Screening and Intelligence Tests: Officer Intelligence Rating (OIR) Test of SSB Interview

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The **Service Selection Board (SSB)** interview is a critical step in the selection process for candidates aspiring to join the Indian Armed Forces as commissioned officers. Among the initial phases of this five-day process is the **Screening Test**, which includes the **Officer Intelligence Rating (OIR) Test** and the **Picture Perception and Discussion Test (PPDT)**. The OIR test plays a crucial role in filtering candidates for further testing and must be taken seriously by every aspirant.

In this article, we will explore the structure, purpose, preparation strategy, and importance of the **OIR Test** in detail.

What is the Officer Intelligence Rating (OIR) Test?

The **Officer Intelligence Rating (OIR) Test** is a **psychometric test** conducted on **Day 1** of the **SSB interview**. It is designed to evaluate a candidate's **intelligence, logical reasoning, and problem-solving ability**.

This test is **non-verbal and verbal** in nature and is combined with PPDT to determine whether a candidate gets screened in for further testing in the SSB process.

Structure of the OIR Test

- **Number of Tests**: 2 (OIR Test 1 and OIR Test 2)
- **Total Questions**: 40–50 per test
- **Time Allotted**: 17–20 minutes per test
- **Mode**: Pen-paper based (offline)

The OIR Test consists of two types of questions:

1. Verbal Reasoning Questions

These include:

- Series Completion
- Analogy

- Classification
- Coding-Decoding
- Direction Sense Test
- Arithmetic Problems
- Alphabet Tests
- Word Formation

2. Non-Verbal Reasoning Questions

These include:

- Figure Matrix
- Paper Cutting and Folding
- Odd One Out (Figures)
- Series and Embedded Figures
- Mirror and Water Images
- Pattern Completion

Importance of the OIR Test in the SSB Interview

The OIR test is not just a formality. It plays a **crucial role in screening candidates** for further stages of the SSB.

- **Screening In/Out Decision**: A good OIR score, combined with a well-performed PPDT, enhances your chances of getting screened in.
- **OIR Grade**: Candidates are graded from **OIR I (best)** to **OIR V (lowest)**. Those with OIR Grades I and II have higher chances of being screened in.
- **Initial Impression**: OIR test marks the first impression on assessors, showcasing your mental sharpness and officer-like intelligence.

How to Prepare for the OIR Test

1. Practice Regularly

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Consistent practice with **OIR practice sets** can significantly improve speed and accuracy.

2. Focus on Speed and Accuracy

Time is limited, and completing all questions correctly requires **strategic time management**.

3. Study Standard Books

Recommended books:

- **Arihant's Verbal & Non-Verbal Reasoning by R.S. Aggarwal**
- **Lucent's Reasoning Book**
- **SSB OIR Test Practice Papers**

4. Take Mock Tests

Simulate actual test conditions by solving **mock OIR tests** within the time limit.

5. Analyze and Improve

Evaluate your performance and work on weak areas to ensure improvement.

Tips to Ace the OIR Test

- Read the instructions carefully before starting.
- Avoid spending too much time on one question.
- Attempt easier questions first to gain confidence.
- Maintain neat and legible handwriting on the answer sheet.
- Stay calm and composed throughout the test.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Overthinking simple questions
- Not practicing under timed conditions
- Ignoring non-verbal sections
- Leaving questions unanswered due to time mismanagement

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- Poor presentation during the PPDT, affecting overall screening

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Role of OIR Test in Overall SSB Selection

While the OIR test is only a part of the screening process, it sets the **foundation for your SSB journey**. Even if you excel in the later stages, a poor OIR grade can hamper your overall selection chances. Hence, **give the OIR test equal importance** as other stages like the GTO Tasks, Personal Interview, and Psychology Tests.

Conclusion

The **Officer Intelligence Rating (OIR) Test** is more than just a reasoning test—it is a **gateway to the prestigious SSB interview process**. With the right strategy, practice, and focus, aspirants can score well and improve their chances of moving ahead in the selection process. Remember, your dream of wearing the uniform begins with a good OIR score.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q1: Is the OIR test difficult?

A: The OIR test is generally of easy to moderate difficulty but requires quick thinking and fast calculations under time pressure.

Q2: How many questions are there in each OIR test?

A: Each test contains around **40 to 50 questions**, and there are two OIR tests conducted back-to-back.

Q3: Can I use a calculator during the OIR test?

A: No, the use of calculators or electronic devices is strictly prohibited during the test.

Q4: How is the OIR grade calculated?

A: OIR grades (I to V) are assigned based on the number of correct answers in both verbal and non-verbal reasoning sections.

Q5: What is a good OIR grade?

A: Grades **I and II** are considered very good and significantly increase the chances of getting screened in.

Q6: Does the OIR score affect the final SSB recommendation?

A: No, the OIR score is only relevant for the screening stage. However, it helps form an initial impression on assessors.

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Q7: Are there negative marks in the OIR test?

A: No, there is **no negative marking**, so attempt all questions.

Q8: Can I prepare for the OIR test online?

A: Yes, many platforms offer **online OIR test series, PDFs, and mock tests** to help you prepare.

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