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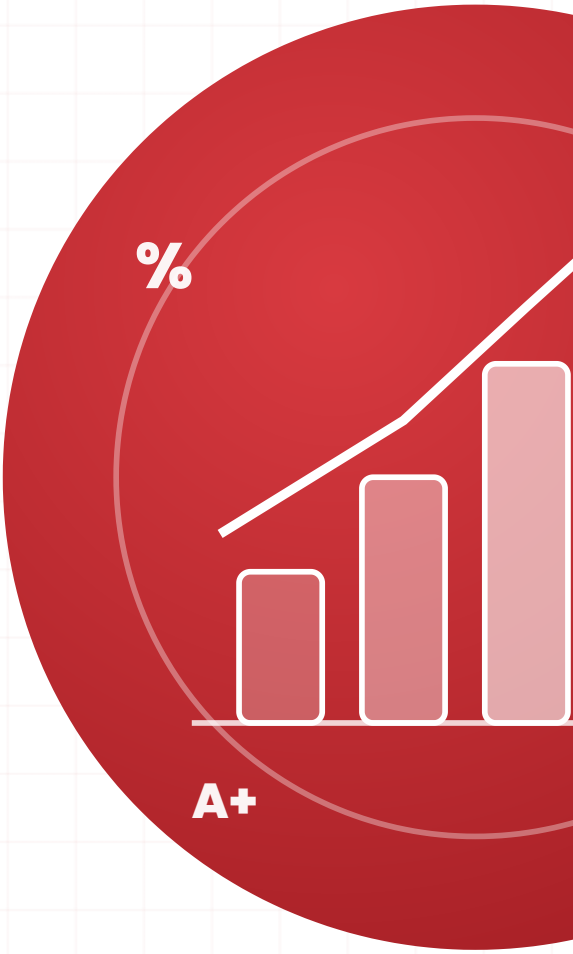
BCAT 2027

Prep Roadmap

IBA rounds and rules, LUMS and other business schools, how to prepare for English, Maths and the interview, and month-by-month study plans.

2027 EDITION

IBA · LUMS · IOBM · SZABIST · KSBL



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THE PLAN AT A GLANCE

3	20 Dec	21 Mar	27 Jan	2
IBA ROUNDS	IBA ROUND 1 TEST	IBA ROUND 2 TEST	LUMS DEADLINE	SUBJECTS: ENGLISH, MATHS

START HERE

BCAT is not one test. It is a set of choices.

"BCAT" is what Karachi students call preparation for business school admission tests. IBA Karachi is the main target, and most students also apply to LUMS, IoBM, SZABIST or KSBL. Each has its own test, route and dates.

YOUR OPTIONS

UNIVERSITY	ADMISSION ROUTE	GOOD TO KNOW
IBA Karachi	IBA admission test (English and Maths MCQs) in three rounds	One form and fee per school; SAT only via IBA's SAT merit list
LUMS	SAT, ACT or LCAT, mandatory for the business school	No minimum score; Fall 2027 deadline 27 January 2027
KSBL	KSBL Undergraduate Admission Test (KUAT) or SAT, then interview	Students from any Inter group can apply
IoBM	IoBM admission test (English, quantitative, analytical, general knowledge)	SAT exemption with 550 Maths + 550 Reading & Writing
SZABIST	100 computer-based MCQs in 90 minutes	English 30 · Maths 20 · Analytical 20 · General Knowledge 30

Any Inter group

BBA and most business programmes accept Pre-Engineering, Pre-Medical, Commerce and Computer Science students.

Maths matters

Programmes such as BS Computer Science or Economics & Mathematics need Mathematics at Inter level.

One preparation

English and Maths are common to almost every business test. Prepare once, apply widely.

The most common mistake

Applying to one IBA programme, then wanting to add another after results. IBA does not allow a school to be added after results. Decide every programme before you apply.

Sources: iba.edu.pk · LUMS admission FAQs (admission.lums.edu.pk) · KSBL, IoBM and SZABIST test guides (maqsad.io). Details for IoBM, SZABIST and KSBL are from education sites; confirm on each university's official page. Checked October 2026.

CALENDAR · FALL 2027 INTAKE

Your admission calendar, October to June.

