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CAT Syllabus PDF





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CAT stands for Common Admission Test.

CAT exam does not have a defined syllabus. **2 sections out of the 3 do not require you to memorize even basic formulae.** However, based on the trends in the last few years, we can have an idea about the pattern of the exam.

We have given this syllabus based on CAT 2018, 2017 and the recent year online papers. The paper consists of 3 sections.

1. Reading comprehension and Verbal ability.
2. Data Interpretation and logical reasoning.
3. Quantitative aptitude.

VA section will have around 34 questions

DI-LR Section will have around 32 Questions

QA section will have around 34 Questions.

For more details related to CAT Exam pattern, Visit last pages of this PDF.

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CAT VERBAL ABILITY SECTION

For the past 4 years, RC has been dominating this section. Reading comprehension alone contributes around 24% of the total marks and 70% of the marks in VARC section. Aspirants cannot afford to skip this section.

Also, the remaining 10 questions in the section rely heavily on the comprehension ability of the candidate. Hence, aspirants must try to have a decent grasp on this section.

Questions in the recent CATs are from the following topics:

1. [Reading comprehension](#)
2. [Para jumbles](#)
3. [Sentence elimination based on para jumbles](#)
4. [Para summary and completion](#)

Apart from reading comprehension, 3 questions on para summary too require candidates to read a paragraph and answer the question.

The remaining 7 questions are para jumbles and sentence elimination. These questions check the candidate's ability to spot coherence and pattern. All these questions are of TITA type and do not carry any negative mark. Hence, aspirants must definitely take a shot at these questions.

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Apart from these, questions on grammar, sentence correction, synonyms and antonyms, analogies and other such topics used to appear in CAT before a few years.

1. Syllogism
2. Analogies
3. Synonyms and antonyms
4. Grammar-based sentence correction
5. Phrases, fill in the blanks and Cloze test

As of now, these questions have not made their appearance in the past few years. However, aspirants must at least prepare the basics of these topics to avoid any unpleasant surprises.

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Expected Weightage (Questions)</u>
Reading Comprehension (RC)	24Q (4 to 5 RC's with 3-6 Questions for each RC)
Parajumbles	4Q (TITA)
Para Summary	3Q
Odd one out	3Q

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DATA INTERPRETATION & LOGICAL REASONING

CAT has moved away from conventional bar and pie charts in the last few years. Most of the sets that appear in the exam are unconventional and are not very calculation intensive. The focus now has clearly been on cracking the logic than grinding numbers.

However, it pays off to have a decent understanding of the conventional sets before moving on to the tougher ones. This syllabus pdf contains the list of conventional topics that one must practice to ace this section.

Logical reasoning: (Around 16Q – 4 Sets. 3-5 questions from each set)

1. Seating arrangement (facing inwards/ outwards).
2. Truth – liar concept
3. Seating arrangement based on truth liar concept
4. Networks
5. LR based on picking coins
6. Scheduling
7. Games and tournaments.
8. Einstein's puzzle and arrangement puzzles
9. Selection with conditions

Data interpretation: (Around 16Q – 4 Sets. 3-5 questions from each set)

1. Line chart, bar chart
2. Pie chart
3. Unconventional charts – radar chart, bubble chart, area chart
4. Tables, tables with missing values
5. DI based on growth over years
6. Venn diagrams and 4 group Venn diagrams

Apart from solving template questions, solve puzzles so that your capacity to pick up the cues improves. Solve puzzles, sudokus and kakuros to improve your problem-solving skills.

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Quantitative Aptitude

This is the only section in which one can define the topics and syllabus with some amount of certainty. Broadly, we can classify the quantitative ability section into five groups.

1. Number systems and progressions
2. Unitary method and basic arithmetic
3. Algebra
4. Geometry and mensuration
5. Combinatorics

1. Number systems and progressions:

Numbers, factors, properties of numbers, type and classification of numbers, divisibility rules, [HCF and LCM](#), cyclicity and base theorem, [remainders and remainder theorems](#), binomial theorem, the highest power of a number in a factorial.

Series and progressions, types of series – AP, GP, HP, sum of series – finite, infinite. AM-GM concept, special series.

2. Unitary methods and basic arithmetic:

Ratios and proportions, averages, alligations, percentages, successive percentage changes, profit-loss, faulty machines, interests – simple, compound, time and work, time speed distance, relative speed, effective speed, average speed, escalators, races and headstarts, circular tracks, pipes and cisterns, clocks and calendars.

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3. Algebra:

Linear equations, special linear equations, quadratic equations, roots of an equation, functions and graphs, maxima and minima, types and properties of functions, coordinate geometry, inequalities.

Sets, inclusion-exclusion principles, Venn diagrams and 4 group Venn diagrams.

4. Geometry and mensuration:

Points, lines, triangles, properties of triangles, similarity, congruence, quadrilaterals and other polygons, properties of quadrilaterals, cyclic quadrilaterals, concave and convex polygons, circles, chords and tangents, properties of circles.

3D geometry – cubes, cuboids, cones, cylinders, spheres and other shapes, volumes and surface areas of 3D shapes, development of 3D shapes, cutting and colouring problems on 3D shapes.

5. Combinatorics:

Factorials, combinations (selection), permutation (arrangement), arranging similar and distinct objects in similar and distinct groups, circular permutation and necklace problems, probability, mutually exclusive and collectively exhaustive events, conditional probability, Baye's theorem, number of integral solutions, the theory of partitioning, pigeonhole principle.



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Topic	Expected Weightage (Questions)
<u>Divisibility, Remainder Theorems, LCM-HCF</u>	0-2 Q
<u>Number Systems</u>	1-3 Q
<u>Linear Equations</u>	0-2 Q
<u>Quadratic Equations</u>	0-2 Q
<u>Polynomial Equations</u>	0-2 Q
<u>Inequalities</u>	0-2 Q
<u>Profit, Loss and Interest</u>	3-5 Q
<u>Ratio, Proportions and Mixtures</u>	4-8 Q
<u>Time, Speed, Distance and Work</u>	3-6 Q
<u>Geometry</u>	5-7 Q
<u>Venn diagrams</u>	1-3 Q
<u>Functions and Graphs</u>	1-3 Q
<u>Probability and Combinatorics (P&C)</u>	1-3 Q
<u>Progressions and Series</u>	3-5 Q
<u>Data Sufficiency</u>	0-2 Q
<u>Logarithms</u>	2-3 Q

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CAT Exam pattern:

Each correct answer fetches 3 marks and for every wrong answer, 1 mark is deducted (except for TITA Questions). For TITA questions, no options will be given. So, candidates have to type the answer, using the mouse.

Total exam duration: 3 hours

Section name	No. of Questions	No. of marks	Sectional time duration
Verbal ability and Reading comprehension (VARC)	34	102	1 hour (60 minutes)
Data Interpretation and Logical reasoning (DILR)	32	96	1 hour (60 minutes)
Quantitative ability (QA)	34	102	1 hour (60 minutes)
Total	100	300 Marks	3 hours (180 minutes)

Number of TITA Questions in each section:

Section name	No. of Questions	No. of TITA questions*
Verbal ability and Reading comprehension (VARC)	34	7
Data Interpretation and Logical reasoning (DILR)	32	8
Quantitative ability (QA)	34	12
Total	100	27

*Based on the recent exam papers, and we can expect around 6-10 questions from each section and around 25 questions overall in the whole CAT exam paper.

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