentor,
Career Launcher, Delhi

WORK ON YOUR WEAK POINTS

While preparing for law entrances, it is important to gauge your command over the topics that are covered in the exam. Working on the fundamentals and regular practice is key. This will help you understand how comfortable you are with the topics. It is equally crucial to work on the sections and topics you are not that comfortable with.

ANALYSE YOUR PERFORMANCE

Write as many mocks as possible. And after every mock test, analyse the strategy that works for you. Some of you may prefer to attempt section-by-section while others might opt for selecting the easy questions to answer first.

LET GO OFF ANY FEAR OF MATHEMATICS

Many aspirants are not comfortable with mathematics and develop a fear of the subject. While mathematics is a component of the law entrance exam, one needs to understand that the questions asked cover basic level understanding of the subject (Classes 9 and 10).

BUILD YOUR GENERAL KNOWLEDGE BASE

Almost all law entrances have a significant number of questions on general knowledge. Similarly, a sizeable number of questions are also asked about current affairs. Read newspapers and magazines to keep yourself updated on what is happening around you.

DO ONLINE TESTS

With most major law entrances now being conducted in CBT (computer-based test) format, it is important for you to adapt to that. While technology does entail a change in one's strategy and at times can act as a distraction, it should not hamper your preparation. Spend sufficient time practicing and reading online.