

How to prepare for IPMAT Indore

IPM Aptitude Test (IPM AT) of IIM Indore, for the Five-Year Integrated Programme in Management. Run by Indian Institute of Management Indore.

When

Applications in February and March, test in early May, interviews in June.

The exam

A two-hour aptitude test in three separately timed 40-minute sections: Quantitative Ability MCQ, Quantitative Ability short answer (you type a number, no options) and Verbal Ability MCQ.

Your plan, step by step

- 1 Fix your maths base Class 11, now to March 2027**
Go back to Class 9 and 10 NCERT maths and make sure percentages, ratios, averages, time and work, speed and distance, and linear and quadratic equations are solid. Keep up with Class 11 maths at school. If you dropped maths after Class 10, this exam will be hard; think honestly about that now. If you care about IIM Rohtak, keep Class 11 and 12 marks well above 60 per cent, because board marks count for 30 per cent of its final score.
- 2 Read daily, then start sectional practice Class 11, April to December 2027**
Read one editorial or long article every day and write a two-line summary; verbal is half of IIM Indore's shortlist score. Learn words from your reading, not from lists. Start 40-minute sectional tests on weekends, including short-answer quant where there are no options to guess from.
- 3 Apply, and put boards first Class 12, January to March 2028**
Apply to IIM Indore and IIM Rohtak when the forms open (February to March in 2026), and to JIPMAT if you want Bodh Gaya or Jammu (April to May in 2026). Keep the fees ready. During board exams, do only one short timed section a day to stay in touch.
- 4 Full mocks in the real format After boards to exam day (April to early May 2028)**
Take three full mocks a week with the fixed section order and 40-minute timers. After each one, list every mistake by topic and redo those questions a week later. Practise leaving an MCQ blank when you cannot eliminate options; guessing costs 1 mark each time.
- 5 Interview preparation May to June 2028**
If shortlisted, prepare for the personal interview (35 per cent of IIM Indore's final score). Be ready to talk about yourself, your school subjects, your town and current events. Practise speaking for two minutes on a topic with a friend or teacher. Honest, clear answers beat memorised ones.

What the exam tests

- Three sections, 40 minutes each, 120 minutes in total. You cannot move between sections.
- Every question is worth 4 marks. Minus 1 for a wrong answer in the two MCQ sections; no negative marking in the short-answer quant section.
- Question count is not in the official notice. Career Launcher's analysis of the 4 May 2026 paper reports 90 questions for 360 marks: Quant short answer 15, Quant MCQ 30, Verbal 45.
- To reach the interview, you need a positive raw score and a minimum mark in each of the three sections (set by the Admissions Committee, category-wise).

Free and official material

IIM Indore IPM admissions page

(iimidr.ac.in/programmes/academic-programmes/five-year-integrated-programme-in-management-ipm/ipm-admissions-details). The admission procedure, FAQ and fee structure, plus the list of other institutions that accept the IPM AT score.

IIM Rohtak IPM admission page (iimrohtak.ac.in/ipm-admission.php). Pattern, eligibility, weightage and dates for IPMAT Rohtak.

NTA JIPMAT portal (exams.nta.nic.in/jipmat). Information bulletin, answer keys and notices for JIPMAT (IIM Bodh Gaya and Jammu).

NCERT textbooks (Mathematics, Class 9 to 11)

(ncert.nic.in/textbook.php). Free and enough for the maths base the quant sections build on.

AceIPM: IPMAT books and free resources

(aceipm.com/blogs/best-books-for-ipmat-preparation). A coaching provider's free list of reading sources and books; useful as a checklist, ignore the sales links.

Books students use

Commonly used, not endorsed.

Mathematics textbooks, Class 9 to 11, NCERT

How to Prepare for Quantitative Aptitude for the CAT, Arun Sharma

Quantitative Aptitude for Competitive Examinations, R.S. Aggarwal

Magical Book on Quicker Maths, M. Tyra

Word Power Made Easy, Norman Lewis

High School English Grammar and Composition, Wren and Martin

How to Prepare for Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension for the CAT, Arun Sharma and Meenakshi Upadhyay

A Modern Approach to Logical Reasoning, R.S. Aggarwal

Coaching: do you need it?

Self-study with free material: Students with a strong maths base and the habit of reading. The test is aptitude, not syllabus, so many students prepare this way with timed mocks.

Online course or test series: Students in towns without a centre, or who want a fixed mock calendar and short-answer quant practice in the real format.

Classroom programme: Students who need a timetable and live doubt-solving, and who can attend without missing school. Most useful for quant if your school maths is weak.

Red flags

- A guaranteed IIM call or seat.
- Pressure to pay for two years upfront.
- No refund policy in writing.
- Topper lists with no mention of which course the topper took; the CCPA has penalised coaching institutes for this.
- Very large batches with no mock review or doubt time.

The last months

- Take full mocks at the real time (2 pm for IIM Indore in 2026) with locked 40-minute sections.
- In short-answer quant, check units and calculation twice; there are no options to catch a slip, but also no penalty for a wrong answer, so always enter something.
- In the MCQ sections, skip questions you cannot narrow down; each wrong answer costs 1 mark.
- Protect verbal: it carries half the weight in IIM Indore's shortlist score, so keep reading daily until the exam.

