

## CLAT 2019 | FIRST LOOK

The year was 2016! One of my favorite students who is a founding member of the Legal Sapiens [Hereafter “LS”] Team had just given the paper and he said he had absolutely killed the paper but was still apprehensive in spite of the great attempt that he had had. Our very own Kishlay Dwivedi ended up scoring a massive 165 on 200 and secured an All India Rank of 28!

Seems like CLAT 2019 has a similar response. Abhilasha Ma’am and PP and I visited the three major centers in Lucknow and most of the hundred plus faces depicted a combination of satisfaction and apprehension. Most students were satisfied with their attempts but were well aware that the paper was a definite throwback to 2016 and therefore hesitated in their confidence about qualifying even in spite of the excellent attempts. Nonetheless, here is my take on the paper (in consultation with my excellent colleagues).

- English: Good Score: 28+

Foreign words made a not-so-dramatic re-entry after a small hibernation of 2 years. Small format changes for spellings which came with sentences and the idioms were slotted with ‘fill in the blanks’. The section was wrapped up with predictable areas like an RC, parajumbles, prepositions and sentence corrections. Essentially, a sincere habit of reading, a little focus on vocabulary and a few grammar classes should have been enough for you to be smiling at the end of this section.

- GK Good Score: 38+

Well this is one area where CLAT 2019 was as predictable as it has been over the past few years. It was heavily dominated by current affairs. From awards to appointments to books to international affairs with an India focus, the area was certainly wide and with peppered variety. Like always some questions you can hardly prepare for and it depends on luck but by and large, if you focused on the reading newspapers and had access to a restrained current affair conspectus like the one circulated by PP Sir (his 80 odd pages had about 32+ questions and counting!) you should be good to go.

- Maths: Good Score: 14+

Thankfully, not at all a tormenting reminder of CLAT 2015. The questions were from easy chapters like Time-Speed-Distance, Profit & Loss, clocks, ratios etc. Coordinate Geometry, Probability and Permutation-Combination were certainly welcome absentees for the hundreds of

students that we met ☺. Unless, you were reeling from too much mathematics phobia you shouldn't have had a bad day with this section.

- Logical Reasoning: Good Score: 30+

Here let me start by asking – remember CLAT 2013? If you gave the paper, then you know that there was one question completely “*inspired from*” that paper. The rest of it was the usual odd one out, Syllogisms and Logical consistency based questions which were quite easy for anyone who did past year papers. A small surprise was the fact that there was no passage based CR and no statement based questions. The Analytical Reasoning bit was also from predictable areas like Arrangements & Coding Decoding.

- Legal Aptitude: Good Score: 36+

The paper was all 50 reasoning questions. So while your initial reaction to the section might be that it was lengthier than usual, that would be a mistaken perception. This is largely because of two simple reasons, *firstly*, most of the section was heavily (and I mean totally heavily!) inspired from CLAT 2016 and 2017, and *secondly*, the questions including principle and facts were relatively much smaller than something like the CLAT 2011. The paper was dominated by contract and tort laws and constitutional law was a significant absentee. The key here was not to overshoot your time thinking there are more reasoning questions and making sure that you read the principles ‘CAREFULLY’. Some principles did have a twist here and there so careful reading was definitely a *sine qua non*.

**[DebD Note]: Good Score above means cut-off for the top 5 law schools.**

In the end I just have two questions for all candidates – DID YOU DO PAST YEAR PAPERS PROPERLY? DID YOU RELY ON RELIABLE FACULTY FOR ANSWERS? If your answer is yes for both you must have done fantastically in CLAT 2019! I am not going to be snobbish enough or presumptive enough about you to go ahead and claim that questions were from LS mocks (obviously there were many!) because I understand that you know that a lot of mock questions across institutes are also inspired from past year papers! So let me not disrespect your intellect in claiming that! Some mock questions were from past year papers and so were the CLAT 2019 questions.

All the very best everyone ☺