



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

The English Gap Measured: English Learning Levels Engineers Graduates Report

English Learning Levels, Engineering Graduates, Annual Report 2011-12, Published by Aspiring Minds, based on AMCAT, India's Largest Employability Test

Findings of the Report

- Ø More than 25% engineers do not even possess the English comprehension skills required to understand engineering school curriculum.
- Ø Only 57% engineers can write grammatically correct sentences in English.
- Ø Less than 48% engineers understand moderately sophisticated words of English.
- Ø More than half of all engineers (52%) would not be fluent in a majority of words that are used with regular frequency at the workplace.
- Ø Interestingly not more than 30% of engineering students, who undergo stress and exhaustion while preparing for entrance exams, were acquainted with the word "exhaust".
- Ø Around 50% engineers possess grammar skills no better than a class VII student.

- Level of language fluency cannot be developed in four years alone. The onus lies on schools to clear the basics and inculcate in students a love for reading and writing in the English language
- Consistent efforts over the four years of engineering education would bolster the command over all aspects of the language making students more employable.
- Scientific assessment should be done in the first semester of the undergraduate degree programs to identify the students with deficient skills, and institute bridge courses in the first semester and during semester breaks.

New Delhi, July 24, 2012: „ Absurd“ it may sound, but this word is not understood by 50% of the engineering population in India. Aspiring Minds, employability measurement and recruitment firm, released the English Learning Levels, Engineering Graduates on how employability is affected by English language. The report analyses the English skills of over 55000 engineers in India.

According to the report about 25% to 35% of engineers are unable to comprehend in English, which includes their day-to-day conversation and academic lectures, affecting the overall delivery of knowledge. The report extensively discusses specific areas of English skills that engineering graduates most lack in and implications of these deficiencies. It also provides suggestive ways to bridge these gaps by way of interventions in the Indian higher education system in order to improve the English of students.

According to Varun Aggarwal, Director, Aspiring Minds, “This is by far the most comprehensive analysis of English skills of engineers in India. This report combines Aspiring Minds” in-depth understanding of Employability of graduates with detailed insights of language assessment.” He further adds, “Recruiters and HR managers around the world report that candidates with English skills above the local average stand out from the crowd and garner 30-50% higher salaries than similarly-qualified candidates without English skills. The trends in India are no different, with English fluency being one of the key qualities recruiters look for during the interview process.”

The 21-page report is based on a test conducted on 55,000 students from around 250 different engineering colleges in India. The analysis and findings of this report are based on the performance of these students in the English Comprehension module of AMCAT (Aspiring Minds Computer Adaptive Test), which is widely recognized as India” s largest and only standardized employability test. Students were tested on parameters of vocabulary, grammar and English comprehension skills. All findings in this report are based on the objective test-attempt data of 55,000 engineering students who undertook AMCAT English, a competency-based standardized assessment of English developed by Aspiring Minds. Each item (question) in the assessment is mapped to a competency and the inferences for each competency are thus analyzed

Designing the Test

AMCAT English Comprehension test was developed keeping in mind the competency framework; it included the most relevant English language skills required by engineers for entry-level jobs in the knowledge-based industry in India. Special care was taken to ensure items had good psychometric properties. The competency allocation for each item was verified through a consensus by experts. After expert review on various parameters, the items were sampled on actual engineering graduates. Questions with ineffective statistical properties were weeded out and item response models for the rest of the questions were developed, which were then delivered adaptively using Aspiring Minds' proprietary item-selection and delivery algorithms. The final assessment test showed reliability comparable to global standards.

Evaluation of Test

The research team in Aspiring Minds studied how engineers performed on each competency based on the response data on different items. Thereafter particular percentage correct response-rates were determined for each time. The consensus response rate of items was considered as the actual performance of engineers on the given competencies. The responses were also used by experts to understand their respective behavior. The validity of a minority of items was found to be influenced by biases such as elimination-strategy; such items were not included in developing an estimate of the performance of engineers on each competency. Apart from finding performance in generalized competencies, interesting trends were found.

About Aspiring Minds

Aspiring Minds is India's leading employability measurement company, headquartered in Gurgaon. The state of the art assessment tools developed by Aspiring Minds have been used across industry verticals to help recruit the right people, develop profile-wise employability benchmarks and assess workforce health.

Aspiring Minds' intelligent adaptive assessments span across Language, Cognitive skills, Domain knowledge and Personality. A strong in-house research and development team with alumni from IITs and MIT form the development back bone of the patent pending assessment tools.

AMCAT®, the flagship product is India's Largest Employability Test. Conducted across the country throughout the year, tens of thousands of candidates secure their dream jobs every year through AMCAT.

The management from IITs and IIMs, more than 150 full-time employees, and a pan-India operational presence have helped leading corporations across industry verticals improve their recruitment process efficiency and the quality of talent being acquired. Aspiring Minds products and solutions have been adopted by leading corporates including HCL, Genpact, HDFC, SBI Life, L&T Finance, Mphasis, Ericsson, Sapient, John Deere, Tavant, Tally, among others.