**GROUP DISCUSSION**

**What is a Group Discussion?**

A group of participants are given a topic and are made to speak on it for a particular time. Thereafter, based on several skills such as, communication skills, knowledge of the topic, ability to perform in a team, etc., the candidates are analysed.

**How is a GD helpful?**

A Group Discussion (GD) provides a chance to various candidates for being vocal. The candidates must shed away all the shyness and put-forth their opinions. Group discussion helps the participants to expand their knowledge as there is an exchange of ideas and opinions.

**Do's and Don'ts of a GD:**

Maintain an accurate posture. Sit straight and confidently.

Be natural. Be yourself. In an attempt to be someone else, your thoughts will not come across.

Gather your thoughts, evaluate the pros and cons of the given subject/ topic and then speak.

If you are thorough with the topic and have full knowledge on the same, then do not miss the chance to speak up first. The candidate who initiates the conversation, mostly, leaves a good impression on the examiner.

Learn to choose your words, wisely. Remember, you are being judged.

Eye contact is a must. It shows that you are interested in other participants' views too. Also, when the other participants speak, keep nodding your head, it shows receptivity.

Let others speak too. Remember, it is a group. Listen to what others have to say, let them contribute to the discussion as well.

In order to express a thought, you can also use real life examples, experiences, quotes, facts etc.  This shows that you are aware of your surroundings and well-read.

Be an active participant. Do not keep quiet, learn to make a move. Do not forget that the evaluator wants to hear you speak. But, at the same time, do not speak more than the required. Nobody wants to hear lengthy answers.

If you are opposing something that the other person has spoken, be very sure and confident of your answer. You must have a solid reason to counter-attack.

Do not show over-confidence.

Be crisp and clear. Do not demonstrate a flop show of confused thoughts.

Wishing all the aspirants a good luck.

**Useful Phrases for Group Discussions**

Here is the list of helpful phrases for discussions in group in English:

**1. Asking for Opinions**

Could you tell me….?

What do you think about/of….?

What’s your opinion about…?

Do you think/feel….?

How do you feel about….?

May I ask you….?

**2. Asking for an explanation**

Could you explain to me….?

Could someone please tell me….?

Just tell me the reason why….?

I don’t really understand….?

I just don’t see why/what/how….

Are you saying that….?

What do you mean by that?

I beg your pardon?

I didn’t quite get that. Excuse me, did you say that…?

**3. Giving your opinion**

In my opinion/view….

If you ask me…

As far as I can see/I’m concerned….

It seems to me that….

I have the/a feeling that ….

I think/feel/reckon/believe….

Well, I’d say…

If you want my opinion….

You can take it from me that…

First of all/To start with I’d like to point out …

What we have to decide is…

There can be no doubt that…

It’s a fact that….

Nobody will deny that….

The way/As I see it Everyone knows….

Let me put it this/another way….

Let’s get this clear (first)….

Sorry to interrupt you, but….

The point I’m trying to make is…

Personally (speaking) I think….

I’m absolutely convinced that…

My view/point of view is that….

The way I look at/see it is this

What I actually meant was….

**4. Giving an explanation**

Look, it’s like this:

What I mean is…

The reason for this is…

The main problem is….

Just let me explain….

Well, the reason is…

Well, the thing is …

Above all we must keep in mind that….

**5. Agreeing with an opinion**

I (quite) agree.

I agree completely/entirely.

I couldn’t agree (with you) more.

I entirely/completely agree with you on that.

That’s true/right.

That’s just it.

Quite/Exactly/Precisely/Right/Certainly/Definitely.

You’re quite/so right.

I think so, too.

I don’t think so either.

That’s just my feeling/opinion.

That’s just how I see it/feel about it, too.

That’s a very good/important point.

You’ve got a good point there.

Yes, of course/definitely/absolutely Marvelous.

That’s exactly what I mean/say.

Yes, that’s obvious.

That’s exactly how I see it.

That’s what I think

How very true.

So do I/So am I

Yes, indeed.

I’m all in favor of what you’ve been saying.

**6. Qualified agreement**

Yes, perhaps, but…

Yes, possibly, although….

Yes, but on the other hand….

Yes, up to a point.

I agree up to a certain point, but….

Yes, in a way.

Maybe, I suppose so.

Well, it depends.

I don’t think it’s as simple as that…..

I see what you mean, but I think that’s not the whole story

You may be right there.

Yes, but there’s also another aspect to consider.

**7. Polite disagreement**

I disagree (with you), I’m afraid.

No, I really can’t agree, I’m afraid.

I don’t quite agree there.

I’m not so certain/at all sure if that’s true/correct

I’m not (quite) so sure (really).

I’m sorry I can’t agree.

Do you really think so/believe that?

I’m not convinced that …

Well, that’s one way of looking at it, (but) Well, I have my doubts about that

You can’t really mean that.

You don’t really mean that, do you?

I wouldn’t say so.

I don’t think so.

I don’t think you’re right/that’s right.

Surely you don’t mean that?

I don’t want to argue with you, but….

I can’t go all the way with you on that point.

Are you seriously suggesting that…?

I have my problems with what you’re saying.

**8. Strong disagreement**

I doubt that very much

I think you got that wrong

Don’t you dare say so! Rubbish!

Bloody hell, no!

Shame on you!

You’re pulling my leg!

On the contrary!

That doesn’t convince me at all.

You’re contradicting yourself.

I’ve never heard of such a thing.

You’re wrong, you know.

You can’t be serious!

It’s not like that at all!

That’s not correct.

You’re contradicting yourself

You don’t understand.

I’m afraid; I don’t think you quite understand.

I don’t think so, really!

That’s not fair!

That’s out of the question.

I can’t believe that I’m afraid

I can’t accept your view, that…

Do you really think that’s a good idea?

I’m afraid, I can’t agree with you there

Well, you would, wouldn’t you?

Really? Don’t be silly/stupid!

How stupid can you get?

What a silly/stupid thing to say!

That’s (simply) not true!

I don’t think, you can say…

Surely you’re not serious, are you?

I doubt it/that very much

You can’t be serious!

Oh, come on, think about what you’ve just said!

I doubt if …

I’ve got my doubts about that.

I don’t agree with you at all.

I disagree entirely/completely.

Oh, come on, you must be joking/kidding!

That’s out of the question

That’s not how I see it It’s not as simple as that!

That’s no excuse I believe you’re mistaken

That doesn’t make sense to me.

Let’s be sensible about this.

You’re hopeless/wrong.

You won’t listen to reason.

I think you got that wrong

I’m not impressed

For heaven’s sake!

Well that’s one way of looking at it, but…

**9. Making a complaint**

I can’t quite understand how/why…

I’ve come to complain about …

I’m disappointed with I’m fed up with…

It really is terrible/ridiculous that…

I’m sorry I have to say this, but….

Forgive me for mentioning it, but….

That’s what I want to know.

Do you realize that….?

Are you aware that….?

I’m disappointed to hear that…..

What are you going to do about it?

Something ought to be done about it.

Look, I really must protest about…

Can’t something be done to/about…

**10. Reacting to a complaint**

I’m (awfully) sorry to hear that

Î really must apologize for this.

Well, there’s nothing we can do about that, I’m afraid

This isn’t my/our fault, you know.

What do you expect us/me to do?

I’ll find out what has happened

I’m sorry you should take it that way.

I’ll see what I can d