

# ISAT Exam Format: Sections, Question Types and Test Duration

Mastering ACER Architecture: 100 Questions, 180 Minutes, 108 Seconds/Question, Critical vs Quantitative Reasoning Breakdown, and Non-Calculator Elimination Tactics.

## 1. Core Exam Structure & Technical Pacing Parameters

The ISAT is an intense 3-hour psychometric exam. Candidates must manage cognitive fatigue without any physical or on-screen calculator.

| Parameter         | Official Specification                    | Candidate Strategic Impact                           |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Total Questions   | 100 Multiple-Choice Questions (4 options) | Requires high continuous focus across diverse topics |
| Total Duration    | 180 Minutes (3.0 Hours)                   | Marathon stamina required; fatigue peaks at Q65+     |
| Time per Question | 108 Seconds (1.8 Minutes)                 | Strict 2-pass pacing: skip questions taking >2 mins  |
| Delivery Mode     | Online Computer-Delivered via ProctorU    | Live human + AI invigilation with webcam and mic     |
| Negative Marking  | Zero (No penalty for incorrect answers)   | All 100 questions must be answered before time ends  |
| Scratch Material  | 2 Blank A4 Sheets + 1 Pencil              | Shredded on camera in front of proctor at end        |

## 2. Detailed Section Breakdown & Question Classifications

| Section Domain                                          | Weightage                     | Tested Cognitive Skills                                                                                                                | Common High-Yield Question Types                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Critical Reasoning (CR)<br>Humanities & Social Sciences | 50 Questions<br>(50% of test) | Textual analysis, identifying implicit assumptions, evaluating conflicting arguments, tone, ethical judgments, contextual inferences.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Author Intent &amp; Bias Passages</li><li>• Philosophical Dialogue Excerpts</li><li>• Sociological Data Commentary</li><li>• Argument Polarity &amp; Flaw Detection</li></ul> |
| Quantitative Reasoning (QR)<br>Maths & Natural Sciences | 50 Questions<br>(50% of test) | Interpreting graphical trends, numerical deduction, proportional reasoning, biological & physical system models, zero-calculator math. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Multi-Axis Line &amp; Bar Graphs</li><li>• Scatter Plots &amp; Trend Regressions</li><li>• Biochemical Flowchart Systems</li><li>• Dimensional Physics Scenarios</li></ul>    |

## 3. 99th-Percentile Tactical Rules for 108-Second Mastery

- **The Two-Pass Protocol:** Complete the first pass through all 100 questions in 140 minutes, answering immediate high-confidence questions. Flag complex graph questions for Pass 2 (35 minutes), leaving 5 minutes for final verification.
- **Zero-Calculator Estimation:** Convert unwieldy decimals to manageable fractions (e.g., 0.142 ≈ 1/7). Use bounding techniques to eliminate impossible answer choices within 15 seconds.
- **Extreme Option Elimination in CR:** Options featuring absolute words ('always', 'never', 'solely', 'proves definitively') are incorrect 90% of the time in ACER humanities passages.