TEST / DEADLINE	DATE	STATUS
IBA Round 1	Forms 1 Oct – 9 Dec 2026 · test 20 December 2026	CONFIRMED
LUMS (Fall 2027)	Application deadline 27 January 2027, 5:00 pm; no late applications	CONFIRMED
IBA Round 2	Forms 1 Jan – 8 Mar 2027 · test 21 March 2027	CONFIRMED
LUMS test centre change	Request by 15 March 2027, with a reason	CONFIRMED
IBA Round 3	Test 20 June 2027	CONFIRMED
IoBM · SZABIST · KSBL	2027 dates not announced yet	TBA
HSC-II board exams (BIEK)	Late April – mid-June (2026: 29 April – 15 June)	EXPECTED
A-Level (CAIE)	May/June series · results mid-August (2026: 11 August)	EXPECTED

Round 1 suits students who are ready now.

The test is on 20 December, well before board exams. A good result early takes pressure off the rest of the year.

Round 2 gives you three more months.

The test is on 21 March, about a month before HSC-II boards begin. Finish IBA preparation before your board papers start.

Make one master list

Write every test and deadline (IBA, LUMS, IoBM, SZABIST, KSBL) on one page so nothing clashes or slips. Check each official site for the dates still to be announced.

Sources: iba.edu.pk (Fall 2027 schedule) · admission.lums.edu.pk/admission-faqs · BIEK 2026 (result.pk) · cambridgeinternational.org. Checked October 2026.

IBA KARACHI

Five rules for your IBA application.

#	RULE	WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU
1	**One form and fee per school**	Each IBA school has its own application. Applying to two schools means two forms.
2	**No adding schools after results**	Decide every programme you want before you submit.
3	**SAT is for top scorers only**	IBA admits SAT candidates through its own SAT merit list. Most students take the IBA test.
4	**Three rounds**	Round 1 (20 Dec), Round 2 (21 Mar), Round 3 (20 Jun). Pick the round you can be ready for.
5	**Direct admission or interview**	Some candidates are offered admission directly on their test result; others are called for an interview.

What the test covers

An MCQ test in English and Mathematics at roughly SAT level. The same test is used across IBA's undergraduate schools; eligibility rules differ by programme.

What decides your result

Accuracy and speed in both sections. Strong students lose marks to time pressure, so every week should include at least one full timed test.

IBAGRADS IBA RESULTS 2026

621
students cleared the IBA test

374
direct admissions

45
top-5 positions, including 6 first positions

Sources: iba.edu.pk (Fall 2027 schedule and policy) · IBA test structure, Fall 2027 (parhlai.com) · IBAGRADS Result Book 2026. Always check iba.edu.pk for the current admission policy.

LUMS, KSBL, IOBM, SZABIST

Strong options beyond IBA.

LUMS (Lahore)

- Business school (SDSB): SAT, ACT or LCAT is mandatory
- No minimum score; only your best single-attempt score in your application counts
- Fall 2027 deadline: 27 January 2027, 5:00 pm
- A-Level students sitting November 2026 retakes can apply and state the expected result date

KSBL (Karachi)

- At least 60% in HSSC or equivalent
- KSBL Undergraduate Admission Test (KUAT), or a SAT score that meets KSBL's criteria
- Interview for shortlisted candidates
- Open to students from any Inter group

IoBM (Karachi)

- Own MCQ test: English, quantitative skills, analytical reasoning, general knowledge
- No negative marking
- SAT exemption: at least 550 in Maths and 550 in Reading & Writing

SZABIST (Karachi)

- 100 computer-based MCQs in 90 minutes
- English 30 · Mathematics 20 · Analytical 20 · General Knowledge 30
- No negative marking

One preparation, many tests

English and Maths carry most of the marks in every test above. Add general knowledge for IoBM and SZABIST (read the news weekly), and prepare for an interview at KSBL and IBA.

Sources: LUMS admission FAQs (official). KSBL, IoBM and SZABIST details from education sites (maqsad.io) because the universities do not publish full test details; confirm on each official site before applying.

HOW TO PREPARE · ENGLISH

Read daily. Time every passage.

Business school English tests focus on reading comprehension, vocabulary and grammar. All three improve with steady daily practice, not last-month cramming.

Reading

- One editorial or long article a day
- Write the main idea in one line
- Timed comprehension passages twice a week

Vocabulary

- Ten new words a day
- Write your own sentence with each
- Revise the week's words every Sunday

Grammar

- Subject–verb agreement
- Tenses and pronouns
- Prepositions and sentence correction

A WEEKLY ENGLISH ROUTINE

DAY	FOCUS	TIME
Mon	Reading comprehension: two timed passages	45 min
Tue	Grammar: one topic + 20 practice MCQs	40 min
Wed	Vocabulary: 10 new words + revision	30 min
Thu	Sentence correction and completion	40 min
Fri	Reading: one long article, summary in your own words	40 min
Sat	Full timed English section	60 min
Sun	Review mistakes and the week's vocabulary	30 min

Free resource

Download the IBAGRADS Vocabulary Builder from our website's Free Resources section and learn ten words a day.

