



# CATKing IIM Sambalpur

## WAT PI Workbook

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**Congrats on Getting an IIM Sambalpur Call!**

### **How to use this workbook?**

This is a consolidation of 6 Sambalpur round, WAT/ PI Experiences. These are consolidated from various online sources.

IIM WAT and PI is conducted across India at Bangalore / Delhi / Kolkata / Hyderabad / Mumbai.

This Booklet gives you the Candidate Profile also in most cases, for you to understand the Personal Interview and relate to it better.

After reading the entire Document you are required to check on your CATKing IIMWATPI Super 30 Dashboard:

1. Build Your Interview Skills (Videos from IIM and SP Jain Alumni)
2. Functional Dossiers: If you want to pursue an MBA in Marketing, choose that dossier first.
3. SOP / Application Forms ( Check out Jagesh Golwala ( IIMA ) , Raj Doshi ( IIMA ), Jay Gosalia (IIM B))
4. Sample AWT from the dashboard to understand the Structured Approach. WAT / AWT / AWA – All of these are same terms of Writing test assignment conducted across various IIMs.

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## What does IIMs Sambalpur look for?

- Excellent Academic Background
- Work Experience is a great asset
- Knowledge base is of utmost importance
- Personal Interview Evaluates Candidates on Qualities of – Focus, Clarity of Thought, Learnability, Level of Optimism, Ability to handle pressure, Decision making skills, Discipline

### Prerequisite

- Form to be Submitted ( Interview )
- Resume ( not mentioned , good to carry )
- Original Documents along with photocopies

### Insights - Interview

**Interview time** - 20-30 Minutes. (Sometimes as low as 10 mints)

**Interview Panel Details** - Only 2 people (One Professor and One Alumni or two professors, earlier it used to be 3-4 Panelists)

**Interview Type** - Detailed Interviews check your through knowledge of subjects (Companies) / Decent knowledge of Current Affairs

### Interview discussion Pointers –

- Be completely prepared with anything and everything on the form.
- They will go into details of everything you speak about in the interview. (level1- what do you know about Indian Economy level2- what do you think about GST, level3- how has GST affected the sector you work in).
- They will test your knowledge base and approach to problems
- It is absolutely fine to ask for time before you answer (they often expect you to think about a solution when they ask you about a problem at hand).
- It is fine if you are anxious and you need not portray a brave face being real with your emotions is better.
- Be prepared to answer everything about you work experience or about your favorite subjects if you are a fresher.

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## Interview Experience – 1

TMSAY

### Accounts background

1. Book keeping
2. Difference between book keeping and accounting
3. Fund flow statement and their components

General awareness

1. Vice president
2. Lok shabha speaker

Hobbies

Domain preference and company interested in

How do you get to know about IIM sambalpur? I fumbled and mistakenly said linkedin, don't know what will be the result 😅

## Interview Experience – 2

### Interview Experience – 3

5 min

1 st

intro

Why mba

Companies on basis on sizes

Work experience related

Any difficulty you faced and how you handled

2nd

FMCG full form and 5 indian companies

Punjab districts and lok sabha seats

Other calls

Also last year cat scores and which section you think you can improve and same for this year too

Rate cat on level of difficulty and why you think like this

## Interview Experience – 4

## Interview Experience – 5

1. Y sambalpur u got other calls

2. Will u join if we offer seat

3. One of ur weakness which others might think as strength

4. What is your current role

5. U r attending the Interview for ur office while even working : I explained y cannot put leave and i have close current financial year for the company and make business notes.

That's it more like if I am willing to join them or not

## Interview Experience – 6

IIM Sambalpur PI Transcript

One female panelist (around late 30s-early 40s)

F - TMAY

Me - Told

F - Why MBA?

Me - Told

F - What were the subjects you studied?

Me - Told

F - What was your favourite subject?

Me - Fundamentals of HRM

F - HR was your favourite subject?

Me - Yes ma'am, it was a major paper (should have told Organizational Behavior, Training and Development, etc. instead but nvm 😊)

F - Harsh, tell me about some motivational theories which are applicable in the workplace?

Me - Told about Maslow's and Herzberg's theories

F (interrupting in between) - Can you give me the examples of hygiene factors and motivational factors

Me - Told

F - Are you sure? Is basic pay a hygiene factor?

She tried so hard for 30 secs or so to confuse me and stressed that I might be wrong. She also asked me to imagine myself as an employee who is getting low pay but has a good relationship with the manager

Me - Told that basic pay is a necessity because if it doesn't match with the industry standards, it'd eventually lead to dissatisfaction and thus the employee may leave the company despite having a good relationship with the manager.

F - Suppose you are working in a place where your AC is not working and the workplace is not clean. Which factor would it be?

