Imants Auziņš, Class of 2011, Future Leaders Programme at GSK
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TEST TAKING STRATEGIES

OPEN DOOR DAY 2015
My Background

- Graduate of the Class of 2011 from SSE Riga
- Future Leaders Programme Trainee at GSK
- Senior Teaching Assistant at SSE Riga
- Ambassador of Mission Possible (“Iespējamā misija”)
  - Teaching Maths & Economics at Baloži Secondary School
- Singer (Bass) at the Youth Choir Kamēr...
The Goal

- Get acquainted with the different tests used in the admission process
- Develop a “way of thinking” – how can one tackle the different test problems in an efficient way
- Know how can one prepare for the tests
AGENDA

- Structure of the SSE Riga tests
- Strategies for tests
  - Maths
  - Logical and Numerical Reasoning
  - English
- Q&A
STRUCTURE

- Mathematics
- Logical and numerical reasoning
- English

- Lasts about 3 hours equally distributed among the above mentioned
MATHEMATICS - CONTENT

- Secondary school Maths curriculum
  - Specifically - Algebra
Each question is worth 1 point
Only the answer given is evaluated
Discuss with the person next to you what you consider to be the most optimal strategy

Consider:

- The content of the test
- The evaluation for the test
- The time constraints
Mathematics - Summary

- Revise your secondary school curriculum in algebra
- Refer to your secondary school exercise books
- Revise the properties of the operators covered in the Maths summary
### Logical and Numerical Reasoning - Example

#### Example Question 1

Identify the missing number in the series.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Can you identify the link between the number series?
Logical and Numerical Reasoning – Strategies for Series

- Look for a relationship between consequent numbers
- Check the intervals between numbers
- See if there are relationships involving previous numbers in the series
- Common relationships: multiplication, division, powers
Example Question II

You need to estimate the answers to these questions, as you do not have time to calculate them precisely.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. 347+198=</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>590</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. 69\times70=</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>4650</td>
<td>5000</td>
<td>4800</td>
<td>4600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. 905\div49=</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answers
1. B
2. D
3. A
Logical and Numerical Reasoning – Estimation Strategies

- Discuss with your neighbor your way of approaching such problems
**Logical and Numerical Reasoning - Summary**

- Rounding
- Evaluate the direction of the error due to rounding
- Quickly perform the simplified calculation
- Find the possible answer or two
- Check which one is more likely based on the direction of the error due to rounding
Example Question III
Which two pictures are identical?

A  B  C  D  E
Discuss the experience you have had with similar kinds of visual intelligence / non–verbal reasoning tests
ENGLISH

- Reading
- Grammar
- Written assignment
Reading Comprehension

- Read the excerpt from the adaptation of Guiding Lights (Drake, B., May 2, 2010)
**Question**

1. What was puzzling about Brazil’s declining birth rate?
   a. It lasted forty years.
   b. There was no apparent reason for it.
   c. Many people actually saw it as a good thing.
   d. China had taken similar measures as Brazil, but this didn’t lead to quite the same decline.
1. One of these sentences contains a mistake in verb usage. Indicate the letter of the incorrect sentence:
   a. At the moment prices increase.
   b. Prices were increasing throughout 2009.
   c. Recently prices have increased.
   d. Recently prices have been increasing.

2. Insert the appropriate article (‘a’, ‘an’, ‘the’)

   Croatia will join ____ European Union.
   Slovenia is ____ European Union member.
May or may not be based on an article, and it may include one or several of the following:

- Summarize
- Paraphrase
- Provide arguments in favor or against a position (e.g. find three arguments)
Q&A
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