How to Prepare for AFCAT AFSB Interview: Complete Guide to Crack the Air Force Selection Board

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The **AFCAT AFSB Interview** is the final and most crucial stage in the selection process for candidates aspiring to become officers in the **Indian Air Force**. After qualifying the **AFCAT written exam**, candidates are called for the **Air Force Selection Board (AFSB)** interview, a five-day assessment that tests their mental, physical, and leadership capabilities.

This guide provides a **step-by-step preparation strategy for the AFSB Interview**, key tips to succeed, and answers to frequently asked questions. Whether you're a first-time aspirant or a repeater, this article will help you prepare effectively.

What is the AFSB Interview?

The **AFSB Interview** is conducted by the Indian Air Force to assess the personality, intelligence, and officer-like qualities (OLQs) of candidates who have cleared the **AFCAT**, **NCC Special Entry**, or **Meteorology Branch** application process. It follows a structured five-day testing pattern similar to the SSB interview conducted for the Army and Navy.

AFSB Interview Process: Day-by-Day Breakdown

Day 1 – Screening Test

- **Officer Intelligence Rating (OIR) Test**: Includes verbal and non-verbal reasoning.
- **Picture Perception and Discussion Test (PPDT)**: Candidates write a story based on a picture and participate in a group discussion.

Result: Shortlisted candidates proceed to the next stage; others are sent back.

Day 2 – Psychological Testing

1. **Thematic Apperception Test (TAT)** – Write stories based on 12 images (one blank).
2. **Word Association Test (WAT)** – 60 words shown for 15 seconds each; write spontaneous sentences.
3. **Situation Reaction Test (SRT)** – Respond to 60 real-life situations.
4. **Self-Description Test (SDT)** – Write descriptions of yourself from the

perspective of parents, friends, teachers, and yourself.

Day 3 & 4 – GTO Tasks and Personal Interview

1. **Group Discussion (GD)**
2. **Group Planning Exercise (GPE)**
3. **Progressive Group Tasks (PGT)**
4. **Half Group Task (HGT)**
5. **Command Task**
6. **Lecturette**
7. **Individual Obstacles (IO)**
8. **Final Group Task (FGT)**

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You will also have your **Personal Interview** on either of these days. The IO may ask about:

- Educational background
- Hobbies and interests
- Family and friends
- Achievements
- Career goals
- Current affairs and defence knowledge

Day 5 – Conference Day

All assessors discuss the performance of each candidate. You'll face a short one-on-one interaction in a formal setting. Final recommendations are announced after the conference.

How to Prepare for AFCAT AFSB Interview

1. Understand Officer-Like Qualities (OLQs)

The entire selection is based on evaluating 15 OLQs such as:

- Leadership
- Initiative
- Effective Intelligence
- Reasoning Ability
- Confidence
- Social Adaptability
- Responsibility
- Courage

Make sure your responses and body language reflect these traits during every test.

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2. Master the Psychological Tests

- **TAT**: Keep stories realistic and positive.
- **WAT**: Avoid negative or confused sentences. Use action-oriented, confident statements.
- **SRT**: Respond quickly and practically.
- **SDT**: Be honest and self-aware.

Tip: Practice daily to improve spontaneity and writing speed.

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3. Improve Communication for GD & Lecturette

- Read newspapers and editorials daily.
- Practice speaking on topics like current affairs, defence, and social issues.
- Work on voice clarity, confidence, and vocabulary.

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4. Stay Physically Fit for GTO Tasks

- Focus on stamina, balance, and upper body strength.
- Practice running, rope climbing, and obstacle drills.
- Be a team player during group tasks.

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5. Prepare for the Personal Interview

- Know your **PIQ form** details inside out.
- Be clear about your life goals, academic journey, and why you want to join the Air Force.
- Revise basic subjects and current affairs.
- Stay updated on IAF ranks, aircraft, commands, and recent defence developments.

6. Practice Time Management

Psych tests and group tasks are time-bound. Practice mock tests to improve your ability to think and respond under pressure.

7. Stay Genuine and Positive

Avoid memorised or fake responses. Be yourself, stay calm, and project a balanced personality. Confidence, not overconfidence, is what selectors look for.

Dress Code for AFSB Interview

For Indoor Tasks:

- Formal shirt and trousers
- Tie (optional)
- Polished shoes

For GTO Tasks:

- White T-shirt and shorts/track pants
- Sports shoes and white socks

Recommended AFSB Preparation Resources

- “Let’s Crack SSB Interview” by SSB Crack
- “Breaking the Code of SSB Interview” by Rabindra Singh
- Online mock interview platforms

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- YouTube channels dedicated to defence aspirants
- Defence news portals (IDRW, PIB, Indian Air Force official website)

Top 5 Tips to Crack AFSB Interview

1. **Be consistent with preparation and self-assessment.**
2. **Stay aware of the latest defence news and global affairs.**
3. **Avoid copying answers; be original and spontaneous.**
4. **Don’t fear rejection; use it as a learning opportunity.**
5. **Show passion for the Air Force, not just desire for a job.**

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q1. What is the AFSB Interview after AFCAT?

The AFSB Interview is a five-day selection process conducted by the Indian Air Force to assess a candidate’s suitability for officer-level roles based on personality, psychology, and leadership skills.

Q2. How do I get selected for the AFSB Interview?

You must clear the **AFCAT written exam**. Shortlisted candidates are then called for the AFSB Interview at one of the designated centres.

Q3. Are coaching classes necessary to clear the AFSB?

No, coaching is not mandatory. Self-preparation with the right strategy, mock practice, and feedback can be equally effective.

Q4. Can I choose my AFSB centre?

Yes, while applying for AFCAT, you can choose your **preferred AFSB centre** (Dehradun, Mysuru, Gandhinagar, Varanasi, or Guwahati).

Q5. What should I carry to the AFSB Interview?

- AFCAT Admit Card
- Call Letter
- Original and photocopies of educational certificates

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- Passport-size photographs
- Formal clothes and sportswear

Q6. How many candidates are selected after the AFSB Interview?

It depends on the vacancies and overall performance. Only those who are “recommended” and clear the **medical test** and **merit list** are selected.

Q7. What happens after getting recommended?

After recommendation, candidates undergo **medical examination**. Once medically fit, they are placed in the final merit list for joining **Air Force Academy, Dundigal**.

Conclusion

The **AFSB Interview** is a test of not just intelligence but of attitude, awareness, and authenticity. Prepare with discipline, stay informed, and bring your best self forward. With the right mindset and preparation, you can soar high with the Indian Air Force.

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