

SET Exam Pattern

Symbiosis Entrance Test — Complete Guide & Preparation Strategy
UG Admissions (BBA & Allied Programmes)

The Symbiosis Entrance Test (SET) is a national-level, computer-based entrance examination conducted by Symbiosis International (Deemed University) for admission to its undergraduate programmes — most notably BBA and allied management courses offered across its constituent institutes. This guide breaks down the exam's structure, marking scheme, section-wise focus areas, eligibility, application process, and preparation strategy in one place.

Quick Snapshot

60 questions · 60 minutes · 60 marks · No negative marking · Computer-based test · Conducted across two sessions with the better score counted.

1 · Exam Overview

Aspect	Details
Conducting Body	Symbiosis International (Deemed University)
Exam Level	National (Undergraduate Admission Test)
Exam Mode	Computer-Based Test (CBT / Online)
Total Duration	60 minutes
Total Questions	60 Multiple-Choice Questions
Total Marks	60 (1 mark per correct answer)
Negative Marking	None
Sessions Offered	Two dates in the admission cycle; best of the two scores is considered
Syllabus Level	Class 12 standard — no advanced topics
Score Validity	Valid only for the admission cycle in which it is taken

2 · Section-Wise Structure

The question paper is divided into four sections. Three sections carry 16 questions each, while Analytical & Logical Reasoning makes up the balance to reach a total of 60 questions.

Section	Questions	Marks	Weightage
General English	16	16	26.7%

Quantitative Aptitude	16	16	26.7%
General Awareness	16	16	26.7%
Analytical & Logical Reasoning	12	12	20.0%
Total	60	60	100%

Note

Section-wise question counts can see minor year-to-year adjustments. Always confirm the current-year breakdown on the official website, set-test.org, closer to the exam date.

3 - Marking Scheme

Scenario	Marks Awarded
Correct Answer	+1
Incorrect Answer	0 (No Negative Marking)
Unattempted Question	0
Maximum Possible Score	60

Because wrong answers carry no penalty, the strategic takeaway is simple: attempt every question. An educated guess can only help your score, never hurt it.

4 - What Each Section Tests

General English

Reading comprehension, vocabulary-in-context, grammar and sentence correction, synonyms/antonyms, one-word substitution, and para-jumbles. Widely considered the most scoring and time-efficient section.

Quantitative Aptitude

Arithmetic (percentages, ratios, averages, profit & loss, time-speed-distance), number systems, basic algebra, simple/compound interest, and data interpretation from tables and graphs. Typically the most time-consuming section.

General Awareness

Current affairs from the preceding 12 months, static general knowledge, business and economic awareness, government schemes, and notable national and international events.

Analytical & Logical Reasoning

Verbal and non-verbal reasoning, coding-decoding, blood relations, direction sense, seating arrangements, syllogisms, puzzles, and analytical decision-making.

5 - Eligibility Criteria

- Candidates must have passed Class 12 (or an equivalent qualification) from a recognised board or university.
- A minimum aggregate of **50%** is required (relaxed to **45%** for SC/ST category candidates), subject to the specific programme's norms.
- Candidates currently in Class 12, or awaiting results, may also apply provisionally and must submit proof of passing later.
- Candidates with a Class 12 (or equivalent) qualification from a foreign board must obtain an equivalence certificate from the Association of Indian Universities (AIU).

6 - Application Process

The SET application process is entirely online, completed through the official SET portal.

- 1 Create a new candidate profile with personal details — name, date of birth, gender, email, and phone number.
- 2 Upload the required documents in the prescribed format (photograph, signature, and academic certificates).
- 3 Verify the registration using a one-time password (OTP) sent to the registered mobile number.
- 4 Pay the application fee via credit/debit card, net banking, or UPI.
- 5 Complete the form with category, preferred test centres, and target institutes/programmes.
- 6 Download and retain a printed copy of the final application form and payment receipt.

7 - Exam-Day Essentials

- The test is conducted online; answers are selected directly on the computer screen.
- Calculators, mobile phones, and other electronic gadgets are not permitted inside the test centre.
- SET is generally held across two dates within the same admission cycle — a candidate may appear for one or both, with the higher score counted for ranking.
- A valid photo ID and the downloaded admit card are mandatory for entry into the test centre.
- Arrive at the centre well ahead of the reporting time to complete verification formalities.

8 - Difficulty Level

Section	Typical Difficulty
General English	Easy
General Awareness	Easy to Moderate
Analytical & Logical Reasoning	Moderate

Overall, SET is rated easy to moderate in difficulty. General English tends to be the quickest section to clear, while Quantitative Aptitude is usually the most time-intensive and demands the sharpest speed-accuracy balance.

9 - Preparation Strategy

8–10 Weeks Out

Build foundations: revise Class 11–12 quant concepts, expand vocabulary, and start a daily current-affairs habit.

4–6 Weeks Out

Shift to timed sectional practice. Identify your weakest section and give it extra dedicated time each week.

2–3 Weeks Out

Take full-length mock tests under exam conditions (60 minutes, no pauses) to build stamina and pacing.

Final Week

Focus on revision, error-log review, and light practice only — avoid learning new topics.

- Since there's no negative marking, attempt every question — never leave one blank.
- Time-box each section during mocks (roughly 15 minutes each) so no single section eats into another's time.
- Maintain an error log after every mock to track and eliminate repeat mistakes.
- Read a newspaper or a concise current-affairs digest daily rather than cramming before the exam.

10 - Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is there negative marking in SET?

A: No. Incorrect answers are not penalised; only correct answers earn marks.

Q: Can I attempt SET more than once?

A: Yes, SET is typically offered on two dates in the same cycle. You may appear for one or both, and the better score is considered.

Q: What is the difficulty level compared to other BBA entrance exams?

A: SET is generally considered easy to moderate, with a Class 12-level syllabus, making it more accessible than some other national management entrance tests.

Q: Is a calculator allowed?

A: No. Calculators and other electronic devices are not permitted in the test centre.

Q: Does SET score guarantee admission?

A: No. SET score is one component of the admission process; many institutes also weigh academic record and, in some cases, a group exercise or personal interaction.

Stay Updated

Exam patterns, dates, and eligibility norms can change year to year. Always cross-check the latest details on the official website: **set-test.org** before finalising your preparation plan.