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# PUZZLES CONCEPTS

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## 1. TWO TYPES

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**Two types** of reasoning problems, namely, Less time taking ones and more time taking ones! The less time taking ones are syllogisms, blood relations, inequalities, directions, data sufficiency questions of reasoning, rows and verbal logical deductions. These questions should normally take between 20-60 seconds each...these should be done that fast! But we usually end up taking a minimum of 60 seconds...practice people! More practice! The more time taking ones are the seating arrangements of the toughest kind, the puzzles, machine input/output, and the very extra-long question on who should get the job! These time consuming questions may take anywhere between 1-5 minutes or sometimes even more minutes depending upon the difficulty level and/or your luck!

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## 2. BE A 007 BOND

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Be a 007 Bond in the less time taking ones!

That is being fast, precise and correct and always hitting the target of 20-25 questions! These less time taking ones should be 100% attempted; simple reason they are easy and less chances of you getting them wrong. I would also like to add here, that you should master at least 90% of the topics of the less time taking type; your speed should be 10-60 seconds with 100% accuracy. Believe me; it is possible in these topics only!

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## 3. DO YOUR BEST- FIRST

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Do your best- first: What are you the best at? Syllogisms? Or, Inequalities maybe? Or, deductions?

Always remember – ***never leave out your strong topics.***

In my IBPS PO exam, held on 11<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2014, at 10 a.m. (yes, mine was first day first show!), I paid the price of not listening to my senior's advice!

I had 45 minutes left to do my reasoning section (I was attempting it last), and I ended up doing only 18 sums.

They had given all the lengthy and complicated topics at the beginning and I started doing them and not getting anywhere with the answers!

You can imagine my horror when the time was running out and I hadn't even reached my favorite questions...the syllogism!

Needless to say, the paper was horrible; my experience was horrible; only because I could not

do those sums in which I'm the best.  
So, do not want you people to repeat the same mistake!

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#### 4. EASY COMES FIRST:

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**Easy comes first:** Difficult later!

With regards to the more time taking ones, I'd say, machine inputs are still easier than the rest, as they are mostly mechanical, in the sense identify the pattern and solve step wise. This question is a sure 5 marks!

The seating arrangements (the complicated ones), the row arrangements (the complicated ones), and the puzzles (the complicated ones) all depend on how fast you've solved those easy questions.

Because these questions take a lot of time, and sometimes you are not even able to solve them!

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#### 5. CREATE YOUR OWN STYLE

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Create your own style of solving puzzles. Do not go blindly by the coaching class' methods. Every individual has their own way of thinking; utilize what is your forte already – your own mind.

For example, I solve the blood relations questions in my mind in max 10 seconds! I apply the relations given in the question to my family! That's my style!  
Find yours!

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#### 6. LASTLY

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Lastly plan and consider when you want to attempt your reasoning topic. During the first hour, or the last; it is very important to sequence your topics according to your abilities.

If reasoning is easy for you, you can do it last, as in that case you do not need much time to take care of it!

If reasoning is a problem topic for you, and you are honestly scared of the section, attempt it first or after one section, then you can give the rest of the topics in peace!

For your benefit, this is what I do – Maths first because I hate it, G.A./Computer/English next because I love them and I solve all the three/two sections in maximum half hour, and then I solve reasoning at the very end in the left over time, where I at least get a minimum of 45 minutes.

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#### 7. BE GREEDY

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Be greedy - If you are told you should attempt at least 20-30, you are being misguided.

Dear friends, there is no such thing as 'least attempt' in today's competitive world. The least will get you over the sectional cut-offs, the least may also, by luck, get you across the overall cut offs, but what about the larger picture? The larger picture will have many students getting 150+ in marks, and you at 110s going by the least attempts! You do not want that to happen! Your aim, from now on will be to attempt 150 at least! Be greedy for more here; and your number of questions attempted should only increase with every subsequent attempt! I have an acquaintance of mine who was so disheartened that he could only do 191 questions in SBI Clerical of 2014! I honestly admire this person's ambition for more! In conclusion, I say best of luck to those giving IBPS PO, hope you all achieve the reasoning target along with the overall target. And for the one's now preparing for SBI Associates PO, you have enough time to work on today's tips to get those precious 50 marks in the kitty!