Me - Told that it is a motivational factor because the hygiene factors are about surviving with the basic needs like good pay, job security, etc. first and then looking towards the environment.

F - Harsh, you are right on the basic pay part. It is a hygiene factor but the AC not working and the untidy workplace also come under hygiene factors as you mentioned that hygiene factors are extrinsic needs.

Me - Thanked her for sharing this.

F - Do you know about the 3 needs as mentioned in Acquired Needs Theory?

Me - Told that it was proposed by McClelland and mentioned affiliation and achievement and apologized because I couldn't remember the third one.

F - The third one is power. Harsh, can you give me the examples of affiliation and achievement?

Me - Told

F - So, which of these needs are you looking for right now?

Me - Told that affiliation is what I'm looking for as I want to implement the learnings I received from my college's Entrepreneurship Cell and apply it to IIM Sambalpur's clubs and committees and build a good network.

F - Harsh, have you got calls from other IIMs?

Me - Told

F - Do you know who the governor of RBI is?

Me - Told

F - Do you know which state is Sambalpur situated in?

Me - Told

F - Do you know what Sambalpur is famous for?

Me - Couldn't recall so apologized for that

F - Okay Harsh, it was nice interacting with you. Wishing you all the best.

Me - Same here ma'am, thank you so much.

## **Interview Experience – 7**

Tell me something about yourself

Why MBA? Why not CFA or FRM?

What is your take on women empowerment? How would you promote women empowerment?

I said I would work with NGOs to educate women in rural areas and lower stratas of society about their rights and laws supporting them, so they countered that why just women? Shouldn't we educate men about how to treat women?

Next what is your take on live in relationships in the context of Indian society? Would your parents agree to letting you stay in a live in relationship?

What is your biggest achievement? I mentioned balancing work with studies while preparing for CAT?

Follow up question - which was a bigger achievement, cracking CAT or getting the promotion? Why? How did you deal with the challenges?

## Interview Experience – 8

Hey, for IIM Sambalpur

it was Online and lasted 10 mins, for one, they will not let you into any wait-room so you really don't know when they might pop up, no intro nothing, after 3hrs of wait, 2 people joined, started asking me where am i right now?, they didn't even bother with "Hi"

I said Mumbai and he asked if i got on a Metro ?

I said i was visiting for IITB Interview , haven't yet

m1:

Who is the father of Metro, India? Where did it start first in India?

2nd answered and I don't know the father of metro

M1:

I'm going to tell some companies name , you tell the founders same :

FORD :

I said Richard ford, answer is Henry Ford

Facebook:

Mark Z Burg

Google:

Didn't know

Couple of other like JP Morgan or Zudio companies

Some more GK questions I don't remember

Why Taiwan is Doing very well / better than india in trade

Answered Somewhat

Heavy non relevant GK questions and stopped camera and mic after his questions.

M2:

Hi , You are interested in Marketing and Finance



Corrected with Only Marketing, [Data, business analytics and product cause of workex,] I lost touch with finance,

Do you have work experience?

Explained that i do

What's Data analytics and what are the types

What's Difference between Data Analytics and Business Analytics

What's Predictive analysis

What's Regression Analysis

How would you Analyse and predict the data of a Manufacturing company until the 2030, with the data of 1999 to 25

Tell me the Methods you use.

Explained

He said do you think that is the right method

I Said there could be more, this is one of them for sure

the interviewer smiled in the end.

That's it , thank you. You may leave

Hope this helps

## **Interview Experience – 9**

IIM Sambalpur Transcript - 3rd March 2025

Mech Engg - 24 - Male - 2.5Y work ex

P1 - Male - late 50s

P2 - Male - mid 30s

Introduction

what inspire to do an MBA

Role in Organization

Process of Implementation (coding - related to work)

why 3 years Engg degree? (3y diploma + 3y degree)

which specialization are you targeting?  
have you gone through placement reports?  
which companies are you targeting?  
any other IIM call?

## **Interview Experience – 10**

IIM Sambalpur interview

Online mode, afternoon slot, Panel 3

BTech chemical engineering  
3.5 years work ex in core engineering

2 members in panel. P1 & P2

First P1 started with greetings.

What are the 3 major pillars of the economy?

Do you follow news? Which newspaper do you read?

Who are the authors of Indian Express newspaper?

Asked about the court case related to google in the united states?

What Do you know elon musk and his policies within unites states govt?

Your favourite under graduation subjects?

Then P1 told that he was done and second panellist took over

P2 asked to TMAY.

Why Mba?

Why not go for MTech?

What subject domain are you interested in for your mba?

What companies do you want to work after mba? And why?

P2 then thanked me and said my interview is done. And i may log out of zoom meeting



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