HOW TO PREPARE · MATHS

School Maths, at test speed.

Business school Maths sections test school-level arithmetic, algebra and geometry under time pressure. The topics are familiar; speed and accuracy decide the score.

Topics to cover

- Percentages, ratios and proportions
- Averages, profit and loss, simple and compound interest
- Speed, distance, time and work problems
- Linear and quadratic equations, inequalities
- Exponents, sequences and basic functions
- Lines, angles, triangles, circles, area and volume
- Data from tables and graphs, basic probability

Quick formulas

- Percentage change = (new − old) ÷ old × 100
- Average = sum of values ÷ number of values
- Simple interest = $P \times R \times T \div 100$
- Compound amount = $P(1 + R/100)^n$
- Speed = distance ÷ time
- Area of a circle = πr^2, circumference = $2\pi r$
- Pythagoras: $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$
- Probability = favourable outcomes ÷ total outcomes

Weeks 1–4

Revise every topic with untimed practice

Weeks 5–8

Timed sets: 20 questions in 25 minutes

Final weeks

Full timed papers, then review every mistake

Speed habits

Estimate before you calculate, eliminate impossible options first, and move on if a question takes more than twice the average time. Come back to it at the end.

HOW TO PREPARE · INTERVIEW

Be clear about why this programme.

Candidates who are not offered direct admission at IBA, and shortlisted candidates at KSBL, are interviewed. Interviews usually look at how clearly you communicate, how well you understand your chosen field and how you think.

QUESTIONS TO PREPARE FOR

#	QUESTION	WHAT A STRONG ANSWER SHOWS
1	Tell us about yourself.	A short, honest story: studies, one strength, one real interest
2	Why this programme?	A specific reason linked to something you have done or read
3	Why this university?	You know what the programme offers, beyond its reputation
4	What is a current issue you follow?	You read the news and can explain both sides calmly
5	Describe a challenge you faced.	What you did, what changed, what you learned
6	Where do you see yourself in five years?	A realistic direction, not a memorised line

Before the interview

- Practise answers out loud with a teacher or family member
- Read the news daily for two weeks
- Know your own application: programmes, marks, activities

On the day

- Arrive early, dress neatly
- Listen fully before answering
- Say "I don't know" honestly rather than guessing facts

STUDY PLAN · INTER AND A-LEVEL STUDENTS

Round by round, October to June.

Business tests fall around your board or Cambridge exams. Plan your preparation around the IBA rounds and the LUMS deadline.



Phase 1 · Round 1

OCT – 20 DEC

1.5–2 hrs a day

- Revise all Maths topics and start daily reading.
- Two full timed tests a week from November.
- Submit Round 1 forms by 9 December, every programme decided.

Phase 2 · Round 2 + LUMS

JAN – 21 MAR

2 hrs a day

- LUMS: submit by 27 January with your SAT/ACT/LCAT plan.
- Round 2 forms by 8 March; test on 21 March.
- Prepare for interviews in parallel.

Phase 3 · Board / CAIE exams

LATE APR – MID-JUN

Business prep on pause

- Your board or A-Level results decide eligibility.
- Keep reading 20 minutes a day; nothing more.

Phase 4 · Round 3

MID-JUN – 20 JUN

Short sprint

- If needed: IBA Round 3 test on 20 June.
- Two or three full timed tests in the final week.

A-Level students

IBA, LUMS and KSBL accept A-Level students. Get your IBCC equivalence done early (about 15–20 working days), and check each programme's A-Level subject and grade requirements on the official site.

Sources: iba.edu.pk · admission.lums.edu.pk · IBCC equivalence FAQs (ibcc.edu.pk) · BIEK 2026 (result.pk).

NEED MORE GUIDANCE?

Call us, or walk in to your nearest campus.

Questions about IBA, business school choices or batches? Speak to our team directly. Six campuses across Karachi, plus live online classes.

CENTRAL ADMISSIONS HELPLINE

0340-0252222

www.ibagrads.com

OUR CAMPUSES

North Nazimabad
0342-2222252

Bahadurabad
0333-4918987

Gulshan-e-Iqbal
0331-4222352

Gulistan-e-Jauhar
0340-4501549

DHA
0333-5349966

Malir · Jinnah Avenue
0344-5144040

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Start early. Start with a plan.