ME 389 Group discussion topics

Format:

1. Each group would have 10 students from a section. This group would be chosen at random.
2. From amongst the course instructors, one person would act as group coordinator.
3. The coordinator would announce the topic of discussion and can ask any student to start the discussion.
4. Coordinator would have to give last round for concluding remarks.
5. Each student would get 2 minutes for putting his argument. He/she can use it in multiple turns and final half minute for concluding remarks.
6. If a student exceeds his/her time limit it would be graded negatively.
7. The topics for discussion and the evaluation criterion are given below.

Topics:

1. Commercialization of medical services
2. Income disparity due to modern technology
3. Is the youth of India confident or confused?
4. India makes nuclear bombs but cannot make quake resistant houses.
5. Flexi-timings vs fixed timings at work
6. Are smart phones making people dumb?
7. Examination- has it killed education
8. Have computers have resulted in unemployment?
9. Hard work or Smart work - Which is important?
10. Open book exams-is it a better option.

i. GD Evaluation Sheet

Date: _____________________ Group: ___________________
ii. Rating

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| POOR| FAIR| GOOD| VERY GOOD| EXCELLENT

Note: Candidate who does not speak anything in the GD will not be rated on any of the above-mentioned parameters. A candidate should be rated 1 or 5 only when s/he is exceptionally bad or good. Different parameters on which a candidate will be evaluated are mentioned in the sheet above. The weightages allotted to them are mentioned in the first column for e.g. the weightage awarded to content is 30 per cent, creativity is 5 per cent, body language 10 per cent etc.

iii. Instruction for panelists

Content
Subject knowledge

The candidate should express his opinions based on facts, figures and statistics. Based on his knowledge related to the topic, a corresponding rating on the 1-7 scale should be chosen. Please note that content should include only facts and opinions. No other parameter has to be taken into account while rating a candidate on Content.

Creativity and originality

Creativity and originality will be gauged based on innovative or thought provoking idea by a candidate. If a candidate is supporting another candidate’s viewpoint his score on this parameter will be less howsoever good his content is. This parameter has a huge significance in Abstract GDs and Case studies.

Voice

There are two sub parameters ie Tone and Modulation. If a person is audible in a GD he scores high on tone and pitch.

Voice modulation is based on the ability of a candidate to emphasise on key words/phrases while making his point.

Body language

Posture

A candidate should sit attentively in a GD. He should bend a bit forward. This shows his attentiveness and interest in the GD.

A nodding head means a candidate is a good listener and this is a positive body language.

Candidates who cross their legs or fold their arms should be rated negatively.

This shows lack of inclination towards communication and a casual attitude. Pointing fingers, fists etc are negative gestures and candidates should be penalized for the same.

Candidates should put their pen down once the GD has started and should refrain from writing anything when the GD is in progress. At the most they can write few important points in the GD, which will help them in summarizing the GD later.

Eye Contact

Proper eye contact with the group is an essential requisite. A candidate should talk to his team members, not to the examiner.

Talking to examiner should be rated negatively. A candidate should have a proper eye contact with all the members of the group and not only a chosen few.

Analytical ability

This includes both logical and critical reasoning. This checks how well a candidate is able to analyse somebody’s viewpoint and also how well is he able to reason his own viewpoint.

Ability to conclude

Marks would be given based on the ability to finally conclude the arguments in the last round

Initiative
This parameter takes into consideration only the student who has initiated the GD. If he initiates well and is able to put the GD into the right perspective rate him/her high but if he stutters, falters, starts with a stand, quotes wrong facts and figure he should be rated negatively.

**Leadership**

A leader is a person who creates an environment of mutual understanding and cooperation in a GD. A leader is one who:

- Contributes to the GD through his content and ideas.
- Tries to put the GD into proper perspective so as to have a focused discussion on the issue at hand.
- Encourages other candidates to speak
- Coordinates the effort of the GD.

A person who forces somebody else to participate in a GD should be rated negatively. Also a candidate who is only coordinating the effort of different team members without any contribution towards topic, should be rated negatively.

**Group Behavior**

Group behavior is the ability to work well with the team members. Aggression, shouting in a GD, staring somebody, cutting somebody in between, trying to enforce views on others, questioning etc are some of the activities which are against team work and a candidate should be rated negatively on this parameter if he demonstrates any one of them.

**Enthusiasm**

A candidate’s tone, body language especially his facial expressions will be effective while rating him on this parameter.

**Listening**

A candidate who listens to his other team members’ views and does not intercept any other group members should be rated high on this parameter. An effective body language includes attentive posture combined with nodding of the head.